

**A MISSIONARY DETOUR:  
HEAVEN BY WAY OF THE BIG ISLAND**

**Dr. Sandra Wagner-Wright  
Professor Emerita, History  
University of Hawai`i at Hilo**

**June 27, 2011**

## **PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO MISSIONARIES IN HAWAI`I**

***Ships, Furs, and Sandalwood: A Yankee Trader in Hawaii 1823-1825*** by Charles H. Hammatt. (ed.) Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1999.

**“When Unity is Torn Asunder: The Distressing Case of Thomas & Lucia Holman.”** *Pacific Studies*. 15 (2). 1992. 39-60.

***The Structure of the Missionary Call to the Sandwich Islands 1790-1830: Sojourners Among Strangers.*** San Francisco: Mellen Research University Press. 1990.

**“Mission & Motivation: The Theology of the Early American Mission in Hawaii.”** *Hawaiian Journal of History* 19. 1985. 109-140

**WHO CAME TO THE BIG ISLAND?**

**WHEN DID THEY ARRIVE?**

**WHY DID THEY BECOME  
MISSIONARIES?**

## **FIRST COMPANY**

Departed Boston, October 23, 1819

Arrived Kailua, April 4, 1820

Aboard the Brig *Thaddeus*

Length of Voyage: 164 days

Cost for 22 passengers: \$2500

## **REMAINING ON THE BIG ISLAND**

The Reverend Asa & Lucy Thurston

Dr. Thomas & Lucia Holman

Mr. Samuel & Nancy Ruggles

## **SECOND COMPANY**

Departed New Haven, CT, November 20, 1822

Arrived Honolulu, April 27, 1823

**ABOARD THE SHIP *THAMES***

Length of Voyage: 158 Days

## **REMAINING ON THE BIG ISLAND**

The Reverend Artemis and Elizabeth Bishop

Mr. Joseph and Martha Goodrich

## **FIFTH COMPANY**

**Departed New Bedford MA, November 26, 1831  
Arrived Honolulu, May 17, 1832**

**ABOARD THE WHALESHIP *AVERICK*  
Length of Voyage 173 Days**

## **REMAINING ON THE BIG ISLAND**

**The Reverend David and Sarah Lyman  
The Reverend Lorenzo and Betsey Lyons**



## What shall I take?

### For the Voyage:

- 1 hood
- 1 sunbonnet
- 1 calash (lrg hood)
- 25 changes of linen
- 4 petticoats
- 10 loose dresses
- 2 pr wool stockings
- 1 cloak
- 1 shawl
- 3 pr shoes
- 2 black aprons
- 15 night dresses
- 1 fan

### For the Islands:

- 1 dress bonnet
- 2 common bonnets
- 1 veil
- 16 changes of linen
- 15 dresses
- 2 petticoats
- 5 pr wool stockings
- 8 neck handkerchiefs
- 9 night dresses
- 1 shawl
- 1 cloak
- 4 pr gloves
- 10 pocket handkerchiefs
- 1 parasol
- 8 aprons
- 6 pr walking shoes
- 2 fans
- 10 yards flannel
- 10 yards linen
- Ribbons
- 3 pr scissors; 1 pr shears

## **THE SEVENTH COMPANY**

Departed Boston, December 5, 1834

Arrived Honolulu, June 6, 1835

**ON BOARD THE SHIP *HELLESPONT***

Length of Voyage: 183 Days

## **REMAINING ON THE BIG ISLAND**

The Reverend Titus and Fidelia Coan

# EVEN MISSIONARIES REQUIRE:

## For the Voyage:

- 1 sea cap or hat
- 25 shirts; 25 collars
- 2 vests
- 3 pr dark pantaloons
- 14 pr stockings
- 1 pr shoes
- 1 cloak
- 1 wool suit
- 5 pocket handkerchiefs
- 11 changes of sheets
- 21 towels
- 2 lbs soap
- 12 pr pillow cases
- 2 blankets
- 1 wash basin
- 1 looking glass
- 1 lamp

## For the Islands:

- 3 razors; 1 razor strap
- 8 cakes shaving soap; 1 box
- 1 pocket compass
- 1 good watch
- 6 pocket handkerchiefs
- 1 fur hat
- 2 umbrellas
- 15 shirts; 18 collars
- 12 cravats
- 12 pr pantaloons
- 8 thin jackets
- 3 coats
- 6 pr shoes
- 1 cloak
- 4 pr drawers
- 2 flannel shirts



# THE MISSIONARY CALL:

*“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, . . .  
And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the  
end of the world.”* (Matthew 28: 19-20 KJV)

## WHO HEARD THE CALL?

*“For whom he did foreknow, he also did  
predestinate . . . Moreover whom he did  
predestinate, them he also called: and  
whom he called, them he also glorified.”*  
(Romans 8: 29-30 KJV)

