

# The Maile Wreath

Newsletter of Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives

Summer 2016

Volume 38: Number 1

HUAKA'I  
A MUSICAL JOURNEY

## Celebrating the Hawaiian Language

The special ambience of dinner under the stars at Hawaiian Mission Houses continues this year as Huaka'i: A Musical Journey celebrates the Hawaiian language on Friday, September 9 at 5:30 p.m. With great Hawaiian music, dinner by the Pili Group, and silent and live auctions, you and your guests will enjoy a unique evening at HMH while supporting excellent school programs, growing digital archives, and critical preservation work.

This year we honor those who revived the spoken language and renewed or improved access to both spoken and written Hawaiian. The original Ka Leo musicians and their leader Larry Kimura will give us a taste of their original radio program. We will recognize the Hawaiian newspaper project, Awaiaulu, and Puakea Nogelmeier. Table patrons may honor others in the printed program as well.

That night we will also release the translation of about 225 letters from about 35 ali'i written between 1823 and 1907. These words from the ali'i themselves, newly translated by advanced students under the guidance of Awaiaulu, give us a remarkable lens through which we can view nineteenth century life in our islands.

Please join us to celebrate this part of our site theme: "Collaboration between Native Hawaiians and the American Protestant missionaries resulted in, among other things, the development of a written Hawaiian language." It was here through collaboration between the missionaries, Hawaiian chiefs, and Tahitians accompanying William Ellis, that the written Hawaiian language we know today was developed. As a result of these efforts, the Hawaiian language Bible was created,

*(continued on page 8)*



## The Early History of the Mission Memorial Building

By Tom Woods, Ph.D., Executive Director,  
Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives

Why should we care about the Mission Memorial Building, or that the Mission Memorial Building is 100 years old this year? I think it is because knowing about historic places connects us with our community's past, creating continuity in our lives, and helping us feel better about ourselves and our place in our community.<sup>1</sup>

We can admire the aesthetics of the building—the striking contrast between the vertical white columns and horizontal red bricks and the symbolic civic meaning of the Colonial Revival Style—but the BIG story of the building is the partnership between the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society and the Hawaiian Evangelical Association, two intertwined organizations that built it and the community dynamics that led to it becoming part of our Honolulu civic center.

These two organizations have a common origin. The story begins with the Protestant missionaries sent here

by the Boston-based American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM). The first missionaries anchored off Kailua, Hawaii, on April 4, 1820. The ship carried twenty-two New England missionaries—seven couples, five children, and three young Hawaiian men trained at the Cornwall Mission School, and Humehume, son of Kaumuali'i, as a passenger. Beginning in 1823, subsequent ships brought more New England missionaries, more Hawaiians and a few Tahitians trained at the Cornwall Mission School.

Anticipating a growing mission and the need for a coordinating group, Hiram Bingham, Asa Thurston, and William Ellis, a missionary pastor of the London Missionary Society's Tahitian mission on assignment in Hawai'i,<sup>2</sup> met on February 28, 1823, at the newly built Mission House to form the Hawaiian Association.<sup>3</sup> The purpose of the organization was to develop ecclesiastical rules, to license

*(continued on page 3)*

## 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 of the complex history of Hawai'i.

## Why We Matter

By Martha E. Morgan, President

I recently re-read an article by Tom Woods from the 2014 summer issue of the *Maile Wreath*. The article describes the genesis of the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society in 1852 and then its crisis of relevance 50 years later when membership participation waned and contributions for ongoing mission work dwindled. At that point in 1902 the Society nearly dissolved. Then in 1903 interest began to stir again when the idea of the HMCS as a historical preservation organization began to be floated. Society members eventually came together to purchase both the Chamberlain House and the 1821 Mission House. Over the next 20 years the houses were restored, the property consolidated, and collections of books and objects gratefully received and housed.

In 1970, the organization stepped up to a new level when it "transformed itself from a volunteer organization to a professional museum and library and archives by hiring trained professionals. Two years later, in 1972 the HMCS, publicly branded as the Mission Houses Museum shared the distinction with the Honolulu Academy of Arts in becoming the first two museums in Hawai'i accredited by the American Association of Museums."

Forty years later, the organization was again in need of adapting and finding a renewed relevance in a rapidly changing cultural environment in Hawaii. The image of the protestant missionaries had suffered, and HMCS found itself sometimes on the defensive. Michener's portrayal of the missionaries landed deep in the common understanding of their impact on Hawai'i's history. The model of the Mission Houses Museum as it had been for 40 years did not seem sustainable anymore. The board knew that our appeal needed to reach beyond the increasingly diluted band of descendants in order to survive. There were divergent views of how the organization should go forward and disagreements about the purpose and kind of organization HMCS should become.



Martha E. Morgan

In 2010 two very important things happened: The board committed to completing a strategic plan, and we hired Tom Woods as executive director. The arduous strategic planning process was completed in 2011 which resulted in the articulation of a vision, mission statement, main theme and organizational values. We also rebranded as the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives. We re-committed to remain a historical preservation organization with renewed focus and vision.

Over the last five years with the leadership of Tom, who is consistently guided by the strategic plan, the organization has growing relevance in our community and interest is blossoming and broadening through developing partnerships. Our programs are popular, and our revamped school curriculum has been successful with a dramatic increase in school visitations. The digitization of original documents from our archives has been a huge service to the education and research communities.

In an age where historic sites across the country are losing their public appeal we could prove to be an exception. However, we cannot do it without every one of you. Each dollar we receive is hard fought and competing with hundreds of worthy local organizations. Though it is really hard to believe, most people don't consider history to be a sexy subject and with all the desperate needs out there in the world how can a historical preservation organization claim its worthiness in our society?

