

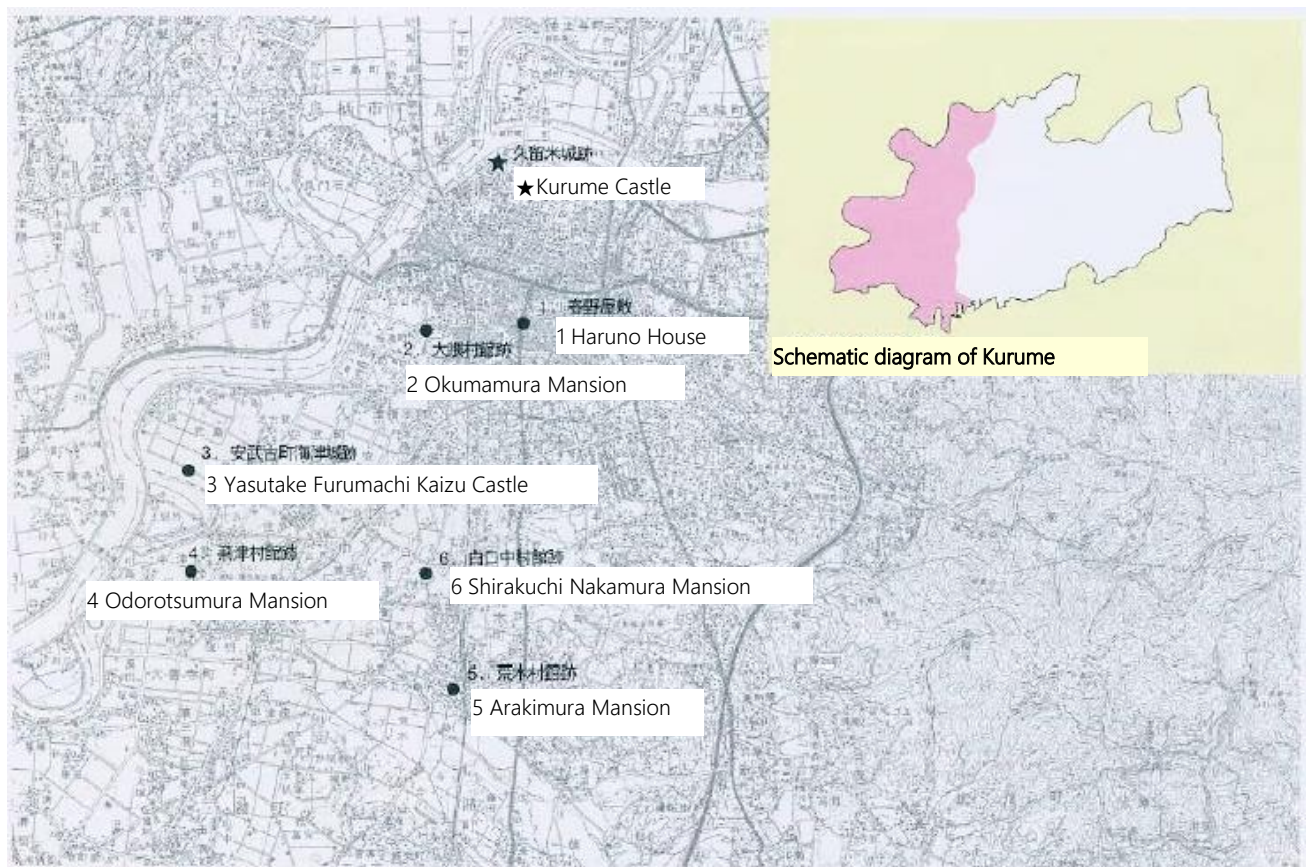
# Kurume History Walks

## No.15 Castle and Mansions 1 『筑後将士軍談』に見える城と館 (1)

■ Castles and Mansions mentioned in history books of the late 19th century.

*War History of Generals and Forces of Chikugo Province (Chikugo Shoshi Gundan, 1853)* is the book, comprising 60 volumes of the history of the Chikugo Province. It was written by Yano Kazusada, a samurai of Kurume Domain and a researcher of the local history and culture. Its volume 45th and 46th focus on 171 castles and mansions of Medieval Japan (12th -16th century).

This number introduces them in the southwest part of the city, except the Kurume Castle that was featured in No. 12.



■ What is “castle” and “palace”?

Kazusada distinguished the terms “castle (*jo* or *shiro* 城)” and “mansion (*kan* or *yakata* 館)” in his books. What is the difference?

CASTLE: Fortress or defense facilities. Diverse castles existed according to a historical background and a circumstance: a castle with a stately tower, stone walls or moats like Himeji castle; a mountain castle that was built using the natural environment such as on the top of a mountain, and that was equipped with mount, dry moat or bailey; a castle on a flat land surrounded by deep moats.

MANSION: Residence equipped with defense facilities such as mount and moat.

Besides, if the residences are equipped with full-scale defense facilities, we call it *kanjo* or *yakatajiro*

■ In Kurume

1. Haruno House (Harankogamachi)

These remains reportedly existed until the Edo period (17th-19th century). Since the person of Haruno Chozaemon built a mansion in the late 12th century, his descendants continued to reside. It is considered that the mansion existed at today’s Harankogamachi, of which name sounds similar to their last name Haruno.

