

QUEEN'S JUBILEE 1887

Kamalei Marrotte, Undergraduate Student,
Hawaiian Studies/Hawaiian Language
Hawaiian Youths Abroad 2019 Cohort

*"Na wai ho 'i ka 'ole o ke akamai, he alahelo i ma 'a i ka hele 'ia e o 'u mau mākua."
Who shall discredit knowledge when it is a path well trod by my ancestors.
-Kalanikualiholiho*

Being so far away from home with very little to orient ourselves to our surrounding environment, we look to our kūpuna that have come before us and feel secure in the fact that we are following in their footsteps both literally and metaphorically.

In the year 1887, for the 50th celebration of Queen Victoria's rule, a jubilee was hosted in London in her honor in which King Kalākaua was invited. Due to the death of Miriam Kapili Likelike (Mrs. A. S. Cleghorn), he was unable to attend but Queen Kapi'olani was instead sent to respect Queen Victoria's invitation and honor her at what most of us know as "the Queen's Jubilee." Royal Jubilees are held to celebrate a monarch's 50 year milestones. Queen Victoria was only the second monarch known to celebrate 50 years on the throne by hosting a jubilee, second to King George III. This was the first and only jubilee to be attended by Hawaiian Royalty and yet this was not the first time that Hawaiian Royalty had visited England. King Kalanikualiholiho and Queen Kamāmalu, Queen Emma, and King Kalākaua had all been to England before that of Queen Kapi'olani and Princess Lili'uokalani, and the relationship between the two countries of Great Britain and Hawai'i can be traced back to the time of Kamehameha I. This was reflected in their visit to England for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887.

One of the most valuable resources to my research was the book titled *He moolelo pokole nō ka huakai a ka Moiwahine Kapiolani ame ka Kamaliwahine Liliuokalani i ka Iubile o ka Moiwahine Victoria o Beretania Nui* written by James McGuire over 50 years after the huaka'i. The book is written in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and is a first hand account from James McGuire, one of the escorts to Queen Kapi'olani and Princess Lili'u on their trip to the Jubilee.

He gives a detailed account of the events that took place whereas the letters going back and forth between the consulates only mark the dates and major updates such as an arrival at a new town. For example, he writes that Queen Kapi'olani accompanied by Princess Lili'uokalani and their entourage of escorts; consisting of John Dominis, Curtis Iaukea, James Boyd, James McGuire, Joseph Aea, Charley Kaiiaki, and Pahupahu (the Queen's clothes caretaker), left Hawai'i on April 12th, 1887 to start their journey to England to attend the Jubilee. The morning of their departure was filled with mele sung by the singing clubs and oli were also offered up and chanted in honor of the occasion. At 12:00 pm the royal party set sail with the crown flag flying proudly on the S.S. Australia. The tugboat named the 'Eleu boarded by Kalākaua and the steamship named the John A. Cummins boarded by the Royal Hawaiian Band escorted them and played for them famous songs of Hawai'i. His account is so much more detailed to where he recalls, over 50 years after the events had taken place, a gentle wind blowing up the sea spray into the pathway before the ali'i. It was such a nice change from the matter-of-fact letters sent back and forth between the delegates saying when and where Kapi'olani and her escorts arrived and left a specific place. McGuire also remembers that the 'Eleu and the Cummins escorted them until they passed Daimana Hila and then turned around to head back to shore while playing "Aloha 'Oe." His account reminds us that these people are people with real feelings, who knew that they were leaving for a very long journey from which many others had not safely returned. Although it was an occasion worthy of celebration, it is also one that may have been cause for worry.

Ma ka hōra 12 pono i ua hemo mai la na kaula hōpa'a o ka mo'oku, me i lalo hūro o na makai-nana e paapaina ana i ka lewa, na ai hainaka goodbye aloha ana, ua emi hope mai la ka Australia, e hōoku pono ana i kona hūi i ke ala e hiki aku ai i ka nuku o Māmala. I ka hō'oma'i pono, i ka hō'oma'i aloha, i ka wahine a māzai la ua o'ni malie aie la kona mau enekini me ka lawe nīhi male ana o kona hūila, a māu-aku la no ka hale ipu-ukū, oiai hoi ke hae kalauna o ka Mo'ohave o Hawaii e welo ha'ee ana i na we-e-lau makani mai ke hae hope o ka Australia. Oiai ka Australia e nīhi i ka hō'oma'i aloha, i ka hō'oma'i aloha, i ka hō'oma'i aloha o ke a'wa lai o Kū, ua o'ua mai la na iliohāe e Uncle Sam, ma ka ha'awi ana mai i na pu aloha he 21 no na ka-mahele aili, e au nei i ka moana kai uki o ka Pākīpika. A i ka wā a ka Australia i kaula e ai māmau o ka Hale Ipu-ukū, a hūli pono aku la ka hūi Māmala, ua uina nako'oko mai la ka leo o na pukunihi a na kōa kumahi e ke alo aili, ma ka batara o Kala'aua (ka kua i ku nei o ka Fort Armstrong), me i ka hō'oma'i aloha o ka aloha goodbye aloha i ka hō'oma'i aloha. Ka ukali nei zohoi ka mo'oku Eleeu, me ka Mo'i aene kekahi mau kama hanohano, maluna ana. Pela nōhōi ka mo'ukū John A. Cummins a me ka Royal Hawaiian Band maluna ana e hō'oeo ana i na mele kaula-na o Hawaii. I ka puka ana mau hō'o o ka nuku o Māmala ua pa mai la ka hāi ahehe makani mai ka aina mai a hōopuehu e la i na hūnakai mai ke ahele o na AHI; alaila, hō'oeo ana e la i ka hō'oma'i mau lalani mele o Hawaii.

