

Freemasonry In the Kingdom of Hawaii

By PORTER L. RANCK

(The writer is indebted to Brother Cletus F. Chausee, P. M., 33rd, of Honolulu, Hawaii, for the major portion of the information contained in this article.)

Freemasonry was established in the Hawaiian Islands in 1843, under interesting if unusual circumstances.

On March 30, 1843, the barque Ajax, out of Le Havre, France, with Captain M. LeTellier in command, sailed into the harbor of Honolulu. Captain LeTellier, a 30 degree Mason, carried with him a document which gave him the title and extraordinary powers of a Special Inspector of the Supreme Council for France and its dependencies of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. This document authorized him "to create and constitute conformably to the general regulations of the Rite, new lodges of the obedience of the Supreme Council in all lands wherof the jurisdiction has been neither decided nor recognized." Further, "In his quality as Special Delegate he will receive all credentials relative to the creation and installation of Lodges and to him will be rendered by Masons all the honors due his powers."

Captain LeTellier remained in port until May 3, 1843 when he continued his whaling cruise to the northwest.

During his stay in Honolulu he acquainted himself with the town and its inhabitants. He talked with the captains of other ships in port and, in the manner of Masons, learned that many of his brotherhood were in port and among the residents. Calling a chosen few of them to a meeting, he disclosed his credentials. They proved that he was a special deputy of the Supreme Council for France and its dependencies of the Scottish Rite. The American Masons were convinced of the propriety of this and accepted it.

On April 8, 1843 Captain LeTellier organized the Lodge Le Progres de l'Oceanie, under Dispensation at a meeting aboard the barque Ajax, lying in Honolulu Harbor. He issued a dispensation and sent for the charter. Thus, in a ship's cabin, lighted by whale oil lamps, Freemasonry was introduced to the Hawaiian Islands.

Nine years later, a Dispensation dated January 12, 1852 was issued to Hawaiian Lodge by the Grand Lodge of California. On the 5th day of May, 1852, the Grand Lodge of California granted the charter which authorized

Hawaiian Lodge to work as a regularly constituted Lodge under its jurisdiction, becoming Hawaiian Lodge #21 Free and Accepted Masons.

In due course of time, the Masonic fraternity numbered among its members three of Hawaii's seven Kings: Kamehameha IV, Kamehameha V, Kalakaua I, and Prince William Pitt Leleiohoku, each of whom is pictured on stamps issued by the Kingdom of Hawaii.

HIS MAJESTY KING KAMEHAMEHA IV

Kamehameha IV (Alexander Liholiho) King of Hawaii from January 11, 1855 to November 30, 1863, is pictured on the 2¢ rosy vermilion stamp of Hawaii. Scott #31.

The minutes of Lodge LeProgres de l'Oceanie for January 7th, 1857, show that a petition dated December 31, 1856 was received from His Majesty Alexander Liholiho, Kamehameha IV. He was elected by unanimous consent on a precedent cited by Alexander McDuff when the Grand Lodge of Germany waived a ballot in the election of Crown Prince Charles of Prussia.



KING KAMEHAMEHA IV
(Alexander Liholiho)

The King received his Entered Apprentice degree on the evening of January 14, 1857 and was raised to the degree of Master Mason on February 8, 1857. He was elected Master of his lodge for the years: 1858-1860 and 1861. The 30 degree of the Scottish Rite was

conferred on him by the Supreme Council 33 degree of France.

As a zealous Mason, King Kamehameha IV determined that the impressive services of the Masonic Fraternity would be a fitting ceremonial for laying the foundation stone of Queen's Hospital, which was founded by the King and Queen. Accordingly on the 17th of July, 1860, the members of Lodge Le Progres de l'Oceanie and Hawaiian Lodge assembled and escorted the Acting Grand Lodge to the spacious hospital grounds. The King officiated as Grand Master and made an eloquent address at this first impressive public ceremony of the Masonic Order.

This great and benevolent King passed to that Higher Lodge on November 30, 1863. The Masonic burial service was conducted at the Royal Mausoleum on February 3, 1864 at

the close of the burial service of the Episcopal Church.

HIS MAJESTY KING KAMEHAMEHA V

Kamehameha V (Lot (Kamehameha) was king of Hawaii from November 30, 1863 to December 11, 1872. His likeness is depicted on the 5¢ blue stamp of Hawaii, Scott #32.

