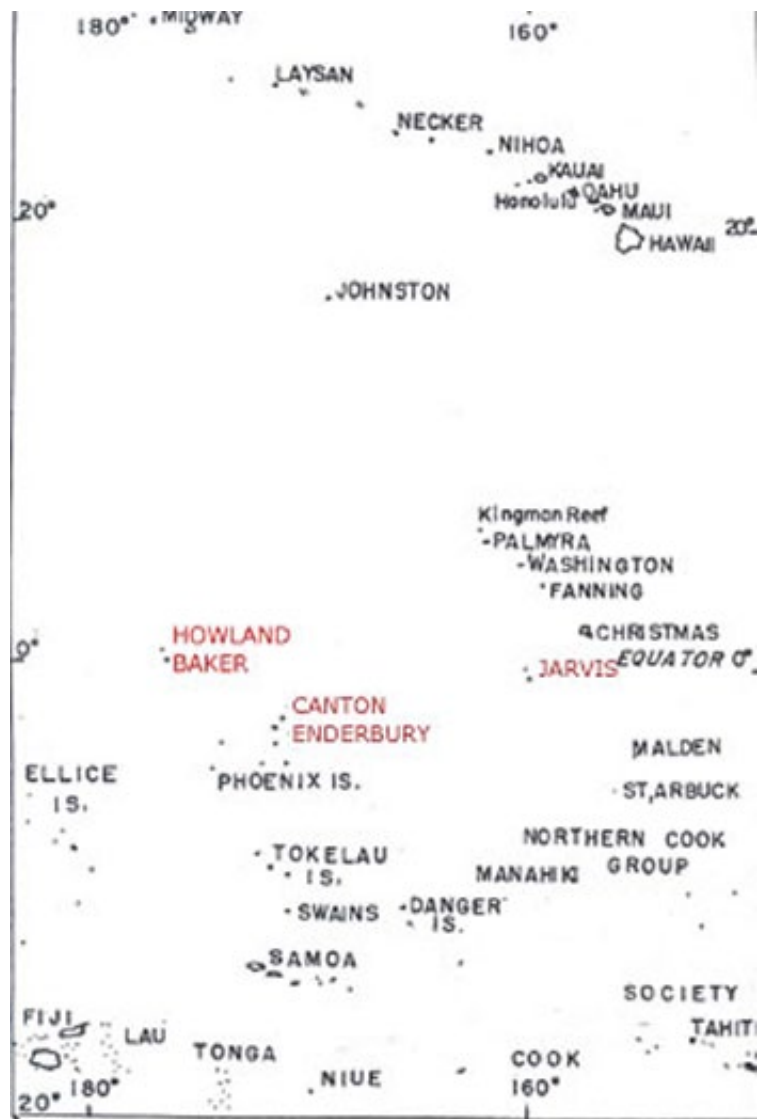


The Collection on Hui Panalā'au

KSA.1900.0001



Finding Aid

Kamehameha Schools Archives

Midkiff Learning Center
249 Konia Cir.
Honolulu, HI 96817

Collection Title: The Collection on Hui Panalā'au

Accession No.: KSA.1900.0001

Creator: Janet Zisk, Kamehameha Schools Archivist & Candace Lee, Assistant Archivist.

Extent: 2 linear feet
4 boxes
Approximately 84 items

Collection Summary: A collection of manuscripts, articles, correspondence, and photos regarding the Hui Panalā'au, society of colonists from the Equatorial (Line Islands) Colonization Project. The collection was collected by the Kamehameha Schools archivist and assistant archivist from various collections within the Kamehameha Schools Archives, including the Donald K. Mitchell collection, items donated from families, external repositories, and external publications.

Language: English

Processing Archivist(s): Originally processed by Candace Lee, Assistant Archivist. Reprocessed and updated in March 2023 by Aloha Paakaula.

Collection Description: The archivist and assistant archivist collected materials from *Ka Mō'ī*, the school newspaper, correspondence from student colonists and staff from Kamehameha Schools and the United States Army, journals and reports donated from families, reference materials, and items created and collected for the *Hui Panalā'au* Exhibit held at Bishop Museum and Midkiff Learning Center. Many items in the collection are copies of originals held in other repositories. The original location of those items are marked in the series descriptions. In 2002, a reception was held at Bishop Museum for original surviving Hui members and in 2003, a reinternment ceremony was held at Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery at Kāne'ōhe, O'ahu. The collection also includes copies of *Under a Jarvis Moon*, a film released in 2010 co-directed and co-produced by Noelle Kahanu, granddaughter of George Kahanu, Sr., one of the original student colonists.

Arrangement Description: Materials arranged into two series, Kamehameha Schools Materials and Reference Materials. Materials are then sorted into multiple subseries.

Bulk Dates: 1935-1944, 2002, 2003

Related Materials

The list below are collections at the Kamehameha Schools Archives:

James Carroll, KSB 1936 Collection

Kamehameha Schools Oral History Collection

Materials can also be found at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and Bishop Museum.

Using the Collection

ACCESS STATEMENT

Items are accessible during office hours and by appointment. Please contact the Kamehameha Schools Archives for details.

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PREFERRED CITATION

[ITEM DESCRIPTION], The Collection on Hui Panalā'au [DATE]

Kamehameha Schools, Honolulu, HI

Historical Note and Mo'olelo

A scientific expedition was proposed to Homer Barnes, Ph.D., Kamehameha Schools President by Kamehameha Schools and Bishop Museum Trustee Albert Judd. The Boys were offered a top-secret, paid three-month expedition to unknown remote islands where they would gather meteorological, biological and other data for Bishop Museum. To most it sounded like a working vacation considering the long summer ahead of them. Kamehameha School for Boys kumu Donald K. Mitchell, Ph.D. infrequently visited expedition sites to check on the Boys.

Military school training and trust in authority guided the Boys' decisions. The Boys told their parents what they knew, and their paycheck was deposited until their return. Only years later did they learn the true nature of their work. The last of the seven-year adventure required the ultimate tests of hardship, starvation, life and death choices, war and enemy invasion and death.

