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Clarice B. Taylor's Tales about Hawaii:
The Story of the Afong Family

Afong Family, p. 2

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This small collection is comprised of a spiral notebook containing newspaper clippings, a series entitled "Clarice B. Taylor's Tales about Hawaii: The Story of the Afong Family" numbered 1 – 69. Two installments are glued to each page of the notebook. Each article includes a photograph or sketch. A second folder, containing a photocopy of the notebook, has been supplied for research use.

Clarice Taylor, a columnist for the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, wrote this series of articles, which appeared daily during the summer of 1960. They chronicle the life of Chun Ah Fong, his wife Julia Fayerweather, his American children, and Chinese son Chun Lung.

A more complete biography, Merchant Prince of the Sandalwood Mountains, Afong and the Chinese in Hawaii was written by Bob Dye and published by the University of Hawaii Press in 1997. Chun Afong was a noted figure in China after he returned there in 1890, and several web page summaries are included at the end of the finding aid to chronicle his life there.

The Afong family is still very active in Hawaii, as well as the mainland U.S. and in China. There are many Afong descendants throughout the islands.

Summary of Installments:

Pt. 1

The patriarch of the Afong family, Chun Ah Fong, was born in China in 1825, in the village of Yeong Mui Cha in the Heungshan District of Kwontung Province. The Chun clan considered wealthy by local standards.

He was a good student, and passed the imperial examinations, and was designated a Mandarin of the Third Order, accepting a position in his local village as a magistrate. Chun Ah Fong joined his uncle on journeys to Hong Kong and Peking, learning more about the western world. A wife was provided him by his family, as was the tradition of the era. A son, Chun Lung, joined the family.

Pt. 2

Ah Fong continued to accompany his uncle to Hong Kong, and the stories of the Sandalwood Mountains, found on the Sandwich Islands in the Pacific continued to intrigue them both. His uncle decided to take a cargo of Chinese goods to trade to the islands, and establish a retail outlet, where the greatest profits were to be made. Ah Fong would accompany him, along with another nephew. In 1849, the ship arrived in Honolulu Harbor.

Pt. 3

The names of all three travelers where changed on the documents provided by the Kingdom of Hawaii – the confusion of the ordering of the family and personal names only part of the problem. Chun Ah Fong thus became C. Afong.

Pt. 4

The three made their way to the Chinese settlement (about 50 Chinese were there) located on the rear of the Holmes property, not far from King Street today – then named Chapel Lane. Afong started learning English, and selling goods for his Uncle.

Pt. 5

The business prospered – the fine silks, quality dish wares, teas and spices were popular with court ladies, Americans, British and Hawaiians. Chun Afong eventually began his own business, operating a store near the Old Chinese Theater, on a lane off Hotel Street not far from River Street. The store was known as Ah Fong and Ah Fat.

Pt. 6

This installment deals with the need for additional laborers for the sugar plantations on the islands.

C. Afong was becoming a prominent member of the merchant community during the 1860s. By 1879 there were about 1,200 Chinese in Honolulu, and about 100 were women. The Afong store was destroyed by fire, and he rebuilt his store, renaming the business Afong and Ahchuck, which became famous for fine silks, brocades and other Oriental goods.

Pt. 7

C. Afong, now a resident of Honolulu for only 6 years, was wealthy. The Grand Ball of 1856, celebrating the marriage of King Kamehameha IV and Emma Rookie, was a combined effort of the Chinese merchants of Honolulu and Lahaina communities. Afong attended, and meet Miss Julia Hope Kamakia Paaikamokalani o Kinau Beckley Fayerweather, a beautiful young woman of American – English – Hawaiian descent. She would later become his bride.

Pt. 8

Chun Afong begins to plan for wedded life – he builds a house on the corner of Nuuanu and School Streets.

Pt. 9-18

These installments deal with the royal Hawaiian family connection of Julia Fayerweather, as well as her English and American ancestry and their Hawaiian businesses and politics. Sugar plays a role in some of these issues. Issue 16 mentions the sugar mill built on Kauai in 1835.

Pt. 19

Still concerning Julia Fayerweather's family, this installment deals with her life as an orphan, and her position with her foster family from babyhood – Kinimaka, her foster father, and Keaka, wife of the chief Haulelio. Another foster child in the same family was David Kalakaua.