(Continued on page 8)

## Mission Memorial Building

*Continued from page 1*

and ordain preachers for the new mission stations, and to encourage church unity.<sup>4</sup> These three members were soon followed in membership by Mission pastors serving throughout Hawai'i.

Years later, in 1851, after the Mission was successfully established in Hawai'i, members of the Sandwich Island Mission formed the Hawaiian Missionary Society (HMS) to spread missions throughout the Pacific. The next year, the HMS sponsored its first missionaries to Micronesia,<sup>5</sup> and in 1853, sent its next mission to the Marquesas. The Marquesas Mission included James Kekela, the first ordained Native Hawaiian minister.<sup>6</sup>

In 1854, the Hawaiian Association, now thirty-one years old, added a word to its name to better reflect its purpose. It became the Hawaiian Evangelical Association or HEA.<sup>7</sup> Typical of Congregationalism, individual congregations remained independent; the HEA simply provided overall guidance intended to promote what they called the "purity and unity of the churches."<sup>8</sup>

By 1863, the Boston-based ABCFM decided that Hawai'i had become a Christian nation and no longer needed an evangelical mission. Accordingly, they withdrew financial support from the Hawaiian Mission, ending the mission, yet encouraging their missionaries to remain in Hawai'i, and begin turning control of the churches over to Hawaiian ministers and congregations. The Hawaiian Missionary Society was dissolved as the HEA incorporated both the ecumenical and missionary functions into one organization.<sup>9</sup> The HEA's board was named the Hawaiian Board and, to support Native Hawaiian participation, required at least one third Native Hawaiian membership and the keeping of minutes and records in the Hawaiian language.<sup>10</sup>

The HEA headquarters moved from time to time as the organization grew. A long-time member of the Hawaiian Board, Peter Cushman Jones caused the Joseph W. Podmore Building to be built at the

corner of Merchant and Alakea Streets in 1902, and five years later, donated the land and imposing Romanesque-style, two-story building to the HEA.<sup>11</sup> (It's still there, by the way.)

Now we need to interweave the story of the second partner organization with the Hawaiian Evangelical Association. The Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, or HMCS, was formed in 1852 by the children of the first-generation ABCFM missionaries to provide support for a new generation of missionaries. Some of these new missionaries sent to Micronesia by the Hawaiian Missionary Society as its first company of Pacific missions were Hawai'i-born children of the first generation of ABCFM missionaries sent to Hawai'i.

During its first fifty years, the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society focused on supporting missions and Christian schools.<sup>12</sup> The organization also served as a social organization that held monthly get-togethers for the children and grandchildren of the first generation of ABCFM missionaries. As the years passed, though, members' participation in the HMCS faltered. Few members attended meetings or made donations to support missionary causes.<sup>13</sup>

At the June 4, 1900, HMCS Annual Meeting, retiring President Amos Frank Cooke spoke to a small assembled group. His gloomy address was titled "To Be Or Not To Be." He questioned whether the organization should survive beyond its upcoming Fiftieth Anniversary in 1902.<sup>14</sup> He said that the HMCS "has been a dead letter" and could no longer meet its financial obligations.<sup>15</sup> The group limped on, though, and marked a lackluster Fiftieth Anniversary.<sup>16</sup>

About this time historical preservation groups, genealogical societies, and memorial organizations were springing up throughout the United States,<sup>17</sup> so it is not surprising that an idea to reshape the organization with a focus on memorialization and historical preservation emerged the next year. In his presidential address to a small group that year, President Dr. Albert Clark said he thought something should be done to memorialize the first



*Author Tom Woods*

generation of missionaries in a tangible form and suggested that the 1821 Mission House (Frame House) or Chamberlain House could be acquired for that purpose.<sup>18</sup>

The idea slowly caught fire, and the Society acquired the 1821 Mission House and nearby coral Annex four years later in 1907.<sup>19</sup> The Committee decided to restore the 1821 Mission House and use the Annex as an office and collections storage area for the HMCS.<sup>20</sup> With renewed interest and enthusiasm, they triumphantly opened the buildings in 1908.<sup>21</sup>

Two years later, the HMCS preservationists succeeded in acquiring the Chamberlain House and in the next few years through a series of donations and purchases, they secured much of the original mission property except the church grounds, along King and Kawaiaha'o streets.<sup>22</sup>

The memorial fever was running high now. When the HEA decided it had outgrown the Podmore Building, former Territorial Governor George R. Carter suggested to HMCS members that they donate land fronting King Street near the Chamberlain House for the HEA to build its headquarters as a memorial to the missionaries.<sup>23</sup> His proposal failed because members did not believe there was sufficient room to build in front of the Chamberlain House. They had just torn down a Chinese laundry and a two-story Chinese feed and grocery store in front of the Mission House and Annex (Print Shop) and knew how tight together those buildings had been.<sup>24</sup>

The HEA purchased a lot near

*(continued on page 4)*

## Mission Memorial Building

*Continued from page 3*

the Podmore building, hired prominent architect Harry Livingston Kerr as architect, and began designing a new building for that location.<sup>25</sup> Controversy quickly emerged when the HEA Building Committee began receiving letters and petitions imploring them not to build on the obscure downtown corner, but instead near the original mission site.<sup>26</sup>

In response, the HMCS and HEA held a “conference meeting” in late 1914 to discuss their options. A breakthrough came when the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation offered to lease the HEA a large lot just across King Street from the 1821 Mission House where the HEA could build its new headquarters as a Mission Memorial Building. The organizations agreed to partner on their joint projects, restoring and furnishing the Chamberlain House, constructing the Mission Memorial Building and incorporating into it a fire-proof vault where both organizations could preserve and store archives and objects of the early missionaries. The HMCS would become custodians of the mission records and have an office in the new building.<sup>27</sup>

Once a location and strategy emerged, the building design and construction progressed rapidly. Its Colonial Revival design was part of an American patriotic architectural movement that recalled the Revolutionary Era, encouraged memorialization, and also evoked the New England origins of the organizations that had combined to design and build the structure.

