



## Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

"E lauhoe mai nā wa'a" Everyone paddles the canoe together.

### COMMITTEE REPORT Kōmike Mo'olelo A Ka Wa Kahiko (Historic Sites) 4th Quarter / 2021

**DATE: November 13, 2021**

**TO:** [Pelekikena Carol Johnson, Hope Pelekikena `Elua Dennis Rose and Mainland Council Board, and Members of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs.]

**FROM:** Gail Wright, Komike Mo'olelo a Ka Wa Kahiko, Committee Chair  
Sharon Abbott, Historic Sites committee member

Aloha Pumehana:

#### LOMI LOMI SALMON



There is nothing better than lomi lomi salmon as part of a traditional Hawaiian meal. Recently it was brought to my attention that none of the main ingredients of lomi lomi salmon are native to the islands (*made from salted salmon, tomatoes, onions, and green onions*). Yes, I thought that's right. So, it turns out that the smoked salmon arrived with Captain Vancouver's voyages to Hawai'i from the British Columbia area of Canada. The first recorded sightings of "wild" tomatoes were made in the 1800s and onions, they came over with Captain Cook in 1778.

Research by Kenneth M. Nagata established many interesting facts regarding both native and non-native foods enjoyed in Hawai'i. Some of these facts, as published in the Hawaiian Journal of History, volume 19, 1985, include: seeds were first brought to the islands by Polynesians from their original islands. Some plants were closely linked to the Polynesian gods Kane, Lono, Kanaloa and Ku. Records of the Polynesian contributions were recorded by oral history only.

The second group of contributors were the Europeans beginning with Captain Cook in 1778. Accidently finding Hawai'i on his third voyage to the Pacific, Cook and many other traders brought seeds and planted them in there to ensure a resupplying source for future return voyages.

When Cook landed, there were about 2,700 native species and 30 exotic ones. Over the ensuing 200 years approximately 5,000 new species were introduced including trees, plants and vegetables.

The early European era of significant influence is considered to be from Cook's arrival in 1778 to the US Exploring Expedition in 1840. How often were ships coming to Hawai'i during this time? Hawai'i had become an important port of call for whalers, traders, commercial ventures and scientific studies. In 1822 alone 60 whaling ships came to visit. From 1826-1830 Hawai'i averaged about 140 ships visiting each year.



One of the greatest horticulturists in Hawai'i was Francisco de Paula Marin. His main estate was located near Pearl Harbor. Visitors sought out his botanical gardens for interest and beauty. He is credited with introducing many species to the islands. His many friends from California and Mexico would send seeds to him. Visitors also gifted him with seeds. Marin was not good at recording his accomplishments, but many others made numerous notes about his work.

During Marin's lifetime, one notable event was the arrival of the HMS Blonde. In May of 1825, Lord Byron was commissioned to captain the HMS Blonde to return King Kamehameha II, also known as Liholiho and Queen Kamamalu who had both passed away of illness in England. The ship also brought seeds from England and Rio de Janeiro, including coffee.

The introduction of new species often has wonderful results but sometimes not. Today we enjoy, as our own, such foods as pineapple, papaya and lomi salmon. Let us be grateful for all the wonderful foods brought to our islands as we enjoy this season of Thanksgiving.



Is this making you hungry?