The petition of Prince Lot Kamehameha (later Kamehameha V) dated May 11, 1853, was presented to Hawaiian Lodge #21 F. & A. M. Honolulu Friday evening, June 10, 1853, and was ordered to lie over until the next meeting, or at the will of the Worshipful Master. On Monday evening, June 13, 1853, Prince Lot Kamehameha was balloted for and approved, and was initiated Wednesday evening, June 15, 1853. He was passed to the Fellow Craft degree, Thursday evening, December 8, 1853, was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Ma-

Honolulu, Dec. 31st 1854

*To the W. M. Wardens and Brethren of Lodge
Le Progres de l'Oceanie, of Ancient, Free
and Accepted Masons.*

*The Petition of the Subscriber
Respectfully represents, that entertaining a fa-
vorable opinion of your Ancient Institution,
he is desirous of being admitted a Member
thereof*

*Place of Residence - Palace at Honolulu
Aged 22 years.*

F. Kamehameha

PETITION OF KING KAMEHAMEHA IV (Alexander Liholiho)

son Monday evening, February 27, 1854, and later was exalted a Royal Arch Mason in Honolulu Capter #1, Honolulu.

Despite an interdiction* of the Grand Lodge of California forbidding Masonic intercourse with Lodge Le Progres de l'Oceanie, Prince Lot Kamehameha visited the Lodge Le Progres on the evening of January 14, 1857, when his brother, King Kamehameha IV received his Entered Apprentice degree. On Monday evening, February 2, 1857, charges were preferred against Prince Lot Kamehameha for violating the interdict imposed by the Grand Lodge.

Prince Lot Kamehameha was tried on February 25, 1857, and, although found guilty, was upon due consideration excused from punishment. This no doubt rankled the royal personage because on March 2, 1857, a request for a dimit was received from him by Hawaiian Lodge, and upon motion, was granted. He never again affiliated with a regular Lodge becoming thereby a non-affiliated Mason. However he was always treated as a Mason.

When the corner stone of the Judiciary Building was laid on Monday, February 19, 1872, with Masonic Ceremonics, His Majesty Kamehameha V (Lot Kamehameha) was present and assisted the Acting Grand Master.

King Kamehameha V died December 11, 1872 and was buried in the Royal mausoleum on January 7, 1872. Masonic burial services were conducted by Hawaiian Lodge #21 assisted by Lodge Le Progres de l'Oceanie.

*The interdiction of the Grand Lodge of California was removed in 1859.

HIS MAJESTY KING DAVID KALAKAUA

David Kalakaua, King of Hawaii from February 12, 1874 to January 20, 1891 is pictured on the 2¢ brown stamp of Hawaii, Scott #35.

The petition of David Kalakaua, dated January 16, 1859, and signed by King Kamehameha IV and John O. Dominis, Prince Consort and Governor of the Island of Oahu, was presented to Lodge LeProgres de l'Oceanie. He was raised a Master Mason by King Kamehameha IV on December 1, 1864. David Kalakaua became Master of his Lodge November 11, 1875. In addition to serving Lodge Le Progres de l'Oceanie as Master and Secretary, he held many other Masonic honors.

He was elected High Priest of Honolulu Royal Arch Chapter #1 on January 27, 1883. On December 13, 1877 he was elected Eminent Commander of Honolulu Commandery Knights Templar.

The Scottish Rite Degrees were conferred on him by Illustrious Pitkin C. Wright, 33 degree Deputy and Legate of Grand Commander Albert Pike in 1874. King Kalakaua was a charter member of the Scottish Rite in Hawaii and the first Wise Master of Nuuanu (Now Honolulu) Chapter Rose Croix. He was coroneted thirty third degree on August 14, 1878 and elected Grand Cross of Honour on October 21, 1880 by the Supreme Council 33 degree for the Southern Jurisdiction.

In recognition of his work in the Masonic bodies in Hawaii, as well as his friendly attitude towards American Masons in the Islands, he was honored with membership in St. John's



KING DAVID KALAKAUA

Conclave #1 "Red Cross of Constantine" in Chicago on January 14, 1875 while visiting in the United States. On September 10, 1881 while on a visit to Europe, the King had the grade of Knight Grand Cross conferred upon him by the Grand Imperial Council Red Cross Of Constantine of Scotland at Edinburgh.

In an effort to regain his health King Kalakaua made a trip to California in 1890. He died in San Francisco on the 20th of January, 1891. He was buried February 15, 1891 in the Royal mausoleum, Honolulu. Masonic funeral services were conducted at the close of the burial service of The Church Of England.