The HEA dedicated the Mission Memorial Building on April 14, 1916. The next day, the Hawaiian Mission Children’s Society met for their Annual Meeting in the upper hall on April 15, with 182 members present, one of the largest meetings in the organization’s history.<sup>28</sup> That dying organization had been reborn with a new purpose.

Twenty-seven years later, on December 2, 1943, Mayor Lester Petrie and J. D. McInerney from the City Planning Commission attended a meeting of the HEA

Finance Committee. They asked the HEA to sell the Mission Memorial property to the city as part of an expanded civic center development. The HEA considered various scenarios to satisfy the city’s needs without losing the Mission Memorial Building. The City soon made it clear that if the HEA did not agree to sell the land, the City would exercise eminent domain.<sup>29</sup>

Resigned to losing the building, the HEA sought to remain near the original mission site. They considered purchasing the Kaiulani Home for Girls next door to the 1821 Mission House. It had been established in 1905 as a home for Hawaiian girls working in Honolulu. Since that lot would not be large enough, the HEA proposed building a Sunday School and auditorium on HMCS land behind the Chamberlain House and the HMCS agreed to the plan.<sup>30</sup>

To allow time for their plans to mature, the HEA requested the ability to lease the Memorial Building for the duration of the war, plus one year.<sup>31</sup> Four days after World War II ended on September 2, 1945, the City filed to condemn the property. The decision was quickly delivered in the City’s favor on September 19, 1945.<sup>32</sup>

On October 17, 1945, the City paid the HEA \$340,430 for the Mission Memorial Building, and a separate \$61,230 payment to the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation for Mission Memorial land and the adjoining Castle Homestead. The City agreed to allow the HEA to occupy the building until July 1, 1947, at a rent of \$400 per month<sup>33</sup> and quickly demolished the nearby Castle Homestead.<sup>34</sup>

Meanwhile, the HEA struggled to purchase the Kaiulani Home. The Circuit Court had still not cleared the way for its purchase by April 1947.<sup>35</sup> The HEA wrote the City requesting another year’s extension of their lease on the Mission Memorial Building. The City approved a shorter four month extension through October.<sup>36</sup> When the Circuit Court signaled further delays, the HEA went back to the City, asking for another year’s extension. The City denied the request.<sup>37</sup>

The Court finally cleared the way to

sell the Kaiulani Home, but when it was reappraised two years after its initial appraisal, its value had nearly doubled. The HEA could not afford the new price and this time asked its parishioners to petition the City for an eight-month lease extension to June 30, 1948, so it could find a new home.<sup>38</sup> The City quickly received petitions from “several thousand persons, representing every Protestant church on Oahu.” The City extended the lease for two more months, until December 31, 1947.<sup>39</sup>

With only a month left on their last extension, the HEA gave up on the Kaiulani Home and purchased the former Lowrey home, on the corner of Lunalilo and Victoria streets.<sup>40</sup> The HMCS moved the archives out of the Memorial Building vault and into the Chamberlain House, and the HEA moved its headquarters into the house at 1018 Lunalilo.<sup>41</sup>

In 1950, the HMCS, HEA, and Hawaiian Historical Society, joined together to build a new archival vault and reading room behind the old Chamberlain House. Within the next three years,<sup>42</sup> the HEA, renamed the Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ in 1959, moved into 2103 Nu‘uanu Ave, where it remained for several years before moving to its current headquarters at 1848 Nu‘uanu Ave. The HMCS is still the legal name of the organization publically known now as the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives.

That is the story of the partnership that built the Mission Memorial Building, the origin of its design, and the meaning of its name. It is a story much like life, with lots of hope, joy, drama, conflict, disappointment, despair, and then rebirth and new life. 🌀

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Maria Lewicka, “Place attachment: How far have we come in the last 40 years?” *Journal of Environmental Psychology* (2011): 31, 211, 225 and “Place Attachment, Place identity, and “Place memory: Restoring the Forgotten City Past,” *Journal of Environmental Psychology* 28, 211 (2008) in “Preservation Blog: Why Do Old Places Matter? Continuity,” Posted on November 21, 2013, by Tom Mayes.

