

DR. MATTHEW MAKALUA

“I have never claimed American Citizenship”

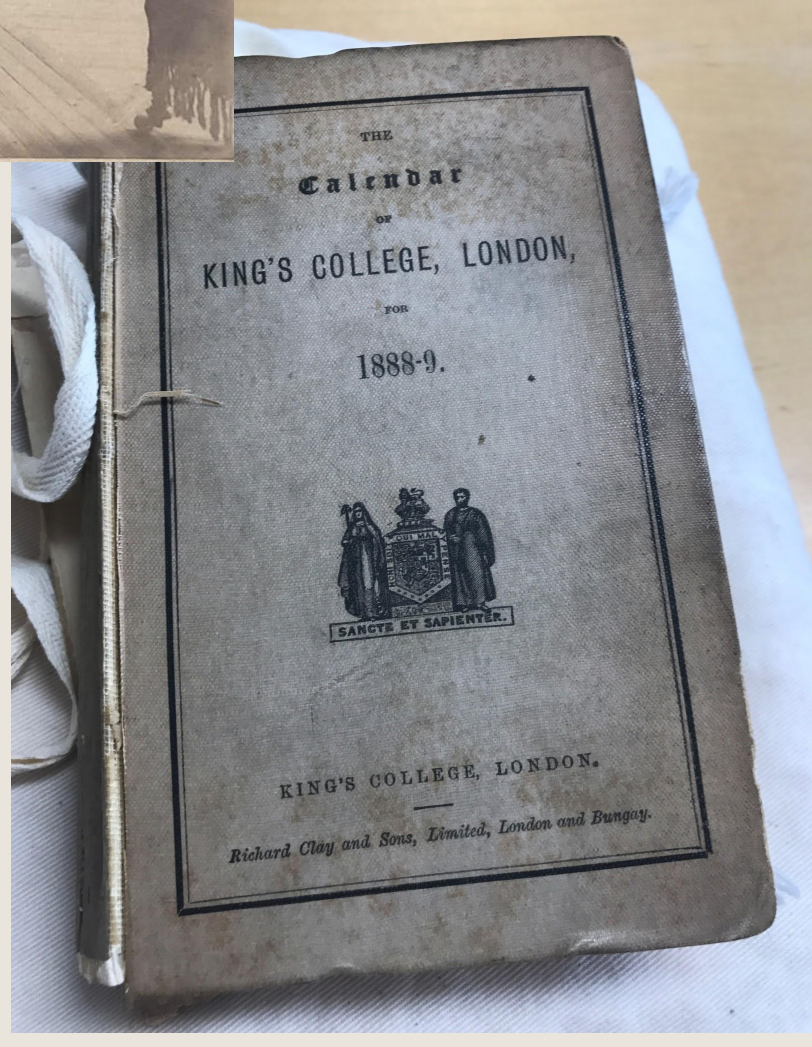