# Theology: Samuel Hopkins (1743-1818)

**“disinterested benevolence”**

*“In the practice of the greatest self-denial a person does not divest himself of a love of happiness, but he places his happiness, not in his own private interest but in a good more worthy to be sought, viz., the glory of God, and the prosperity of his church and kingdom. For the sake of this he . . . forgets himself.”*

# THE MACEDONIAN CALL – PROTOTYPE FOR MISSION

*“And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel unto them.”*

(The Acts of the Apostles 16: 9-10 KJV)

# POPULAR CULTURE – THE ROMANCE OF MISSION FIELDS

- The *Panoplist*, 1805
- Connecticut Missionary Society, 1798
- Massachusetts Missionary Society, 1799
- American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, 1810
- Foreign Mission School @ Cornwall CT, 1817
- *Narrative of Five Youths from the Sandwich Islands*, 1816
- *Memoirs of Henry Obookiah* [sic], 1819

*“He who puts his hand to  
the Missionary plough  
ought not to look back.”*

*“It is only a sincere, deep,  
and steady love to Christ,  
and a desire to promote his  
kingdom among men, even at  
the hazard of your life, and at  
the sacrifice of worldly ease  
and interest, which can form  
the foundation of the true  
missionary character.”*

Reprinted from the London  
Missionary Society in the *Panoplist*,  
1810

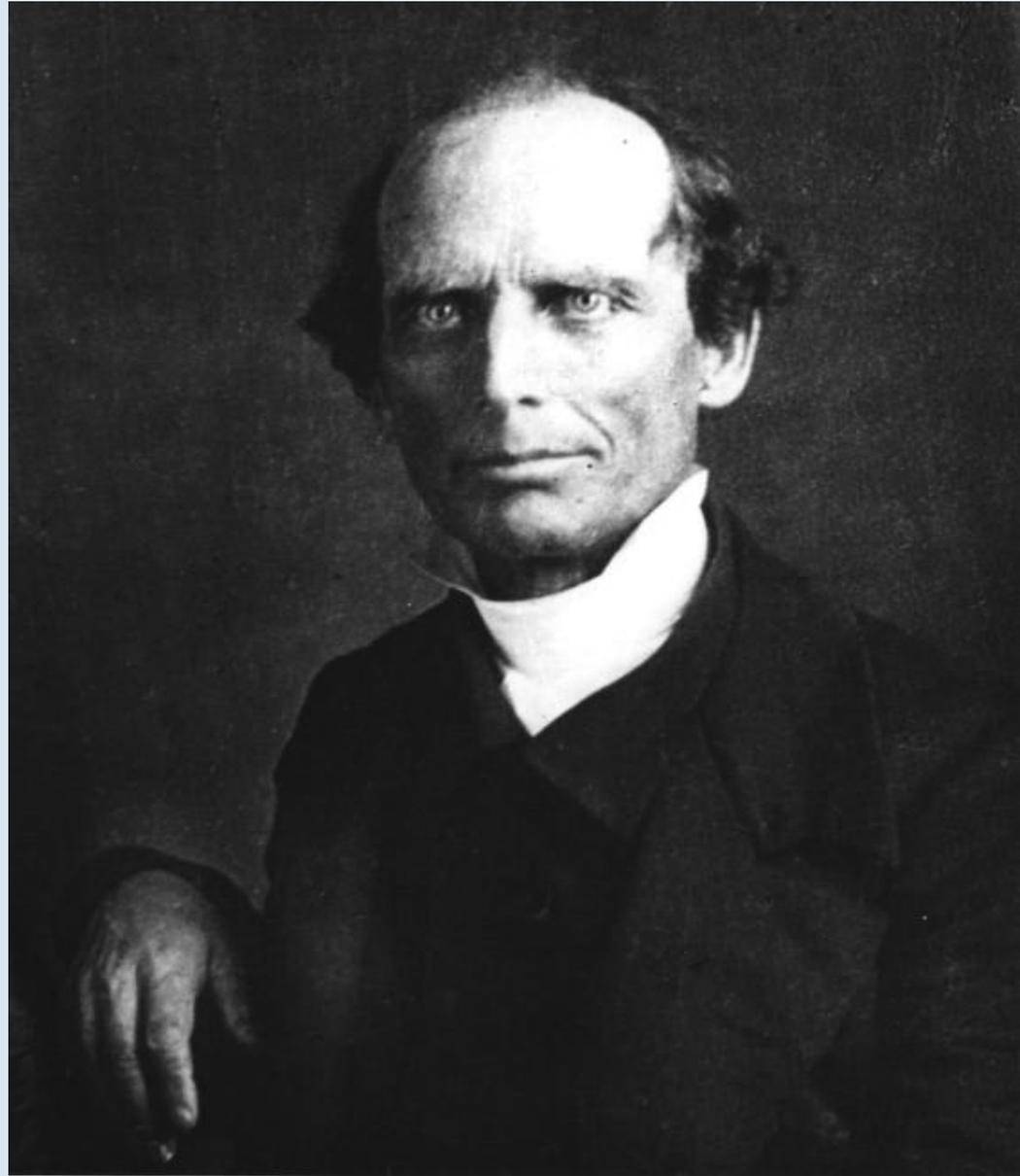
# CHARLES GRANDISON FINNEY 1792-1875

**“the father of modern revivalism”**

*“Revival is not a miracle in any sense.  
It is a purely philosophical result of  
the right use of the constituted  
means”*      *Lectures on Revivalism, 1835*

