

Current Situation and Surroundings of American and Japanese Deaf Communities

Special Needs Education School for the Deaf, University of Tsukuba

Differences between American and Japanese Deaf Communities



A better understanding of the Deaf than in Japan

- If a Deaf person sign, "I'm Deaf," the hearing people will immediately respond by writing or using gestures.
- They focus on Deaf people's abilities rather than their disabilities.



Culture of self-assertion

- The clear attitude of communicating that one is Deaf to make people understand.
- Deaf people don't hide their deafness and offer accommodations when needed.



Easier to establish Deaf identity for Deaf people

- Being Deaf is often seen as negative and unfortunate in Japan, but people are proud to be Deaf in the U.S.
- There are many Deaf role models, who can easily influence Deaf people.

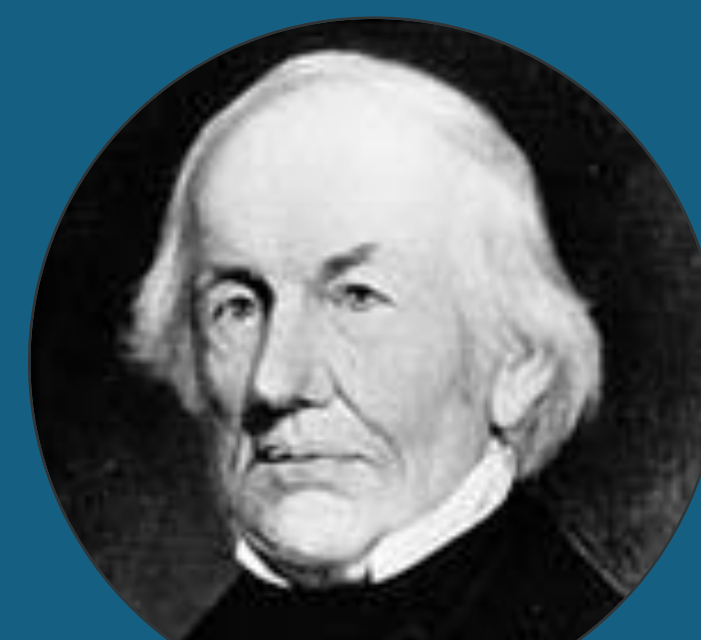
Why? ↓

Connecting with Deaf History



Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet

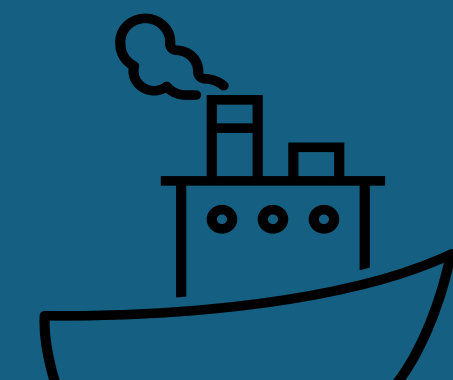
The founder and the first principal of American school for the Deaf



Laurent Clerc

Co-founder and the first Deaf teacher in the U.S.

Deaf education was not widespread in the U.S. at first. (No schools for the Deaf) Gallaudet went to the National Institute for the Deaf in Paris to study Deaf education. He returned to the U.S. with Clerc who was a Deaf teacher at the school for the Deaf in Paris, and they founded the first school in the U.S. called "the American School for the Deaf" in 1817, serving as the principal himself.



If that event had not happened, Deaf people might not have been able to receive a proper education and contribute to society. In addition, an educational method suitable for Deaf students was introduced, which actively incorporated sign language instead of oral language.

Because of his great contribution to the Deaf society, a memorial was built at Gallaudet University and the American School for the Deaf with respect and gratitude, and we carefully preserve the materials.

We also try to convey the history of Deaf to young people in the hope that it will be passed on to future generations.



Conclusion

I think that it is easier to feel proud as a Deaf person by learning about Deaf history. As Japanese people, we can learn about Japanese history and feel proud to be Japanese, so there is an obligation to study in Japan.

Therefore, I think Deaf people should learn about Deaf history.



Know yourself
(learning about Deaf)



Talk about yourself
(appeal your Deafness)



Spread to society
(higher understanding)