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WAIKIKI
FIRST CAPITAL OF KINGDOM

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As I sat in the famous Huntington Library and Art Gallery (near Pasadena, California) on September 13, 1951 reading a book in which Captain William Shaler described his visit to Waikiki on Whahoo (Oahu) in 1805 in the brig *Delia Byrd* (as he called the *Lelia Byrd*), the thought struck me that Waikiki was the first capital of the Kingdom of Hawaii. (Waikiki was not part of Honolulu in the Early Days.)

AN APPROPRIATE PLAQUE ON OCC GROUNDS

Also that it would be very appropriate for the Outrigger Canoe Club to place on its grounds a plaque bearing the inscription—"On or near this spot in Waikiki, Kamehameha the Great established his first capital of the Kingdom in 1795."

Of course, the Big Island and the Valley Isle, or some other source, might dispute this claim but there hardly could have been a Kingdom before Oahu was conquered in 1795 by Kamehameha the Great. And Kamehameha was at Waikiki in 1810 when Kauai was peacefully annexed.

FIRST CAPITAL OF KAMEHAMEHA I

Kamehameha was at Waikiki, 1795-1796 and then returned to Hawaii. He came back to Maui in 1803 and returned to Waikiki in 1804 with a plan to conquer Kauai by force. (Read *Forecast*, June 1950, for description of how the pestilence *mai okuu* struck Kamehameha's Army at Waikiki and frustrated the Kauai invasion.) The King made his final departure from Waikiki about 1811.

In his *Delia Byrd (sic)*, Captain Shaler sailed from Canton (China) on February 8, 1804 and arrived off the Columbia River in Northwest America on May 1. He visited California and the west coast of Mexico and on July 30 sailed "for the Sandwich Islands." On August 19th the *Delia Byrd's* lookout sighted the "highlands of Owhyhee." Captain Shaler arrived at Waikiki (Whahoo or Oahu) where he found the *Atahulapa* (Adams) on the first of September.

AMERICAN CAPTAIN SHALER VISITS WAIKIKI CAPITAL

Waikiki was Capital of the Kingdom at this time and Captain Shaler wrote in his book that "Tamaihamaiha (Kamehameha) offered me my choice of all his vessels in exchange for my ship. . . . I . . . made choice of a new schooner of about forty-five tons burthen then on the stocks" and on "the ninth [September] I delivered the ship [*Delia Byrd* of 175 tons but in poor condition] to his [Kamehameha's] agents and removed ashore to a commodious suite of houses assigned me by Tamaihamaiha. . . . I spent my time very very agreeably at Whahoo [Oahu]; fresh provisions, the enjoyment of a fine climate, and frequent bathing." (At Waikiki no doubt.)

During this period Kamehameha had plans for the acquisition of Kauai (Atooai). Captain Shaler enjoyed the confidence of his "friend Tamaihamaiha," and reviewed his troops one day—"700 men under arms, 400 of which were musketeers." After "going through their exercises with much precision, they formed in close column and the oath to support their sovereign in the war [against Kauai] was administered by the High Priest with great solemnity." This was followed by a sham fight with native weapons blunted.

KAMEHAMEHA I AND QUEENS VISIT AMERICAN SHIP

On October 2, Captain Shaler boarded the *Atahulapa* (Adams), the *Huron*

(Malthrop) also being present. "His Majesty and family came on board to take leave," wrote Shaler, "and made me a present of two beautiful feathered cloaks." The *Atahulapa,* with Shaler aboard, arrived at Atooai (Kauai) November 4. Captain Shaler wrote that he persuaded King Tamoree (Kaumualii) to agree to Kamehameha's plans for Kauai and Niihau to peacefully enter the Kingdom. (This did not come until 1810 and completely not until the death of Kaumualii about fourteen years later, after the American Captain Nathaniel Winship had done some very effective-persuasive work with the King of Kauai.)

William Shaler sailed from Kauai aboard the *Huron* (Malthrop) for China on October 27. Shaler is one of my many witnesses that Waikiki was the first capital of the Kingdom of Hawaii.