

The Maile Wreath

Newsletter of Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives

Fall 2021

Volume 43: Number 2

The Bicentennials Continue...



The Pioneer Company of missionaries from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) arrived in Hawai'i in April 1820, now over 200 years ago. The intersecting lives and work between these missionaries and the k naka maoli (Native Hawaiians) led to a string of remarkable accomplishments, which in turn will have their Bicentennial Anniversaries in the upcoming years. Take a walk back in history...

AUGUST 23, 1821 - COMPLETION OF THE 1821 MISSION HOUSE

The frame for the house arrived by ship on Christmas Day, 1820. Two months later Liholiho (King Kamehameha II) gave permission for the house to be built, but deferred action pending his travels. On April 27, 1821, the missionaries were allowed to begin digging the cellar, with completion of the house four months later. The house is now affectionately known as the "1821 Mission House," "1821 Frame House," "Cooke Family House," and "Ka Hale L 'au" ("the [Wooden] Frame House"). Additionally, it is the oldest, still-standing Western-style house in Hawai'i.

JANUARY 7, 1822 - FIRST PRINTING OF THE WRITTEN HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

The Pioneer Company brought a Ramage printing press with them in 1820, to help spread the Gospel through translations of the Bible into  lelelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language). The missionaries worked with the k naka maoli, who had a very strong oral tradition, to develop the first orthography for the written language. In January 1822 they were finally ready to put these symbols and sounds on paper in the first Hawaiian Primer, or spelling book.

Missionary Elisha Loomis set the type and inked the press, then asked Ke'eaumoku, the governor of Maui who happened to be present, to perform the first "pull." The second sheet was pulled by Loomis, then the third by mission benefactor James Hunnewell.

(continued on page 5)

We are happy to announce to you, that, on the first Monday of January, we commenced printing, and with great satisfaction, have put the first eight pages of the Owhyhean [Hawaiian] spelling-book into the hands of our pupils.

Joint letter from the Sandwich Island Mission to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions on February 1, 1822



Continuing the tradition by inking the replica Ramage Press at Hawaiian Mission Houses.



New Fund Established

Our Bicentennials have us looking to the past and connecting with our present. But what about the future?

To ensure the financial health of Hawaiian Mission Houses for the next 200 years, the Board of Directors unanimously decided to initiate a "Bicentennial Endowment Fund." The goal is to raise \$1,000,000 in current and legacy gifts by the end of 2025. This endowment

will ensure Hawaiian Mission Houses can preserve the artifacts of history found on our site and in our collections, share the stories of all who walked this and other mission grounds, and maintain the genealogies of families for multiple generations to come.

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The Maile Wreath

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Mission Statement

Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives preserves the heritage and interprets the stories of the American Protestant Missionaries, their descendants, and their relationships with the people and cultures of Hawai'i, connecting with contemporary life, and encouraging a deeper understanding and appreciation of the complex history of Hawai'i.

From the Board President...

By Patricia Morgan, President

EKomo mai and dive into the doings in, around, and about the Hawaiian Mission Houses and the Cousins Society! The word “bicentennial” seems to be in my vocabulary practically on a daily basis. In 2018, my first year on the Board, we were planning a tour of New England for the fall of 2019 to commemorate the setting sail of the first missionary company to Hawai'i. On the heels of that, of course, were all the plans for the 2020 bicentennial of their arrival. Major adjustments were made thanks to COVID. At the same time, planning started for this year's bicentennial iteration – the completion and occupancy of the 1821 Frame House. Contiguous with that effort has been planning for the 2022 bicentennial events. One of my random observations has been “Well, it's always a bicentennial of something.” Some just seem more significant than others.

From my perspective, an event in 1822 had one of the most significant impacts on the Hawaiian culture, which we will be celebrating 200 later: the first printing in Hawai'i, and in the Hawaiian language! Literacy and the printed word has provided humans with the amazing capability of expressing ourselves to a far larger audience than the oral word. The proliferation of nupepa (newspapers) in 'olelo Hawai'i speaks to the eagerness with which the Hawaiians embraced literacy, while also

allowing “‘olelo mai nā kūpuna mai”, the written preservation of traditional lore.