- <sup>2</sup> Ellis was a missionary of the London Missionary Society to the Society Islands, who relocated to the ABCFM Sandwich Island Mission in 1822. The London Missionary Society, like the ABCFM, was non-denominational but composed primarily of Congregationalists.
- <sup>3</sup> The Hawaiian Association Foundation and Minutes, 1823 – 1862, February 28, 1823. Church Records, Box 2, Hawaiian Mission Houses Archives (HMHA), Honolulu.
- <sup>4</sup> The Hawaiian Association Foundation and Minutes, 1823 – 1862, February 28, 1823. Church Records, Box 2, HMHA, Honolulu.
- <sup>5</sup> Hawaiian Missionary Society Minutes, June 1851 to June 1857, p. 6, HMHA, Honolulu; Clifford Putney, *Missionaries in Hawai'i: The Lives of Peter and Fanny Gulick, 1797 – 1883* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2010) 98 – 99.
- <sup>6</sup> Rufus Anderson, *History of the Sandwich Islands Mission*. (Boston: Congregational Publishing Society, 1870) 255.
- <sup>7</sup> Hawaiian Evangelical Association Minutes of the Meeting of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association held at Honolulu, May and June, 1854. Sandwich Island Mission, 1864 – 1862, *Annual Report*, 1863, Hawaiian Historical Society, HMHA, Honolulu.
- <sup>8</sup> Hawaiian Evangelical Association Minutes of the Meeting of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association held at Honolulu, May and June, 1854. Sandwich Island Mission, 1864 – 1862, *Annual Report*, 1863, Hawaiian Historical Society, HMHA, Honolulu.
- <sup>9</sup> Hawaiian Missionary Society Minutes, April 17, 1856 – April 4, 1863, p. 31 – 2, Church Records, Box 34, HMHA.
- <sup>10</sup> Anderson, 287; Albertine Loomis, *To All People: A History of the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ* (Honolulu: Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ, 1970) 29 – 30; 392; Hawaiian Missionary Society Minutes, June 1851 to June 1857, p. 1 – 2, Church Records, Box 34, HMHA.
- <sup>11</sup> Richard Breton (February 15, 1983). "Joseph W. Podmore Building Nomination Form" 202 – 206 Merchant St. National Register of Historic Places. U.S. National Park Service. Retrieved April 4, 2016.
- <sup>12</sup> Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 1922 *Annual Report*, p. 15, HMHA, Honolulu; For a summary of the Society's support of missionaries, see Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 1919 *Annual Report*, p. 9, HMHA, Honolulu; Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 1922 *Annual Report*, p. 14, HMHA.
- <sup>13</sup> Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 1900 *Annual Report*, p. 38, HMHA, Honolulu. A. F. Cooke, "To Be or Not to Be," 1900 *Annual Report*, pp. 56 – 63.
- <sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, 57 – 9, 63.
- <sup>16</sup> Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 1902 *Annual Report*, pp. 3 – 9, HMHA, Honolulu, 3 – 9; Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 1903 *Annual Report*, p. 46, 37, 50, HMHA, Honolulu.
- <sup>17</sup> See, for instance, James M. Lindgren, *Preserving Historic New England: Preservation, Progressivism, and the Remaking of Memory* (Oxford University Press, 1995) throughout.
- <sup>18</sup> Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 1904 *Annual Report*, pp. 3 – 4, HMHA, Honolulu.
- <sup>19</sup> G. R. Carter, *Memorial Committee's Report*, Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 1909 *Annual Report*, pp. 83 – 84, HMHA, Honolulu.
- <sup>20</sup> Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 1907 *Annual Report*, pp. 4 – 5, HMHA, Honolulu.
- <sup>21</sup> Mrs. R. W. Andrews, "The Old Mission House," 1907 *Annual Report*, p. 9; HMHA, Honolulu; Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 1908 *Annual Report*, pp. 3 – 4, HMHA, Honolulu.
- <sup>22</sup> Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 1914 *Annual Report*, pp. 4 – 6, 60 – 64, HMHA, Honolulu; Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 1918 *Annual Report*, 4 – 6, HMHA, Honolulu.
- <sup>23</sup> Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, *Fifty-Ninth Annual Report*, 1911: 4 – 5.
- <sup>24</sup> Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, *Sixtieth Annual Report*, 1912: 4 – 5; G. R. Carter reported on the removal of the buildings in "Memorial Committee's Report," Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 1909 *Annual Report*, pp. 83 – 87.
- <sup>25</sup> HEA Building Committee Minutes, November 17 and December 12, 1913, Mission Memorial Building Committee (MMB), November 1913 to December 1916, HMHA.
- <sup>26</sup> HEA Building Committee Minutes, January 9, 1914, MMB, November 1913 to December 1916; See letters January 9, 19, February 1, 4, 1914 and January 18, 1914 petition with twenty signatures in MMB, HMHA.
- <sup>27</sup> Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, *Sixty-Second Annual Report*, 1914: 4, Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, *Sixty-Third Annual Report*, 1915: 4 – 5, HMHA.
- <sup>28</sup> Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, *Sixty-Fourth Annual Report*, 1916: 3 – 4, HMHA.
- <sup>29</sup> Special Meeting of the Finance Committee Minutes (with Mayor Lester Petrie, J.D. McNerny and Gerald Corbett for City and County), December 2, 1943, MMB, HMHA.
- <sup>30</sup> S. N. Castle to E. C. Webster, January 24, 1944; Lester Petrie to Frank C. Atherton, January 27, 1944; Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, Held on March 7, 1944; Finance Committee of the Hawaiian Board of Missions Attending; E. C. Webster, President, HEA, to The President [Albert F. Judd] and Members of the Board of Management, April 7, 1944; A.B. Forbes, HMCS Board President, to E.C. Webster, HEA Board President, November 2, 1944, MMB, HMHA.
- <sup>31</sup> Board of the HEA to Wilford Godbold, July 19, 1945, MMB, HMHA.
- <sup>32</sup> Honolulu *Star Bulletin*, September 1945; Law 17671, Circuit Court of First Judicial Circuit; City and County vs. The Board of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association, S. N. Castle Estate, et. al., Newspaper clipping; Honolulu *Star Bulletin*, November 22, 1944, Newspaper clipping, MMB, HMHA.
- <sup>33</sup> C. Dudley Pratt, Stanley, Vitousek, Pratt & Winn to The Board of the HEA, October 17, 1945; Wilford D. Godbold, Deputy City Attorney to C. Dudley Pratt, October 17, 1945, MMB, HMHA.
- <sup>34</sup> Honolulu *Star Bulletin*, September 25, 1946, Newspaper clipping, MMB, HMHA.
- <sup>35</sup> Alice Herinrich, Secretary of Kaiulani Home For Girls to The Board of HEA, July 18, 1945; E. C. Webster, President HEA to Mrs. Sidney Winrich, Trustee of the Kaiulani Home for Girls, August 6, 1945; G. Nils Tavares, Attorney General of the Territory of Hawaii, October 15, 1846, E. No. 4574, Emilie Macfarlane, et. al vs. C. Nils Tavares, Attorney General, MMB, HMHA.
- <sup>36</sup> E. C. Webster, President, HEA to Mayor and Board of Supervisors, City and County of Honolulu, April 25, 1947; Report of the Committee on Finance to the Mayor, May 13, 1947, Report 1096, and adopted by Board of Supervisors; "May Approve Sale of Kapiolani Girls Home," September 1947, ND, Newspaper clipping, paper not identified), MMB, HMHA; E. C. Webster to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, September 11, 1947, MMB, HMHA.
- <sup>37</sup> Finance Committee Report to Mayor, No. 2498, September 30, 1947, MMB, HMHA.
- <sup>38</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee to Consider Mission Memorial Premises, October 1, 1947, HMHA.
- <sup>39</sup> Leon Sterling, Sr., City and County Clerk, Board of Supervisors, Honolulu, to E.C. Webster, President, HEA, October 8, 1947; Newspaper clipping, "Mission Memorial Lease Extended," October 6, 1947, paper not identified, MMB, HMHA.
- <sup>40</sup> E. C. Webster, HEA President to Walter Frear, October 24, 1947, Mission Memorial Premises; Mission Memorial Premises, December 2, 1943 to November 1947; MMB, HMHA.
- <sup>41</sup> *The Friend* CXVIII, 5, May 1948, HMHA.
- <sup>42</sup> *The Friend* CXXI, 11, November 1953, HMHA. 🌀

