

Necker Island

^{file} record.
A.L.C. Atkinson

Memorandum for BERNICE P. BISHOP MUSEUM. August 8, 1923.

Interview with Captain William C. Bruhn, of S.S. "Kilauea",
Inter-Island Steamship Company, Ltd., Honolulu, H.T.

He said he was 61 years old; left Denmark when he was 8 years old, and arrived here when he was 16 years old. His home is 1339 Keeaumoku Street, Lucas Lane. He said he was born in August, 1861.

About the year 1879, he was a sailor on board one of Frank Cooke's schooners, the "Julia" if he remembers rightly, on his way to the South Seas, to recruit labor. They found themselves becalmed off Necker Island and he volunteered with others to take a boat and row ashore. He remembers landing on a shelf of a cliff, and recognizes the place by the photographs I showed him.

He went up to the first hill with two of the Hawaiians. He remembers seeing the platforms, and says they were just the same in the photographs that I showed him, as they were in those days.

From his memory he thinks he saw around him about four or five idols. He picked some of them up and examined them, and wanted to take them on board, but the Hawaiians protested and said that it was sure death to move them. They were so superstitious over them that they didn't bring any on board.

He remembers also seeing a few stone adzes, probably two or three, lying around on the ground. They didn't bring any.

Another thing he clearly remembers was a stone shaped like a rough dumbbell, two rough ends with a handle to clutch with the hand, like getting hold of a dumbbell. The ends were only roughly hewn but the handle was undoubtedly carved down. This of course was of stone. The Hawaiians said that when sharks were lured to the shallow places that this dumbbell was used to kill the shark by beating it on the head. I brought the dumbbell with me

and left it in San Francisco with a family named Weizendald, who was chief engineer of Wieland's Brewery, who lived near the corner of 28th and Dolores, in the Mission. He gave it to one of the daughters, Kate, he believes was her name.

Before she became Queen, Liliuokalani went to Necker in the "Kaala," I believe, I was aboard. Charlie Williams' wife went so he had better be seen. There were so many sharks and the landing was so bad that Liliuokalani didn't go ashore. The purpose of visiting the Island was to get feathers from the Bos'n birds for Kahilis.

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