The Tahitian missionaries to Hawai'i greatly expedited the efforts of the New England missionaries to convert the Hawaiian language to a printable form. So it is fitting that we will also be celebrating a bicentennial in honor of them in 2022. As the New Englanders did, the Tahitians arrived at different times. The deputation with the London Missionary Society in 1822 had a significant impact and stood on the shoulders of the Tahitian Christian Toketa, who had arrived previously and rapidly learned Hawaiian.

More commemorations will come as the Second Company of New England missionaries left the East Coast in the fall of 1822, arriving here in the spring of 1823. More on that later, so stay tuned.

You may have participated in our annual Huaka'i in September, and may have also heard via eBlast or good old word of mouth that the event was successful. The many generous participants and donors are honored in this missive. I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal deep gratitude to everyone who contributed, and especially to the Board with 100% involvement.

It continues to be both a gift and honor to hold the position of Board President.

Mahalo nui loa, Patricia

Welcome To New Archivist/Librarian Molly Rowe



Molly Rowe is a recent graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Master of Library and Information Science program, where she

specialized in Archives. Prior to this, Rowe received her Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of North Georgia in 2017 and worked at the Bay County Public Library in Panama City, FL. Rowe says she was drawn to this position at Hawaiian Mission Houses, “because I am passionate about connecting with communities to increase their access to and use of archives.” Welcome, Molly!

Research appointments are now available on Thursdays and Fridays by emailing mrowe@missionhouses.org.

From the Executive Team...

By Elizabeth Po'olua, Elizabeth Lentz-Hill, and Lisa L. Chow, Executive Team

We are at an exciting time in the organization, where we are living and breathing the “in between days” and appreciating the simplicity that makes up life, historically and now.

As you will read in this issue of the *Maile Wreath*, we have a series of Bicentennial commemorations coming up. While Hawaiian Mission Houses will highlight these points in time with special events, the string of these allows us to not only appreciate these discrete, significant days, but also to imagine what life must have been like 200 years ago in between these marked dates.

What was daily life like in the fifteen months between the Pioneer Company's arrival and when they moved into the (then) new Frame House? How many moments of learning and sharing went into developing the symbols for sounds of the Hawaiian language, which were first printed on January 7, 1822? And we all know about communication and cultural differences in our day—what was life like for the Pioneer Company before and after the Tahitian and Second Company missionaries arrived?

(Cont'd from p. 1)

The Bicentennial Endowment Fund campaign was first announced at this year's Annual Meeting, where we were thrilled to share that we are already well over 25% of the way to our goal! Laura “Daisy” Morris left a legacy gift, sometimes known as a planned gift, to Hawaiian Mission Houses in her will, gifting over \$70,000. With the permission of her children, this gift was directed to the new Bicentennial Endowment Fund. Daisy's son, Donald Morris, said, “My mother was so humble about her giving. This will be a wonderful public recognition of her, and hopefully it will challenge others to give as well.”

The Board accepted this challenge and gave an additional \$42,000 to seed the Bicentennial Endowment Fund with over \$100,000 in cash. Trustee James F. Hunnewell, Jr., gave a leadership gift of \$25,000, and 100% of the Board contributed to the total. Trustee Joseph La Roche III modeled legacy giving, with

While we are stewards of a historic site and have the opportunity to walk in history's footsteps every day, this string of discrete Bicentennials actually also highlights the days in between, the days that connect the Bicentennials. And isn't this much like our daily life now, where discrete moments of birth, death, marriage, great fortune, and dismay mark time, but the true living is in everyday's breath?

We also find this sense of the “everyday” in our ongoing Hawaiian Evangelical Association “Name Files” Project, where the project crew are digitizing and making available birth and baptism records, letters from one pastor to another requesting a specific pot to make rice, lists of congregants on a single day in time, and more. (Read more about this project in the Fall 2020 issue of the *Maile Wreath*, available online on our website.) We have the sense of the “everyday” as we start to welcome in-person

a planned gift in his will of over \$170,000 from the Joseph and Sheri La Roche Trust. This gift will not only honor Joseph, but his wife, Sheri, who predeceased him, as well as the legacy of his Holman family.