## **Conversion Process:**

- Sin is voluntary – Stop It
- Conversion is not predestined
- Everyone can choose to convert
- Social Action follows conversion



**WHO EXTENDED  
THE MISSIONARY CALL  
TO THE SANDWICH ISLANDS?**

**WHO ACCEPTED IT?**

**BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE....**

**The ABCFM Foreign Mission School, Cornwall CT  
Opened, 1817**

**HAWAIIAN STUDENT  
CELEBRITIES**

- Henry `Opukaha`ia
- Thomas Hopu
- John Honoli`i
- William Kanu`i
- George Kaumuali`i

**FUTURE MISSIONARIES  
IN RESIDENCE**

- Samuel Ruggles
- Thomas Holman

# HENRY `OPIUKAHA`IA

c.1791-1818

- 1809 – Traveled from Hawai`i to New Haven, CT
- 1815 – Sponsored by ABCFM
- 1816 – Baptized
- 1817 – Enrolled at Foreign Mission School  
Close friend of Samuel Ruggles
- 1818 – Died from typhus fever, Feb. 17

*“ I have no desire to live, if I can enjoy the presence of God, and go where Christ is.”*

`Opukaha`ia, Feb., 1818



*“His prayers and supplications with many tears, for his ‘poor friends, and relatives and countrymen’ . . . will not be forgotten on earth.”*

The Panoplist, Sept. 1819

**WHO IS CALLED? WHO WILL ANSWER  
`OPUKAHA`IA `S DEATHBED PLEA?**

**STEP 1: CONVICTION OF SIN**

**STEP 2: CONVERSION EXPERIENCE**

**STEP 3: ACCEPT THE MISSIONARY CALL**

*I “began to feel that I was a dependent creature, and to reflect on the goodness of God towards me, since I was bereft of earthly parents. This led me to think upon myself and to consider my heart, which I found full of iniquity, ingratitude and guilt. About this time it pleased God in his infinite mercy and rich grace . . . To bare my will and make me choose Christ.”*

Samuel Ruggles, First Company,  
reflecting on converting experience at age 13, 1817

*“The poor heathen possess immortal natures and are perishing.  
Who will give them a Bible and tell them of a Savior?”*

Lucy Goodale Thurston, First Company

*“I have ever viewed the office of Missionary of Jesus as one of self-denial – as attended by much perplexity and disappointment, & which is by no means free from peril. Still I have & do consider it as the highest & noblest undertaking ever apprised by man.”*

Artemas Bishop, Second Company, 1821

*“If my heavenly father has anything for me to do in those pagan Isles, he will carry me safely there and enable me to accomplish it. And if he has nothing for me to do there nor anywhere else, I know not why I should wish to live.”*

Martha Barnes Goodrich, Second Company, 1822

# TRIALS OF THE PIONEERS

*“Missionaries . . . With all their high privileges and distinctions are still but poor, frail mortals like other men, and like other Christians still in the flesh in continual danger of the evil in their natures warring against the peace of their minds.”*

Samuel Worcester, Secretary, Prudential Committee, ABCFM, 1820

**Brig *Thaddeus* arrives Kailua-Kona, April 4,  
1820**



*Picture: View of Kailua-Kona landing  
Moku`aikaua Church & Hulihe`e Palace, c.1890*

**Rev. Asa Thurston (1787-1868)**

**Dr. Thomas Holman (1793-1826)**

**Lucy Goodale Thurston (1795-1876)**

**Lucia Ruggles Holman (1793-1886)**

**Mr. Samuel Ruggles (1795-1871)**

**Nancy Wells Ruggles (1791-1873)**

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

*“Our [ship’s] deck is covered through the day with natives, and I have got so tired with the noise and sight of these naked creatures.”*

*Lucia Ruggles Holman*

*Aboard the *Thaddeus*, the Hawaiians “ate with the simplicity of untaught barbarians, without any politeness or even decency.”*

*Nancy Wells Ruggles*

*“When the missionaries, men and women, came ashore at Kamakahonu and walked along the beach, the people came in crowds, men, women, and children, and exclaimed over the pretty faces of the white women, their deep-set eyes, their bonnets that jutted forward, and their long necks.”*

*Samuel M. Kamakau, *Ruling Chiefs**



**HIRAM & SYBIL BINGHAM, 1819**

*“On the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, fourteen days from the time of our making the islands, we planted a detachment of the mission at Kailua, and set up a banner there in the name of our God. The king, having expressed so decided a wish to have our physician at his place. . . . The choice of one of the two preachers to be stationed there was settled by the ballot of the brethren, and Mr. Thurston was, to the satisfaction of the parties, assigned to that station.”*