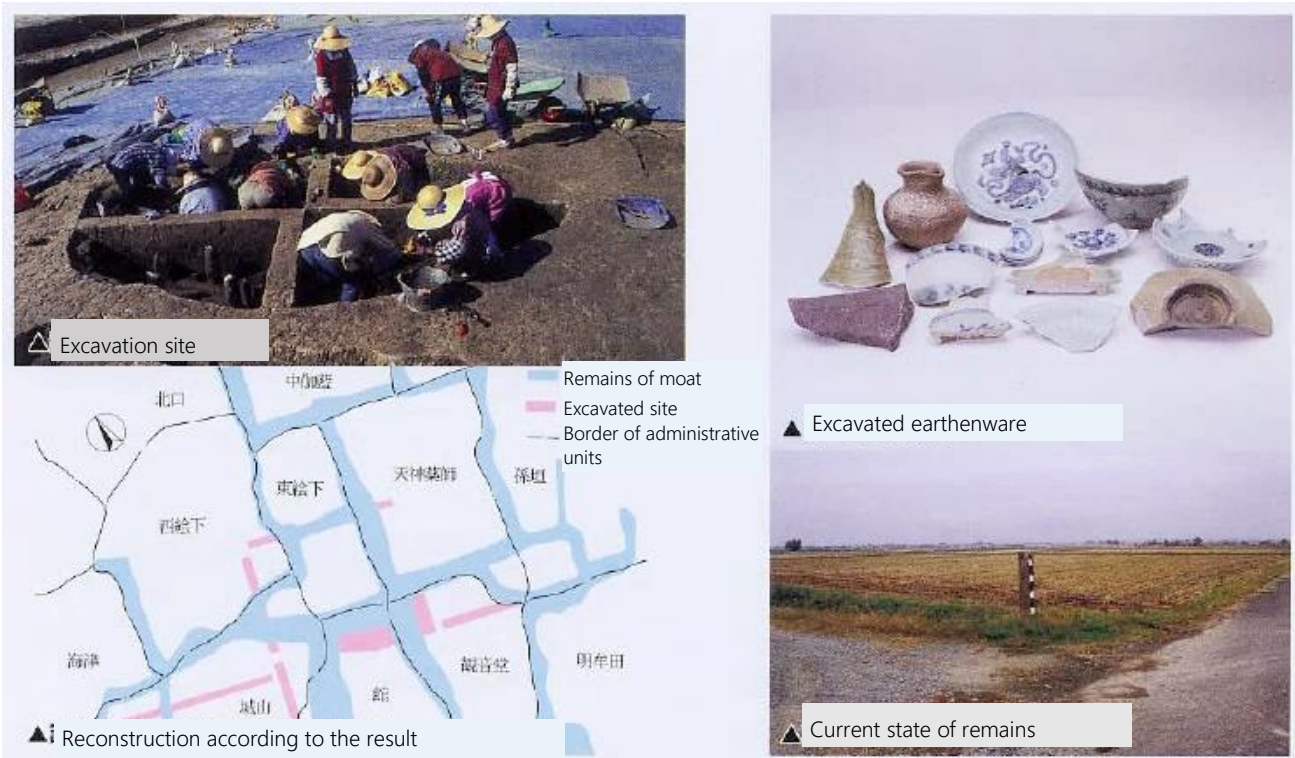
2. Remains of Okumamura Mansion (Umemitsumachi)

That mansion is said to be a residence of Okuma Sakonshokan (a lieutenant-general) which existed around the present-day Umemitu Tenman-gu Shrine. The book described that there used to be an entrance of defense facilities in the east of the mansion, and three foundation stones were excavated in 1824.



3. Remains of Yasutake-Furumachi-Kaizu Castle (Sumiyoshi, Yasutakemachi)

It is said to be a residence of the Yasutake clan, which was built in 1508. They were attacked and defeated by the enemy clan who ruled the province on the far bank of the Chikugo River in 1576. The presence of the castle was known only from folklore and ancient records. In 1991, we carried out the excavation and we confirmed that it really existed. It was a castle on flat land surrounded by a creek. There were ruins, well, hole to dump garbage, earthen, mortar, stone mill, and so on.



#### 4. Remains of Odorotsumura Mansion (Nakatsu, Daizenjimachi)

Kazusada briefly wrote about these remains. It is said to be Odorotsu clan's mansion. From 1989 to 1992, we discovered large moat remains of 4 meters wide and 1.6 meters deep, Chinese earthenware and coins.



### 5. Remains of Arakimura Mansion (Araki, Arakimachi)

It is said to be a mansion of the Kondo clan. In the literature of the Kamakura period (1185-1333), the “Araki” clan appeared, but with the passage of time, the name became the “Kondo”. It is not known what the reason was. There are the documents, which indicated that these two clans were the same such as the genealogical chart and their terrain.



▲ Excavated earthenware

As a result of the excavation in 1987, the earthenware were discovered, while the remains of the mansion were not discovered.

### 6. Remains of Shirakuchi-Nakamura Mansion (Shirakuchi, Arakimachi)



Administrative units and its names around the remains

The description of Kazusada’s book is as follows:

“In the south of the river, people said that there were the remains of the Ichiki clan. The land measures 2,000 square meters, surrounded by moats on three sides. Some areas are called Kuromon (black gate), Baba (riding ground), Kuraato (remains of a storehouse). The period is unknown. In this area, the inhabitants' first name is Ichiki.”

From this, we guess that a person of Ichiki, military commander, had his residence and extended his influence around there. Today there are still some families called Ichiki on the south of the Kodaraki River.

### ■ Closing Remark

Kazusada’s books are precious documents to know the ancient castles and mansions, and to hand down the trace of people’s grief in a scene of numerous battles. Other unknown castles and mansions, which were not written in Kazusada’s books, should have existed.

Throughout human history, it is quite recently that humans came to need large-scale defense facilities to protect themselves from the enemy’s attack. May the time come when we don’t need any defense facilities in our life!

Cultural Properties Protection Department of Kurume

Address: 15-3 Jonan Kurume Fukuoka Japan 830-8520

Tel: 0942-30-9225

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