

The History of the Bonin Islands from the Year 1827 to the Year 1876, and of Nathaniel Savory, One of the Original Settlers

Lionel Berners Cholmondeley



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The Bonin Islands, also known as the Ogasawara Islands are an archipelago of over 30 subtropical and tropical islands, some 1,000 kilometres (540 nmi; 620 mi) directly south of Tokyo, Japan. Britain claimed the islands in 1827, and five years later the Oriental Translation Fund of Great Britain and Ireland published a posthumous, abridged publication of Titsingh's French translation of Sankoku Ts?ran Zusetsu.

In 1830, Nathaniel Savory, an American, landed on the island of Chichijima in 1830 and formed the first permanent colony there, along with 29 other people from Hawaii, the continental United States and Europe. The first settlers were Richard Millichamp of Devon, England; Mateo Mozaro of Dubrovnik, Croatia; Alden B. Chapin and Nathanael Savory of Boston; Carl Johnsen of Copenhagen; as well as seven unnamed men and 13 women from the Kingdom of Hawaii. In 1846, further settlers arrived on board the whaling ship Howard. They established themselves initially in South Island. (One of them, a woman from the Caroline Islands named Hypa, died in 1897 age about 112, after being baptized on her deathbed.

The islands were claimed as a territory of Japan.Commodore Matthew C. Perry of the United States Navy visited the islands in 1853 and bought property at Port Lloyd from Savory for \$50. The US "Colony of Peel Island" (Chichijima) was created and Savory was appointed governor.

An Ogasawara Island village during the early Sh?wa period.

In 1862 (Bunky? 1), the islands were claimed by Japan, and in 1875 the Japanese government renamed them the Ogasawara Islands. The Japanese names of each island were resolved and 38 settlers from Hachijojima were sent the following year. In 1876 the islands were put under the direct control of the Home Ministry and the islanders of European and US ancestry were granted Japanese nationality in 1882. Jack London visited the islands in 1893 and published an account of his sojourn.

A history of the islands was compiled by Lionel Cholmondeley over the course of several years; and his work was published in London in 1915.

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