With a lifetime bond of hardship and secrecy, they formed their hui in 1939 and were only openly celebrated in 2002 with few survivors present when Noelle Kahanu, a granddaughter told of their courageous work through a Bishop Museum exhibit.

Background

The U.S. Secretary of Commerce in 1935 were interested in developing air routes across the Pacific from California to Australia requiring knowledge about the islands in the Pacific mentioned by an Australian aviator, Charles Kinsford-Smith. The Honolulu to Suva, Fiji route was least known. The Guano Act passed by the United States Congress on August 18, 1856 gave the U.S. unilateral possession of most of the small islands in the central Pacific. Half a dozen American companies mined guano for fertilizer between 1857 to 1877. Once depleted, the islands were abandoned. The British has tried to occupy the islands but abandoned the effort.

In 1935, the U.S. planned to colonize Jarvis, Howland and Baker islands. Expeditions to the three islands were led by William T. Miller of the Bureau of Air Commerce. His successes led to the participation of other government departments. Coast Guard cutters for transportation and supplies were paid by the Department of the Treasury. The U.S. Navy provided supplies, ship fuel, and thousands of gallons of water in fifty gallon drums. The U.S. Army built the camps, and supplied equipment and early personnel.

The colonization plan required that individuals live on the islands from six weeks to several months. This group might include one NCO, one cook, one first aid person, and two Hawaiians for fishing and boating. Because colonization was controversial and several nations were interested in claiming the islands, the plan was to be highly confidential.

The description of Jarvis, Howland and Baker Islands was that landing was difficult in calm seas and impossible in rough weather. According to a NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) observer, the isolated islands are only a few feet above sea level, covered with sand, coral, and a little brush with thousands of seabirds contributing to the smell of deep bird droppings, and continuous squawking. The equatorial climate is relentlessly hot and humid.

Albert F. Judd, a trustee of the Bishop Museum, considered it a wonderful opportunity for scientific exploration and Mr. Homer Barnes, President of the Kamehameha Schools would select six Hawaiians. Qualifications were that they were: 1) mature, 2)able to fish in the native manner, 3) able to swim excellently, 4) able to handle a boat, 5) disciplined, 6) friendly, 7) unmarried, 8)able to withstand hardship. In the end twelve enlisted men and six Hawaiians were selected for the first expedition. The second expedition replaced soldiers with Kamehameha Schools students as directed by U.S. government policy. The third expedition and the fourth were similar, but the fourth expedition was the last planned and colonists were given a short homestay in Sāmoa. This was the first phase of the "Department of Commerce expeditions of colonization."

When President Roosevelt annexed Jarvis, Baker and Howland Islands to the U.S., he ordered the re-colonization of the islands and the expeditions were to be a secret kept by all governmental agencies. The fifth expedition was similar to former expeditions. Jurisdiction was transferred from the Department of Commerce to the Department of the Interior. During the Sixth Cruise (formerly expedition) the camps were more permanent, radio communication and facilities were improved. After this, there were a total of 22 cruises and two emergency trips to Jarvis Island.

During the Twelfth Cruise on March 1938, colonists were placed on Canton and Enderbury Islands. On October 1940, the Department of the Interior was represented by the Pan American Airways manager. During 1941, two Howland island colonists were killed by strafing Japanese airplanes. All personnel were removed from the four islands on February 1942. (From *Panalā'au Memoirs* by E.H. Bryan, Jr., 1974.

Mo'olelo

Announcement

...Captain Meyer assembled us together. Staring at us for about five minutes he finally said, 'Boys, someday you're going to be mighty proud that you made this trip. Your names will go down in history. You're going to colonize and help establish claim of these islands for the United States government. These islands are going to be famous air bases in a route that will connect Australia with California.'

Of course this was unexpected but at the same time pleasing... (From a journal written by George West KSB 1935)

Kamehameha School for Boys

...The Kamehameha School for Boys had military uniforms and military discipline almost from the opening day and the students had many opportunities to practice self-discipline, to learn to respect orders, and to learn how to be leaders.

Faculty member Donald Kilolani Mitchell formed Hui 'Oiwi in the early 1930s...It was for those students interested in learning about Hawaiian culture...constructing a pili grass hale to learning fishing methods, to practicing Hawaiian games, it was an honoring of who they were that the students highly appreciated. Most of the Kamehameha boys who participated in the colonizing project were members...

Kamehameha Schools and its students became involved...in 1935 when William T. Miller of the Bureau of Air Commerce and Lieutenant Harold A. Meyer made an appointment to talk to Albert Judd. Mr. Judd was a trustee of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate, which supported the Kamehameha Schools and the Bishop Museum; at the time, the Estate and the Museum shared trustees.

In addition, Mr. Judd's father had been in charge of recruiting Hawaiian laborers for American guano mining operations on the same islands in the late 1800s....he would have Homer Barnes, Principal...select six suitable young men...They were Henry Ahia, Daniel Toomey, James Kamakaiwi, Killarney Opiopio, William Kaina and Abraham Piianaia.

Mr. Judd also offered the services of Edwin H. Bryan, Curator of the Museum Collections...to begin collecting information about the islands as well as natural history specimens for the Museum.

Kamehameha Schools alumni and 12 soldiers were aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Itasca when it left Honolulu...March 20, 1935. Two...alumni and three soldiers were left on each island with supplies and the promise that the Itasca would return in three months with personnel replacements and fresh supplies.... In a letter dated October 12, 1936 written...by now Captain Henry Meyer, he said of these...and replacement undergraduates: 'The duties performed by these men are severe. Isolated on a desert island...of only a few acres is per se, a strain. Under such conditions to be faithful in recording

weather observations, keeping detailed daily logs, collecting scientific specimens, cleaning landing fields, establishing effective camps, preserving food supplies and keeping up morale are real accomplishments...

I have been intimately associated with eleven classes at the U.S. Military Academy and feel that the representatives of your school measure up to the standard of selection insisted upon there...comment by Sergeant Austin Collins...who lived three months on Jarvis Islands,' In my twenty-one years of Service in all parts of the world I have never been associated with a finer group of men.'

