

# The Maile Wreath

Newsletter of Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives

Summer 2012

Volume 34: Number 1

## The Phenomenal Rise to Literacy in Hawai'i: A Hawaiian Perspective on the Growth of Literacy in Hawai'i

By John Kalei Laimana, Jr., Trustee, Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives

The arrival of the first company of American missionaries in Hawai'i in 1820 marked the beginning of Hawai'i's phenomenal rise to literacy. The voluminous missionary reports, journals, and letters corroborate this unique achievement.

By 1831, in just eleven years, Hawaiians had built 1,103 schoolhouses. This covered every district throughout the eight major islands and serviced an estimated 52,882 students. The proliferation of schoolhouses was augmented by the printing of 140,000 copies of the pi'āpā (elementary Hawaiian spelling book) by 1829 and the staffing of the schools with 1,000-plus Hawaiian teachers. This massive infrastructure buildout provided the means that would

transport the literacy rate of the adult Hawaiian population from near zero in 1820 to a conservative estimate of 91 percent—and perhaps as high as 95 percent—by 1834.

THE ALPHABET.			
VOWELS.		CONSONANTS.	
Names.	Ex. in Eng.	Names.	Ex. in Hawaiian.
A a	...ā	B b	...be
E e	...ē	D d	...de
I i	...ī	H h	...he
O o	...ō	K k	...ke
U u	...ū	L l	...la
		M m	...mu
		N n	...nu
		P p	...pi
		R r	...ro
		T t	...ti
		V v	...vi
		W w	...we

The following are used in spelling foreign words:  
F f G g S s Y y

after the first settlers landed in Jamestown. By way of comparison, it is significant that overall European literacy rates in 1850 had not risen much above 50 percent.

(Continued on page 2.)



## Shakespeare at Kahua Ho'okipa

Rehearsals are underway for Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, another way to make this historic site a place where people can come together. We will host four performances August 24, 25, 31 and September 1.

Why do Shakespeare at Mission Houses? Were the missionaries Shakespeare fans? Don't be surprised when we tell you that a lot of them were fans. Just a quick glance through *The Friend* (you can check it at missionhouses.org) will demonstrate that many enjoyed Shakespeare and frequently quoted his plays. In fact, Luther Halsey Gulick wouldn't leave home without his Bible—and his volume of Shakespeare! As historic sites and museums seek to survive in a challenging financial environment, we are all looking for ways to maximize use of facilities and to engage people in unique and innovative ways. When we built the Kahua Ho'okipa (our performance garden) with volunteer labor in April 2011, we created a distinctive outdoor performance venue. This play is perfect for that space, suffused as it is with the mana of the coral blocks salvaged from the 1852 courthouse that surround it and the tropical traveler's palms that envelop it. Lit with newly installed theatrical lighting, the play will be four nights of love and magic.

Visit our website to reserve your tickets. Performances start at 7 p.m. General admission \$20, with Seniors and Students (17 and under) at \$16. 🌿



Both of the youngest cousins present at the Annual Meeting were Eighth Company Bailey descendants gathered here at the Kahua Ho'okipa. For full story and more photos see page 6.

# The Maile Wreath

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## Mission Statement

Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives preserves the heritage and interprets the stories of the American Protestant Missionaries, their descendants, and their relationships with the people and cultures of Hawai'i, connecting with contemporary life, and encouraging a deeper understanding and appreciation for the complex history that continues to shape Hawai'i.

Design of *The Maile Wreath* is an in-kind donation by Bonnie Louise Judd.

## Growth of Literacy in Hawai'i

*Continued from page 1*

The rapid progress Hawaiians made in literacy was widely publicized in the *Missionary Herald*, which was published by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and distributed among American congregations. Evidence of the phenomenal rise of Hawaiian literacy also is documented in a large body of material printed from 1820 to 1832. For example, approximately twenty-four million pages of text in the Hawaiian language were printed by the missionary presses. More than seventy different Hawaiian language newspapers came into operation. Today, approximately one million pages from those Hawaiian language newspapers have survived on microfilm, creating one of the largest resources of a native language in the entire Pacific. Additionally, the library of the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society in Honolulu houses one of the largest collections of Hawaiian language books in the world.

The missionaries have been largely credited with bringing literacy to Hawai'i. Not surprisingly, missionaries believed that Hawaiians' rapid rise to literacy was due to providence rather than methodology. Still, a trail of their methods is evident, including the reconstitution of the Hawaiian language into an alphabet, the printing press, Watt's catechism, Webster's spelling book, the Bible, and the Euro-American classroom pedagogies. All of these methodologies and technologies also were employed in countries all over the world. However, based on written accounts, no other country achieved such a fast and dramatic rise in literacy as was witnessed in Hawai'i.