# History Can Happen Anywhere!

Here is great news for anyone who missed a Cemetery Pupu Theatre production: Hawaiian Mission Houses is pleased to present your opportunity to meet the characters “on demand.” These carefully researched, artfully scripted, fifteen- to twenty-minute monologues, can easily travel to your meeting, classroom, convention, or special party. You tell us which characters, themes, or topics are appropriate, and HMH will arrange for a historical figure or two in costume and character ready to make history come alive for your audience.



*Ethel Damon portrayed by Alicia Rice*

This June, for the first time, all four evenings of Cemetery Pupu Theatre sold out! Those who attended met people from days gone by who shaped the arts in today’s Hawai‘i, Johnny Noble and his ukulele-playing sidekick, Ethel Damon, Thomas Thrum, Emma Nakuina, and Nathaniel Emerson. Unique to this performance was the fact that these characters



*Mary Bishop Dowsett portrayed by Cecilia Fordham*



*Cherilla Lowrey portrayed by Karen Valasek*

knew each other and referred to each other in their presentations. We saw some of this last year, too, with Charles Sheldon Judd, Cherilla Lowrey, and Joseph C. F. Rock.

Originally developed and presented at the historical figure’s grave site, HMH created this signature program, Cemetery Pupu Theatre, as a kind of museum dinner theatre in a cemetery. Each year, a



*Joseph Rock portrayed by Zach Thomas Woods*

newly themed program takes us back to our shared history and allows us to “meet” people who have influenced Hawaiian history and hear their stories. With initial

*Captain Isaac Hart portrayed by Kevin Keavaney*



support from the Cooke Foundation and kōkua this year from the Hawaii Tourism Authority through the City and County of Honolulu, the scripts are researched and documented, making the program a dramatic performance of authenticated history.

*Simon Peter Kalama portrayed by Moses Goods (PHOTO: ANTHONY CONSILIO)*



This year’s *Muses of Hawai‘i* was preceded in 2015 by *Footprints on the Land*. In 2013, HMH created *Tales from the Sea*, and in 2014, *For the Sake of the Public Health*, each play presenting the stories of five people intimately involved in that year’s theme. The scripts are professionally written, and the play is directed and performed by acclaimed actors.

*Annie Alexander portrayed by Rasa Fournier (PHOTO: ANTHONY CONSILIO)*



Audiences have raved about the experience—and no wonder. It is a unique experience in Hawai‘i that combines good food, good conversation, and good theatre—in a cemetery! Who would you like to have visit your next occasion?

The full list of characters and associated fees is available on our website under Public Programs. 🌿



Ashley Alvarez, right, and her dad Charles, left, are pictured here with Victoria Judd Hill.

## Summer Brings Family Travel

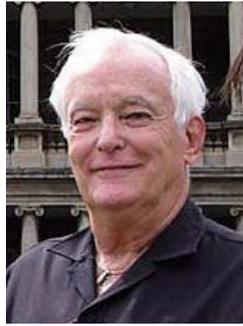
Cynthia and Warren Chamberlain visited Hawai'i in June as part of Cynthia's family reunion. They were able to plan ahead to carve out a few hours at HMH to share the Chamberlain story with son Branden before he heads off to college this fall.

The Alvarez family of Pearland, Texas brought Ashley on a "roots trip" as a high school graduation present to learn about her Judd heritage. They visited great-grandmother's niche at Oahu Cemetery, explored HMH, and met cousin Victoria Judd Hill at Cemetery Pupu Theatre that night.

Earlier the same day, Chamberlain descendants brought three generations to spend a few hours at HMH so that Julie Beadle Peters could tell stories of her own childhood on this campus to grandchildren Olivia and Kona.