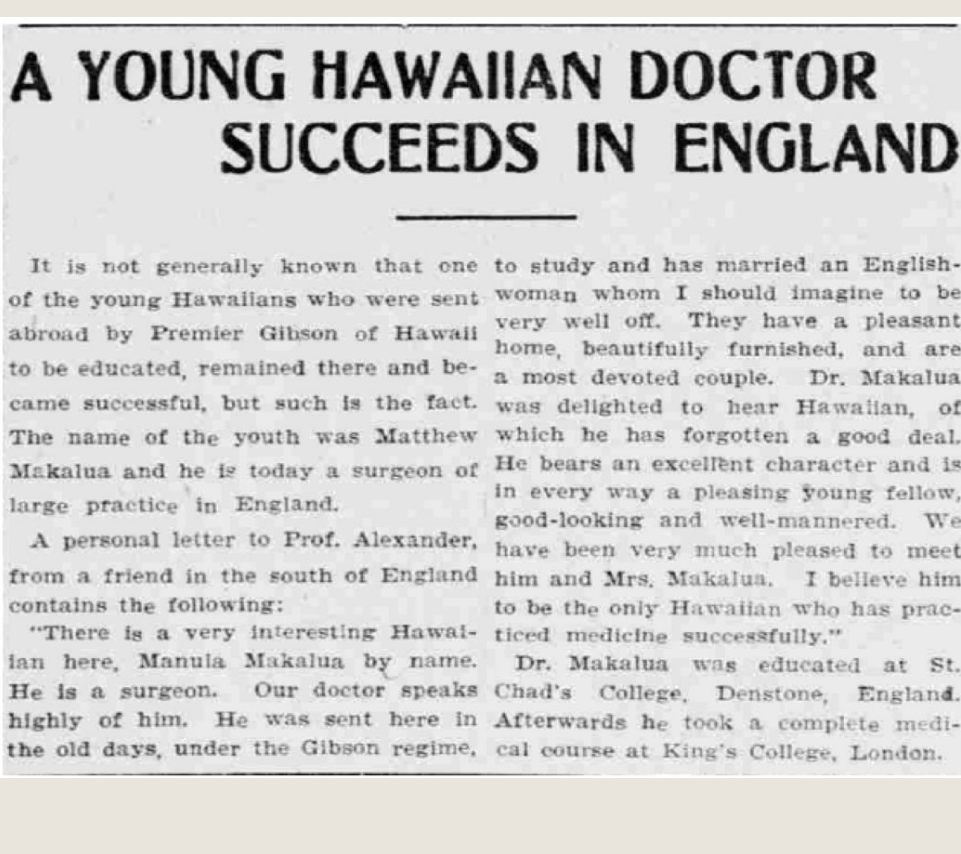
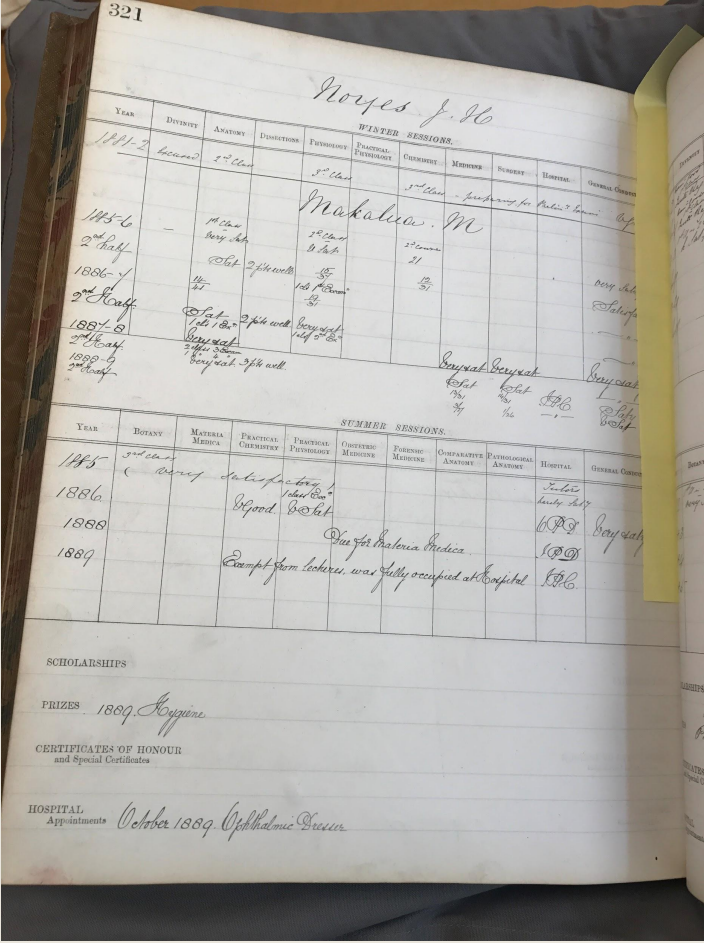
Na: Kau‘i Martin
Undergraduate: Kinesiology & Pre-Medicine