"A waho la o Mamala,
Hao mai nei ehuehu;
Puluelo i ka hunakai,
Kiheahea i ka ili."

Ua ukali mai no na mokuahi Eleu ame Cummins
a hiki i ke kaalo ana ae o ka Australia mamua o
Daimana Hila, alaila hui hoi aku laua me ka
Moi ame kona mau hoha, me ke mele ana mai a ka
Bana i ke mele i anoi nui ia "Aloha Oe."


Excerpt from *He moolelo pokole*, 1938, McGuire, J.

On their journey to England, their first stop was San Francisco. In the book by James McGuire, he recalls witnessing the Golden Gate Bridge and explains how they were greeted by the United States of America with the 21 cannon salute. Queen Kapi'olani is pictured below with her escorts on a ship whom we are unsure is the S.S. Australia, and as they are exiting the ship in San Francisco Bay. To the right is also the letter sent by a man named D. A. McKinley who must've worked for the Hawaiian Consulate in San Fran at the time, to Walter Murray Gibson in Hawai'i announcing the arrival of Queen Kapi'olani and party in San Fran on April 20th, 1887.

[illegible]

Excerpt from *He moolelo pokole*, 1938, McGuire, J.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives.


 No 131
 Dan. Manning
 April 28 1847
 Dear Friend
 I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your kind and obliging letter of the 21st inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
 Wm. Manning
 Secy. of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia

Courtesy of Hawai'i State Archives

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

They also made stops in Salt Lake, passed Pittsburgh and Chicago before reaching Washington to meet President Cleveland, Boston, New York, and finally reached Liverpool in England on June 2nd, 1887. This was all recorded in a letter that Princess Lili'u had written in 'ōlelo Hawai'i to a close friend named Joe, which was then translated later on to English.

[illegible]

Courtesy of Hawai'i State Archives

June 15, 1967.

Greeting you and Jane.

We will see by title by the way in New England. I have just received your letter. I have always looked for a letter from you, for I thought you would sometime of some affairs concerning there, but I see all well.

I'm always thinking of you all, while my affairs are going forward.

We were one week in San Francisco, then, we boarded the train for Washington, running forward on an up grade by the Sierra, that is, the lands below by 1/2 of the summit of the Rocky mountains. Due to the very careful movements in ascending, we did not notice we were ascending into the mile peaks, to only notice ascending here and there, that William had spread out her white sheet, did we realize, we were at the summit of the mountain. Oh it was a beautiful sight. It was cold, but, the Hamilton boys, Graham, Boyce, Joe Ann and Charley and some white boys, when the train stopped, got off and began playing on the snow all over there. Then we on and stopped at several places, and at some places, it is very curious for the train to be surrounded by the people, some protesting, some calling out, like what. On our arrival at a place called Salt Lake, we saw the influence of that place, with excitement, we could imagine. There were a lot of many people, some people protesting, but none of the teachers who were at Salt Lake.

Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee was held at Westminster Abbey. Westminster Abbey is a church that is subject to the Sovereign, rather than an archbishop or bishop and has been the location for all coronations since 1066 as well as other royal occasions such as Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee of 1887. While in London, we had the privilege of visiting the home of past and present British royalty. The Windsor Castle was founded by William the Conqueror in the 11th century and is the oldest and largest continually occupied castle in the world. In the time since the 11th century, it has been home to 39 monarchs, one of which was Queen Victoria.

During our visit, we were taken into the throne room which contained Queen Elizabeth's throne of ivory. Displayed on tables in front of the throne were different materials such as letters, artifacts, and journal entries showcasing the intimate relationship that our mō'i had with the British monarchy. One of the materials was an account of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee including who sat where in the hall of Westminster Abbey. The Queen stood in the middle of the hall in front of her close relatives and extended family while her foreign visitors stood in front of her in the sacrum in front of the altar. I spoke with one of the archivists at the Royal Archives and we discussed where the famous painting of the jubilee could have been done from and we figured out that from the angle of the painting, the artist must've been on the far left side of the altar looking out at the hall. In the painting you can see both Queen Kapi'olani and Princess Lili'uokalani in the sacrum. Both the painting and the seating chart tell us that Queen Kapi'olani was seated farther away from the painter but closer to Queen Victoria, and that Princess Lili'uokalani was seated closer to the painter and farther from Queen Victoria. The archivist that I spoke to also confirmed that where Queen Kapi'olani was seated was a sign of very high status. According to the seating chart, she was the second-highest rank due to the fact that she was the foreign visitor seated second-closest to the Queen, whereas Princess Lili'uokalani was seated two chairs back.

It was truly a privilege to have been able to go on this trip abroad to discover new information that had not been available to us in Hawai'i, to see the places that our ali'i had been before us, and to follow in the footsteps of our kūpuna. We still have a lot to learn from them. Although they are not with us anymore, we can learn more about the relationships they created with other nations and how they maintained those relationships up until the time of the overthrow. We can learn from them and come up with new ways to create and maintain those pilina so that we can restore our lāhui, and ensure that our ea is never taken away again.

Mahalo a nui!