With time to plan, HMH staff thoroughly enjoy these visits, sharing history as well as genealogy tidbits and often learning from the visitors as well. 🌺

*Plan now to attend the  
HMCS  
165th annual meeting,  
Saturday,  
April 22, 2017*



## Docent: Prof Willis H.A. Moore

Becoming a Docent for the Hawaiian Mission Houses is the "place to be" for this historian and history professor! Bishop Museum, and the Museum of Art, show items and artifacts demonstrating the genius of "ka po'e kahiko," (first people) in Hawai'i; the Hawaiian Mission Houses, however, provide an opportunity to reflect on Hawai'i nei (today)—how we got here and where we may be going. "The missionaries" are frequently "blamed" for many things; the actual stories of this remarkable group of dedicated folks and how they helped prepare, coach, and help nineteenth-century Hawai'i leaders in confronting a hostile world are truly exciting. From non-literate status in 1778, the Ali'i and people of Hawai'i managed to survive as a kingdom until 1893 and as a sovereign nation until 1898; today's "kanaka maoli," native Hawaiian people, are contemplating who and what they are—and the stories we share through the Mission Houses are part of this effort. Visitors to Hawai'i need to learn of this important chapter in the evolution of Hawai'i; the "mana" of actually walking the ground where the mikanele lived, prayed, and worked is deeply affecting. Local people especially must know "who the missionaries really were" and what they accomplished; they were from a distant and distinct culture to be sure, yet in helping Hawaiians to read and write, they created power to cope with the nineteenth-century. Hawaiians adopted, then adapted, their musical traditions, quilting, and more from missionary teachers.

*Professor Moore, teaches History and Political Science at Chaminade University of Honolulu and is the author of History of the Anglican and Episcopal Church in Hawai'i.*

## NEH Grant Supports Preservation

The business of conservation and preservation is a serious undertaking requiring expertise, careful planning, and substantial funding. Hawaiian Mission Houses was fortunate to secure a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for Collection Preservation Assessment to produce a report with recommendations for the care of the objects at HMH. With this document, staff can recommend priorities to the Board of Trustees and seek funding to implement the recommendations.

New Curator of Collections Elizabeth Pooloa guided conservator Linda Hee through the various storage areas while Executive Director Thomas Woods reviewed with her the revised collections management policies and manual developed over the past few years. Staffing and the environment were additional concerns addressed by the project.

In the final report, Ms. Hee offered this compliment of HMH: "These collections are the heart of the organization... Although there are many challenges, the collections are in good hands, and with assistance from the community, both local and national, will be here for many future generations."



## Elizabeth Pooloa, Curator of Object Collections

HMH welcomes Elizabeth Pooloa as Curator of Object Collections replacing Craig Schneider who was hired away to be Collections Manager for the U. S. Capitol. Ms. Pooloa, "Beth," was most recently Lending Collection Manager for the Honolulu Museum of Art School.

## Why We Matter

*Continued from page 2*

At the last board meeting we voted to adopt something called “The Value of History, Seven Ways it is Essential” a publication promulgated by The History Relevance Campaign of the American Association for State and Local History. I’d like to share with you a few of the seven ways, as I think they articulate beautifully why HMCS is an important organization in this time and place.

### For ourselves...

History nurtures personal identity in an intercultural world. History enables people to discover their own place in the stories of their families, communities and nation. They learn the stories of the many individuals and groups that have come before them and shaped the world in which they live. There are stories of freedom and equality, injustice and struggle, loss and achievement, courage and triumph. Through these varied stories they create systems of personal values that guide their approach to life and relationships with others.”

### For our communities...

History lays the groundwork for strong, resilient communities. No place really becomes a community until it is wrapped in human memory: family stories, tribal traditions, civic commemorations. No place is a community until it has awareness of its history. Our connections and commitment to one another are strengthened when we share stories and experiences.”

### For our future...

History helps people craft better solutions. At the heart of democracy is the practice of individuals coming together to express views and take action. By bringing history into discussions about contemporary issues, we can better understand the origins of and multiple perspectives on the challenges facing our communities and nation. This can clarify misperceptions, reveal complexities, and temper volatile viewpoints, open people to new possibilities and lead to more effective solutions for today’s challenges.

And one more out of the seven:

### History saved and preserved...

is the foundation for future generations. History is crucial to preserving democracy for the future by explaining our shared past. Through the preservation of authentic, meaningful places, documents, artifacts, images and stories, we leave a foundation upon which future Americans can build. Without the preservation of our histories, future citizens will have no grounding in what it means to be an American.

...And this is why Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives matters.

Thank you. 🌺

## HMH Partners with Kapiolani Community College

Internships at HMH are special partnerships in which students learn the practical aspects of their fields while helping the organization. Primarily from the University of Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Pacific University, and Kapiolani Community College, these young people have learned everything from how to conserve objects and record them in museum databases to the digitization of fragile documents for you to read online.

One of the least-mentioned internship programs at Hawaiian Mission Houses is in the Accounting Department where two students per semester are assisting our Accounting Manager Gabriela Bonilla while gaining experience in office systems and QuickBooks. Not-for-profit accounting has always been very specialized, and it is becoming even more so with each new law passed. Gabi shares her knowledge with the students, teaching them proper accounting techniques, as well as the need to work with others in a small shop such as HMH. Gabi herself is working to complete her special not-for-profit certificate from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and shares what she learns with students from Kapiolani Community College.

Serving on the Accounting Advisory Committee of the Business School at KCC, Gabi speaks to the students about what is involved in an internship. They come for an interview and then see if their own hours and interest in nonprofit work are a good fit before signing on to intern at HMH for the semester.

