

MASONIC DIRECTORY, TERRITORY OF HAWAII 1908

By: Herbert G. Gardiner, PGS, Grand Historian

In 1908 The Masonic Directory of the Territory of Hawaii listed five Masonic Lodges in the Islands. They were Hawaiian Lodge No.21, F.& A.M., Pacific Lodge No.822, A.F. & A.M., Oceanic Lodge No. 371, F & A.M., Kilauea Lodge No. 330, F.& A.M., and Maui Lodge No.984, A.F. & A.M.

In 1908 Theodore Roosevelt who was a Freemason was President of the United States. The U.S. Congress authorized the construction of Naval Station Honolulu at Pearl Harbor.

In 1908 Mainly to impress Imperial Japan that the U.S. Navy could shift from the Atlantic to the Pacific President Roosevelt ordered the "Great White Fleet" to sail around the world. The fleet consisted of sixteen new battleships of the Atlantic Fleet. The battleships were painted white except for the gilded scrollwork on their bows. The journey took fourteen months. The squadrons were manned by 14,000 sailors, the voyage covered 43,000 miles and called at twenty ports on six continents. Since the Panama Canal was still under construction the fleet sailed through the Straits of Magellan near the southern tip of South America. The armada arrived in Honolulu on July 16th and remained for six days. After many celebrations and luaus the fleet headed for New Zealand. From there the armada continued on around the world returning to Hampton Roads, Virginia on February 22, 1909. There President Roosevelt reviewed the Fleet as it returned home after completing a highly successful voyage around the world, a feat not previously accomplished by any of the world's leading naval powers.

In 1908 the City & County of Honolulu was created with Joseph James Fern as its first Mayor. Walter F. Frear was appointed Governor of Hawaii by President Roosevelt. Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniihanole was the Territorial Delegate to Congress, and the Hawaiian Pineapple Growers Association was founded and launched a successful campaign to popularize the consumption of Pineapple.

In 1908 the three Masonic Lodges on Oahu were: Hawaiian Lodge No. 21 F&AM which had been chartered by the Grand Lodge of California on May 5, 1852; Lodge le Progres de l'Oceanie No. 124 had been constituted under the auspices of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of the Supreme Council of France on April 8, 1843. However in 1905 the Lodge transferred its allegiance to the Grand Lodge of California and was designated Oceanic Lodge No. 371 F & AM. In 1916 the Lodge requested and was authorized to revert to its original name and was designated Lodge le Progres de l'Oceanie No. 371. Pacific Lodge No. 822 A.F. & A.M. was organized by dispensation on January 4, 1895, through the District Grand Lodge of Queensland, Australia (Scottish Constitution) and was Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland on August 1, 1895.

The first Lodge constituted on the Island of Maui was Chartered by the Grand Lodge of California as Maui Lodge No. 223 F&AM in 1872. The Lodge prospered for a few years but in 1877 surrendered its Charter due to a lack of participation. In 1904 the Brethren on the Island of Maui once again sought to establish a Lodge on the Island. An inquiry to the Grand Lodge of

California failed to elicit any encouragement so the Maui Brethren contacted Henry Ernest Cooper Past Master of Hawaiian Lodge and founder of Pacific Lodge No. 822 under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, for recommendations. It appears that Worshipful Brother Cooper was the representative of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Hawaii at the time. As a result the Grand Lodge of Scotland on February 2, 1905 Chartered Lodge Maui No. 984 in Wailuku.

The first Lodge to be constituted on the Island of Hawaii was Kilauea Lodge No. 330, F. & A.M. located in Hilo in 1897. It was Chartered by the Grand Lodge of California.

SOME PROMINENT BRETHREN OF HAWAII IN THE 1908 ERA

Archibald Scott Cleghorn 1835-1910. Cleghorn was the husband of Princess Miriam Kapili younger sister of King David Kalakaua. Cleghorn was the father of Princess Victoria Kaiulani. He succeeded his brother-in-law John Dominis (husband of Queen Lili'uokalani) as Governor of Hawaii. Cleghorn was the first president of Queen's Hospital, and was a member of the privy council under Kalakaua, the Board of Health, and the Board of Immigration. He was Honolulu's first park commissioner and became known as the father of Hawaii's Park System. He designed Thomas Square, Kawaiahao Church grounds, Royal Mausoleum grounds and Kapiolani Park. Cleghorn's mansion on Queen Emma street eventually became the original Pacific Club of which he was president for forty-six years. Cleghorn became a Master Mason in Hawaiian Lodge No. 21, F & AM in December 1873. He was an active member of the Lodge and served as a Trustee from 1882-1895. Archibald Scott Cleghorn was a highly valued advisor to the Hawaiian Monarchy for a good many years.

