

Hawai'i and the World

Long after Polynesians settled these shores, others found their way to Hawai'i, bringing unique perspectives and ideas. Regardless of origin, Queen Kapi'olani and King Kalākaua welcomed all into their court and their lives. Several of these individuals became trusted advisors, loving friends, and even family.

Archibald Cleghorn was born in Scotland and came to Hawai'i at the age of 15. He became the primary architect of Kapi'olani Park and married King Kalākaua's sister, Miriam Likelike. Their daughter, Princess Ka'iulani Cleghorn, grew up to be a highly respected defender of Hawaiian independence. John Owen Dominis moved to Hawai'i at the age of 5 and married another of Kalākaua's sisters, Lydia Kamaka'eha, who later became Queen Lili'uokalani, the last sovereign monarch of Hawai'i. Scottish novelist Robert Louis Stevenson became friends with the king and queen during his extensive travels in the Pacific and was named the Royal Storyteller to the Court of Kalākaua.

Like their ancestors, the queen and king were undeterred by difficult voyages. The king was the first head of state to travel around the world, and the queen traveled halfway around to Queen Victoria's Jubilee celebration in London in 1887. Royal Knight Curtis Pi'ehu I'aukea, commander in chief of the Kingdom's military, having circumnavigated the globe as a diplomat and already acquainted with many of the world's national rulers, was well qualified to serve as the queen's escort on this arduous trip. On their way they stopped in San Francisco, Boston, New York, and Washington D.C., where they were received in the White House by President Cleveland. At the Jubilee, they sat with the British Royal Family.



Crown Princess Ka'iulani Cleghorn, 1875-1899

Artist, Lisa Forbes

She led a diplomatic mission to U.S. President
Cleveland and forestalled the annexation of the
Kingdom of Hawai'i. She introduced surfing to
Europe while studying in England.

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Royal Knight Curtis Pi'ehu l'aukea, 1855-1940

Artist, Meg Stone

He held many important positions in the governments of the Kingdom, the Republic, and the Territory. On his journeys around the world he was honored by many heads of state, established treaties and helped open the doors to foreign immigration.



Robert Louis Stevenson, 1850-1894

Artist, Lisa Forbes

Author of Treasure Island, Dr. Jekyl and Mr. Hyde, and Father Damien, he entertained the Court of Kalākaua and struck up a friendship with Crown Princess Kaʻiulani during his six-month stay in 1889.



King David Kalākaua, 1836-1891

Artist, A. Sommerfeld

He was a king of many firsts on the world stage, a talented musician, played the 'ukulele and composed Hawai'i Pono'ī, the national, and now, state anthem. He is known as "The Merrie Monarch," the name of an annual hula festival in Hilo on the island of Hawai'i.



Royal Governor Archibald Cleghorn, 1835-1910

Artist, Adeline Shrapmel

Scottish businessman and brother-in-law to King

Kalākaua, he was father to Princess Kaʻiulani and the
primary architect of Kapiʻolani Park.



Queen Lili'uokalani, 1838-1917

Artist, Lisa Forbes
Sister-in-law and traveling companion to Queen
Kapi'olani on their journey to Queen Victoria's
Golden Jubilee in England, she gave her Waikīkī estate
to Queen Kapi'olani after the death of King Kalākaua.
She was the first female head of state and the last
Hawaiian monarch.



Prince Consort John Owen Dominis, 1832-1891

Artist, Erwin

Husband to Queen Lili'uokalani, he served as royal governor of O'ahu and Maui from 1868 to 1891.



'Iolani Palace, completed in 1882
King Kalākaua commissioned 'Iolani Palace as the official residence of the Hawaiian monarchs and it was the center of diplomatic and social life in Honolulu. The Palace was the first in the world to have electricity (King Kalākaua had visited Edison in New York) and the telephone. Visits to the Palace can be arranged, please see Iolani.org for the details.