**Hiram Bingham, 21 Years in the Sandwich Islands**

## INAUSPICIOUS BEGINNINGS

*“A small thatched hut was by the king’s order appropriated for their accommodation, if such a frail hut, 3 ½ feet high at the foot of the rafters, without flooring, ceiling, windows, or furniture, infested with vermin, in the midst of a noisy, filthy, heathen village, can be said to be for the accommodation of two families just exiled from one of the happiest countries in the world. . . In these untried, singular, and trying circumstances, they entered their new abode to commence their missionary work.”*

Hiram Bingham, 21 Years



# THE APOSTATES

## Dr. Thomas & Lucia Ruggles Holman

Dr. Holman told Lucy Thurston about the *“dignity of his profession – the superiority it bore contrasted with Mr. T’s -- & his being made instrumental of this mission’s being received & so comfortably situated.”*

*“I do not find things here as I expected. I do not feel for the heathen in being among them as I formerly did . . . I intend to embrace the first opportunity to return to my native land.”* Lucia Ruggles Holman

## THE TRIAL

### THE TESTIMONY

Holman: *“I’d have you know that the blood that runs in my veins was born free, & I’m determined, it never shall be bound by any man.”*

Bingham: *“We do not wish to change the current of your blood, we only wish you to behave decently.”*

### THE VERDICT

Unanimous Motion to *“publicly, & solemnly, deliver [Holman] over into the visible kingdom of Satan & declare you and to the world, that you are, & of right ought to be excommunicated from the church of Christ.”* January 31, 1821



Artemas Bishop

## REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE, 1823

Rev. Artemas Bishop (1795-1872)  
Elizabeth Edwards Bishop (1798-1828)

Joseph Goodrich, Preacher (1794-1852)  
Martha Barnes Goodrich (1801-1840)

*“A population of nearly 40,000 souls have open ears to hear the gospel. And must they be left to perish . . . Crying for someone to come, and show them the way to eternal joy and peace?”*

Joseph Goodrich, 1825

# HAVE WE FAILED?

ELIZABETH EDWARDS BISHOP, FIRST ADULT DEATH,  
February 21, 1828

*“Mr. Bingham told me that she warned others not to live as she had done, in neglect of duty.”*

Mercy Whitney

*“Her sufferings were peculiar and of such a nature as precluded the consolation usually vouchsafed to those who are truly the followers of Christ as we have abundant reason to believe our sister to be.”*

Levi Chamberlain

*“Her views of the doctrines & duties of the gospel were clear and correct, but she set the standard of duty so high as hardly to think it possible that she could be a Christian.”*

Hiram Bingham

## NOT LONG A WIDOWER

*“A missionary ought not to live here without a wife. . . [she] need never be at a loss for business. Besides contributing to the comfort, respectability & usefulness of her husband, and superintending her family concerns, she will find ample employment in instructing the natives.”*