In addition to cash gifts, pledges, and legacy gifts, donations of stock are welcomed as well. Cooke descendant Lissa Dunford made a donation of stock that had appreciated significantly in value. Dunford encourages others to take advantage of this helpful tax strategy that will benefit both the donor and Hawaiian Mission Houses.

Mahalo to all of these donors, and to the Board of Trustees for their leadership. Whether through a cash gift, a legacy gift in your will, or a gift of stock, please join these leaders in ensuring the future of Hawaiian Mission Houses for the next 200 years!

Contact Elizabeth Lentz-Hill at elentzhill@missionhouses.org or (808) 447-3927 to donate.



school visits, which used to be commonplace and now we appreciate having bodies in space here. And we find this sense as we carry out repair and restoration work to the facilities—just as individuals and families have weeded, built walls, trimmed trees, and repainted over 200 years here, so we do this now.

Maybe your next trip to Hawaiian Mission Houses will be part of a commemorative event for you... your first “post-COVID” travel, a grandparent's birthday trip, or coming to enroll a new baby in your genealogy. Or maybe your next trip to Hawaiian Mission Houses will be because you walk by the site everyday and have not stopped in for a tour or for lunch on our green grass in months. Either way, we look forward to welcoming you and invite you to remember you are creating your own history on each and every day, big and small.

History Theatre: Volunteers Keep our Programs Strong!



This June, over FIFTY new and returning volunteers participated in our Cemetery Pupu Theatre 10th Anniversary Special Presentation, “Cemetery Pupu Theatre: A Decade of Living History.” Volunteers shared their helping hands as registration hosts, sanitizers, theatre guides, parking attendants, and more, making a successful event in celebration of a decade of award-winning presentations. Mahalo nui loa for your kōkua!

Come join the fun and volunteer as we reopen programs! Contact Yvonne Manipon at ymanipon@missionhouses.org or (808) 447-3918.