This recognition and praise for several dozen Kamehameha students who took part in securing these Equatorial islands as United States possessions was consistent through the seven years of this...project. From the Bishop Museum exhibit brochure by Mrs. Janet Zisk, Kamehameha Schools Archivist (1992-2013)

The Colonizers

Membership information is from a typewritten roster.

Legend

Names in bold = Hui O Panalā'au members, primarily Kamehameha Schools alumni

Number=cruise expedition number, about 4 months on an island. The more numbers, the longer the stay.

s=spare person on the cruise expedition to replace anyone

L or Leader=Leader of the island expedition group

italics=commanding officer, army personnel, teacher Dr. Mitchell

Ah Nee, Charley	Faufata, Folinga 3,7	Kinney, James -Leader 12,13,15,16,17,18,19	Rahe, Bernard 15s,16,17
Ahia, Charley 7,8,10L,11L	Fialkowski, Henry 14,15L	Leong, Ah Kin 6,7,9,10,11,13,14	Rankin, Ernest W. 21
Ahia, Henry B. 1,2L,3L,5L	Hall, Bernard 23,24	Lum, Harold 7	Roberts, John 13,14
Akana, Albert -Leader Jr.7,8,9,11,12	Hailii, Jacob 3,4,6,7,10s,12,13	Lum, Kum 9s	Roberts, Oliver 17s,18,19,20
Akana, Bernard – Leader 14,15	Harbottle, Issac Jr. 16	Lum, Paul Yat 7,8,10	Ruddles, James 19s
Akana, George 13, 15L	Harris, Arthur 2s,	Lum, Yau Pai 6,8,9,10,12	Riley, James 22,23,24
Akana, John	Hartwell, David 18, 19, 20,21,23,24	Lum-King, Kenneth 11,12	Robinson, Alexander 16,17
Akana, Lewellyn 15s	Henderson, Waldron 18,19,20,21	Lee, Francis 14L,15,16	Smith, Henry 18,19,20,21
Akana, Theodore 10,11L,12L	Hooper, Herbert 3, 4L,	Lee, Frederick 5,13,14,16	Sproat, Manuel 6
Anakalea, Joe 4L,6,7,10,11,12	Hutchinson, William 15	Lee, Henry Kong 13,14,15,17,18,19L,20L, 21L, 22	Stillman, Francis 14,15,16,17L,19
Anahu, Bill 2	Jensen, Karl	Lieson, Robert W.	Stillman, George 20

	18s,19,20,21,22,23,24	18,19,20	
Au, Charles 16,17	Jensen, Hans 16,17,18,21,22L	MacKellar, Ian 15, 16,17,18	Suares, Louis - Leader 15,16,17,18,19,20
Beatty, Rupert 15,16	Kaahea, Henry 12,13	Mahikia, Henry 4	Stein, Charles 16,17,18L,19L
Bederman, Thomas 16,17,19,21L,22L,23L,24L	Kahalewai, Sam 13,15,16	Mattson, Elvin K. 22,23,24	Stein, James
Bell, Kenneth 5	Kahalewai, Carl 10s,13	Markham, Stewart 5	Tavares, William 7,8,9,11,12,14L,15
Blake, Hartwell 5	Kahanu, George 4s,5	McCorrison, Edward Mike 12,13L,15,18L,19L,20L,22L	Toomey, Daniel K. 1,2,3
Boyd, Andrew 14,15	Kahapea, Alexander 4	McCorrison, Thomas 16L	Toomey, John 18,19,20
Brahn, J.F. 23, 24	Kahapea, William 19s	Medeiros, Henry 12,13	Toomey, William 2
Braun, Charles 14L	Kaina, William 1,2,3,5,6,8,9,10L	Makua, Blue 22,23,24	Towill, Henslee
Braun, Clarence 13	Kalama, David 17,18,19,20,	<i>Meyer, Col. H.A.</i> 1,2,3,4,5	Victor, Gabriel 7,8,9
Burke, Eugene 7,8,9,11,12,14,15L	Kalama, Samuel 2	<i>Mitchell, Donald D.</i>	Waiwaiole, Luther 4,14,15
Burke, Walter 16s,22L,23L,24L	Kalama, Solomon 1,4, 6L,7,10	<i>Norwood, Bill</i>	West, George 2
Bush, Harry 13s	Kamakaiwi, James 1,2L,3L,5L,7L,8L,9L,12L,13L,14L	Ohumukini, Henry 4	Whaley, Richard 22,23 killed
<i>Bryan, Edwin</i>	Kaninau, Charles 5s,11,12	Opiopio, Killarney 1,2,3, 5,6L	Wilhelm, Fred 14,16,17
Calley, C.D.Jr. 14	Kauahikaua, Archie 3,4	Pacquette, Maurice 16,17L	Williamson, Elmer 2s,10,11
Carroll, James 4s	Kaulu, Albert 21, 22	Phillips, Manuel 16,21	Wong, Alexander 12,13L,14
Chang, Herbert 11,12,13,13	Keliihanani, Joseph 18s,19,20,21,22,23 killed	Phillips, Paul 22,23,24	Wood, Joshua 13
Ching, Archie 2	<i>Kenner, Betty</i>	Phillips, Woodrow 18,19	Whaley, Bill
Ching, Lawrence 14,15,17,18,19,20	Kepoo, Joseph 19,20,21,22,23,24	Paoa, Melvin 14,15,16,18,20s,22s	Yomes, William 4,6
Cockett, Frank 2	Kilbey, John C. 21,22	Pea, Aki Kini Levi 5,9,10,14,15	Young, Edward 3, 4L,5,6,8,9

Cockett, Herbert 5s	Kim, Bak Sung 8,9	Pea, William 16,17,18,20s,21,	Zagara, D.P. 18, 19,21
Coyle, James .23,24	Kim, Harold 12L,13L,16L,17L,18L	Piianaia, Abraham 1,2L,3L,5L,6L,16passenger	
Crowden, Lawrence 15	Kim, Joseph 4,6,8L,9L,10L	Pires, Manuel 12,13,14	
<i>Dippen, Clyde B.</i>	Kim, Victor	Renken, E.H. 22	
<i>Fasik, Theodore</i>	Knell, Henry K. 21	Pease, James 23,24	

Pioneering on Jarvis

by George N. West, Kamehameha School for Boys, Class of 1935

...My high school days were drawing to a close. What an uneventful four years I thought, no athletic honors, no glories, no hope of ever going to college-- just memories. Suddenly, I was called into the principal's office...I was given was a description of what I thought a purely scientific expedition. I was asked if I cared to live for six months on an equatorial island on which the sun struck unmercifully. It was uninhabited, scarcely above the ocean, flat as a pancake, a pin point on the map, and miles away from civilization. I was to receive pay and my duties were to assist the mature men of the expedition.

