



Hawaiian Mission Bicentennial

Commemorating the Hawaiian Mission Bicentennial

The Second Great Awakening was a Protestant religious revival during the early 19th -century in the United States. During this time, several missionary societies were formed. The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) was organized under Calvinist ecumenical auspices at Bradford, Massachusetts, on the June 29, 1810.

The first of the missions of the ABCFM were to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and India, as well as to the Cherokee and Choctaw of the southeast US.

In October 1816, the ABCFM established the Foreign Mission School in Cornwall, CT, for the instruction of native youth to become missionaries, physicians, surgeons, schoolmasters or interpreters. By 1817, a dozen students, six of them Hawaiians, were training at the Foreign Mission School to become missionaries to teach the Christian faith to people around the world.

One of those was 'Ōpūkaha'ia, a young Hawaiian who came to the US in 1809, who was being groomed to be a key figure in a mission to Hawai'i. 'Ōpūkaha'ia yearned "with great earnestness that he would (return to Hawai'i) and preach the Gospel to his poor countrymen." Unfortunately, 'Ōpūkaha'ia died unexpectedly at Cornwall on February 17, 1818.

The life and memoirs of 'Ōpūkaha'ia inspired other missionaries to volunteer to carry his message to the Hawaiian Islands.

On October 23, 1819, the Pioneer Company of ABCFM missionaries from the northeast US, set sail on the Thaddeus for the Hawaiian Islands. They first sighted the Islands and arrived at Kawaihae on March 30, 1820, and finally anchored at Kailua-Kona, April 4, 1820.

Over the course of 43 years (1820-1863, the "Missionary Period"), about 184 men and women in twelve Companies served in Hawai'i to carry out the mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) in the Hawaiian Islands.

Collaboration between Native Hawaiians and American Protestant missionaries resulted in, among other things, the

- Introduction of Christianity;
- Development of a written Hawaiian language and establishment of schools that resulted in widespread literacy;
- Promulgation of the concept of constitutional government;
- Combination of Hawaiian with Western medicine; and
- Evolution of a new and distinctive musical tradition (with harmony and choral singing)

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The following are links to background summaries that describe aspects of the Hawaiian Mission:

Before the Hawaiian Islands Mission

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Haystack Prayer Meeting](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on the ABCFM](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background Information on 'Ōpūkaha'ia](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Obookiah Memoirs](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background Information on Four Young Hawaiians](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on the Foreign Mission School](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on 'Ōpūkaha'ia & the Mission](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background Information on Kapu Abolished](#)

The Pioneer Company

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Ordination in Goshen](#)

[Click HERE for Information on Finding a Bride](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Park Street Church](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on A Parting Address](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Departure](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Melton Mowbray](#)

[Click HERE for Information on the Thaddeus at Kawaihae](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on James Hunnewell](#)

Mission Life in the Islands

[Click HERE to view/download Background Information on ABCFM Companies](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background Information on Mission Stations](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background Information on Partners in Change](#)

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Mission Life in the Islands

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Common Stock](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on A Day in the Life](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background Information on General Meeting](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background Information on Missionary Children](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Betsey Stockton](#)

Mission Relationship With Aliʻi and Hawaiians

[Click HERE to view/download Background Information on Chiefs' Letters](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Alii, Missionaries & Hawaii](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Missionary Lands](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Government Service](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Alii Gifts](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Named After Alii](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Was Surfing Banned?](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Was Hula Banned?](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Tea Party](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Hoapili](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Western Wear](#)

Transformations in the Islands

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Collaboration](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Baibala](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background Information on Education & Literacy](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Webster's Way](#)

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Transformations in the Islands

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Literacy](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Hale Kula Alii](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Head, Heart & Hand](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Female Seminaries](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Preparing a Constitution](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on New Musical Tradition](#)

Some Lasting Legacies in the Islands

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Lasting Legacies](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Punahou School \(O'ahu College\)](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Mid-Pacific Institute](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Lahaina Banyan Tree](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Mission Memorial](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on Two Oldest Houses](#)

[Click HERE to view/download Background on HMCS Mission Houses](#)

End of the Mission

[Click HERE to view/download Background on End of the Mission](#)

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