

What an unbelievable two years it has been, and what a joy it is to see you all now!

I imagine something similar was said by the Pioneer Company of missionaries when the contingent of missionaries from Tahiti arrived 200 years and 15 days ago. The mission was going as well as possible, a “cooperative efficiency” as scholar and former Trustee John Laimana, Jr., describes it, had been established between the ali’i and the Pioneer Company, there was basic interest in Christianity, and there was enough movement on the development of a codified written Hawaiian language to begin printing the pī-ā-pā by January 1822. But still, language and cultural differences made the work slow going.

Enter the Tahitian missionary contingent of 1822. Auna and Matatore, both chiefs in Tahiti and Christian converts, garnered the respect of the Hawaiian ali’i in a new way. Reverend Ellis had learned an extensive amount of Tahitian, partly by writing hymns in Tahitian and then setting the type and printing them in the 1819 Tahitian hymnal. As Dr. Kapali Lyon explained at this week’s *Archives and Inquiry*, Ellis wrote that typesetting the hymns helped him learn and drill in the Tahitian language for himself—reminding us of the power of kinesthetic experiences in learning which we continue today in OUR Print Shop.

Turning back to 1822, accompanying these chiefs and the composer/printer/missionary Ellis was Auna’s wife, known to us as Aunavahine. In the company’s early days in Hawai’i they were introduced to the household for the Ke’eaumoku ‘ohana from Maui, which included Ka’ahumanu, where Aunavahine immediately recognized her brother, who had left Tahiti at age 9 and was now a steward for the family. These signs, combined with the ability to converse with the ali’i in a Polynesian language and to put Christianity into a Polynesian context, brought new light to the mission’s work and new interest from the ali’i.

By August 1822 Ellis had written the first hymns in ‘ōlelo Hawai’i, which you will get to hear and sing today at 1:00 across the street at Kawaiaha’o Church.

In early 1823 additional missionaries arrived from Tahiti, including Tau’ā, who would become Princess Keōpūolani’s personal chaplain and who you’ll get to meet today at 12:30. Tauavahine and Ta’amotu accompanied him, and in 1826 Tute Tehuiarii arrived, who also became a cherished royal chaplain.

The Tahitian missionaries worked with Hawaiian scholars and members of the ABCFM mission to translate the Bible into ‘ōlelo Hawai’i and spread the word of God through teaching. Again, as the presenters at this week’s *Archives and Inquiry* made so abundantly clear, the London Missionary Society mission to Tahiti struggled in part because the missionaries could not learn the language and build relationships with the people of Tahiti. Here in Hawai’i, the opposite was true, in large part because of the Tahitian missionaries’ work, which we remember today.

So, what have WE been doing in the past years, and particularly in 2021, and where do we see the reinvigoration from this meeting and the interaction with each of you might take us in this upcoming year?

Last January we had the soft blessing for the new Hale Pili o nā Mikanele. We still look forward to a cultural day celebrating the process of building the hale as well as the joy of having this replica on our historic site, next to the 1821 Frame House.

February was the 1820 Club event, a gathering of members who have donated \$1,820 or more in the course of the previous year. This year the group gathered virtually, with participants from the East Coast, to Hawai'i Island and far away Makiki, to hear special behind the scenes insights about how the hale would be incorporated into our education curriculum.

We are proud to note that this year we have 54 1820 Club participants, up from 40 the year before and 19 when the club began. These members are leaders for Hawaiian Mission Houses, and I'd like to ask those of the club who are here today to stand now or wave if you're on zoom, so we can recognize you. Mahalo for ALL you make possible at Hawaiian Mission Houses! As a note, we have 28 weeks left in 2022. That's \$65/week to be in this leadership level of donation. Meet me at the registration table during lunch and I'll be happy to help you get set up...

April saw our second virtual Annual Meeting, with the joy again of having members be able to attend for the first time because they could join from California, Georgia, Maine, and again, far, far away Kaneohe. At the Annual Meeting then Development Chair Lindsey Mist and Board President Patricia Morgan announced the new "Bicentennial Endowment Fund," with the goal of raising \$1M in cash and legacy gifts by Annual Meeting 2025. At the time of the announcement we kicked off the fund with over \$250,000 in cash and legacy gifts from your Board and other members.