First Western-trained Hawaiian Medical Doctor

Matthew Puakahakoilanimanua Makalua was born in Lahaina, Maui to parents Matthew and Leiaholia Makalua. His father was the Deputy Sheriff of Lahaina, who later became a Judge.

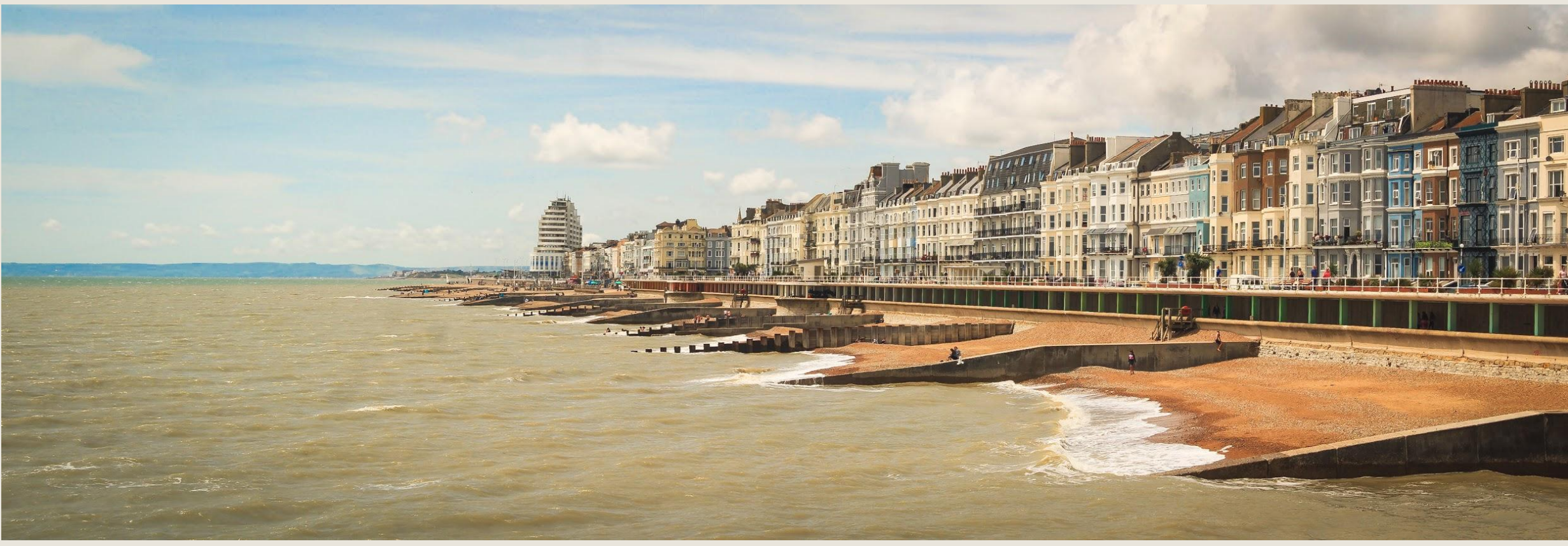
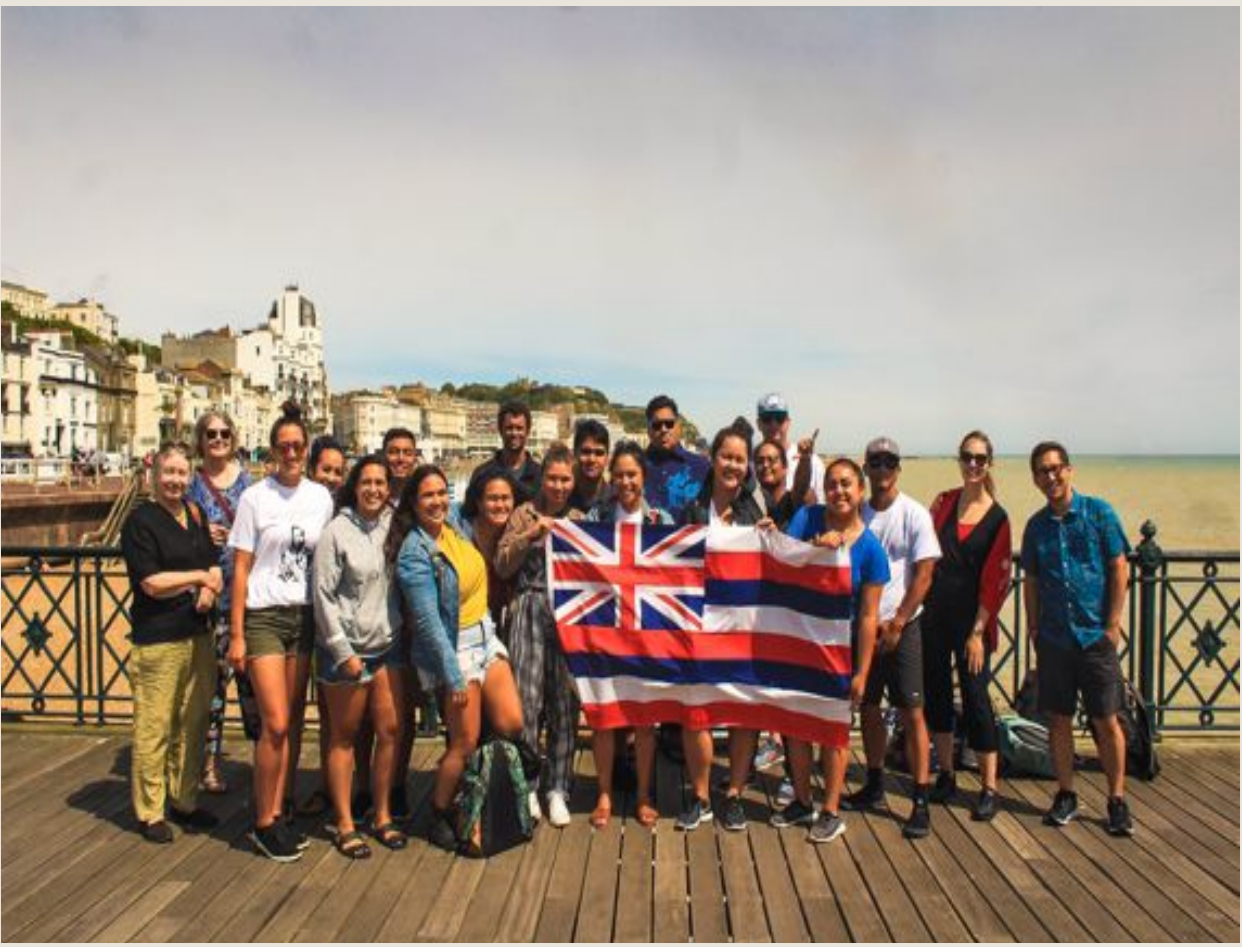
Before being sent to study abroad, Makalua attended ‘Iolani School, and left for England at the age of 15.