Curtis Piehu Laukea, 1855-1940. Curtis Laukea served the Hawaiian Monarchy during the reign of King Kalakaua as a highly competent One-man Diplomatic Corps. He was sheriff of the County of Oahu from 1906-1908. In 1909 he served a term in the Territorial Senate. He was appointed secretary of the Territory in 1917 and often served as acting governor until his retirement in 1921. He became a member of the Achieves Commission and custodian of the throne room of Iolani Palace. Laukea had faithfully served the Hawaiian Monarchy, the Republic of Hawaii and the Territory of Hawaii. He was the most decorated man in Hawaii. Curtis Piehu Laukea was a member of Pacific Lodge No. 822, A.F & A.M.

Henry Ernest Cooper, 1857-1929. Henry Cooper became a Master Mason in a Lodge in San Diego, California in 1870. He was the Worshipful Master of Hawaiian Lodge No. 21 in 1894. Cooper organized Pacific Lodge No. 822, A.F. & A.M. under the Grand Lodge of Scotland through the then District Grand Lodge of Queensland, Australia. He served as its first Master in 1895 and again in 1896. Cooper also served as Deputy of the Orient of Hawaii for the Scottish Rite Bodies from 1896-1915.

Henry Cooper was a member of the Committee of Safety and was a very close associate of Lorrin Thurston, the leading advocate to depose Queen Lili'uokalani. Along with Thurston, Cooper was actively involved in establishing the Provisional Government, the Republic of Hawaii and ultimately the annexation of Hawaii by the United States. He served as Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1895. Cooper served in various key positions and served as Acting President of the Hawaii Republic for three months during the absence of President Sanford Dole.

Unfortunately in the current highly charged atmosphere created by some elements of the Hawaii population that castigates anyone who supported deposing Queen Liliu'okalani (Mrs. John Dominis), Henry Ernest Cooper has virtually become a "Non-person" or, along with Lorrin Thurston is portrayed as one of the arch villains in Hawaiian History. To pursue the interesting and productive career of Henry Ernest Cooper would involve us in the realm of politics...so, for the purpose of this paper we'll close this particular segment here with the knowledge that Henry Ernest Cooper was a dedicated Freemason and a very capable public servant.

Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1884-1918. Dillingham was a member of Oceanic Lodge No. 371, F. & A. M. Ben Dillingham was the founder of the Dillingham clan of Hawaii. He was the first officer of the bark "Whistler" which stopped in Honolulu in 1864. While riding along the shore he was thrown from the horse which resulted in a long stay in the hospital. While recovering he was befriended by the Reverend Lowell Smith whose daughter Emma Louise married Dillingham in 1869. Dillingham gave up the life of a sailor and began a business career as a clerk in a hardware store. He subsequently bought the business and changed the name to Dillingham & Company. In 1889 he directed his efforts to linking Honolulu with the North Shore of Oahu by means of a railroad. Along with his associates he later obtained a franchise for the Oahu Steam Railway. "Dillingham's Folly" as some folks referred to it, laid 170 miles of track and became the greatest single factor in the agricultural development of Oahu. By 1890 railroad operations were established on the Islands of Maui and Hawaii. Dillingham helped to develop several Sugar Plantations by building extensive railroad facilities on Oahu and the neighbor islands. He later built on Hawaii what became known as the Hawaii Consolidated Railway. His son Walter F. Dillingham took over the operation of the various Dillingham business activities around the time of the annexation. Ben Dillingham retired and enjoyed the realization of his dreams, but remained the President of Oahu Rail & Land Company until his death.