Furthermore, similar technologies and educational methodologies have been greatly improved for today's learners and are more accessible than before. And yet,

many communities around the world continue to struggle with illiteracy. This suggests that the tools and methodologies brought by the missionaries—though very important—cannot alone explain Hawaiians' phenomenal rise to literacy.

How, then, can Hawai'i's incredible rise to literacy be explained? Logic suggests that unique events or outcomes must have a unique element or contribution to make the outcome unique. If the unique contribution for Hawaiians' achievement in literacy cannot be found with the missionaries, then it must have come from the Hawaiians. What this strongly suggests, is that a real partnership existed—and not a "paternal-ship."

When the missionaries first arrived and asked for permission to settle in Hawai'i, an intense debate ensued that lasted for thirteen days. Many of the Ali'i were aware of the dire consequences that fell upon native peoples who had allowed Christian missionaries into their country. Consequently, the Ali'i were extremely distrustful of the missionaries. Likewise, American missionaries arrived in Hawai'i with ethnocentric and extremely flawed sociocultural beliefs, many of which we would categorize today as racist.

With these facts as a backdrop, one might presume that the partnership was headed for disaster. This was a partnership that should not have succeeded...and yet it did. New research tells us how this partnership may have actually worked and what unique contributions Hawaiians brought to this partnership. It is an amazing story that dispels myths and reveals a fuller picture that begins to explain Hawaiians' phenomenal rise to literacy. 🌺

*This article is an excerpt from Mr. Laimana's Masters Thesis. Watch for the thesis to appear on our website soon.*



*The silent auction at Huaka'i needs your special item.  
We have a koa jewelry box, lauhala hat, and some fine books.  
What can you add to it?  
Call Mary Ann Lentz at 447-3922 or email [mlentz@missionhouses.org](mailto:mlentz@missionhouses.org)*

# Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives

## A New Name and a New Strategic Plan

By Thomas A. Woods, Ph.D., Executive Director

In 2009, Mission Houses Museum began to develop a new strategic plan. Work continued with consultant Gail Anderson into early 2010. The trustees decided to pause planning until a new executive director was hired after Executive Director David de La Torre resigned to take another position in California. I was hired and began work as executive director in April 2010. Later that year, I re-commenced strategic planning, beginning with audience surveys. Five written surveys were conducted with the following groups: visitors to the museum; descendants and members of the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society; non-descendant members classified as "Benefactors;" volunteers; and school teachers. The written surveys tested some of the draft work on mission and other aspects of the strategic plan done in 2009 and early 2010 and potential alternatives, as well as programmatic preferences.

Two additional surveys were conducted by Ward Research. One was a telephone survey of O'ahu residents to determine name recognition and impressions; and the second was an intercept survey of Waikiki visitors to determine the same thing and likelihood of visiting the museum.

After this was completed, we engaged Dr. Rod Chamberlain, a planner and vice president for Kamehameha Schools to facilitate our planning. Dr. Chamberlain conducted stakeholder interviews with more than fifty stakeholders, including board members and community leaders to ascertain their views on the most productive way forward for Mission Houses Museum.

All of this information was analyzed and summarized for a board of trustees planning workshop in the fall of 2011. Dr. Chamberlain facilitated the two-day workshop, and the process resulted in a draft plan. A board Strategic Planning Committee refined and completed some portions of the plan and recommended it to the executive committee, which accepted and referred it to the full board, which voted to accept the plan on December 7, 2011. The complete plan can be found at [www.missionhouses.org](http://www.missionhouses.org). Highlights include the following new statements for vision and mission, and, for the first time, a main theme that will help guide our programming and messages.

### Vision

Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives enriches our community by fostering thoughtful dialogue and greater understanding of the missionary role in the history of Hawai'i.

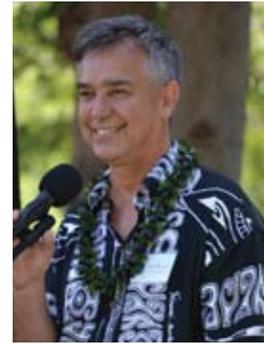
### Mission

Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives preserves the heritage and interprets the stories of the American Protestant Missionaries, their descendants, and their relationships with the people and

cultures of Hawai'i, connecting with contemporary life, and encouraging a deeper understanding and appreciation for the complex history that continues to shape Hawai'i.

