

## Reminiscences of Hanalei Kauai

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By Mrs. T. J. King

[Continued from last issue]

### A Fine Man of Those old Times

Mr. Archibald Archer was staying with us at the time—he was a Pookii resident, although he had lived in Hanalei with father at one time previously—he was a part Scotch and part Norwegian gentleman—an engineer by profession and often came to help father with the machinery of the coffee mill. A room in our house was called Mr. Archer's room, and was kept in readiness for him at all times. He was a great reader, had many books, and always gave us children books for Christmas and birthday presents. He was a very humane man, and I remember getting a great lecture from him once for trapping some little red birds with bread-fruit gum, and putting them into a cage, thinking to tame them. He made me let them go free and promise never to keep birds in captivity again. He went to join a brother of his in Queensland, Australia in 1859, and became a sheep-grazer there, also a member of Parliament in Brisbane later in life. He visited Mr. Widdeman in Honolulu twenty-five years ago and has since died at an advanced age.

### A Welcome Visitor

Mr. Widdemann one of Kauai's early kamaisinas was a frequent visitor at our house in the early days. He and father were old friends in Germany; they came from the same town Hildesheim in Hanover and Mr. Widdemann followed my father to the islands in either 1846 or 1847. He gave me my first box of drawing pencils and water colors, when I was about ten years old, after visiting my studio—a room under one of the out-houses where we were wont to play in the rainy weather and draw and color pictures on the fly leaves taken from books. My brushes being matches or bits of stick softened at the end, and my paint colors taken from our toys which came from Sydney. "Necessity" was certainly "The mother of invention" in this case. Mother received many of her house-hold-goods from the English colonies in those days, wearing apparel and preserves, and even honey in bottles, which I have always thought was the finest I have ever eaten. Books came to us, too, from our grand-parents and shoes for dress occasions but our every day shoes were made by Johnnie Mitchell, a shoe and saddle-maker who lived at Moloa and later had a tannery near the stony brook at Kilauea.

### A Visit to Lihue

In 1859 mother took her family of children on a visit to the Widdemanns' in Lihue. We rode on horseback as far as Kealia where we were met by a man with the "Great Eastern"—a huge covered wagon drawn by four horses, one was named "Salem" and it was who a Salem" until we reached Grove Farm. We got into the quick sands crossing the Kealia river, but the horses soon pulled out safely. The Waialua river was crossed by a ferry boat, if I remember rightly. Mr. Widdemann's place was a windy and very barren one, with no shade trees or plants about, but plenty of house room and long verandas.

### With Lihue Friends

We visited the Rice's and Hardy's from there. The latter lived at Malumalu and one night my sister Anna and myself were allowed to sleep there in a little grass house near the main dwelling, but we were afraid of being alone and away from mother, and did not enjoy the experience nor the bed which was a mattress stuffed with dry banana leaves, which crackled loudly every time one moved, and kept us from sleeping soundly.

The red and rose-scented geraniums around Mrs. Rice's house impressed us with that lovely home, also the big kukui trees that grew

there. I had been to the place once before, when the Jas. B. Marshalls lived there, but only remember Mrs. Marshall and a little toy flat iron which she gave to my sister Anna who still has it.

### Royal Visitors

In the summer of 1860 King Kamehameha Fourth and Queen Emma with their little son the Prince, or "Haku o Hawaii," Albert Edward Kauikeaouli, with Mr. Wyllie came to visit the plantation and it was then that the name was changed to "Princeville." Mr. Wyllie, having no private residence of his own, brought his company to our house, and mother and father entertained them as they would have their own friends. We all learned to like their majesties very much. They were both charming people and the little prince a dear little boy of two years. Madam Namekaha was his nurse. She afterwards married Kalakana and became Queen Kapiolani in 1875.

### A Charming Princess

She was a lovely sweet woman and we became great friends. She ate her meals with the Prince at the children's table, and was with us a great deal. She helped me to make a little Hawaiian flag out of white and blue cotton cloth and turkey-red, which I flew on my own flag staff, and at the stern of our boat when we went rowing. I used to play tricks on her too, such as putting sand in her private bowl of pink poi and hiding her shoes up in a tree, where she could not get them, until I was ready to give them to her, whereby gaining the name of "keikamahine kolehe" which title she was pleased to remember after she became Queen of Hawaii and tease me with.

### Royal Amusements

Mr. Wyllie brought old black George Hyatt and his clarionette with him to Princeville, to entertain the company at dinner and play for dancing in the evening. The King and Queen were both fond of dancing in the evening, and were delighted with a pretty Tyrolese waltz which my father taught them. Queen Emma went up stairs nearly every evening to have a romp with us girls when we were going to bed, and loved a "pillow fight" as well as any of us. The king was a very entertaining man and loved to dress in disguises for the entertainment of us children, he dressed up as a ghost once and gave himself quite a shock when he peered into a looking glass, in a partly darkened room. He was very fond of hunting too, and often went out with his shot gun over the plains toward Wanini and brought home plover, and once a lot of quail which were tabu to shoot at the time; he pretended that he did not know that it was against the law to shoot them. Mr. Dudoit had introduced the quail at Kilauea when he and his family lived there a few years before.

