

mutineers. Three days later Edwards discovered Nukunono. Fakaofu was discovered in 1841 by a Frenchman, Captain Morvan, in command of the "Adolphe." In the same year Captain Hudson, of the United States Exploring Expedition, after visiting Atafu, came on Fakaofu and recorded its discovery. Sailing south from Fakaofu, Hudson rediscovered Quiros' Island and renamed it Swain's Island after his informant in Samoa. In 1856 an American, Eli Jennings, took over Swain's Island from three Frenchmen who had settled there as agents of a French trading company, and the island remained in the hands of his family until 1925, the year of its annexation to American Samoa.

In 1877 the Tokelau Islands were included under the protection of Great Britain in terms of an Imperial Order in Council. In 1889 Commodore Oldham, of H.M.S. "Egeria," landed at each of the three northern atolls and officially raised the Union Jack, declaring the Group to be a protectorate of Great Britain.

On 29th February, 1916, the islands, at the request of the inhabitants, were formally annexed to Great Britain by an Order in Council which also extended the boundaries of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony to include the Tokelau Group (then known as the Union Islands) and their dependencies. Up to 1st October, 1925, the Group was governed by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific and administered by the District Officer at Funafuti, in the Ellice Group. At this period the New Zealand Government, at the request of His Majesty's Government, agreed to administer the islands. By the Union Islands (No. 1) Order in Council 1925 the Group was disannexed from the Gilbert and Ellice Island Colony, and by the Union Islands (No. 2) Order in Council 1925 the Governor-General in Council of the Dominion of New Zealand was empowered to make laws for their peace, order, and good government, and authorized to delegate from time to time to the Administrator of Western Samoa so much of this power as might be considered desirable. The right was reserved to the Governor-General in Council to disallow any laws passed under this delegated power and to make any restriction deemed proper. The vesting of administrative powers in the Administrator of Western Samoa (now the High Commissioner) was a matter of convenience, the Tokelau Group having no political connection with the Territory of Western Samoa.

The Tokelau Nomenclature Ordinance 1946 made by the Administrator officially fixed the name of the Group, hitherto sometimes referred to as the Union Islands, as the Tokelau Islands or the Tokelau Islands Dependency.

By the Tokelau Islands Act, 1948, the Tokelau Group was included within the territorial boundaries of New Zealand; legislative powers are now vested in the Governor-General in Council, while executive powers remain with the Administrator.

6. PEOPLE

Two separate and distinct migrations of people seem to have inhabited the Tokelau Islands at different times. A record exists of the original inhabitants who were seen by Quiros when he visited the Group in 1606. They are reported to have been fair in colouring with golden hair, and are stated by Quiros to have used large double canoes some 60 ft. long. Abandoned taro pits thought to have been used by these early inhabitants are still to be seen around the shore of the land-locked lagoon on Swain's Island.

By the time of the next reported visit by Europeans in 1841, this population had disappeared. Survivors had apparently existed for a period on Nukunono after being driven out by a new migration of people which, settling first at Fakaofu, conquered the whole Group over a long period of years and absorbed the earlier inhabitants.