Lester Petrie, 1878-1956. Petrie was a member of Hawaiian Lodge No. 21, F & AM. He was a member of the Honolulu Board of Supervisors from 1913 to 1930. Petrie was a territorial senator for four years and was Mayor of Honolulu during the years of WW II. He was Mayor from 1941 to 1947. Lester Petrie was one of the Freemasons who helped to establish the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children in Honolulu. Petrie was the Potentate in 1917 and The Master of Hawaiian Lodge in 1920.

Gerrit Parmale Wilder, 1863-193 Wilder. was a member of Hawaiian Lodge No. 21, F & AM. Wilder was born in Honolulu. He attended Punahou School and worked for the Kahului Railroad Company. In 1896 he became its president. He retired from business two years later and devoted his entire efforts to horticulture. In 1924 he earned a master's degree at the University of Hawaii and subsequently became an associate in botany at the Bernice P. Bishop Museum. He made several expeditions to the South Pacific, Ceylon, the West Indies and other areas. Wilder introduced many plants and trees into Hawaii. He also hybridized and created many new varieties of Hibiscus. In 1907 he published "Fruits of the Hawaiian Islands."

Charles William Dickey, 1871-1942. Dickey was a member of Hawaiian Lodge No. 21, F & AM. Dickey was a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He designed many buildings in Hawaii. Among the more notable were Kamehameha School for Boys, Montague Hall at Punahou School, the Castle & Cooke Building, Waikiki, Varsity, Toyo, and Hilo

Theaters; Halekulani Hotel, Kona inn, Naniloa Hotel in Hilo; Wilcox Memorial Hospital at Lihue and the Kula Sanatorium on Maui. Dickey was associated with the design of Honolulu's City Hall. He served on the Honolulu City Planning Commission from 1931 to 1938.

Wallace Rider Farrington, 1871-1933, Farrington was a member of Oceanic Lodge No. 371, F & AM. Farrington came to Hawaii as managing editor of the Pacific Commercial Advertiser. He later became editor of the evening Bulletin which was merged with the Hawaiian Star in 1913, and Farrington became vice president and general manager of the resulting Star-Bulletin. Farrington resigned these positions when he was appointed governor of the Territory of Hawaii by President Warren G. Harding (also a Freemason) in 1921. He was reappointed by President Calvin Coolidge in 1925. Farrington supported the continuation of land grants to Hawaiians and the work of the Hawaii Homes Commission. Farrington was a lifelong proponent of statehood for the territory.

John Harris Soper, 1846-1944. Soper was a member of Hawaiian Lodge No. 21, F & AM. Soper was born in Plymouth, England and came to Hawaii via California in 1877. He became involved in raising sugar cane and became manager of the Pioneer Mill at Lahaina, Maui. He was first appointed marshal of the kingdom in 1884 succeeding William C. Parke also a member of Hawaiian Lodge. After two years he resigned to reenter business, but King Kalakaua again called him to the post in 1888.

Soper headed the force that suppressed the Robert W. Wilcox rebellion in 1889 and resigned again. Soper was recalled by the Provisional Government to lead their forces, and it was under his command that the Hawaiian Monarchy was overthrown in a bloodless takeover. He also suppressed the counter revolution of 1895 led by Robert Wilcox and Sam Nowlein a member of Oceanic Lodge No. 371. He continued in this office until 1907, when he was retired by the War Department in Washington, D.C. with he rank of Brigadier General. Soper was Master of Hawaiian Lodge in 1895.

A VERY SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL

Henry Berger 1844-1929

Henry Berger who arrived in Honolulu during the reign of Kamahameha V to serve as Band Master was still active in 1908. Berger was not a Freemason. He had helped Lili'uokalani compose "Aloha Oe" and wrote Hawaii's national anthem "Hawaii Pono." Berger led the Royal Hawaiian Band for forty-three years and made it world famous. Henry Berger served under the Hawaiian Monarchy, the Republic of Hawaii and the Territory of Hawaii. He retired in 1916 at age 72.

References

Masonic Directory, Territory of Hawaii 1908. Honolulu Mercantile Printing Co., LTD. 1908

History Makers of Hawaii, By A. Grove Day, Mutual Publishing of Honolulu. March 1984.

Assorted Papers by the author covering a period of 15 years