Artemas Bishop, 1824

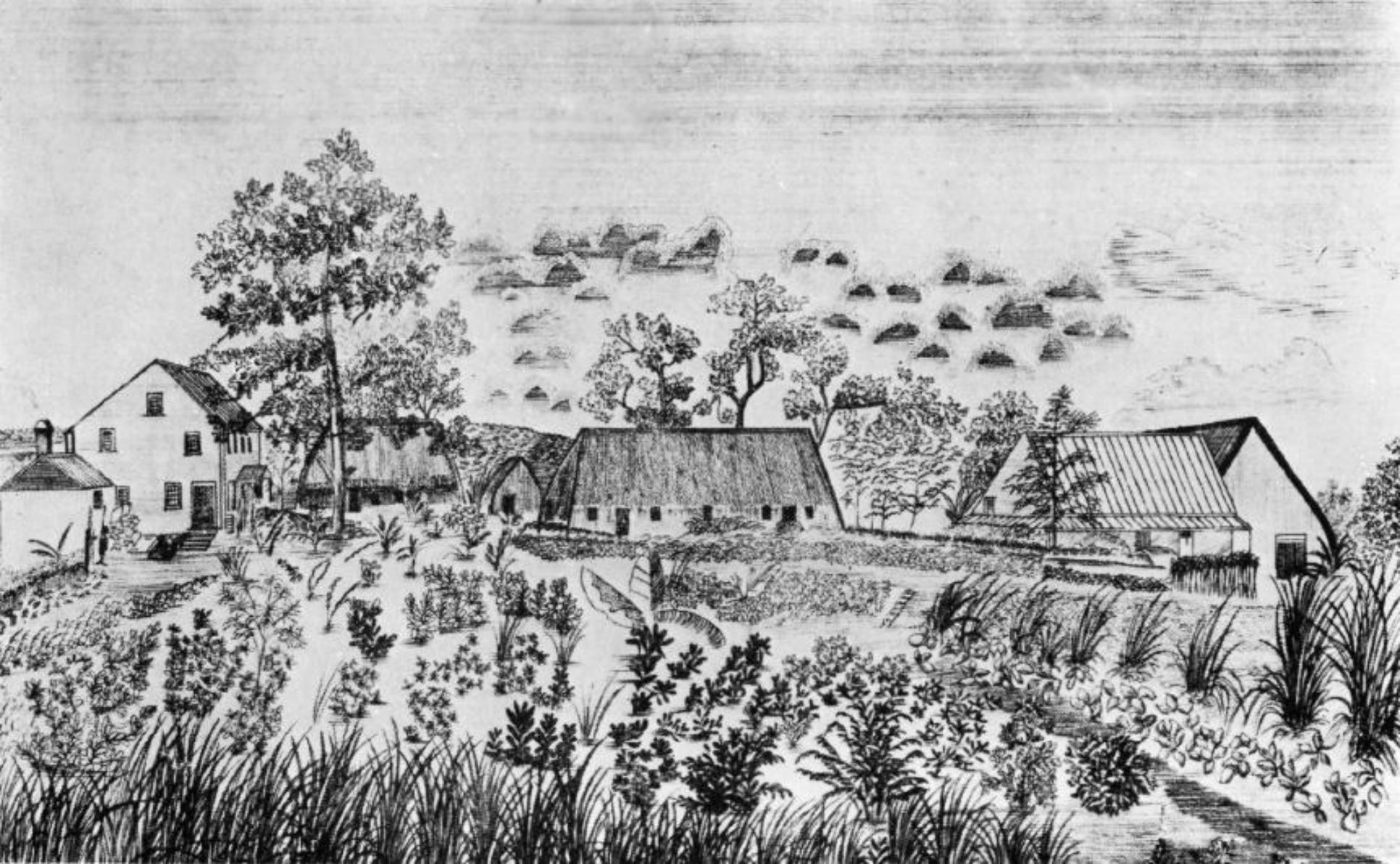


**DELIA STONE BISHOP (1800-1875)**  
**Third Company, April 27, 1828**  
**Married A. Bishop December 1, 1828**

*She is “worthy to bear the name and fill the place of one who has laid it aside.”*

. Bishop

A



**MISSION STATION AT HILO**

# HILO STATION

## Established January 24, 1824

**FOUNDING MISSIONARIES**  
**Joseph & Martha Goodrich**  
**Samuel & Nancy Ruggles**

*Upon arrival at Hilo Bay, the founding party of thirteen, “prepared their lodging in a large thatched building . . . Designed as a shelter for canoes. . . And by order of the chiefs at Oahu, appropriated to their use.... They were allowed, without annoyance or assistance from the stupid inhabitants, to take care of themselves as well as they could....[around the cooking fire] Mrs. Ruggles and her native domestics, moving in the light of the fire and a taper . . . Reminded the spectator at the wide entrance of the tales of earlier times.”*

H. Bingham, *20 Years*

## A STATION & CHURCH SERVICES ARE ESTABLISHED

During the first church service, “a large pet hog, black and fat, asserting equal or superior right to occupancy, marched in, swinging her head armed with huge tusks.”

H. Bingham



“The romantic might easily imagine Hilo to be a very inviting location, among barbarians, on account of the beauty, grandeur, and wonders of nature, which are there so interesting.”

H. Bingham

## High Chiefess Kapi`olani c.1781-1841

Silhouette by  
Persis Goodale Thurston Taylor, 1839



*“Jehovah is my God. He kindled these fires. I fear not Pele. If I perish by the anger of Pele, then you may fear the power of Pele; but if I trust in Jehovah, and he shall save me from the wrath of Pele when I break through her tabus, then you must fear and serve the Lord Jehovah. All the gods of Hawaii are vain. Great is the goodness of Jehovah in sending missionaries to turn us from these vanities to the living God and the way of righteousness.”*

Chiefess Kapi`olani quoted by H. Bingham, 20

Years

**MORE SUPPORT FOR THE HILO STATION:  
THE FIFTH COMPANY ARRIVES, 1832**



**Founders,  
Hilo Boys' Boarding School, 1836  
Spent their entire careers in Hilo**

*“This is a day long to be remembered, as it witnessed us inmates of our own dwelling. We removed hither to-day, and this evening our table was spread for the first time since our marriage. Our house is new and neatly finished for a native house, and is delightfully situated fronting the sea.”*

Sarah Lyman's Journal  
October 24, 1832

**DAVID & SARAH JOINER  
LYMAN**

*“We this day moved into our new house. It seems like being in a civilized land, to occupy a house built like those inhabited by civilized people.”*

