



My Drift

Title: Queen Emma

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Queen Emma

**Emma Kalanikaumakaʻamano Kaleleonālani Naʻea Rooke
(January 2, 1836 – April 25, 1885)**

Emma was born on January 2, 1836 in Honolulu and was often called Emalani (“royal Emma”). Her father was High Chief George Na‘ea and her mother was High Chiefess Fanny Kekelaokalani Young. She was adopted under the Hawaiian tradition of *hānai* by her childless maternal aunt, Chiefess Grace Kama‘iku‘i Young Rooke, and her husband, Dr. Thomas C.B. Rooke.



**High Chief
George Na‘ea**



**High Chiefess Fanny
Kekelaokalani Young**



**Dr. Thomas C.B. Rooke, Emma and
Chiefess Grace Kama‘iku‘i Young**

Emma’s father Na‘ea was the son of High Chief Kamaunu and High Chiefess Kukaeleiki. Kukaeleiki was daughter of Kalauawa, a Kaua‘i noble, and she was a cousin of Queen Keōpūolani, the most sacred wife of Kamehameha I. Among Na‘ea’s more notable ancestors were Kalanawa‘a, a high chief of O‘ahu, and High Chiefess Kuaenaokalani, who held the sacred kapu rank of Kekapupo‘oho‘olewaikala (so sacred that she could not be exposed to the sun except at dawn).

On her mother’s side, Emma was the granddaughter of John Young, Kamehameha I’s British-born military advisor known as High Chief Olohana, and Princess Ka‘ōana‘eha Kuamo‘o. Her maternal grandmother, Ka‘ōana‘eha, was the niece of Kamehameha I.



Emma grew up at her foster parents’ English mansion, “The Rooke House”, in Honolulu. Emma was educated at the Royal School, which was established by American missionaries. Other Hawaiian royals attending the school included Emma’s half-sister Mary Pa‘a‘āina. Emma was cross-cultural — both Hawaiian and Euro-American in her habits. But, she often found herself at odds

with her peers. Unlike many of them, she was neither romantic nor prone to extreme exaggerations. When the school closed, Dr. Rooke hired an English governess, Sarah Rhodes von Pfister, to tutor the young Emma. He also encouraged reading from his extensive library. As a writer, he influenced Emma’s interest in reading and books.



By the time she was 20, she was an accomplished young woman. She was 5' 2" and slender, with large black eyes. Her musical talents as a vocalist, pianist and dancer were well known. She was also a skilled equestrian. Emma was nicknamed “Wahine Holo Lio”, which means “The Woman on Horseback”, in deference to her renowned horsemanship.



Emma became engaged to the king of Hawaii, Alexander ‘Iolani Liholiho. At the engagement party, a Hawaiian charged that Emma’s Caucasian blood made her unfit to be the Hawaiian queen and her lineage was not suitable enough to be Liholiho’s bride; she broke into tears and the king was infuriated. On June 19, 1856, she married Alexander Liholiho, who a year earlier had assumed the throne as Kamehameha IV. He was also fluent in both Hawaiian and English. Each nation and even the Chinese hosted balls and celebrations in honor of the newlyweds. Two years later on May 20, 1858 Emma gave birth to a son, Prince Albert Edward Kamehameha.



King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma

Prince Albert, who was always called “Baby” by Emma, had been celebrated for days at his birth and every public appearance. Mary Allen, wife of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Elisha Hunt Allen, had a son Frederick about the same age, and they became playmates. In 1862, Queen Victoria agreed to become godmother by proxy, and sent an elaborate silver christening cup. Before the cup could arrive, the prince fell ill in August and condition worsened. The Prince died on August 27, 1862 at age four. Her husband died a year later at age 29, and Emma would not have any more children.

After her son's death and before her husband's death, she was referred to as "Kaleleokalani", or "flight of the heavenly one". After her husband also died, it was changed into the plural form as "Kaleleonālani", or the "flight of the heavenly ones". She was baptized into the Anglican faith on October 21, 1862 as "Emma Alexandrina Francis Agnes Lowder Byde Rooke Young Kaleleokalani.