The king and queen had brought their row boats and boat crews with them, and spent many an afternoon of the six weeks that they were with us, boating and picnicing up the river. Mrs. D. L. Gregg and her family, and Miss McKibbin, later Mrs. W. L. Green, were of the party, and mother must have had a strenuous time finding sleeping accommodations for them all and supplying the table, for there were no stores and no supplies to be gotten in Hanalei. Everything had to come from Honolulu.

### Home Gardens

Mother raised quantities of vegetables in her gardens and was never without potatoes, peas, and all kinds of beans. She had fine beds of asparagus also, which were fertilized with the pulp from the coffee mill—the skins of the coffee beans well rotted. Cabbages, carrots, lettuce, corn, tomatoes, celery, green onions and purple

and white egg-plants grew well, the latter were like a banana in shape, pure white, and were much more delicate than the dark ones. The Tahitian banana came from Tahiti, it is called the Chinese banana now because the Chinaman have cultivated it so much. We had a delicious little Tahitian pine apple, called the "Queen" whose core was not hard as in the other varieties. Father planted the first "Vi" trees in Kikula and a "Mape" a Tahitian nut tree. Mr. Rock makes mention of the fact in his recent book on trees in Hawaii. We always had lots of chickens and turkeys which roosted in the trees and foraged for themselves, but fresh beef was scarce; mother had some in pickle most of the time of her own curing, also hams, bacon, and sausages of her own curing. We had our own pigs, a suckling costing only a dollar. Mother used the nuts of the Hala for burning in the smoke house which gave her hams a fine flavor. Crooked-necked squashes grew wild everywhere on the hill sides and was one of our staple articles of diet. We had summer squashes and vegetable marrow and cucumbers, lots of papais and taro and sweet potatoes, so that there was plenty in that line for food. We kept no cows however in the valley, and had to buy our milk from Mr. Kellet. He sold it at a rial (12½ cents) a gallon. Mrs. Wilcox let us have butter sometimes when she had it to spare. Latter we got it from Mr. Krull's dairy in Kealia.

### Dress Making and Sewing

When Queen Emma returned to town she sent mother a present of a Williams and Ovis sewing machine, a one thread chain stitch affair, which mother discarded after a time for a Wheeler and Wilson machine; prior to this all the family sewing was done by hand. The native women proved good seamstresses and we girls had to learn to make our own clothes. Mother made my fathers coats and pants—the material used being doe skin cloth and blue flannel. Our dresses were made from English calicos and gingham also turkey-red cloth; father's shirts and all other clothing mostly from unbleached cotton.

### Wholesome Recreations

It was one of our daily habits to climb the hills behind our house

every morning before breakfast and father never forgot to see that we went.

We learned to ride on horse back and to saddle and bridle our own horse, and we often spent an afternoon racing over the hills chasing a flock of sheep, or some half wild "bipi." My pet horse was named Napoleon, he was a beautiful black animal, and I loved him very much.

During the summer of 1860 Rev. and Mrs. S. C. Damon of Honolulu, with their family of boys; visited us; the visit was made memorable by Mr. Damon baptizing my two youngest sisters Lina and Gussie.

Captain and Mrs. George Luce and their family of six children spent a month with us too, and were much regretted when they returned home.

We learned to row a boat also, which was a great recreation, and could feather an oar, and catch a "crab" too sometimes. We called ourselves the Hanalei Boat Club, and thought that we owned the whole river. Once a brother of father's came to visit us from Germany, and one afternoon took us all for a sail down the river and across the bay to the open sea, and could not get back until he had taken down the sail and the mast, and let us take to our oars. Sometimes we would pull up the river, and if we met another boat of young people would amuse ourselves having a "honuhonu" fight which was lots of fun, especially if one of the party got spilled into the river. Joe Emerson loves to

tell of an experience of the kind that he had there once with the Wunienberg girls.

During the civil war in the United States, father's sympathies were with the Southerners, so of course ours were too, and I made a Secesh flag to express our sentiments with, and once after flying it in our boat up and down the river, one afternoon my father got a note from Mr. Wyllie asking him to stop our doing so again, as it might involve him in difficulties as minister of foreign affairs in Hawaii with the U. S. States. Father thought it a good joke, but did not stop us, and we never learned that any complications came through our rash acts.

### Lady Jane Franklin Visits

In 1851 Lady Jane Franklin and Miss Craycroft, Sir John Franklin's niece, came with Mr. Wyllie on a visit to Princeville. They staid for nearly two months with us, resting and writing. Lady Franklin was getting a book ready for publication. She had been to Alaska to unearth some stories and find some relics of the Franklin expedition to the north pole, and was returning home by way of the Orient. It was at this time that Mr. Wyllie gave her a piece of land on the brow of the hill over looking Princeville and named it the "Crows Nest." He fully believed that she would return to the Islands and build a castle there.

(Continued in next issue.)

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