The description of the island I must admit scared me a little. But upon being told that the project was being sponsored by the United States Government, I became less afraid. Naturally, I agreed to go. We were to leave on a government ship and it was scheduled to leave in six days. In the meanwhile, the principal had asked five other boys if they cared to go. They were all recent graduates of the same school I was attending. The other mature men I later found out were to be noncommissioned officers of the United States Army. The expedition concerned three islands and the party was to be made up of fifteen men. Three soldiers for each island and two of us young fellows for each group. Before departure a physical examination and an interview with the assistant-in -charge was required. I had no fear of passing the physical examination but I was afraid of my size. Being only slightly more than five feet in height and small in stature I was quite a contrast with the other members of the party.

The day of the interview came. I remember it vividly. I was never so greatly disappointed...With these opening words of his, "size is the controlling factor..." I knew my hunch was true. I was to be eliminated. With moisten eyes and a broken spirit I left the room...

Naturally, I found it difficult trying to forget, but believe-it-or-not, opportunity knocked twice. Just three days after graduation, I was again asked to join the expedition. And this time I was told that there would be no question about my eligibility....

Preparation

A discussion with the Bishop Museum authorities followed. We were given a

further description of the three islands and supplied with a scientific outfit for each island. We were asked to skin birds, to collect insects, plants, shells, and marine life. Then came the physical examinations. Everybody passed with exception that one boy had to have a tooth pulled. We spent two days loading provisions on the United States Coast Guard Cutter, Itasca. Loading such perishables as apples, oranges, eggs, potatoes, onions, and cookies. And such canned foods as, corn-beef, hard tack, chicken, bacon, ham, spinach, corn, beets, and other vegetables. We had everything in the way of clothing, fishing equipment, camping equipment, first aid, amusement facilities, tobacco and cigarettes of every brand--in boxes containing fifty cartons. We didn't miss a thing. Our water supply was brought in sterilized oil drums. Each drum held 55 gallons and each island received fifteen drums.

The cruise

On June 9, 1935 at eight o'clock the Itasca sailed out of Honolulu harbor. No publicity was given to our expedition. Only close friends were there to bid farewell. There seemed to be a sort of secrecy attached to our departure. To us, there was nothing mysterious about collecting natural specimens and yet we could not understand what the ultimate purpose of the trip was. Two days out at sea and everything was finally made clear. Captain Meyer assembled us together. Staring at us for about five minutes he finally said, "Boys, someday you're going to be might proud that you made this trip. Your name will go down in history. You're going to colonize and help establish claim of three islands for the United States government. These islands are going to be famous air bases in a route that will connect Australia with California."

Of course, this was unexpected but at the same time pleasing. Before we could say anything Capt. Meyer went on to say, " Your first purpose is simply to live on these islands and to keep a log of the daily occurrences faithfully. Then we are requiring you to keep a daily weather report. You are to describe the cloud conditions, to read the barometer, the thermometer, and to record the wind velocity. These duties are to be done every hour during the day and every three hours during the night. You are also to find a suitable spot for a landing field, to mark the area, and to improve the field day by day. You have already received instructions for your scientific work. That you may pursue at your own leisure."

Two more days of smooth sailing and then came our first stop...Palmyra is an atoll of 52 islets...We departed...that evening...and had for supper seven different kinds of real good eating fish...It is an old sea custom for every ship crossing the equator to have a King Neptune party...On the night before actual crossing, Davy Jones comes aboard by the bow of the ship and issues subpoenas to all polliwogs (those crossing the equator for the first time) ordering them to appear before the high tribunal of King Neptune. The next day...his royal escort comes aboard...dressed in costumes depicting their professions consisting of policemen, a lawyer...with paddle sticks. Each polliwog is charged with some offense...such as getting seasick too often...Then the victim gets a dose of soap and water, his head is shaved, he is ducked under water, and finally sent to the long line of waiting persecutors. At the end of the ceremony the victim receives a document signed by the commander of the ship certifying that he has been initiated into the mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep and is now a trusty shellback.

No sooner was this party over when a cry swept the ship that Jarvis island had been sighted...I must say that the first sight of it was sickening. All I could see was a bumpy piece of white sand, glaring in the sun, and scarcely

above the ocean. I could even see the ocean on the other side of the island for miles beyond...."My home for three months, " I said to myself, "maybe six, who knows?"

Landing and a change of plans

By reason of being one of the future inhabitants of Jarvis Island, we were accorded the privilege of going ashore with the official landing party. We were greeted by five men beaming with enthusiasm. They were Austin Collins, leader of the group, Wieman Graf, Edward Aune, and the two Hawaiian boys, Henry Ahia and Daniel Toomey. These men...were among the fifteen who secretly left Honolulu on March 19 and had been living on Jarvis since the 26th. They were all looking happy and healthy. During a following conference it was learned that the soldiers were to be taken off and that the two Hawaiian boys had decided to remain. The new colony was now to consist of Daniel Toomey, Frank Cockett, and myself, with Henry Ahia as leader. The rest of the day was spent in unloading the supplies and provisions. About three o'clock in the afternoon, the crew and passengers of the Itasca could be seen walking all sections of the island, making Jarvis look like a real city. At four o'clock the Itasca departed...Dinner time found the four of us around a table--hundreds of mice running around in all directions...

Adjusting to island life

It took Frank Cockett and myself two weeks to get adjusted to the climate. The glare of the sun on the white sand is blinding, we had to wear goggles every day, and the heat is terrific. It seems to take the sap out of you and gives you a tired and worn feeling. We did not do much work at this time except to log the weather and to study our physical environment.