By the time the term ends, close bonds have been established, and Gabi’s interns often come back later to visit and share their successes. HMH is fortunate to have such wonderful partners. 🌺



## Huaka‘i

*Continued from page 1*

there was a flowering of Hawaiian language newspapers, and Hawai‘i took its place as one of the most literate nations in the world.

Reservations are a must for this special event and may be made online or by calling Development Director Mary Ann Lentz at 447-3922 (email: [mlentz@missionhouses.org](mailto:mlentz@missionhouses.org)) Tables seating up to ten people are \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$15,000. Some individual tickets will also be available at \$300. Auction donations are welcomed, too. Vintage as well as new Hawaiiana are a specialty at HMH. 🌺

# KALA MAI! Upside Down and Inside Out at HMH

Thanks to a \$552,000 Grant-In-Aid from the State Legislature—a first for this site, HMH is under construction this summer as we install a new climate control system for the archives and object storage room, completely rebuild the restrooms to update and make them handicap-accessible, repair and replace fencing, and restore the interior plaster in the 1841 Annex. In addition to state funds, the National Trust for Historic Preservation allocated \$5,000 from the Sam and Mary Cooke Preservation Fund for Hawaii towards the restoration of the 1841 Annex.

Through September, visitors to the Archives should email [jbarker@mission-houses.org](mailto:jbarker@mission-houses.org) to request research materials at least a day before they plan to use them on-site, as the Reading Room is now in the upstairs board room, and there will be some days with limited staff access to the archives' storage vault. Those on tours will miss the printing press this month while its interior is restored, and since one restroom is closed alternately for renovation, for a time, at least, we will have a single unisex bathroom—which can be locked when in use.

Many thanks to our legislators and the National Trust for this support! 🌿



*The conference room (above) is being used as a temporary reading room for both HMCS and Hawaiian Historical Society so that scholars such as David Forbes (at left) can continue their work. Chelsey Kim, a volunteer is at right and, John Barker, our archivist, is in the middle.*



*Maizie Sanford's archives have been fumigated and are safely shelved in new boxes.*



*Left and below, the 1841 Annex, where we tell the story of printing and literacy is having the plaster redone*

*The main reading room, above, of the library is swathed in plastic sheeting as ceiling, walls, and ducting are redone to accommodate a new climate control system and expand office space..*



*Above, the men's bathroom is awaits fixtures. Beyond just being ADA compliant, both bathrooms are having complete plumbing and finish renovations. At right, some of the patchwork of electrical/communications wiring that has been done over the years and, once exposed, is now fixed.*



## What is the gold NARM sticker about?

North American Reciprocal Museums allow HMH members at the \$100 level or above, family membership privileges at over eight hundred museums in North America. One needs to check their website and find out exactly what each museum allows or offers, and you may be pleasantly surprised!

According to HMH volunteer Charlene El-Swaify, "I visit the mainland twice a year traveling to Texas and California. Within a two-hour drive of Sacramento, I can visit twenty museums and public gardens. Within a four-hour drive of Austin, there are sixteen museums and gardens."

Charlene continued, "Of these I have visited the Blanton Museum of Art and Bob Bullock Texas History Museum in Austin. This NARM reciprocal admissions as part of my Hawaiian Mission Houses Friends and Family membership is just great!"

Get your gold sticker today and visit museums across the continent!

## Reflection and Rejuvenation: The Bicentennial Approaches

Two hundred years ago in New England young Hawaiians were inspiring Americans with the strength of their new belief in Christianity. The resulting commitment of dozens of young scholars to bringing a mission to Hawai'i will be reflected in a series of bicentennial anniversaries: in 2019 the anniversary of the departure of the Thaddeus from Boston; in 2020 the permission granted to disembark in Hawaii; and in years to come the arrivals of other companies to join the mission. At Hawaiian Mission Houses we hope that this reflection will lead to a rejuvenation as we explore the relationship between our ancestors, Hawaiian, and American.

Who were these young people who left their families, possibly forever, to carry their faith

to others? We have past versions of *The Missionary Album* but find that much new scholarship is

missing as are the stories of the Hawaiians and Tahitians who were an integral part of introducing literacy and Christianity to Hawai'i. Scholar and author David Forbes is re-visioning the album as *Missionary Biographies*, researching, and creating a new resource for all of us. This book will be part of one of the goals for the bicentennial: Build a resource base for the future that sustains and enhances this organization's mission and vision.

Another goal for the bicentennial is to bring national attention to the uniqueness of the relationship that occurred in the mid-nineteenth century between the missionaries and Hawaiian ali'i to cooperate on introducing literacy, Christianity, constitutional government, polyphonic music, and Western medicine, and the living legacy of that cooperation. The five-thread theme for the site is the blueprint

for reinterpretation, it guides the digitization of major works in the archives, and it is shared through new programming for the schools. Each thread needs full explanation, and the resulting book will include the cooperation, and reasons for it, that led to success and problems that followed.

Ideas in discussion for the bicentennial include the creation of a series of coordinated events with partners who recognize the significance of the historical cooperation and its legacies. A conference, a project exhibition with local content to change as it travels, curriculum (multi-media and project oriented), a lecture series, a timeline, and history theatre are possible. To succeed we need to cooperate with potential partners who were part of the historical cooperation.

Another of the goals set forth by the committee and adopted by the Board of Trustees is to "Build better understandings about how cooperative relationships were created that achieved these outcomes and how new cooperative relationships are needed today to address today's challenges."