I am happy and honored to announce additional leadership gifts have now been made in the amount of \$50,000 in cash from Margie and Frank Newell, \$25,000 from Jim Hunnewell, Jr., and \$100,000 in the form of a legacy gift pledged by Sarah and Manning Richards, which they (and we) hope will increase in value before we have to collect this at what we hope will be a very far future date. These combined with gifts of stock from Lissa Dunford and additional gifts from John McHugh and Janet Self have put us at \$440,000 toward our goal, almost halfway there.

I encourage you to think how a gift to the Bicentennial Endowment Fund might reflect your goals for the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society and Hawaiian Mission Houses... we need your annual gifts each year to keep us able to do the immediate work of preservation and education... might you also be able to answer the call from our ancestors to provide for our future generations?

June was the 10th anniversary of Cemetery Pupu Theatre, as mentioned before, and it was indicative of these times when we opened on a Friday night to certain COVID protocols, and the Mayor literally expanded and lessened the rules while the show was going on!

August was the 200th anniversary of the completion of the 1821 Frame House, also known as the 1821 Mission Houses and for the Cookes in THIS house... the Cooke Family House. Trustee Paul Morgan, himself a Cooke descendant, gave a wonderful *Archives and Inquiry* presentation on the history of the house, and we planned a special History Theatre performance which was only slightly postponed... to two days ago. Never fear, the house was feted by staff and visitors in August, and the Archives and Inquiry Virtual Speaker Series has proved to be a great hit and a program we anticipate continuing even in post-pandemic years.

September was our second hybrid Huaka'i, with people from 18 states and 4 Hawaiian islands joining in. Mark your calendars now—September 17 we will be back at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel for our Huaka'i Annual Fundraiser! We will continue the online auction and ways for members away from Oahu to participate, while we look forward to returning to the beauty and charm of this historic hotel.

November saw the return of our Craft Fair, December brought holiday shoppers (did you hear about the amazing new merchandise we have on sale in the Gift Shop now???), and on January 7, 2022, we commemorated the first pull on the used Ramage printing press that the Pioneer Company had brought with them, which was also the first printing of written 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

On that day, we were joined by descendants of the first people to do the pulls on January 7, 1822, including the 'Ahahui Ka'ahumanu who represented the Ke'eaumoku family (Governor Ke'eaumoku being the first person to do the pull on January 7, 1822), members of Elisha Loomis's 'ohana, and Board President Patricia Morgan as proxy for the Hunnewell family. We also invited literacy groups, Hawaiian language groups, United Church of Christ leaders, government officials, educators and others invested in the legacy of the printed Hawaiian language. It was a beautiful and humbling reminder of the history we preserve and the communities with whom we share work today.

So, what should you know as we move forward from our interaction today? Just as the arrival of Tahitian missionaries forged a new course for the Sandwich Island Mission, what course are we forging today?

1. Hawaiian Mission Houses will be using the theme "A Thousand Stories" for upcoming exhibits and educational materials. With these incredible bicentennials, with the physical structures and archives we preserve, how can we tell as many of the stories of people whose lives intersected on this site and because of this site? Come join us to learn.
2. YOU make a difference to Hawaiian Mission Houses. We keep the genealogies of 5500 missionary descendants and have hundreds of members who are not descendants. Of these, 500 typically donate. That's right, 1%. Can you imagine what we could do to preserve and share history if we could increase that number?
3. We are thrilled to be able to return to the immersive history Hawaiian Mission Houses does so well. Walk the halls of the 201 year old Frame House today. Hear the story of Tau'ā, from Tau'ā himself. Join us in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey in October and then in Honolulu and on Maui next April to walk in the footsteps of the Second Company, the "great reinforcements." Enroll your family, visit the archives, and bring your friends to programs, in person and online, to share the visceral joy of history coming to life.

What an unbelievable two years it has been, and what a joy it is to see you all now. On behalf of the Executive Team and your staff, we look forward to sharing this next year and more with you.