### Main theme

Collaboration between Native Hawaiians and the American Protestant missionaries resulted in, among other things, the intro-



Tom Woods

duction of Christianity, the creation of the Hawaiian written language, widespread literacy, the promulgation of the concept of constitutional government, making Western medicine available, and the evolution of a new and distinctive musical tradition.

### New Name

As part of the planning outcome and implementation, the full board also voted to rename the organization the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives. The legal name of our organization remains Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, but we will use the new "doing business as" name in all of our public contact. To be successful, we have to be inclusive, and the new name suggests that we are open to everyone, as in fact, we are. Our legal name is important to many of our members, and we will retain it, but it implies that it is a "society" open only to descendants of the mission.

We have launched new programs and initiatives based on the new strategic plan. I hope you enjoy them. We look forward to our members fully participating in a reinvigorated organization. 🌿



### Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives

*The symbol to go with the new name is based on the facade of the 1821 Mission House and incorporates the image of a book, two elements identified as core to the institution.*

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Kahua Ho'okipa at Mission  
Houses is a lush green oasis in  
the heart of Honolulu.  
With new theatrical lighting,  
it is the perfect place for that  
special wedding, party or event.  
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at 447- 3923.*

## Meet the Staff:

Jermel-Lynn Quillopo is our new Communications Specialist at the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives. Challenged with getting our new name and innovative programming out to the public, Jermel follows Christopher Wong who started the ball rolling. Jermel is responsible for our marketing and public relations and within the first month landed an interview on KHON-TV to promote *Engraved at Lahainaluna*. Introduced by Joe Moore, the discussion of the book by Executive Director Tom Woods with the store shelves as a backdrop led to immediate sales on the HMH website and in the store.

Jermel graduated from Hawaii Pacific University with a Masters in Communication and a minor in law. She comes to us with over five years of experience in the media industry, ranging from television to print. You can catch her *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* column on [honolulupulse.com](http://honolulupulse.com) and can watch her report on OC-16's "Pet Hui" animal show.

Stay tuned for exciting new pieces about HMH and our activities as Jermel gets us out there. 🌀



## Engraved at Lahainaluna

The arrival of *Engraved at Lahainaluna* was celebrated at a donor luncheon in May. The book was completely funded through donations from Betty Severson; Dolores Furtado Martin Trust; Linda Decker; Hobey Goodale; Charlie Wichman; the Cooke Foundation, Limited; and the Dwayne and Marti Steele Fund. The special boxed, signed edition (\$150) is going fast. Reserve your copy in our store online or on site. 🌀



Jeff Gere and Duane Preble enjoyed the Book Launch Party in May.



Author David Forbes with lead donors Betty Severson and Watters Martin, Jr.

## From Society Relations Director Mary Ann Lentz Tell Us Your Story!

Last fall, columnist David Brooks of the *New York Times* asked readers over 70 years of age to send him the gift of a "Life Report." Based on an idea he got from colleges and universities which ask alumni to write about their lives, he asked those over 70 to "evaluate their own lives, taking a step back to write a brief essay on how they had done and what they had learned." Brooks suggested that they either write a brief essay or divide their lives into categories—career, family, faith, community, and self-knowledge—and give themselves a grade in each area.

Here at the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives we are amidst a project to do oral histories with twenty descendants who relate to specific objects in the museum's collections. Clips of these conversations will be posted on our website with photos of the objects to make these come to life for the rest of us. We started this during the Story Corps project last spring



Mary Judd was interviewed by Mike Smola during Story Corps interviews last year.

when National Public Radio staff spent three weeks on our campus recording stories of residents of O'ahu. We interviewed Mary Judd, Sam Cooke, Nancy Beadle, and Charles Black and will grab clips from these interviews to highlight objects from their families.

Meanwhile, there are over four hundred descendants of these missionaries who are over 70 years of age, and we really would like to capture the stories of as many of you as possible. If this is your age group, would you consider writing a piece for us? It need not be

long, or it may need to be. If you want to see some by others, visit David Brooks' blog ([brooks.blogs.nytimes.com/](http://brooks.blogs.nytimes.com/)) and read the ones he has chosen to post. If you are not a descendant but have been connected to this historic site or these archives, we would love to have your story, too. This is not an exclusive call for histories.

If you don't mind, please send a copy—paper or electronic—of yours to us at the Hawaiian Mission Houses where we will keep it as a record of your generation, along with our archives of our great grandparents. Furthermore, if you give us permission, we may also post yours on a blog to share with others. If you would rather we not keep or share yours, consider giving it to your family or put it away for your family to read after you have passed away.

