

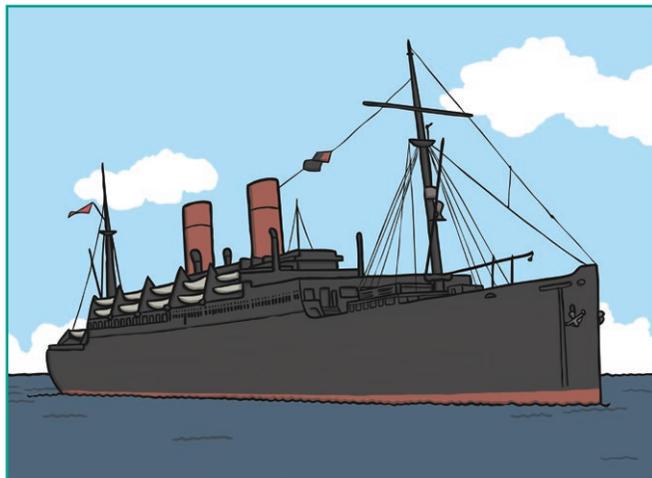
Thomas Glover was born in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire on 6th June, 1838. He was the fifth son of a family of seven boys and one girl. In 1851, Glover's family moved to Aberdeen.



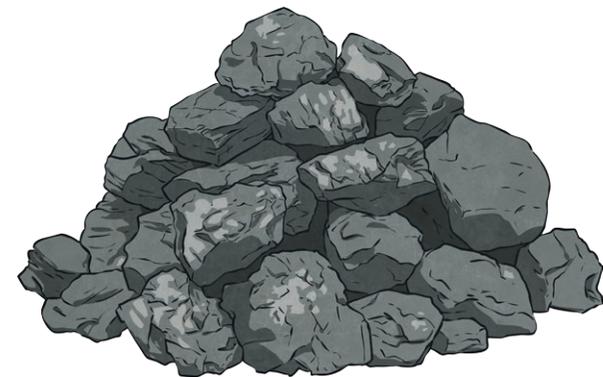
After leaving school, Thomas Glover worked for Jardine, Matheson & Co, who were a trading company dealing with the import and export of goods, like tea in the Far East.



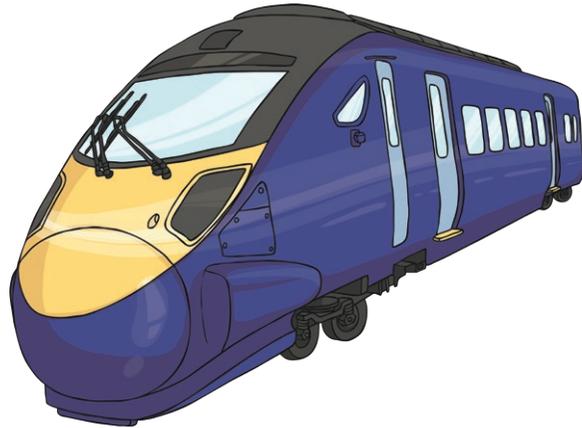
He worked for a short time in their Shanghai office before going to Nagasaki in Japan. Two years later, he set up his own trading business not in tea, but in ships and weapons.



Thomas Glover's business did very well and, in 1863, he built Glover House on a beautiful hillside overlooking Nagasaki Harbour. In the 1860s, Glover owned the Takashima Coal Mine and in 1868, he opened the first Western-style shipyard in Japan.

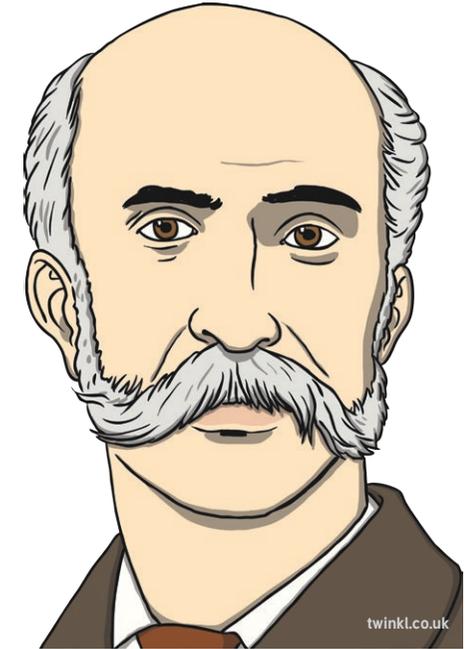


Thomas Glover had many business interests. He set up the first mint, set up the Japan Brewery Company (which later became the Kirin Brewery) and he introduced the first railway into Japan.



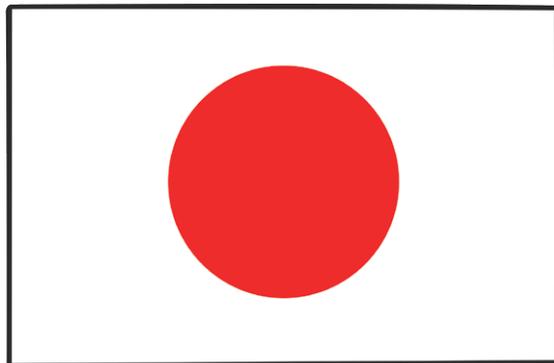
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Eventually, in 1870, a company called Mitsubishi took over Glover's businesses but he remained their consultant. Glover became friends with the founder of Mitsubishi, Yataro Iwasaki. Yataro often asked Thomas Glover for advice as the company grew.



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Glover was an advisor for Mitsubishi for forty years. Thomas Glover's efforts in developing and modernising Japan's industry were recognised by the Emperor of Japan. He was the first non-Japanese person to be awarded the Order of the Rising Sun in 1908. This award is one of the top honours of the country.



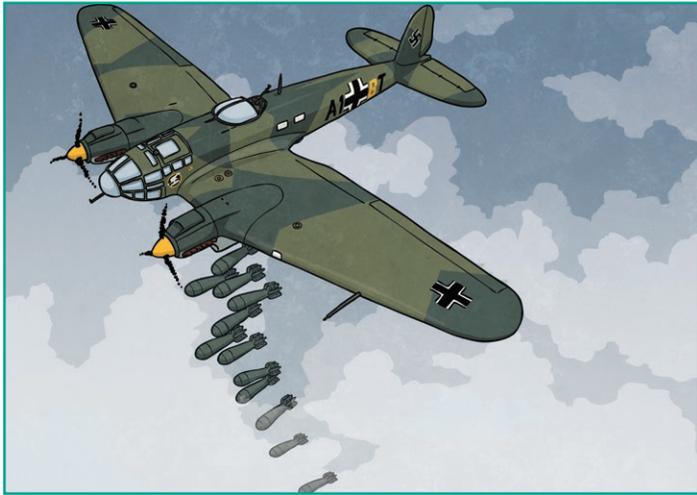
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Glover had a Japanese wife, Tsuru, and two children. He died in Tokyo on 13th December, 1911, aged 73. Glover's former house in Nagasaki has been turned into a museum. It is the oldest western style building in Japan and the house and garden are visited by two million Japanese tourists every year.



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The home where he was born in Fraserburgh was destroyed by bombing during the Second World War although a plaque marks the site of his birth.



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