History, natural history, geography, flora and fauna

Jarvis Island is supposed to have been discovered by Capt. Brown of the English Ship "Elisa Francis" in 1821. It is 1600 miles southwest of Honolulu and a 1000 miles east of Baker and Howland Islands. Baker and Howland are only 37 miles apart and the equator separates them. Jarvis is saucer-shaped with a beach rim enclosing a basin. It is a couple of miles long and mile wide having a total area of 1.66 square miles. It takes 20 minutes to walk across Jarvis and two and a half hours around it. Its highest elevation is 20 feet and its lowest is five. There is very little rainfall on Jarvis and vegetation is sparse, reading a height of eight inches at the most. There are mostly pigweed, and puncture vine, with wiry bunch grass most abundant on the beach rims. There is only one tree...a stunted coconut palm obviously planted...Birds are numerous...four distinct types, the Booby or Gannet, the Boatswain Marlin, the Frigate or Man O' War Hawk, and the Love or Tern birds. Together they number about six-hundred thousand...All of these birds subsist on fish...In the 1870s and 1880s, people used to live on Jarvis...engaged in removing guano. So much of the best ...was removed that in 1889 when Great Britain took over the island it found the industry no longer profitable. Since then no one has lived on Jarvis up until March 1935...All over...are evidences of former occupation. On the northwest landing is a four-sided beacon 85 feet high. Near here are foundations of three or four houses, a brick-lined cistern, a large tank, a rusty windlass, an old furnace made of bricks, the wheels of an old tramcar, and a tram line leading to the guano diggings in the center of the island...

Also on Jarvis on the southwest end is the wreck of the barkentine Amaranth of San Francisco which went aground in the year 1913 with all hands lost...The waves have washed away the bottom but the hull is deeply embedded

in the sand...Near this scene can be seen the fading mounds of six graves and towards the guano diggings are more graves...

Island life begins

After two weeks of studying and visiting on Jarvis, life actually began. We approached matters in a more serious vein and did some construction work. The duty of keeping the daily log was assigned to me. Besides the duties of weather reporting, we spent the following months collecting insects, shells, marine life, and plants. Incidentally, Wieman Graf, of the other group discovered a plant heretofore unknown to the botanical world. We also worked on the landing field, improving it at odd times. We made maps of Jarvis Island, skinned birds, and made a written study of bird life. In the way of pastime, we made a raft out of the wreckage of the Amaranth for deep sea fishing and enlarged a cottage which had been built entirely by Austin Collins. The roof of the cottage was our most constant problem. No matter how little it rained, the roof leaked so terribly that we had to set up in the middle of the night and move back into the tents. We finally used wax paper and made the roof almost 90% rainproof, but the wind often tore the paper to shreds. Around the cottage we built brick-lined roadways and made gardens. Gardens which never bore fruit except a bunch of hollow radish giving food for one meal. An outdoor gym consisted of a chinning bar, dumbbells, and a boxing arena were also constructed. We took exercises every afternoon at five.

Fishing and other marine adventures

Our most popular diversion was fishing. Jarvis ...is a fisherman's paradise...We went fishing whenever the impulse took us, sometimes four or five times a day. To catch fish we either used nets, hook and line, or dived under water to shoot fish with iron spears. The latter was the...[best]...method because it takes skill and it was a kind of untiring fun. The reef is "lousy" with lobsters. One night we caught nearly a sack full. For meat we relied on turtles. Turtle meat is, to me, almost the same as cattle meat. One day, we caught a five-hundred pound turtle. The day before, we discovered turtle tracks on the beach. Coming back that very night we found a turtle crawling on land. Turtles come to land to lay their eggs. They lay hundreds of them at a time--that look like golf balls. We turned this turtle on its back...and came back the next morning for the rewards of our labor. That day we had delicious turtle soup, turtle steak, and plenty of lobsters. I don't think I ever enjoyed a meal so much as that one. We dried the remaining turtle meat in the sun and had enough dried meat until the next turtle came along.

Sometimes we would spend the whole day hooking sharks just for the fun of it. We'd either stun them and throw them back or extract their jaws for ornamental purposes. On the door of our cottage we hung a shark jaw and every time a larger shark jaw was found the old one would be discarded. It was a sort of game that we kept up.

Shark

A strange thing we discovered about the shark is that they have skins that are so tough that it is practically impossible to pierce them. About the only place that can be pierced is the throat. The ocean...the South Seas for that matter is literally infested with sharks. They love warm water. Sharks have a very keen sense of smell, so much so that a piece of fish bait will attract a school of them in five minutes. They grow to be as much as 14 feet long. These several-finned man eating creatures are treacherous when in deepwater,

vicious when hungry, and furious when blood-teased But strange as it may seem, they are just as much afraid of humans as humans are of them. There are two or three ways of frightening them away. One is to splash the water vigorously. Another is to throw stones or coral at them. However, none are effective in deep water. We have gone swimming with sharks only 50 yards from us and have thought nothing of it. We learned that in shallow water (we swam only around the reef) sharks will seldom every try to attack. Besides we always had the advantage. We can tell the approach of a shark by its fins and can usually get out of the water before it can reach us. But strange again, no matter where the place a shark will almost always attack a lone swimmer.

The sharks gave us plenty to worry about. One morning I was wading through the reef holding a bleeding fish which I had just speared by the tail. Suddenly I felt a heavy jerk. Turning around I saw a good size shark splashing away. I soon discovered that in my hand was only the tail of what had been fish. It had bit the fish right clean up to my fist. I was brushing my teeth one evening just at the fall of night when, like the explosion of a firecracker, I heard two voices shout at me. I understood what the voices said and jumped out of the water just in time to see a shark close its jaws. Whew! Escapes from sharks were many. I must tell you about one of the noblest acts of bravery I've ever seen. On September 1st we had a visiting ship--an auxiliary schooner. All of the crew was ashore and only the engineer was on board. Ships coming to Jarvis cannot anchor. This one was drifting. Late that afternoon, a rowboat, the only means of conveyance, was drifting out to sea with the current, leaving the captain and crew terrified. In that very area of the drifting boat were sharks. Without one thought of self-preservation, Daniel Toomey swam out and rescued the boat while the rest of us looked on helplessly. Another act of bravery was shown by Henry Ahia. The physician of the Itasca had become so engrossed in his fishing that he forgot about the dangers of the reef until he was sucked off the reef by an outgoing wave. His cries were weak but fortunately they were heard. Ahia swam out and rescued him. In a very short time that very scene became a mecca of sharks. The doctor, pale and frigid, lay unconscious for several minutes.