Thank you for considering this gift to the next generation. 🌀

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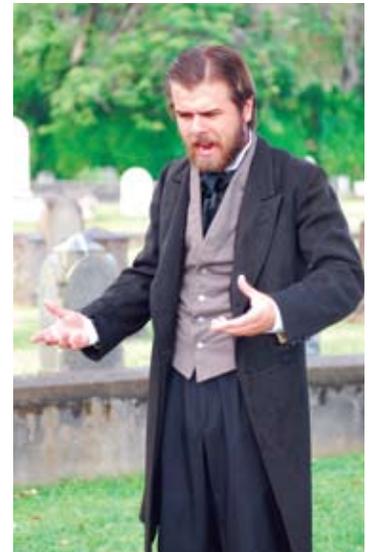
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**In honor of Marilyn Rice Sexton**

Ms. Amy S. Gilbert

**O'ahu Cemetery Pupu Theatre**

In June, Hawaiian Mission Houses put on its second version of Cemetery Pupu Theatre with new a new cast of historical characters. It was a smash hit! We had a total attendance of over 230 over the four nights it ran. The program has been getting positive attention in the community and in the media, with a story for the *Hawaii Marine Lifestyles* newsletter. The dramatic performances have proven so popular and effective in teaching history that they show promise to become a "signature event" for Hawaiian Mission Houses.



Actor Zach Thomas portrayed a salty Captain Eliab Grimes.

Museum theatre is a relatively new and interesting field of historical interpretation, somewhat like so-called "living history," but it is different in that the actors have a set script based on extensive historical research and specific take-away messages. They do, however, take on the persona of that historical person and tell the story or stories of the person they are portraying. It is a dramatic way of sharing history with emotional impact. The stories and performances help our audience make an emotional connection to our shared past. One of our audience members put it best when he said, "If [patrons] want to know more about the history of O'ahu, they should bring their family for sure."

This round of stories included John Papa 'Īi, a member of the House of Nobles and noted Native Hawaiian historian, played by William Ha'o; Rev. Lorrin Andrews, missionary printer and engraving teacher at Lahainaluna Seminary, played by Jeff Gere; Cherilla Lowrey, founder of the Outdoor Circle and leader in the fight against billboards in Honolulu, played by Hanna Gaffney; Lucy Thurston, pioneer missionary and 1855 mastectomy survivor, played by Cecilia Fordham; and Captain Eliab Grimes, a trading ship captain based in Honolulu who opened trade with the Spanish California coast (illegally), played by Zach Thomas.



Lucy Thurston was played by Cecilia Fordham.

Trustee Peter Young posted clips on YouTube and said, "...there was nothing ghoulish about it. Rather, it was very effective storytelling. This is way cool; I can't wait for the next one." Dates for the fall performances to be held at Mission Cemetery are October 5 and 6, and 12 and 13. 🌿

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## Eighth Company Celebrated at Annual Meeting

On Saturday morning, April 21, 2012, descendants of the American Protestant missionaries to Hawaii congregated in Honolulu for the 160th Annual Meeting of the Mission Children's Society. Over the past decade, the Annual Meeting has evolved into a weekend-long reunion of the extended Missionary family affectionately called "the Cousins." More than a hundred people gathered to hear reports and to discuss the new strategic direction and opportunities embraced by the Board. Special recognition was given to the descendants of the Eighth Company of missionaries in celebration of the 175th anniversary of their arrival in 1837.

The weekend's festivities began on Friday, the 20th, as a dozen descendants enjoyed breakfast with Executive Director Dr. Thomas Woods. Breakfast was followed by a behind-the-scenes tour of the archives and tours of the Chamberlain House and 1821 Mission House (formerly the Frame House). Four rooms of the 1821 Mission House have new vignettes with scenarios which make the visitor think about difficult situations of cultural encounter; as a result, people from the past become more real. The new interpretive panel about that house includes photos from the archives which many had never seen.

Friday's events concluded with "Launa Aloha A Me Na Mele" (friendship and music) which drew an appreciative crowd to hear the Keawe Ohana (family) perform traditional and contemporary Hawaiian. Soft evening trade winds and the wonderful music provided the opportunity for everyone to visit with old friends and to meet new ones, some of whom had traveled from California, Tennessee, and Massachusetts. At the end of the evening, experts and novices alike gathered on Kahua Ho'okipa, the year-old performance mound, for an enthusiastic and hilarious version of "Hukilau".

Saturday morning, after a blessing by Kahu William Kaina in both Hawaiian and English, President Sheehan called the 160th Annual Meeting to order. In her report, she described the Strategic Plan recently adopted by the Board and the concurrent organizational name change to Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives. Trustee elections were held and new Board members Kala Judd, Rowena Kauihou, and Peter Young were introduced while Clancy Lyman

and Robert Becker were gratefully and publicly thanked for their 15 and 14 years of service to the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society.