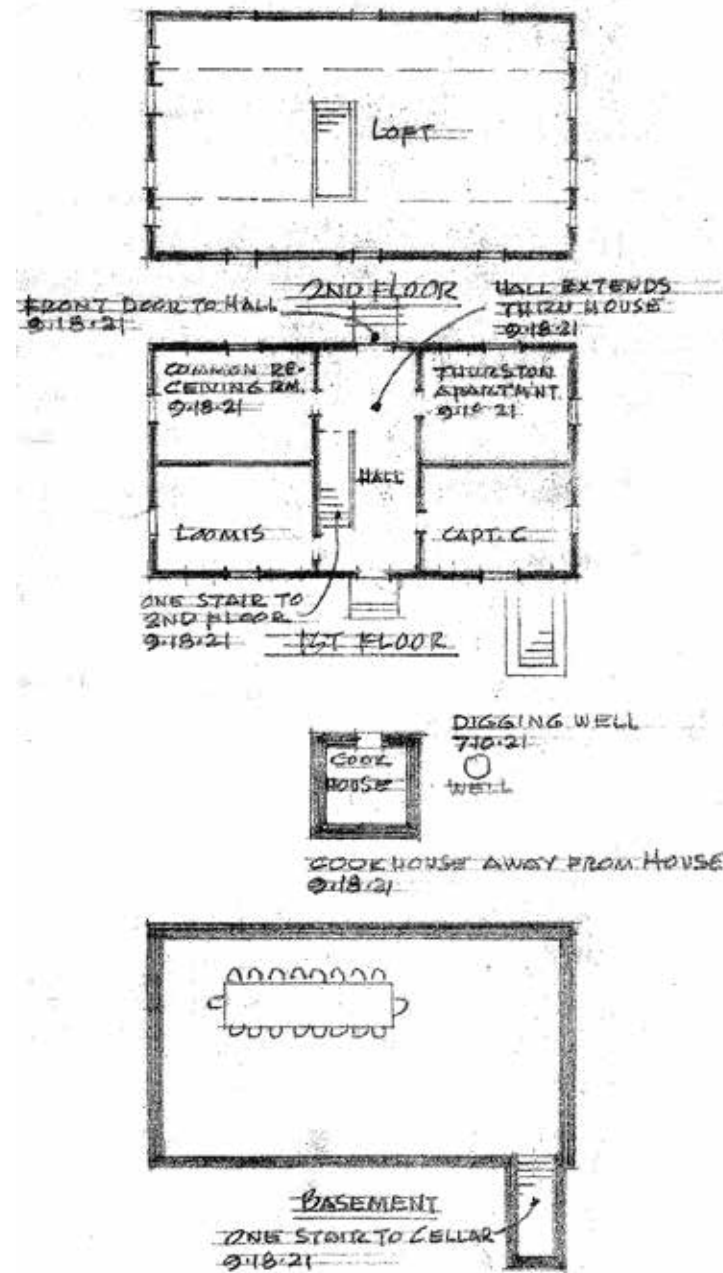
The History of the 1821 Frame House

A HOME IN HONOLULU

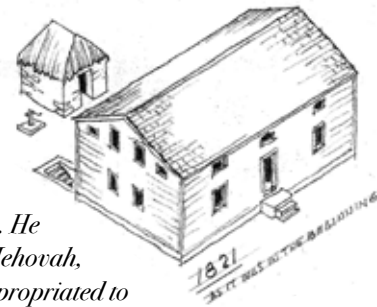
Upon arriving in Honolulu, the first missionaries were provided land and hale pili by Governor Boki, under direction from the king, Liholiho. Eight months later, the frame for a New England-style house arrived aboard the ship Tartar, raising the missionaries' hopes to build a more familiar home to share.

BUILDING MATERIALS

The wood frame, cut and ready for assembly, was delivered from Boston via the arduous sail around Cape Horn. All other boards and timber were brought by ship captains, some from New England and some from the Northwest Coast.



"A visit from the King and some others of the royal family ... He is much pleased with our house, and wishes us to send to America and get him one, three stories. He intends, he says, to worship Jehovah, and wants one story to be appropriated to that object."



– Sandwich Island Mission Journal, May 17, 1821

"A week ... since our humble ...thatched cottage was exchanged for ... a square room, prettily painted & papered in the house sent out from America."

– Lucy Thurston, Sept. 20, 1821

THE HOUSE

The two-story house, as initially completed, measured 40 x 24 feet and included an open loft on the second floor; four rooms and a hall made up the ground floor; and the basement contained a dining table and storage. With one thickness of boards, unsealed or plastered, a ship captain provided enough paper to paper the whole house.

Adjacent to the house, a well was dug in July, stoned and outfitted with "one of the pumps from an old Russian vessel which lies dismantled in the harbor." (Sandwich Island Mission Journal, July 28, 1821).

LIFE IN THE FRAME HOUSE

The Chamberlain and Loomis families first occupied two completed rooms in August 1821, with the basement serving, in part, as a dining room. In September, the Thurstons occupied a third room on the ground floor. The house provided a communal living space where missionaries shared meals, teaching and preaching responsibilities, and hosted ali'i, maka'ainana and foreigners.

CHANGING TIMES

In 1850, the Cooke family occupied the house, living there until the late 1880s. In 1907, it was leased to the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society and later given by the heirs of C.M. Cooke to HMCS in 1924. The house has been carefully restored in 1907 – 1908, 1934 – 1935, 1968 – 1970, and 1995 – 1997.

– Drawings from "Evolution of the Buildings," Frost & Frost, AIA Architects, September 1968.



Cont'd from p. 1



Past meets present... Print Shop diorama and costumes visit a COVID-safe classroom.

The printed page was a broadside of what would become the second and third pages of the eight-page primer. Eight additional pages were added to the primer by February, 1822, with 500 copies made then and an additional 2,000 copies by September. This was the beginning of the printed Hawaiian language, which the ali'i encouraged all kánaka maoli to learn and would lead to Hawai'i becoming one of the most literate nations in the world in the mid-1800s.