Night life

We of Jarvis have had our tense moments--but life was not always so. We have been happy as well as troubled. The nights on Jarvis are beautiful and cool. We used to sit out in the moonlight and sing until late. Most of the time we sat up and played cards until midnight. Then we'd go torching, returning at three o'clock we would have roasted lobsters and fish before finally going to bed at five a.m. That was our night life. We also spent the nights reading. In two months we read everything on the island except a medical book. For a lighting system we had dry cells.

Illness

Ahia...his temperature went up as high as 105 degrees. There is a complete medical kit on the island, but in this incident knowledge of the thing to do was lacking...luckily he recovered. Our only immediate fear was sharks. If anyone was unfortunate enough to be bitten it meant a great loss of blood and probable death.

Stingrays

...our first sight of Stingrays, sometimes called Stingarees, or Sea Bats. At the head of the landing channel every afternoon at four, we used to see sparkling fins swaying above the surface. One day we became especially curious. Drifting out on our raft we soon got in the thick of it. What I saw

there and the kind of fear that gripped me I'll remember as long as memory serves. I had never seen a stingaree but had always know that they were dangerous. Black as ever on the surface and white under the body, they were shaped like bats with their wings outstretched. From tip to tip the wing-like fins measured about eight feet. They possess a whip-like tail with sharply barbed spines that are capable of inflicting severe wounds. Swimming around us they created whirlpools, rocked the raft, and splashed water all over. Cockett and I didn't have to think, instinctively we got down on our hands and knees and clutched the raft for dear life. Fortunately, the raft was fastened to a long rope and we were soon pulled in.

Porpoises

August 6...On this very afternoon while working, we were stopped by the sight of the ocean covered with leaping porpoises. From one corner of the eye to the other and as far out towards the horizon all we could see were scattered porpoises moving rhythmically in the same direction...reminding one of a grand military review. They were probably migrating. ...off hand I would say there were about five-hundred thousand...

Visitors and a radio and transmitter

August 14...a steamer...turned around and slowly drifted away...That was the first sign of civilization we have had since June 15 Had this ship arrived a day later it would have seen the American flag over our camp...September 1...I was sitting on a rock facing the sea--lord of all I surveyed. IN the distant horizon I saw a tiny white object...a sailing ship...We knew no one that came ashore in the first boat, but we greeted them just like old friends would. Once on board the ship we went directly to the mail bag, eagerly read our letters and finally tried again the taste of gum, candies, and other sweets. In the following moments, we learned that we were on board the auxiliary yacht Kinkajou. It had just come from Howland and...had taken 23 days to get to Jarvis...it was leaving a party of two men assigned to make a guano survey. It had also left men on Baker and Howland... headed by Dr. Dana Coman of Johns Hopkins University...one of the members of Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Expedition...Before her departure the Kinkajou left a complete radio outfit, receiver and transmitter...it was a real thrill to hear modern music and the current news of the world.. We kept a regular schedule with Honolulu and thereby managed to hear from close friends and relative in actual voice. .

Those long weeks of solitude and seeming exile were gone. At the turn of the switch we found the world at our feet...We called San Francisco for the correct time and at eight thirty Howland Island would come chirping in faithfully. Howland once reported a funny incident. The boys had been spending about two weeks making a football field. They had to carry bags and bags of sand inland and it was hard work. When the four well-deserving boys went to inflate the football...the bladder blew up.

On September 15, the Itasca finally returned...Taking time only to unload supplies and provisions, the Itasca departed that same afternoon. Desiring to continue our education, Cockett and I were relieved, but Ahia and Toomey remained for another three months. Leaving with the Itasca on the 15th, we arrived at Baker three days later...We left Baker that evening and arrived at Howland the next morning. ON these two island, we relieved more boys and left more provisions. The camps on Baker and Howland were in a much improved condition...On baker they had an attractive terrace leading up to a beautiful lawn. On the lawn stood an old cannon and behind it the lofty flagpole. On

Howland, there was a long stone wall in the center of which was a wide entrance flanked by two four-sided columns standing about six feet in height. On one of the columns hung a sign which read, "Kuu Home." In Hawaiian, it means, Home Sweet Home. The roadway leads directly to the camp center and within the same stood the football field and an outdoor gym.

The Itasca finally reached Honolulu on September 25. After a month I was fortunate to make a trip again with the Itasca to San Francisco. During maneuvers off the coast of California, we received special orders to go back half way to Honolulu and standby for emergency. At...[this]...point, we witnessed the first flight of the China Clipper to Hawaii. This also inaugurated the first Trans-Pacific Air Mail Flight. This experience marked the culmination of all associations I have had with the Itasca and the colonization project of Jarvis, Baker and Howland Islands...

[No one tells a better story than from personal experience. Excerpts are taken from a copy of a manuscript given to the University of Hawai'i Library in 1977 by his widow upon the death of George Nuuanu West, a writer for the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*. Headings are added for reading ease. Photo credit: *The Literary Digest*, January 23, 1937, p.

1942, the bitter end

Sunday, Dec. 7, [1941] was just like any other day to us until 6 in the afternoon...In the morning we took the weather as usual but...were unable to get Canton and we didn't want to bother Honolulu. Meanwhile we had given the news of the war by radio to the four weather observers stationed at Baker Island only 35 miles away. Toward noon all four of us were down on the beach, cleaning fish and putting them out to dry. Suddenly Joe Keliihananui looked up and saw 14 twin-engined bombers flying in high from the north west. They didn't look like American planes and they came from the wrong direction. Acting on a hunch that something was wrong, we all ran to the high spot (about 20 ft. above sea level) in the center of the island. There was a low grove of dead and decaying kou trees which partially camouflaged us Joe and Dick Whaley went together, while Elvin Mattson and I stayed together.