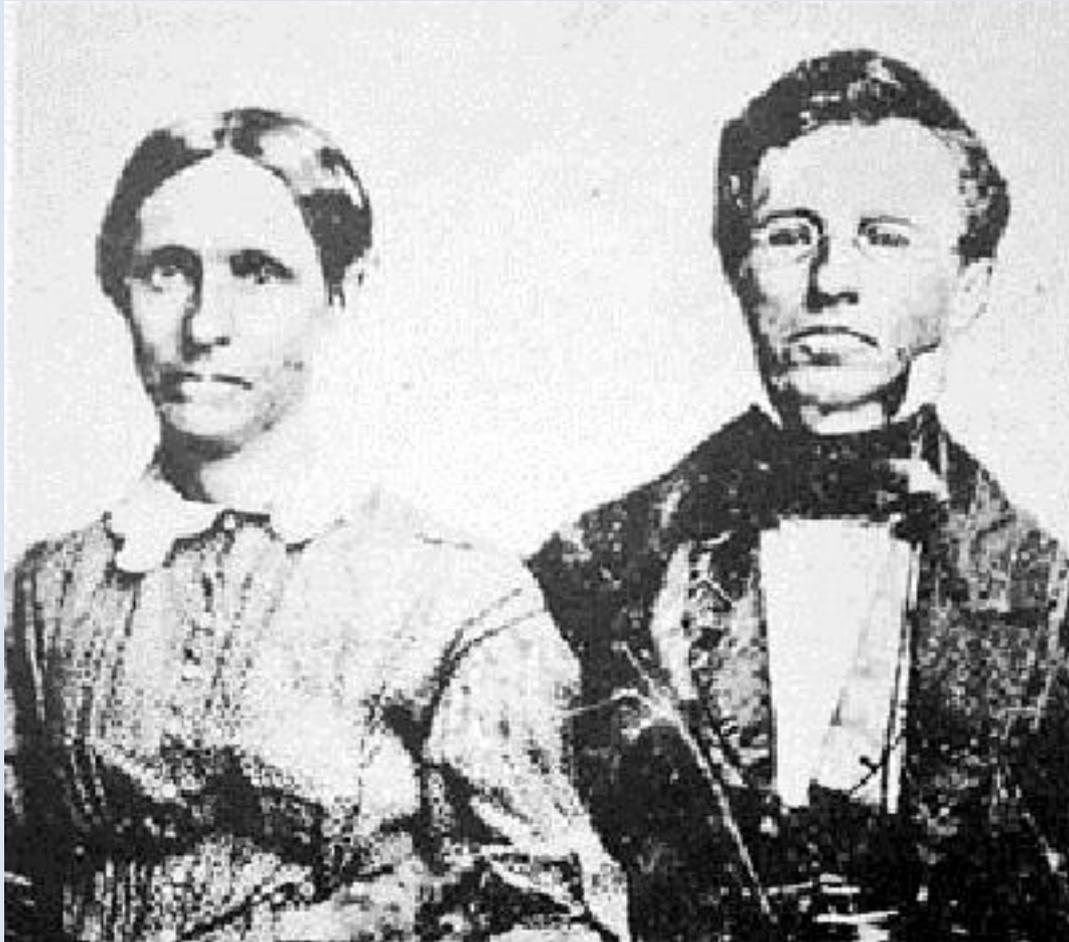
*Sarah Lyman’s Journal,  
January 15, 1836*



*“Husband is now so much devoted to the Boarding School that he can do but little comparatively for the people generally, yet I hope that through this school he is exerting an influence which is salutary upon those in this vicinity.”* Sarah Lyman’s Journal October 13, 1836

*“The boarding-school . . . Has continued to flourish, having from thirty to sixty boys as pupils. In 1845 thirty-five were church members, seventeen had entered the Mission Seminary at Lahainaluna, and twenty-three others were prepared to enter it who could not then be received.”* H. Bingham, 20 Years

## WAIMEA STATION



STATION ESTABLISHED, 1832  
LYONS SERVED 1832-1886

Betsey Curtis Lyons,  
d. May, 1837

*"I loved her – yes, I loved her  
too much."* L. Lyons

Married Lucia Smith,  
July, 1838

*"Praised God for providing  
another companion; may  
she prove all that is  
desirable for usefulness  
and happiness."* L.  
Lyons

LORENZO & 2<sup>nd</sup> wife  
LUCIA GARRATT SMITH LYONS

**The Reverend Titus Coan, 1801-1882**  
**Fidelia Church Coan, 1810-1872**  
**Seventh Company, Arrived December 1834**

*“Mr. Coan’s parish extended by coast line on the eastern and northeastern shore of Hawaii, one hundred miles, and included Hilo and Puna. Fifteen thousand natives inhabited these districts . . . Only twenty-three were members of the church in 1836.”*

**“These souls, - these perishing souls! What I have mind, body and heart, I am ready to devote to them.”**

**T. Coan**

*“We were obliged to give up a part of our house to Mr. and Mrs. Coan.”*  
*Sarah Lyman’s Journal July 23, 1835*