Matthew Makalua was sent with Abraham Pi‘ianai‘a and Joseph Kamauoha in 1882 to be educated in England. Upon first arriving in England, he was first enrolled at St. Chad’s College, a preparatory school in Denstone. He then studied Medicine at King’s College, and graduated in 1892 with his Bachelors in Medicine. He won numerous certificates and prizes while attending King’s College. In 1888, he won the prize for Hygiene and Surgical Sanitation, was awarded the First Certificate of Honor for Medical Jurisprudence and was a finalist for the Pathology and Morbid Anatomy award the next year. He either finished first or second in the class for all the major examinations.



Our Huaka‘i to Hastings

Makalua is buried in Hastings Cemetery. Dr. Ben Young and his wife DeeDee were the first ones to find Makalua’s grave, giving us the opportunity to pay our respects when we visited Hastings. We shared some mele and wai from his one hānau, left a hae Hawai‘i for him and shed a few tears. Makalua was the longest supported in the program and was not able to return home to serve his country. Instead, he stayed in England where he practiced medicine and started a family. While visiting Hastings, we followed also in King Kalākaua’s footsteps, as he also visited the town in 1881, because of his connection with the Brassey family who lived there. The Hastings Museum has on display an ahu‘ula, perhaps gifted by Kalākaua. Mahalo to Marilyn and Anne for joining us for the day, as well as Sarah at the Hastings Museum.



“Hastings pier” in the town where Makalua lived and practiced medicine with his family after graduating from King’s College.