Many in attendance remarked on the enthusiasm and dedication of Dr. Woods and his staff as conveyed by the reports they gave. Along with many other projects, the creation of the new vignettes, installation on the grounds of new interpretive panels, development of new programs, and on-going digitization of archival material illustrate the staff's commitment to making the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives the most welcoming and unique visitor experience possible.

Following these reports, the Roll Call bell was rung by John Morgan assisted by Eric Gay, a Richardson descendant who is a regular at HMH programs. Families representing the various Companies were counted. The Cookes yet again had the largest contingent in attendance nudging out the Baileys for a second year—with all of them descendants of the Eighth Company. The oldest cousin in attendance was Cooke descendant Robert (Bob) Midkiff and the youngest was a Bailey, Makaio Lee. Courtney Spalding-Mayer traveled the furthest, from Boston, for the meeting and stayed on for the next week to read Amos Starr Cooke's journal. (It is now online for all to enjoy—use the pull-down Library tab on our website.)

Shortly after lunch, during which the Punahou Alumni Glee Club performed, Dr. Woods gave a presentation in the Chamberlain House introducing *Engraved at Lahainaluna*. The book, written by David Forbes and published by HMCS, relates the compelling tale of cooperation and collaboration between Rev. Lorrin Andrews and his Native Hawaiian students while providing a photographic collection of all known engravings. Several of the engravings from the HMH archives were displayed and orders for the book were taken. The books have since arrived and are available through the HMH Store, 447-3923, \$150 for the numbered edition or \$75 for regular books, shipping or tax is extra. 🌀



*Above: John Morgan helped Eric Gay ring the Roll Call bell.*



*Above: Joan Pratt has been a regular at HMH events with nieces and nephews in tow.*

*Below: Outgoing President Lia Sheehan addresses the meeting.*





Above: Left to right, Robbie Mist, Davis Eichelberger, DC Mist Eichelberger, and Trustee McKibbin Mist enjoyed the morning as they represented the Clark family.



Above: Gathering before the meeting were Past President John Plews, first-timer Dr. Thomas Armbruster, the oldest cousin Bob Midkiff, and Big Island resident Heidi Caverly.



Above: Elected to three-year terms on the Board of Trustees were (left to right): Kala Judd, Bonnie Rice, John Morgan, Alan King, Doug Sheehan, Martha Morgan, Peter Young, and Rowena Kaihou.

## Scene on Campus



### Cooke Classic

Celebrating the arrival of Amos Starr and Juliette Montague Cooke in 1837, their descendants held a reunion in June, beginning with tours of Manoa Heritage Center on Friday. Pictured above, a group joins Mike Smola's historic house tour before lunch and a game of croquet at Hawaiian Mission Houses on Saturday. The Honolulu Museum of Art hosted the family that night at the Spalding House. Thanks are due to the organizational skills of Caroline Bond Davis and her committee.



### Everybody DID the Hukilau!

At the end of Launa Aloha a Me Na Mele, experts and novices alike gathered on Kahua Ho'okipa, the year-old performance mound, for an enthusiastic and hilarious version of "Hukilau" led by the Keawe Ohana.

## Give Aloha

Live in Hawai'i?  
Foodland and Sack and  
Save will match your donation to  
HMH in the month of September.

Use your Maika'i Card, make a donation to HMH as you pay for your groceries, and they will send us double (up to \$249 per person). If you want a thank you from us, send us your receipt—Foodland doesn't tell us who made the gifts! 🍌





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**Archives Hours**

Tuesday – Friday, 10 am to 4 pm

**Admission**

Historic House Tour Admission \$10  
Kama'aina, Military, Senior: \$8  
Student: \$6  
Children under 5 years: Free

**Guided Tours**

Printing Office and 1821 Frame House  
Tue – Sat, 11 am, 12, 1, 2, 3 pm  
Japanese language tours by appointment

**Kama'aina Day**

Last Saturday of the month. 10 am – 4 pm  
Discounted admission of \$4 with valid  
Hawai'i ID.

*Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and  
Archives is the business name of the Hawaiian  
Mission Children's Society (HMCS), a not-for-  
profit organization founded in 1852.*



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**Calendar**

**August**

24, 25, 31 & September 1  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

**September**

15 – Huaka'i: A Musical Journey  
29 – Smithsonian Museum Day

**October**

5, 6, 12, & 13  
Cemetery Pupu Theatre at Mission  
Cemetery  
27 – Spookilau

**November 24**

Holiday Craft Fair

**December 1**

Honolulu City Lights Parade and Pupu