**THE GREAT REVIVAL  
1837-1840**

**1837**  
**Tsunami & Revival**  
**November 1837 – 10 Day Protracted**  
**Meeting**

*“God wrought for us. I opened the meeting with a sermon from the text, ‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord.’ Great effect was produced. On the second day of the meeting God came in terror. The sea rose suddenly to perpendicular height of fifteen or twenty feet, and fell in one mountain wave upon the shore, sweeping away nearly one hundred houses with all their tenants. All was sudden as a peal of thunder. No premonitions were given. None had time to flee. The scene was awful. Hundreds were engulfed in a moment. Cries of distress were heartrending, and the roar of the raging sea was deafening. To the people the event was as the voice of God speaking to them out of Heaven, ‘Be ye also ready.’”*

*“Time swept on; the work deepened and widened. Thousands on thousands thronged the courts of the Lord. Everywhere the trumpet of jubilee sounded loud and long, and as clouds and as doves to their windows, so ransomed sinners flocked to Christ.”*

**T. Coan**

# REVIVAL

T Coan to L Lyons, Nov 24, 1837

*“We have a glorious work of grace here. Hundreds think they are converted. . . . I never took hold of the work of pulling sinners out of the fire with more faith, and more unshaken confidence of success, than at this time, and I never saw God’s work more manifest.”*

One Month Later:

*“Five hundred conversions in your field! I hope there are as many in ours. . . . But this work is yet small compared to what God wishes to do, and to what he will do if our faith fail not. I am sometimes sorely tempted of Satan to doubt and fear, and say this may all be smoke.”*

Feb 13, 1838

*“Blessed news! More than twelve-hundred converts in Honolulu. Blessed work. Blessed Savior. Blessed reward. I predict that this whole nation is about to be shaken.”*

# THE SPIRITUAL HARVEST

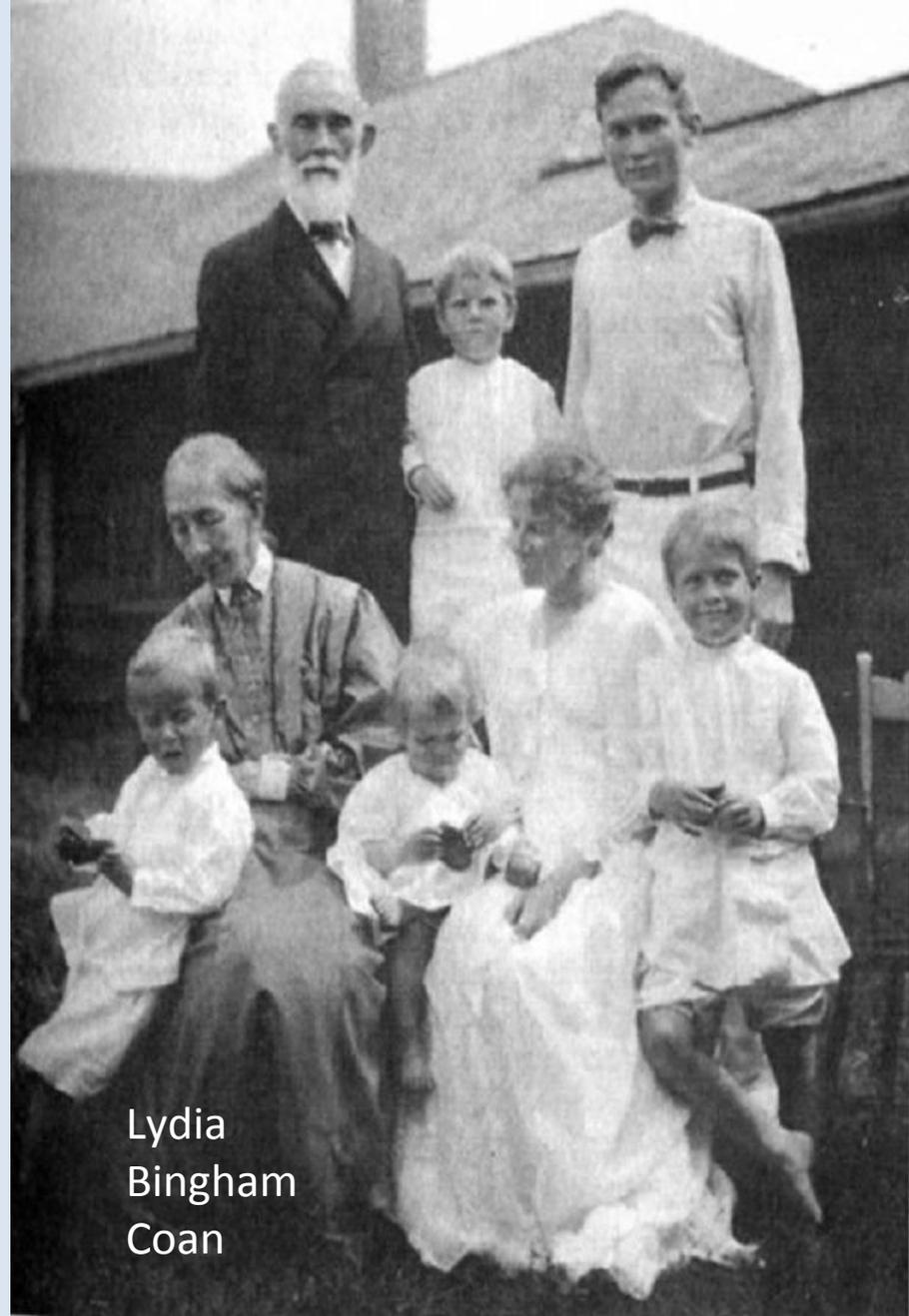
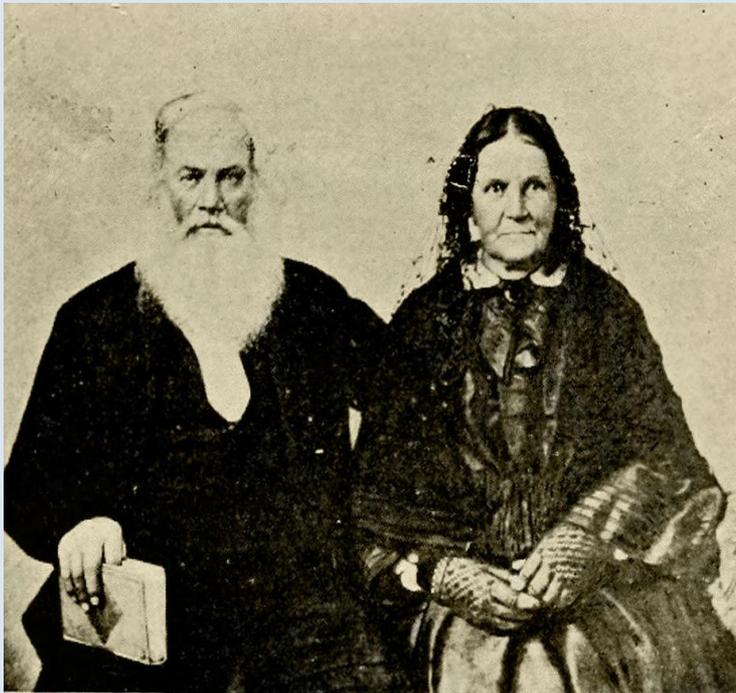
## NEW CHURCH MEMBERS 1837-1840