Approaching Howland Island by sea.
Photo taken before December 7, 1941

From a height of about 10,000 ft. the bombers let us have it. They dropped about 20 bombs, then turned and came back over the islands, dropping some ten more. The explosions shook the ground under our feet and the smoke concealed almost everything from our view. Mattson thought he heard a scream, but we couldn't be sure...we didn't have as much as a single revolver. Mattson and I lay flat in a clump of bushes 100 ft. from where Joe and Dick were hiding. As we watched, three Jap planes came in lower than before, machine-gunning the Government buildings and the radio station.

When the planes finally left, Mattson and I walked over to where Dick and Joe were lying. They had been badly hit. They were both hurt in the legs and one had a chest wound and a hole in his back. We were going to fix up a place to put them, but by the time we got something arranged, they were dead.

That night Mattson and I were not going to take any chances of getting caught in the building if the Japs should come bombing again. We got our blankets and clothes and slept out in the open.

Two days later the Japs did come again. This time it was a submarine. We saw it at 2 in the morning. It was a dark night, with a light rain and no moon. We could see this dark gray shadow, looking big and sinister, just outside the reef. We knew that as soon as dawn came we were in for trouble. To make ourselves as safe as possible, we fled that night to the other side of the island, away from the buildings, and there dug a dirt trench two and one-half feet deep, camouflaged with grass. We hoped the submarine would not spot us. At 7 in the morning the sub started shelling. What looked like shells from 3- and 5-in. guns crashed into the sides of the buildings, knocking down all our radio apparatus and putting the weather station out of business for good. We expected sailors from the sub to land but they never did. By noon they had left and we were alone again.

Then we had the problem of getting enough food and water to live on. I guess we were pretty lucky. We caught enough rain water to prevent us from getting very thirsty and there was still canned corned beef, pork and a few canned vegetables left in the ruins of the Government buildings. To get some variety we continued to go fishing and we developed a special fondness for wild birds, especially young terns which could be caught by simply walking up to them and grabbing them. Our matches we protected by hiding them in several secret spots around the island. On Christmas and New Year's Day we had special treats. Originally there had been five chickens on the island but three of them had been killed by the bombing and shelling. We ate the other two on Christmas and New Year's to help celebrate the holidays and to remind us of what we were missing at home.

By Jan. 1, nearly a month after the first bombing attack, we were convinced that we were in the middle of this war's no man's land and that we would probably have to stay there for the duration. On Jan. 5, we have some more excitement. A big four-motored Jap bomber came in at about 12,000 ft. and dropped bombs near the buildings. At the time we happened to be nearby, looking for food. By the time the bomber had turned and was coming back to drop more bombs, however, we had quickly hurried to the other side of the island where our dugout was still located. Then what looked like the same bomber returned on Jan. 24 and dropped more sticks of bombs, we were safe in the dugout.

After Jan. 5, when we saw that bombers were likely to return at any minute, we stayed hidden all day long in our dugout. There we played checkers, read and slept. At night we would go back to camp for dinner by the stove, which was still intact, then lay our mattresses out in the open and sleep there. We never lit any lights of any kind at night.

Then came the morning of Jan. 31. Just after dawn on the west side of the island, we saw a dark gray destroyer...over the horizon. We couldn't be sure what nationality it was but we imagined it was Japanese...a landing party to seize the island formally. A half hour later we saw the landing party...We watched them for awhile and then knowing they would find us sooner or later, decided to give ourselves up to them. When we were within 100 feet my heart gave a terrific jump and I was happy for the first time in many weeks. They were...Americans. A few minutes later Mattson and I were taken aboard the American destroyer...

By noon that day the destroyer was off Baker Island, where in spite of a heavy pounding surf we rescued the four boys who had been marooned there since war started. All six of us were thirsty, hungry and almost naked. When we finally landed in Hawaii, our families thought we were risen from the dead.

"Howland Island Rescue: Destroyer saves two after 53-day marooning" by Thomas Bederman, *Life Magazine*, March 9, 1942, pp. 55, 57, 58, 60.

Kamehameha Schools 2002 reception to honor the service of the Hui



Samuel Kalama '37, Kenneth Bell '35, James Carroll '37, Arthur Harris '37, George Kahanu '37



Dr. Michael Chun, President and Headmaster of the Kapalama Campus, greets the surviving members of the hui.



Above: Friends and family gather for the ho'okipa.



Above: **Janet Zisk**, Kamehameha Schools Archivist (1992-2013), organized the reception and worked to bring the exhibit to the Kapalama campus. She thanks participants and those who made this event possible



Above: **Noelle Kahanu**, granddaughter of George Kahanu '37, is the originator of the Bishop Museum exhibit.