Prince Albert

Without a precise medical account of the illness, an autopsy, and given the state of medical knowledge 130 years ago, they can only guess what caused Prince Albert's death. The prince's father, King Kamehameha IV, insisted that it was sunstroke. The boy's guardians feared it was something they had allowed him to eat. The local newspapers speculated it was "an inflammation of the brain," which they assured the public was "a common disease among children." Yet none of those diagnoses seem likely. It may have been appendicitis, but we will probably never know for certain.

King Kamehameha IV died of chronic asthma on November 30, 1863, and was succeeded by his brother, who took the name Kamehameha V. Alexander 'Iolani Liholiho was only 29 years old. The natives believed that the King had died as punishment because his people had betrayed their Gods. At his funeral, eight hundred children and teachers walked to say goodbye. He was buried with his son at Mauna Ala on February 3, 1864.

Queen Emma Summer Palace, or Hanaiakamalama, was the summer retreat for Queen Emma during the period 1857-1885. Queen Emma Summer Palace is a now a historic landmark (added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972), museum, and tourist site preserved by the Daughters of Hawai'i.



Queen Emma Summer Palace

Queen Emma tended palace affairs, including the expansion of the palace library. She was known for her humanitarian efforts. Inspired by her adoptive father's work, she encouraged her husband to establish a public hospital to help the Native Hawaiians who were in decline due to foreign-borne diseases like smallpox. In 1859, Emma established Queen's Hospital and visited patients there almost daily whenever she was in residence in Honolulu. Queen's Medical Center is the largest hospital in Hawaii and is located in downtown Honolulu. There is also a Queen's Medical Center - West Oahu located in Ewa Beach that opened on May 20, 2014.



Queen's Medical Center



Queen's Medical Center West Oahu

In 1860, Queen Emma petitioned the Church of England to help establish the Church of Hawaii. Upon the arrival of Anglican bishop Thomas Nettleship Staley and two priests, they both were baptized on October 21, 1862 and confirmed in November 1862. With her husband, she championed the Anglican (Episcopal) church in Hawaii and founded St. Andrew's Cathedral, raising funds for the building. In 1867 she founded Saint Andrew's Priory School for Girls.



St. Andrew's Cathedral



Saint Andrew's Priory School for Girls

The 'Iolani Palace was the royal residence of the rulers of the Kingdom of Hawaii beginning with Kamehameha III under the Kamehameha Dynasty (1845) and ending with Queen Lili'uokalani (1893) under the Kalākaua Dynasty, founded by her brother, King David Kalākaua. It is located in the capitol district of downtown Honolulu and is now a National Historic Landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After the monarchy was overthrown in 1893, the building was used as the capitol building for the Provisional Government, Republic, Territory, and State of Hawai'i until 1969. The palace was restored and opened to the public as a museum in 1978. The 'Iolani Palace is one of two royal palaces on US soil. The other royal palace is Hulihe'e Palace in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, on the big Island of Hawaii.



**Original 'Iolani Palace
(Called the Hale Ali'i)**



**'Iolani Palace
(Restored in 1978)**

The original 'Iolani Palace was the grandest house of its time in Honolulu. It was built by Mataio Kekuanaoa for his daughter, Princess Victoria Kamāmalu. The home was a wood and stone building called Hale Ali'i meaning (House of the Chiefs). It had only one-third the floor space of the present palace. It was purchased by King Kamehameha III from Kamāmalu (the King's niece) when he moved his capital from Lahaina to Honolulu in 1845. Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma build a separate house on the east side of the palace called Ihikapukalani (on the mauka side) and Kauluhinano (on the makai side).

During Kamehameha V's reign, Hale Ali'i's name was changed to 'Iolani Palace, in honor of his brother Kamehameha IV's given name. It refers to the 'Io (royal hawk). The Palace served as the official residence of the monarch during the reigns of Kamehameha III, Kamehameha IV, Kamehameha V, Lunalilo, and the first part of Kalākaua's reign. The palace was largely meant for receiving foreign dignitaries and state functions with the monarch preferring to sleep in their private homes.

Queen Emma laid the groundwork for an Episcopal secondary school for boys originally named for Saint Alban, and later ‘Iolani School in honor of her husband. In 1979, the school became co-educational, ending its all-male enrollment policy. Today, ‘Iolani School is affiliated with the Episcopal Church and is administered by a Board of Governors. It is one of the largest independent schools in the US. Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV are honored with a feast day of November 28 on the liturgical calendar of the US Episcopal Church.