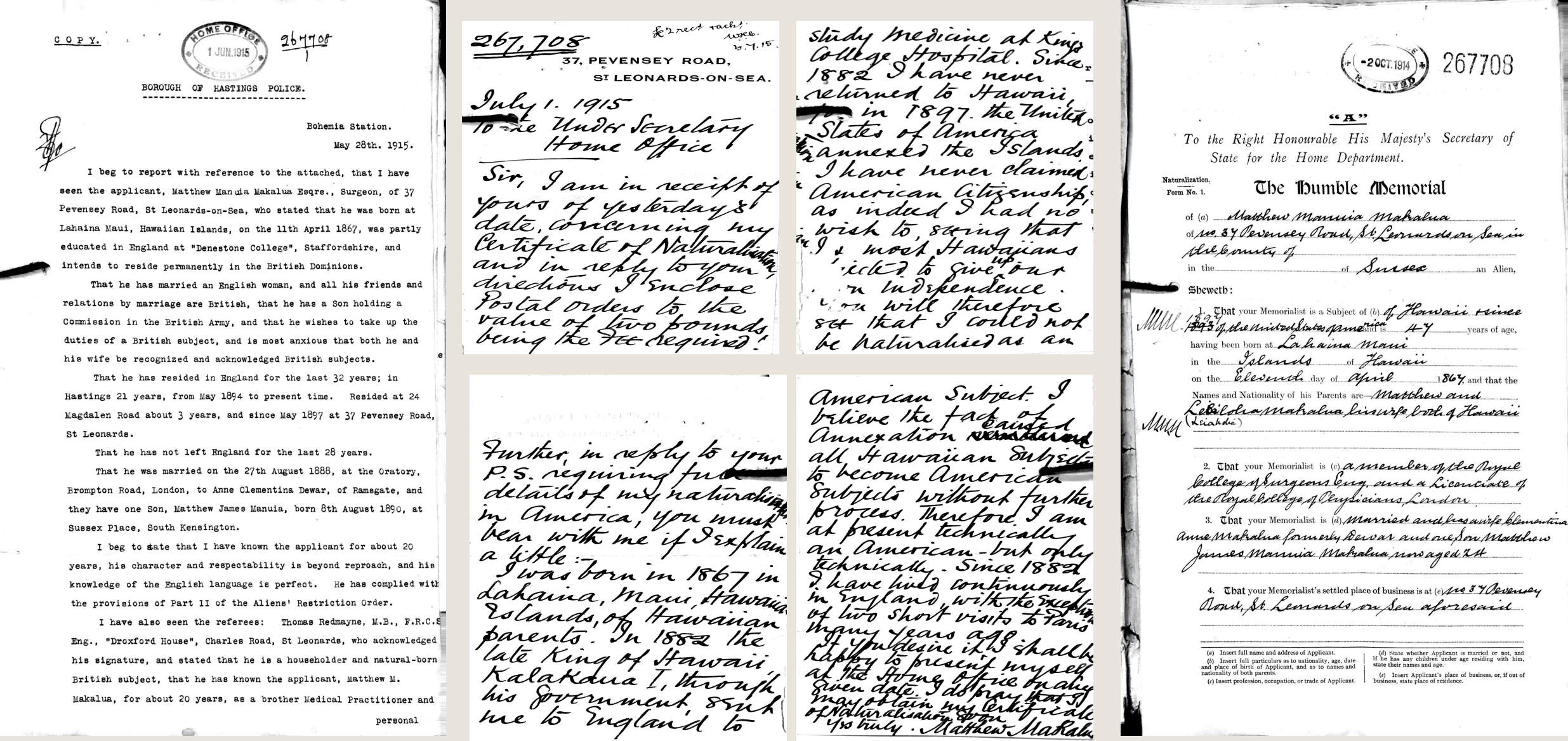
Matthew Makalua with son James Makalua

Naturalizes as a British Citizen

In 1888, Makalua marries Annie Clementina Dewar, the doctor of an English Doctor. They have a son a few years later, James Makalua. After the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893, Makalua decides to stay in England. He feels he does not have a country to return to. He finishes his residency then becomes a surgeon. He later opens up his own practice downstairs of his home at 37 Pevensey Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Several years later, he becomes a Naturalized British Citizen. This process takes a few years so he writes a letter to the County Borough of Hastings:

“The United States of America annexed the islands. I have never claimed American Citizenship, and indeed I had no wish to, considering I and most Hawaiians were forced to give up our independence. I believe the fact of annexation that caused all Hawaiian subjects to become American subjects without further process. Therefore I am at present technically American- only technically. Since 1882 I have continuously lived in England. I married an English woman, all my friends of relation are British, I have a son holding Commission in the British Army”



Makalua naturalization files from the British National Archives

Visiting King’s College

We visited King’s College Archives and found some of his school records there as well as a class picture of him at the archives. We also did a small tour of the original school building to get a glimpse of the actual hallways he walked while a student at King’s College.