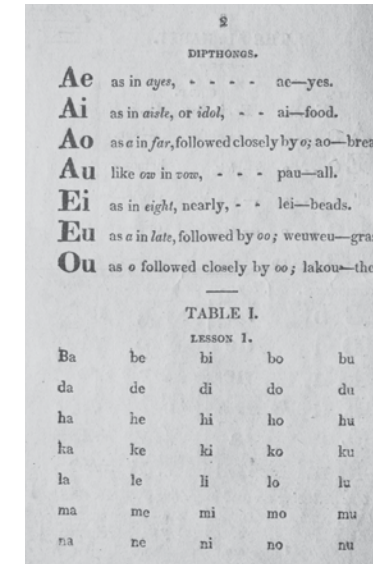
APRIL 16, 1822 - THE ARRIVAL OF TAHITIAN MISSIONARIES WITH REV. WILLIAM ELLIS

By Mary Schlink, Trustee; 2022 Bicentennial Committee Chair and Tute Tehuiarii descendant

Prior to the ABCFM sending missionaries to Hawai'i, the London Missionary Society (LMS) had sent its members to other Pacific islands, including Tahiti. A deputation of Tahitian missionaries, including Auna, his wife Auna wahine, and Matatore, as well as Rev. William Ellis of the LMS left Tahiti and headed to the Marquesas, when they were blown off course and landed in Hawai'i in April, 1822.

Within a month of their arrival, great strides were made in bringing the Word of God to the ali'i and teaching and evangelizing to the Hawaiian people. The Tahitians and Ellis quickly learned Hawaiian and also wrote the first hymns in Hawaiian. LMS observer George Bennett, who accompanied the deputation, noted in his journal, "You will hardly conceive the delight we had in hearing the people for the first time uniting to sing the praises of Jehovah in their own tongue."

By May 10, the ali'i requested that the Tahitians and Ellis stay and teach, and the ABCFM missionaries, delighted with the swift



Page two of the 1822 Hawaiian Primer.

progress being made, agreed as well. This partnership led to additional Tahitian missionaries being sent for and arriving in the subsequent years, including Tau'ā, his wife Tau'ā wahine, Tute Tehuiarii, and a female teacher named Ta'amotu. What was once seen as providence saving the deputation from shipwreck became seen as the hand of God forwarding the mission work in Hawai'i.

NOVEMBER 19, 1822 AND APRIL 27, 1823 - THE DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL OF THE SECOND COMPANY

By Christopher L. Cook, Trustee; 2023 Bicentennial Committee Chair and Historian

Early reports of the success of the Pioneer Company in Hawai'i led in 1821 to planning for a Second ABCFM Mission Company, also known as the "First Reinforcement Company." Raising the required finances led to a delay, and the Second Company finally departed on November 19, 1822, from New Haven, CT. This company sailed to Hawai'i in relative comfort aboard the whaleship Thames, a former packet ship which carried passengers to Europe, as compared to the cramped quarters of the Pioneer Company aboard the trading brig Thaddeus.

Once in Hawai'i the 2nd Company expanded the reach of the mission beyond Kaua'i, Honolulu, and Kailua-Kona, most significantly to Lahaina, Maui and to Ka'awaloa-Kealahakua Bay on Hawai'i Island. Yale-trained physician Abraham Blatchley provided medical care across the Islands; freed slave

More about each of the individuals mentioned above can be found in Partners in Change: A Biographical Encyclopedia of American Protestant Missionaries in Hawai'i and their Hawaiian and Tahitian Colleagues, 1820-1900, available for purchase online or in person at the Hawaiian Mission Houses Gift Shop, www.missionhouses.org/gift-shop.

Betsy Stockton established a pioneering school for the maka'ainana (common people) in Lahaina; Levi Chamberlain served as secular agent for the Mission; and after many years with the mission Rev. William Richards eventually left to become the legal counsellor of King Kamehameha III.

Rounding out the 2nd Company were Rev. Charles and Harriet Stewart, Rev. Artemas and Elizabeth Bishop, Joseph and Martha Goodrich, James and Louise Ely, Jemima Blatchley and Clarissa Richards (wives of those mentioned above); and four men from the Foreign Mission School, Hawaiians William Kamo'oula, Richard Kalā'aiaulu, and Kupeli'i, and Tahitian Stephen Popohe.

Plan to Join Us!

Hawaiian Mission Houses is planning commemoration events for these significant Bicentennials. Join us in 2022 in person and virtually for family-friendly programs and scholarly presentations:

- January in Honolulu, about printing, literacy, and the legacy of the written Hawaiian language;
- April in Honolulu and in July aboard the m/s Paul Gauguin Cruise Ship to Tahiti, focusing on the Tahitian missionaries' and their contributions; and
- October in New England and April 2023 in Honolulu and Maui, commemorating the Second Company's lives and work, particularly in education.

