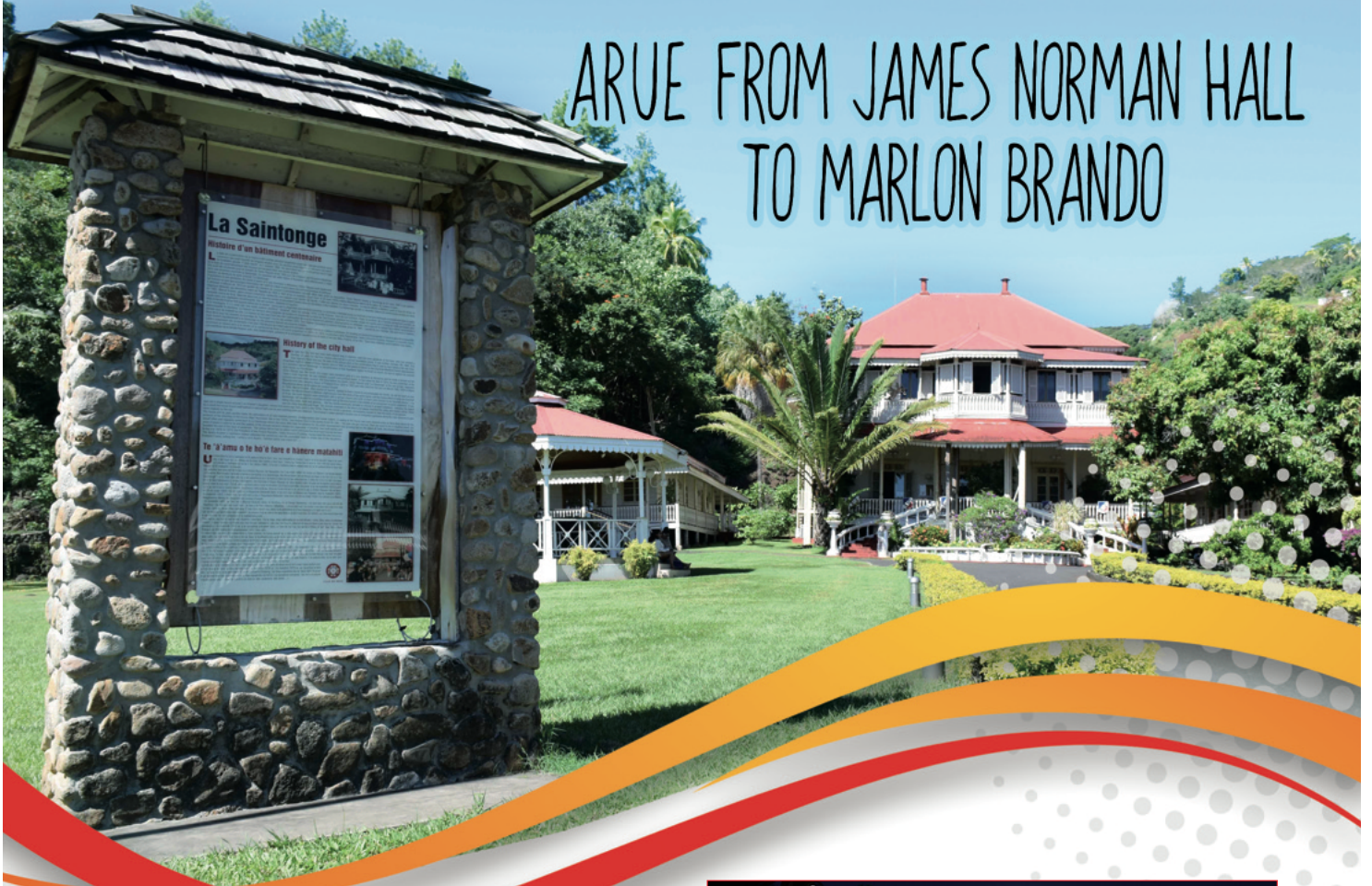


# ARUE FROM JAMES NORMAN HALL TO MARLON BRANDO



**A**rue is charming and friendly town northeast of Papeete that has attracted some notable figures over the years. As the place where the royal line of the Pomare family lived, Arue combines history and culture. Moreover, its privileged location opposite the entrance to Matavai Bay made Arue a natural place to welcome European navigators and missionaries. And it is no coincidence that such famous people as Henri Nott, James Norman Hall and Marlon Brando have spent time in Arue.