‘Iolani School

Let's take a mid-article break here to clarify the Hawaiian Monarchs (1795–1893). There were 7 kings and 1 queen during this period. Remember, Queen Emma was a queen consort which means she was the wife of a reigning king. The Hawaiian monarchy was overthrown on January 17, 1893 when a group of businessmen and sugar planters forced Queen Liliuokalani to abdicate. The coup led to the dissolving of the Kingdom of Hawaii two years later, Hawaii annexation in 1898, a U.S. territory in 1900, and finally the eventual admission as the 50th state in the union on August 21, 1959. Here are the kings and queen of the Kingdom of Hawaii:



King Kamehameha I
1795 – May 8, 1819
Born in 1758 in
Kohala, Hawai'i island
Multiple wives
Died on May 8, 1819
in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
island at age 61?



King Kamehameha II
May 20, 1819 – July 14, 1824
Born in 1797 in
Hilo, Hawai'i island
Multiple wives
Died on July 14, 1824 in
London, England at age 27



King Kamehameha III
 June 6, 1825 – Dec 15, 1854
 Born on August 11, 1813
 in Kona, Hawai'i island
 Married to Kalama on
 14 February 1837 - 2 sons
 Died on Dec 15, 1854 in
 Honolulu, O'ahu at age 41



King Kamehameha IV
 Jan 11, 1855 – Nov 30, 1863
 Born in 1797 in
 Hilo, Hawai'i island
 Married to Emma Rooke on
 19 June 1856 - one son
 Died on November 30, 1863
 Honolulu, O'ahu at age 29



King Kamehameha V
 Nov 30, 1863 – Dec 11, 1872
 Born on Dec 11, 1830 in
 Honolulu, O'ahu
 Never married
 Died on Dec 11, 1872 at
 'Iolani Palace, Honolulu,
 O'ahu at age 42



King Lunalilo
 Jan 8, 1873 – Feb 3, 1874
 Born on January 31, 1835
 in Honolulu, O'ahu
 Never married
 Died on February 3, 1874
 in Honolulu, O'ahu at
 age 39



King Kalākaua
 Feb 12, 1874 – Jan 20, 1891
 Born on Nov 16, 1836 in
 Honolulu, O'ahu
 Married to Kapi'olani on
 December 19, 1863
 Died on Jan 20, 1891 in
 San Francisco at age 54



Queen Liliuokalani
 Jan 29, 1891 – Jan 17, 1893
 Born on Sep 2, 1838 in
 Honolulu, O'ahu
 Married to John Owen
 Dominis on Sep 16, 1862
 Died on Nov 11, 1917 in
 Honolulu, O'ahu at age 79

Okay, there you have it. Did you learn anything about Hawaiian Royalty? I learned that Hawaii Kings die at a young age – the average age at the time of their death is less than 42 years.

Let's get back to Queen Emma. At this point in time, Queen Emma's son and husband have died. Kamehameha V is the new Hawaiian King.

Queen Emma's most challenging role for the new Anglican Church in Hawaii came, when, with the encouragement of King Kamehameha V, she traveled to England in 1865 to raise funds for the new Cathedral, to commission architects to design it, and to arrange for the acquisition and cutting of stone which would create the initial phase of the new St. Andrew's Cathedral. Aided by her friend, Jane, Lady Franklin, and Emma's own close connection with Queen Victoria, the Queen succeeded in raising enough funds to accomplish her task while carrying out, at the same time, important diplomatic services requested by King Kamehameha V.

Queen Emma made one overt political statement in a life otherwise devoted to health care, education, and the Church. In 1874, she announced her candidacy for the

throne upon the death of King Lunalilo (February 3, 1874) in opposition to Col. David Kalakaua. In a short and furious election campaign of nine days, Queen Emma decried the pro-American posture of her opponent and was defeated. Upon the election of King Kalakaua, Emma offered him her loyalty and support to unite the Hawaiian community for their common preservation. From this point on until her death on April 25, 1885, Queen Emma concentrated on the good works for which she is known to this day.

