

Notes & Queries

The Journal welcomes responses to previously published articles, statements on Hawaiian and Pacific history, or queries for information that will assist research. The Journal reminds readers that opinions expressed here or elsewhere in its pages are the authors' and do not reflect those of the Editorial Board or the Hawaiian Historical Society.

ON DOCTOR GEORGES TROUSSEAU

In her article on Doctor Georges Trousseau in the 1991 edition of *The Hawaiian Journal of History*, Jean Greenwell mentions that Alexander Cartwright and his son Bruce witnessed Trousseau's will on March 8, 1894. Alexander Joy Cartwright Jr., the putative founder of baseball in 1845, moved to Honolulu in 1849, where he resided until his death on July 13, 1892. He had two sons, Bruce and Alexander III, who were 43 and 41 respectively at the time the will was drawn. They must be the witnesses referred to by Greenwell.

Submitted by Frank Ardolino
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A SOVIET WHALING EXPEDITION AT HONOLULU IN 1932

After having spent almost 14 years as a whaler under the Argentine flag, the German Captain Otto Kraul, in 1931, had to quit his job because of a new order from the government of Argentina that allowed only Argentine citizens to work aboard its whaling ships. Back in Germany, the Captain failed in his attempts to interest people in whaling. He believed, too, that a Norwegian ship would not be any better than the Argentine vessel. Then in late 1931, Otto Kraul was offered a job as commander and chief harpooner of a Soviet whaling expedition, the first known Soviet whaling

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expedition to be carried out. He accepted the offer and sailed as its commander from Kiel, Germany. Three of the ships, according to Captain Kraul, were: the Leningrad-built factory ship *Aleut*, with a crew of 185 (among them, 15 women), and the Norwegian-built whale hunters *Entusiast* (Kraul's ship) and *Avangard*, all built prior to the expedition in the 1930s. The fourth ship, not mentioned by Kraul, was *Trudfront*. A whale hunter carried a 22-man crew.

Having called at Kingston, Jamaica, and passed through the Panama Canal, the expedition set course for the Socorro Islands, and Captain Kraul succeeded in shooting the expedition's first whale in Pacific waters and the first whale shot under the Soviet flag. The expedition, short of fresh water, arrived at Honolulu on November 28, 1932, where it tied up at the "coal pier."

Visitors came on board, mainly Russian immigrants who had escaped the Russian Revolution and who now wanted to hear how things were going on "at home." During their stay at Honolulu, crew members enjoyed the hospitality of their former countrymen. Captain Kraul had been in Honolulu for two months, in 1908-1909, on board a sailing vessel, and looking back upon the more than 20 years that had passed he saw differences. Then there were a few American soldiers; now Hawai'i swarmed with them. Also, the Hawaiians, thought the Captain, no longer showed that joy of life that he had noticed earlier. He observed, too, that economic conditions in 1932 were very bad because pineapples had no market.

One day, Hawaiian women came aboard the Soviet ships and began to sing and dance. American journalists also visited the ships, and the Soviet Communists were later angry when they read articles in American newspapers about "free love" aboard the ships. Shortly before the expedition left Hawai'i, "three Soviet crew members," according to Kraul, jumped ship. According to the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, however, when the Soviet whalers were out of the harbor on December 7, it was discovered that two sailors were missing. The expedition waited one more day before sailing to Vladivostok on December 8. The men were later located at the Seamen's Institute and identified as two Germans, one of whom spoke English with a Czech accent. They had

60 days to ship out on another vessel before they would be deported. They said they had left their ship because of poor food, poor treatment, and language problems. What was not mentioned in the *Star-Bulletin* was that ten American soldiers had deserted and had hidden on the factory ship. According to Captain Kraul, these soldiers wanted to go to the Soviet Union and offered their services in vain, as they were sent back to port.

As for Captain Kraul, he continued to be engaged in Soviet whaling until 1935, when he returned to Germany where he came to play a prominent role in the new German whaling industry.

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NOTE

- ¹ The source of most of my information is Captain Kraul's autobiography, *Capt'n Kraul erzahlt* (Berlin: F. A. Herbig, 1939; and *HSB*, 29 Nov. and 6, 7, 8, and 15 Dec. 1932).

A HAWAIIAN TEXT

In his review of the translation of Moses K. Nakuina, *The Wind Gourd of La'amaomao*, by Esther K. Mookini and Sarah Nakoia, in the 1991 edition of *The Hawaiian Journal of History*, Niklaus R. Schweizer expresses a wish that the Hawaiian text had been affixed for comparative purposes. The Hawaiian text, a reproduction of the original text published in 1902, is now in print in a separate volume and available from Native Books, P.O. Box 37095, Honolulu, HI 96837 (\$8 + \$2 for postage and handling).

Submitted by Dennis Kawaharada
Kalamaku Press