## THE ROYAL TOWN OF ARUE

“Arue I te arii”

That is how the people became accustomed to greeting King Pomare I with praise in ancient times when he visited the royal family’s residence on the Papaoa Estate.

Thus, “Arue”, which means “praise” in Tahitian, became the name of this historic place.

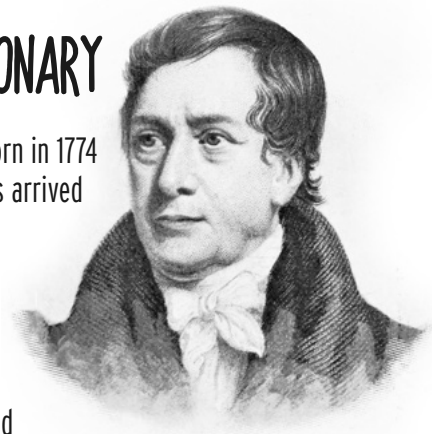


## ■ HENRY NOTT, A MISSIONARY

British Protestant Missionary Henry Nott, born in 1774 was only 23 when he and other missionaries arrived in Tahiti to evangelize the Tahitians.

Today, their arrival is celebrated yearly with a public holiday on march 5.

Nott, who took 18 years to translate the bible into Tahitian, converted and baptized King Pomare II in 1819.



HENRY NOTT  
(Tahiti)

The ceremony was held in a large Protestant chapel in Arue. Nott also became the famous king's confidant and adviser.

Upon his death in 1844, Nott was buried near the Pomare tomb in the heart of Arue.

## ■ FROM JAMES NORMAN HALL TO MARLON BRANDO

One of the most famous works of American literature was conceived in Arue in a house where James Norman Hall (1887-1951) had chosen to live. He and fellow-American Charles Bernard Nordhoff (1887-1947) co-authored the famous "Bounty Trilogy".

The Tahitian "Fare" where Hall lived is now a museum. This lovely colonial home was rebuilt just as it originally was through the support the town received from French grant and the close collaboration of Hall's relatives, who provided the original books from the famous writer's library.





The history of the HMS Bounty and its famous mutineers has an even more contemporary link with Arue. Marlon Brando not only played the role of Fletcher Christian in the Hollywood film "Mutiny in the Bounty".

He later bought the atoll of Tetiaroa, 59 km (36.5 miles) due north of the island of Tahiti. The atoll comes under Arue's municipal jurisdiction.



The link between Brando and Tahiti remained strong in subsequent years as Tarita, who starred with him in the film, became the mother of his two children. Teihotu Brando, Marlon's son, still lives on the atoll.

Brando's Tahitian family, aware that Tetiaroa features a sea bird sanctuary and represents a rare site during these times of ecological awareness, is trying to develop a tourism project that totally respects the atoll's environment, even becoming an eco-citizen promoter.



## ■ CAPT. BLIGH & TAHITI'S BREADFRUIT

William Bligh returned to Tahiti in 1792 on a second visit as captain of the H.M.S. Bounty to collect breadfruit tree saplings and take them to the British West Indies for replanting to provide food for slaves. One hundred ninety-eight years later a Bounty replica brought a breadfruit tree sapling from the Caribbean to Tahiti. It was a shoot from the trees that grew from original Bounty shipment. Most of the breadfruit tree- "uru" in Tahitian - saplings transported by the Bounty even came from Arue.

So most of the breadfruit trees growing today in the West Indies come from Arue, adding to the town's cultural and tourist attraction.





## SAINTONGE'S HISTORY

The Saintonge building has not always housed the mayor's offices in Arue.

The French colonial estate built in 1892 belonged to Victor Raoulx, a prominent person who named it after "La Saintonge", the French Atlantic coast region that today is part of the Charente-Maritime Department.

Raoulx decided in 1905 to sell it to his son, Hippolyte Malardé. The son later sold it to the Swiss widow Magdeleine Merle de Brugière of Lavenu-Coupet, who spent very little time living on the estate.

She ended up renting it out while it was in an advanced state of ruin.

Marcel Krainer, the Austrian consul in Tahiti, fell in love with the building while living there in 1955. After seven years of renting it, he decided to buy it.

The Commune of Arue bought the colonial structure on Oct. 11, 1978 and converted it into today's Town Hall, preserving the architectural heritage appreciated by the people of Arue as well as the rest of Tahiti.



Ville de Arue

Po box 14150 - 98701 ARUE - French Polynesia

[www.arue.pf](http://www.arue.pf)

tel +689 40502020

[mairie@arue.pf](mailto:mairie@arue.pf)



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@aruetahiti