The following excerpt from “The Victorian Visitors”, by Alfons Korn, sums up Queen Emma’s later years:

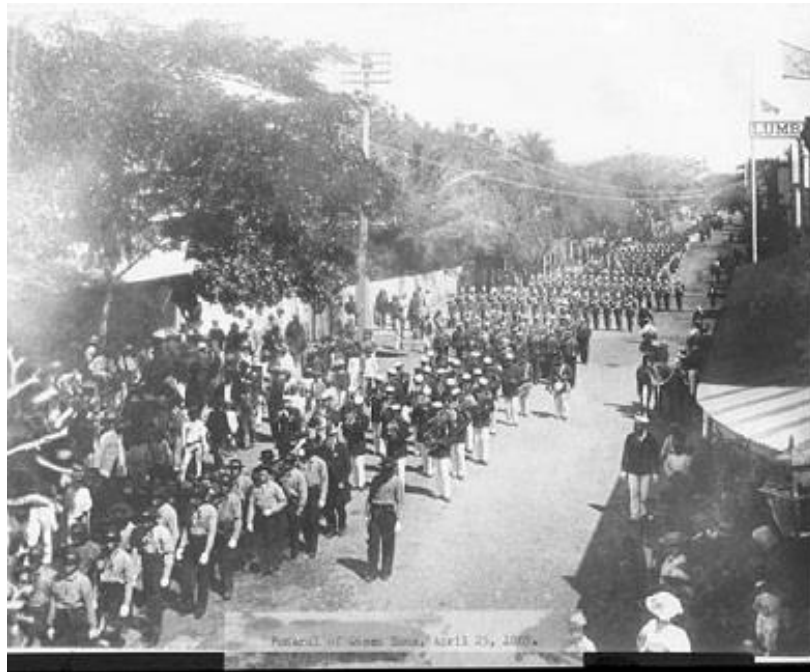
“During the 1870s and early 1880s Emma became more and more the Hawaiian matriarch...she belonged thoroughly to her people in a manner befitting a queen who in her lifetime had already become a heroine in story and song...all growing things seemed to answer to her knowledge and labor and many a once barren spot sheltered today by Monkey Pod or Royal Poinciana owes its present shade to seed or parent stock tended by her hands...And not only in her prayers or by her gardening, but also at those times when she visited the wards of the hospital in the midst of the Pacific which bears her name, Queen Emma fostered the life of Hawaii in every form.”

Kanahele, author of Queen Emma: Hawaii’s remarkable Queen said:

“She was different from any of her contemporaries. Emma is Emma is Emma. There’s no one like her. A devout Christian who chose to be baptized in the Anglican church in adulthood, and a typically Victorian woman who wore widow’s weeds, gardened, drank tea, patronized charities and gave dinner parties, she yet remained quintessentially Hawaiian. She wrote exquisite chants of lament in Hawaiian, craved Hawaiian food when she was away from it, loved to fish, hike, ride horses and camp out (activities she kept up to the end of her life) and, throughout her life, took very seriously her role as a protector of the people’s welfare. In a way, she was a harbinger of things to come in terms of Hawaii’s multi-ethnic, multi-cultural society. You have to be impressed with her eclecticism — spiritually, emotionally and physically. She was kind of our first renaissance queen.”

In 1883, Emma suffered the first of several small strokes and died two years later on April 25, 1885 at the age of 49. At first, she was laid in state at her house; but Alexander Cartwright and a few of his friends moved the casket to the Kawaiaha‘o Church, saying her house was not large enough for the funeral. This was evidently not popular with those in charge of the church, since it was Congregational; Queen Emma had been a supporter of the Anglican Mission and was an Episcopalian. Queen Lili‘uokalani said it “...showed no regard for the sacredness of the place”. However, for the funeral service, Bishop Alfred Willis of the English Church officiated in the

Congregational church with his ritual. She was given a royal procession and was interred in the Royal Mausoleum of Hawaii known as Mauna 'Ala, next to her husband and son.



Queen Emma Royal Funeral Procession

The Queen Emma Foundation was set up to provide continuous lease income for the hospital. Its landholding in the division known as the Queen Emma Land Company include the International Marketplace and Waikiki Town Center buildings.

LEGACY

Queen Emma dedicated her life to serving the health, educational, and spiritual needs of the Hawaiian people.

Special Note: Next time you need to visit Queens Medical Center in downtown Honolulu, look to your right immediately after going through the main door and you will see a larger than life portrait of Queen Emma. This picture inspired me to write this article.



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