Mission Station	1837	1838	1839	1840
Kailua	29	62	92	372
Kealakekua	4	81	262	385
Kohala		629	149	80
Waimea	23	2600	2300	419
Hilo	23	639	5244	1499
TOTALS	79	4011	8047	2755

Figures from H. Bingham  
*20 Years*

**MISSION WORK CONTINUED  
VIA LONG LIVES & MANY GENERATIONS**

**Lydia Bingham Coan, 1834-1915  
Married Titus Coan, 1873  
Daughter of Hiram & Sybil Bingham,  
First Company**



Lydia  
Bingham  
Coan

**Asa & Lucy Thurston, c.1864**

## A HEAVENLY REWARD?

Lucy Thurston to Persis Thurston Taylor, January 11, 1874

*“Your aged mother has reached the calm and quiet of even-tide. It is not dark. The western sky is lighted up with golden hues. I wait the summons to pass to higher scenes. It is easy to linger. It will be easy to go. In all God’s universe, I occupy, now and ever, just the niche that he assigns me.”*

Sept 15, 1882

*“At family worship that morning [Coan] . . . read [Psalm 103] with deep feeling; pausing a little to talk about the Lord’s putting our sins from us . . . A tender pathos was in his voice while he read, ‘As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.’ Yet he knew not . . . That he should never again read from [the Bible] and that the place at which he knelt to pray would know him no more.”*

- Lydia Bingham Coan

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1893 Engraving of a Ball Dress

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Men's Overcoat & Top Coat from *Gazette of Fashion*, 1872

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Charles Grandison Finney

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Henry `Opukaha`ia

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Kailua-Kona, Hawai`i, 1890

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Hiram & Sybil Bingham

Portrait by Samuel F. B. Morse

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Hawaiian Family in Front of Thatched House

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Rev. Artemas Bishop

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Chamberlain House, Mission Houses Museum, Honolulu HI  
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Hilo Boarding School  
Drawing by Rev. Edward Bailey  
Lahainaluna Engraving  
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Wild Boar  
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Halema'uma'u Crater, Photo by Author  
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High Chiefess Kapi`olani  
Silhouette by Persis G. Taylor, 1839  
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David & Sarah Lyman, with Children, 1853  
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Lyman House, Hilo HI  
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Rev. Lorenzo & Lucia Garratt Smith Lyons  
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Rev. Titus Coan  
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Ocean Surface Wave  
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### **SLIDE 42**

Rev. Asa & Lucy Thurston  
From Life & Times of Mrs. Lucy G. Thurston  
Public Domain, Wikimedia Commons  
Bingham Family in 1908

L-R Back: Hiram Bingham II, Grandson Hiram IV, Son Hiram III

L-R Sitting: Lydia Bingham Coan, Alfred Coan & Hiram III's other sons: Alfred, Charles, & Woodbridge  
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