April events will be timed to coincide with the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society Annual Meeting and Roll Count, on April 30, 2022, and April 29, 2023. Details for events at www.missionhouses.org.

Mahalo for Your Support

Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives sincerely thanks the following who made contributions between February and October, 2021.

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Hawaiian Mission Houses (HMH) is honored to receive new and ongoing funding from significant granting bodies in the state.

HMH received a \$30,000 grant from the Hawai'i Resilience Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation. This grant comes through the CHANGE grant framework, in which organizations identify sectors of impact they work within and through which aim to provide meaningful support to Hawai'i's culture and economy. HMH's grant will be used for work in the "Arts and Culture" sector, particularly supporting "Nurturing and Cultivating Hawai'i's Diverse Cultures" and "Citizen Engagement and Participation."

We are also in the third and final year of multi-year grants from the Atherton Family Foundation and the Baldwin Foundation. These grants have supported work on illuminating the partnership between American Protestant missionaries and Hawaiian ali'i and touring History Theatre performances to Maui, respectively.

Mahalo nui to these funders for supporting the important work at Hawaiian Mission Houses!

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Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives

553 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3002

Telephone: 808-447-3910
Fax: 808-545-2280
www.missionhouses.org
info@missionhouses.org

CURRENT HOURS AND TOURS

Times and days below subject to change.
Check our website or call for updates.

HISTORIC SITE AND GIFT SHOP HOURS

Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm
Saturdays, 10:30 am - 3:00 pm

ARCHIVES HOURS

Thursdays and Fridays, 9:00 am - 12:00pm
and 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
By appointment only

ADMISSION

Historic House Tour: \$12
Kama'āina, Military, Senior: \$10
Students 5 year old-College (with Valid ID): \$5
Keiki under 5: FREE
Participating Members: FREE

Guided Tours

Tuesdays and Fridays, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm
Saturdays, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm
By reservation; walk-ins as available

SPECIAL "PERSPECTIVES" TOURS

Architecture, Tuesday, 3:00 pm
Hawaiian Perspective, Wednesday, 3:00 pm
History Buff, Friday, 3:00 pm
By reservation only, via Zoom, \$15

Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives
is the business name of the Hawaiian Mission
Children's Society (HMCS), a 501(c)3 not-for-profit



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- November 18-19: **History Theatre Performances in Lahaina, Maui**
Tickets and info at www.lahainarestoration.org
- November 27: **Holiday Craft Fair at Hawaiian Mission Houses**
We plan to gather safely and festively this year!
- December 21: **Archives and Inquiry Virtual Speaker Series** featuring Kilin Reece, Luthier, Founder and President of Kealakekai Center for Pacific Strings.
- January 2022: **200th Anniversary of the first "pull" on the Printing Press**
Commemoration events will include tours, presentations, and experiences on our replica Ramage Printing Press.
- February 4-26: **Unlocking History: Contemporary Painting at Hawaiian Mission Houses**
- April 16: **200th Anniversary of the Arrival of Tahitian Missionaries**
The lives and work of missionaries Auna, Matatore, Tau'ā, Tute Tehuiarii and their wives, as well as of Ta'amotu, a single, female missionary, will be commemorated throughout the month at Hawaiian Mission Houses and at the Annual Meeting.
- April 30: **Annual Meeting of the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society**
Updates on the organization and the annual Roll Call.
- July 23-30: **Tahiti and Society Island Cruise, aboard the luxury m/s Paul Gaugon**
Includes special events and presentations about the Tahitian Missionaries
- October 2022: **200th Anniversary of Second Company's Departure**
See the list of Second Company members inside. Commemoration events are planned in New Haven, CT, Princeton, NJ, and nearby towns.
- April/May 2023: **200th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Second Company**
Commemoration events will be held at Hawaiian Mission Houses and on Maui, as well as during the HMCS Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 29, 2023.



Hawaiian Mission Houses
50th Annual Holiday Craft Fair
Hawaii's Oldest and Finest
SATURDAY, November 27, 2021
8:30am to 3pm

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