When Julia became 15, Chun Afong began to ask for permission to marry from her guardian, Dr. Judd.

Pt. 20

Chun Afong marries Julia on June 18, 1857, at their new home, Rev. Lowell Smith officiating. Julia was 17 – a mature woman "long past the age when most Hawaiian girls were married".

Afong had been naturalized in May – a requirement of the Kingdom of Hawaii for all foreigners marrying Hawaiian women.

Pt. 21

A more complete description of the Afong residence, which was torn down in 1902.

Pt. 22

Many new plants were imported to the Afong garden – the first Lichee tree imported failed to thrive, so Chun Afong had another imported still planted in a pot. It thrived. He also imported banyan and Chinese Magnolia.

By now, Afong owned his own ship – the Chinese Packet.

Julia and Chun Afong would have 16 children – 4 boys, 12 girls – and 15 would live into adulthood.

Pt. 23

Sugar – growing every decade into a more important crop – and Afong became involved in the Pepeekeo Plantation on the Hamakua coast.

Afong's son born in China, Chun Lung (also known as Chung Lung) joined his father's new family in Honolulu after his education at Yale.

Pt. 24

Pepeekeo Plantation became the best sugar operation on the island of Hawaii – using imported Chinese workers and the finest mill. Chun Lung, and his imported bride from China, were now living in a home on the plantation grounds.

In February 1881, fire from Chinese New Year fireworks burned about 20 homes in Chinatown.

Pt. 25

Afong's first child – Emmeline Agatha Maria Kailimoku, attended Punahou School. All their children attended the Seamen's Chapel Sunday School, under the direction of Rev. S.C. Damon.

In 1859, the Afong family had their first son – Anthony Keawemauhili Afong – called Toney. Additional children were named Nancy, Mary, Julia, Elizabeth, Marie, Henrietta, Alice, Caroline, Helen, Martha, Albert Fayerweather, Melanie, Henry and James – who died of typhoid as a child.

Pt. 26

This installment centers on the politics of the day – Afong supported the Kalakaua – he was one of many sugar planters who contributed money to his campaign.

Pt. 27

Afong and Ahchuck dry good firm continued to become more respected – R.J. Baker notes in his book Honolulu in 1870 that it was one of the top 8 businesses in the city. Afong was a charter member of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce.

Chun Afong was made a noble of the Kingdom in 1879 – he was unable to serve in the 1880 legislative session however, as he was appointed commercial agent for Imperial China. The Chinese Imperial flag flew for the first time in Hawaii over the Afong home.

Pt. 28

Discusses the politics of the era...there are now 14,000 Chinese in Honolulu.

Pt. 29

A series of articles written for the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* in 1935 outlining the social life of the Afong family was written by Julia's sister, Mrs. Ahuena Taylor. Afong's best friend was Samuel Mills Damon, and many other prominent leaders were also close family friends. Included is a discussion of Chinese immigration.

Pt. 30

The Afong children, who were $\frac{1}{2}$ Chinese, $\frac{1}{4}$ American, $\frac{1}{8}$ English and $\frac{1}{8}$ Hawaiian, were all raised American. They attended the best schools.

Pt. 31

Cousin Ahuena Davison, returning from a visit with the Chicago Fayerweather relatives, introduces Hollyhock to the Hawaiian Kingdom from seeds she brings to the islands.

Pt. 32-35

The Chicago Fayerweather relatives came to visit with the Afong family in Hawaii. The visit and their activities, which included singing songs written by Prince Leleihoku, are discussed. Included is a family history beginning in the 1700s in Boston.

Pt. 36

A family story about Albert and the pueo.

Pt. 37

A family story of attending the circus and the visit of Princess Kaiulani to the Afong home.

Pt. 38

The family attends a ball aboard the warship Pensacola --- U.S. Pacific fleet flagship – King Kalakaua was the guest of honor.

Pt. 39

Discussion of Chinese immigration issues.

Pt. 40

The Pepeekeo Plantation by 1889 was producing 2,500 tons of sugar per year, and employed 281. Chun Lung, who still lives on and manages the plantation, becomes ill on a trip to Honolulu and dies enroute from the sudden illness.