COLLECTION ON HUI PANALA'AU
SERIES

Series 1: Kamehameha Schools Materials

Subseries 1-A		Ka Mō'i Articles, 1935 – 1944		
Date	Vol	No	Pg	Article Title
9/13/1935	13	1	1	Itasca Departs with Kam Boys for South
9/13/1935	13	1	2	Don Mitchell relates journey to Jarvis, Baker and Howland
9/13/1935	13	1	3	Twelve Kam people are inhabitants of Islands on Equator
9/20/1935	13	2	1	Boys from Kam are on Itasca expedition
9/27/1935	13	3	1	"Islanders" return home
9/27/1935	13	3	3	Letters from boys at various islands given to Kam reporter
9/27/1935	13	3	3	Louis Suares, Arthur Harris and one Kam grad to south seas
10/4/1935	13	4	1	Returned Equatorial Colonists (Photo)
10/4/1935	13	4	3	Kam boys speak on Equatorial expedition to Southern Islands
11/8/1935	13	9	1	Kam boys leave Jarvis, Howland and Baker Isles
1/17/1936	13	14	1	Back from the South Seas (Photo)
1/17/1936	13	14	1	Account given by Dr. Dana Coman on trip to Equatorial Isles
1/17/1936	13	14	3	Harris and Suares return with information of Pacific Islands
1/24/1936	13	15	3	Jarvis, Howland and Baker Isles are described by Kam students
1/24/1936	13	15	3	Papers on mainland publish about boys
1/31/1936	13	16	1	Arthur Harris tells of trip to beautiful island of Pacific
1/31/1936	13	16	3	George Kahanu and James Carroll will return with group
2/7/1936	13	17	1	Samoaan Isles are dreamland of Kamehameha Equatorial youths
2/21/1936	13	19	2	B. Toomey, W. Anahu speakers at meeting
2/21/1936	13	19	3	Suares reveals experiences left out by A. Harris
4/10/1936	13	24	2	South Sea islander's letter is published
10/9/1936	14	4	1	Jarvis boys hear K.S.B. program
11/6/1936	14	8	1	Young colonists return on Itasca from U.S. mission
11/13/1936	14	9	3	Story of South Seas expedition related to reporter at K.S.B.
12/4/1936	14	11	3	No barbers at Jarvis (Photo)
2/12/1937	14	17	1	Eugene Burke writes of Equatorial Islands
2/19/1937	14	18	1	Three grads continue trip
3/12/1937	14	21	3	Copies of school paper sent to South Seas
4/9/1937	14	23	1	Mr. D. Mitchell receives letter
4/9/1937	14	23	7	Charles Ahia returns from Southern Seas
10/1/1937	15	3	3	Former Kam students carry on good work in South Sea islands
12/3/1937	15	10	3	Lonely landlubbers return from barren isles of Mid-Pacific
3/4/1938	15	20	1	Former cadets leave on Taney for Line Islands
5/13/1938	15	28	1	Biologists plan taxidermy talks for Line Islands
10/14/1938	16	3	1	Services held for former student
12/2/1938	16	6	1	Three K.S.B. alumni leave for South Seas
1/20/1939	16	8	3	Solomon Kalama talks about Equatorial Islands
1/20/1939	16	8	3	Line Island expeditionists return home from cruise
4/21/1939	16	14	2	Kam graduates return from Equatorial Islands

9/13/1940	18	1	1	Former students of K.S.B. and graduates return from islands in August
9/27/1940	18	2	3	Graduate from Boys' School becomes taxidermist during sojourn on Jarvis Island
2/20/1942	19	8	4	Former student rescued from war infested islands
3/10/1944	21	11	3	Joseph Anakalea, K.S.B., '35 describes life on South Pacific Isle in recent letter

Subseries 1-B	Correspondence
1-B-01	Letters of thanks to the students were a part of the Equatorial Island project from W.T. Miller
1-B-02	Letters from Howland, Baker, Jarvis Islands, from KS students to Homer F. Barnes, 1935 (Sent up from Alumni Relations Office, 11/ 4/1994)
1-B-03	Correspondence between Dr. Homer F. Barnes and student colonists, 1935-1938
1-B-04	Correspondence between Dr. Mitchell and student colonists in 1935
1-B-05	Financial correspondence
1-B-06	Correspondence between Dr. Homer F. Barnes, Dr. Mitchell, and government officials, 1935-1938
1-B-07	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1935-1940

Subseries 1-C	Journals & Reports
1-C-01	Equatorial Islands biological studies and research done by Kamehameha students
1-C-02	Henry Ahia, KSB 1934 documents (photocopies)
1-C-03	Manuscripts from Dr. Donald Kilolani Mitchell's trip to the Equatorial Islands in 1935 for Cruise 2 on the U.S. C. G. cutter Itasca departed Honolulu June 9, arrived back June 26
1-C-04	<i>A Trip to the South Seas</i> by James Carroll, KSB 1936, typed manuscript (original located in James Carroll Collection)
1-C-05	Diary on Swain's Island (copy) by Abraham Pi'ianaia, 1/24/1936-2/28/1936. Provided by Gordon Pi'ianaia to the Archives, Fall, 1994.
1-C-06	U.S.S. Itasca Documents

Subseries 1-D	Hui Panalā'au Exhibit Midkiff Learning Center
1-D-01	Guest Book
1-D-02	Photos
1-D-03	Correspondence
1-D-04	Planning Materials
1-D-05	Promotional Materials
1-D-06	Reference Research Materials by Janet Zisk

Series 2: Reference Materials

Subseries 2-A	Hui Panalā'au Members Articles
2-A-01	Articles about Samuel K. Kahalewai Jr.
2-A-02	Magazine Articles
2-A-03	Newspaper Articles
2-A-04	Reburial, tributes, and obituaries

Subseries 2-B	Publications
2-B-01	<i>Swains Island, including extracts from the diaries of Abraham Pi'ianaia and Killarney Opiopio, January 24-February 23, 1936.</i> Pacific Scientific Information Center, January 1974.
2-B-02	Copy of Panalā'au Diary of James Kamakaiwi. Original in the Bishop Museum Library, 12/9/1935 - 1/19/1936
2-B-03	<i>Alika, The Hawaiian</i> Vol. 1. Alexander N. Kahapea, KSB 1936. Vantage Press Inc. NY 1987
2-B-04	<i>Panala'au Memoirs</i> by E. H. Bryan, Jr. (2 copies)
2-B-05	<i>Advance Force Pearl Harbor</i> by Burl Burlingame
2-B-06	<i>American Polynesia and the Hawaiian Chain</i> by Edwin H. Bryan, Jr. (Unbound)

Subseries 2-C	Correspondence
2-C-01	Hui Panalā'au Club by-laws and correspondence
2-C-02	James Carroll correspondence regarding <i>Panalā'au Memoirs</i> publication, 1972-1974
2-C-03	Peggy Ferris, re: four items on Jarvis Island, June 21, 1977

Subseries 2-D	Interviews
	Interviews with Hui Panalā'au members, 1966. 4 Audio cassette tapes. Originals at Bishop Museum.

Subseries 2-E	Equatorial Island Reference Materials
2-E-01	Maps
2-E-02	Periodical Articles
2-E-03	Website Articles
2-E-04	Amelia Earhart Articles
2-E-05	Judd Family Articles

Subseries 2-F	<i>Under a Jarvis Moon</i> film, promotional materials, and exhibit
2-F-01	Bishop Museum Exhibit for Hui Panalā'au
2-F-02	<i>Under a Jarvis Moon</i> DVDs
2-F-03	Promotional Materials for <i>Under a Jarvis Moon</i>