

= Eliza Meek =

Eliza Meek (March 3 , 1832 ? February 8 , 1888) was the daughter of Captain John Meek , an early American settler of the Kingdom of Hawaii . In her early youth , she was renown for her equestrian skills on her father 's land . She later became the royal mistress of King Lunalilo and formed a contentious relationship with Queen Emma of Hawaii and was rumored to be the main obstacle between a possible marriage between the two . Along with a group of other members of the royal court , Eliza accompanied the king to Kailua @-@ Kona during his last illness and remained by Lunalilo 's side until his death from tuberculosis on his return to Honolulu on February 3 , 1874 . Little is known about her later life ; Eliza was financially well @-@ off until her death on February 8 , 1888 .

= = Early life = =

Eliza Meek was born on March 3 , 1832 , to Captain John Meek (1792 ? 1875) and Betsy W. Meek (1807 ? 1848) . John was a New Englander from Marblehead , Massachusetts , who first arrived in Hawaii about 1809 and served for many years as harbor master and pilot of Honolulu . Betsy was the Hawaiian wife of Captain Meek and died on May 5 , 1848 . Eliza grew up with many siblings including her youngest sister Elizabeth " Betsy " Meek (1841 ? 1895) , who married American settler Horace Gate Crabbe in 1857 and had five children . In her youth , Eliza was noted for her equestrian skills on her father 's lands at Lihue and Wahiawa on the island of Oahu where their family raised thorough @-@ bred horses which were well known across the islands . According to archivist and historian Albert Pierce Taylor , Eliza was often " seen riding the horse through the streets of Honolulu garbed in a wonderful pa @-@ u , with a dozen or more followers riding behind her wearing the same color of garment " . Eliza was considered a great beauty in her youth and possessed green @-@ color eyes indicative of her hapa @-@ haole (half @-@ European , half @-@ Hawaiian) heritage .

= = Relationship with Lunalilo = =

Eliza became the mistress of King Lunalilo , who had remained a bachelor for his entire life . She developed a contentious relationship with Queen Emma of Hawaii , the widow of Kamehameha IV and a close friend of Lunalilo . According to one of Emma 's letters , an elderly palace attendant Waiaha and several other older women had given Lunalilo a " piece of bananannah [sic] stalk pressed to drink , medicated with love potions , to produce intense affections for Eliza Meek " . Along with a group of Lunalilo 's personal attendants and relatives (including his chamberlain and Eliza 's brother @-@ in @-@ law Horace Crabbe) , Eliza was present during the king 's final months of illness . During this period , Eliza was notoriously hostile to Emma , who occasionally visited the ailing King to help nurse him . According to Dr. Georges Phillipe Trousseau , the King 's personal physician , Lunalilo would have married Emma had it not been for Eliza 's interference . Eliza would refuse to leave Emma alone with Lunalilo even at the king 's command . One night , in a fit of rage , Lunalilo threw a chair and a spittoon at Eliza 's head after an argument with between the two . Emma recounted the instance in a letter to her cousin Peter Ka?eo :

The last bit of news yesterday morning is the King 's anger against Eliza Wednesday (yesterday) night for being impudent to him . He threw a chair at her head and a spittoon also , which made a great cut on the side of her head . The nearest Doctor was sent for [and] both McGrew and McKibbin arrived . It seems the King told her to come to bed ? she replied what right has a dog or a bitch there , which instantly gave vent to his ill temper that he had been brooding some days , and used a word of four letters belonging only to Waterclosets . She retorted , " Oh , I suppose that is what you eat to exist on . " This brought the King 's rage to an instant climax and [he] threw the articles at her head . I had intended to call yesterday to see how he continues to improve , but this domestic fracas of the Royal household puts it out of the question , till a few days more when the King will be settled and not so upset .

Despite the scuffle , Eliza was part of the royal party who accompanied Lunalilo when he sailed to Kailua @-@ Kona , in November 1873 , the following month , in the hope that the dry weather would improve his tuberculosis . However , the trip had no lasting effect on Lunalilo 's health . After returning to Honolulu , Lunalilo succumbed to the disease and died on February 3 , 1874 .

= = Later life = =

Little is known of Eliza 's life after Lunalilo 's death . She died at Peleula ? her brother @-@ in @-@ law and sister 's residence ? on February 8 , 1888 , at the age of fifty @-@ five . In her later life , Eliza was financially well @-@ off and owned a half interest in property on King Street , near Maunakea . According to The Daily Bulletin newspaper , she had been ill for a month before she died and her death was " caused by a general breaking " .