Supporting the future is of course a part of the goal to "build a resource base for the future that sustains and enhances this organization's mission and vision." Wouldn't it be fun to build a twenty million dollar endowment for 2020? Realistically, a ten million dollar endowment would make a tremendous difference to this organization. We should also do a space needs study for future program needs, develop a capital building budget, and raise money to fund those needs.

So much to do and to plan as we work on Reflection and Rejuvenation. 🌀



## At the Annual Meeting



*Father and Son—Joseph LaRoche III and his father Joe, Holman descendants, traveled from California to enjoy the Annual Meeting weekend, captured here by Patricia Godfrey (Andrews, Thurston descendant). Pat brought her granddaughter Mehana Byrne, who enjoyed working on a needlework piece in the afternoon.*



*Christopher LeFebvre has this year's bell ringer, Marshall, on his lap, with wife, Lauren on the right.*



*New trustee and Kahu Fran Palama delivered the opening prayer.*



Mary Cooke (left) and her daughter Julie (right) with Executive Director Tom Woods.

Dave Smith, left, with Janet Cooke, her daughter Maile, and granddaughter Kalena.



## Join HMH today...

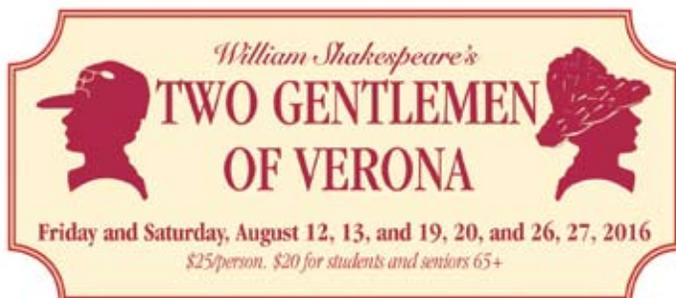
There are few things more important than educating our children. They are the future leaders who will make the world a better place. It is important that they learn about history, and the best way for them to do that is to learn in dramatic and interactive ways. Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives is doing this through new school programs.

When you become a Participating Member of HMH today, your support will help:

- reach more students in a single year than ever before;
- complete a major construction and repair project; and
- add significant resources to our online archives.

We are currently implementing new school programs which have reached twice as many students this spring as last year at this time. The year before we saw a 47% increase in the number of schools using our programs, and fifteen schools will have scholarships for admission and transportation this year.

Please join HMH today either by snail mail or online on our website. Each membership is a truly a gift in support of the ongoing work at HMH. 🌺



## Mahalo to our Supporters

Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives is dependent upon donor support. We sincerely thank the following who made contributions from February through May 2016.

### Major gifts

Jeremy and Michelle Baldwin for the Missionary Biographies project

LGA Foundation for the Missionary Biographies project in honor of Joseph Ballard Atherton

John and Junie Mist Sullivan to launch the "It's Our Turn" Campaign

Mrs. William R. Morris for operating support

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace W. Smith, Jr. for operating support

### Corporate Donors and Unrestricted Grants

Henry Lyman Greer Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation  
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 National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Hawaii

### For School Program Supplies

Hawaii State Society of National Society Colonial Daughters of the 17th Century  
 Hawaii State Society of Daughters of the American Colonists

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### Enrollments

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 Nan Guslander  
 Anne Fleishell Kelly  
 Mary Ann Alexander Lentz  
 Valerie Alvarez Porizek  
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### In honor of

Patsy Whittemore by Eleanor Latimer  
 Mary Ann Lentz by David Taylor

### In memory of

John & Elva Bishop by their son James B. Bishop  
 Phoebe Cooke FitzGerald by her daughter Mrs. Norman L. Dye  
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3002

Telephone: 808-447-3910  
Fax: 808-545-2280  
www.missionhouses.org  
info@missionhouses.org

#### Historic Site Hours

Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm

#### Archives Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 10 am to 4 pm

#### Mission Social Hall and Café

Tuesday – Saturday, 11 am to 2 pm  
Telephone: 447-3913

#### Admission

Historic House Tour: \$10  
Kama'āina, Military, Senior: \$8  
College student (with Valid ID): \$6  
17 years or under with parent: FREE  
Participating Members: FREE

#### Guided Tours

Chamberlain Exhibit, Printing Office,  
and 1821 Mission House  
Tue – Sat, 11 am, 12, 1, 2, 3 pm

#### Kama'āina 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 501(c)3  
not-for-profit organization founded in 1852.



### Upcoming Events

#### Letters from the Ali'i Symposium

Saturday, August 6, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
Luke Lecture Hall, Punahou School

#### Two Gentlemen of Verona by William Shakespeare

Friday and Saturday, August 12, 13, and  
19, 20, and 26, 27, 2016. Doors open  
at 6:30, performance at 7:00 p.m.

#### Huaka'i: A Musical Journey

Friday, September 9, 2016  
Reservations. Call (808) 447-3922.

#### Family Day Open House

Saturday, September 24, 2016  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### Nā Mele Aloha: Aloha 'Ohana

Saturday, October 15, 2016.  
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

#### Holiday Craft Fair

Saturday, November 26, 2016  
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#### City Lights Family Evening

Saturday, December 3, 2016  
from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Letters from the*

**ALI'I**  
SYMPOSIUM

**Saturday, August 6**  
**2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**

Luke Lecture Hall  
Wo International Center on the  
Punahou School campus

Discussion of an important  
collection of ali'i correspondence  
consisting of more than  
225 letters from about 35 different  
chiefs held at  
Hawaiian Mission Houses  
Archives

*Free and open*  
*to the public*

**For more information and to purchase  
tickets visit our website missionhouses.org  
or call 808-447-3926.**