Chun Afong realizes that he is becoming older, and with the death of his first son, decides to visit China. He sells $\frac{2}{3}$ of his Pepeekeo Plantation holdings to Alexander Young for \$600,000. He also closed some other his other businesses. In 1890, accompanied by his son Toney, Chun Lung's widow, and a few others, leave for China.

Pt. 41

Alice Afong weds Dr. Edson Lewis Hutchinson, a Maui dentist. They sail with the Afong party to Japan for their wedding trip – the Afong group continues on to China on the ship *S.S. China*.

Pt. 42

Afong remained in China, never returning to his Hawaiian family. His Pepeekeo money goes a long way in China, where he is considered extremely wealthy. He becomes head of the Chun business interests in Hong Kong and Macao.

Pt. 43-45

Toney Afong becomes immersed in many of the family businesses – taking over the helm of the shipping endeavors, becoming president of the Chinese-Japanese Bank of Hong Kong, and collecting fine porcelains and jades.

Pt. 46

Toney Afong becomes reacquainted with Dr. Sun Yat-Sen who was a classmate at Iolani School from 1879 to 1883. There is also a brief history of Sun Yat-Sen and his beliefs.

Pt. 47

Toney Afong has become governor of Canton and Kwangtung Province. His Chinese name is Chun Chick Yee. His friend, Sun Yat-Sen overthrows the Manchu Dynasty in 1911 – the Republic of China is established. Civil war erupts – by 1921 Sun Yat-Sen is exiled.

Pt. 48

Yee (Toney Afong) at the age of 71, resigns as governor of Canton and Kwangtung Province in 1930– he breaks with Sun Yat-Sen, possibly due to his Communistic beliefs.

Chun Afong died in 1906 in China, having never returned to his Hawaiian home in Honolulu. His funeral is described in detail.

Pt. 49

Jack London, the story-teller, has written a story based on the Afong family, which ends somewhat differently.

Pt. 50

The Afongs in Hawaii have all become American citizens.

Pt. 51

In the Hawaiian tradition, Emmeline Afong, the first child, became the foster child of Keaka and Haulelio. Chun Afong, as a Chinese, had little interest in a female child. Dr. Judd, Julia Afong's guardian and a missionary, was upset with the situation. Keaka and Haulelio, along with Emmeline, move to the Afong home, where the foster parents interacted with all the Afong children.

Pt. 52-53

Emmeline was married to J. Alfred Magoon, a lawyer, on May 14, 1897 – they have seven children. Alfred helped found the Sanitary Steam Laundry, invested in Consolidated Amusement Co. and the Honolulu Dairy. In his legal endeavors, he had a case to present to the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. & Mrs. Magoon visit family in California, on their way to Washington. He suffered a heart attack and dies in Baltimore, MD. Emmeline returned to Honolulu and took over leadership of his business interests. In her 70s, she moved to South Kona and managed the Magoon Ranch at Pahoehoe – riding horseback and overseeing the 300-cattle ranch. She died in 1946 at age 88.

Pt. 54

Nancy Afong – called “Nanny” by the family, met Francis Blakely McStocker while he was visiting Honolulu. Their romance was not approved by his Philadelphia parents. They wed anyway – Francis was disinherited. He became a Luna on a Big Island sugar plantation, then worked for the Customs Department of the Kingdom, and served as Commandant of the Citizens Guard – in 1893 when Queen Liliuokalani was dethroned this group assisted the U.S. soldiers. Later he became Deputy Collection of Customs.

Pt. 55

Mary, born in 1862, died at age 83 in 1945. She shared her father’s business acumen. After he left for China, she lived with her Mother, caring for her later in life

In 1902, Julia Afong tore down the old Afong home on Nuuanu and School Streets, replacing it with a modern American home. They also had a beach house at Fort Derussy, and a country in Nuuanu Valley at Lani.

Pt. 56

Marie Afong – the fourth daughter, married Abram Stephanus Humphreys, who was raised in Mississippi and came to Honolulu with a new law degree. He became a partner with E.M. Watson. The Humphreys had twin boys, followed by two daughters. When Hawaii became a U.S. Territory in 1900, Humphreys received appointment as a Federal judge.

Pt. 57

Henrietta, called Eta within the family, met Captain William H. Whiting at a family affair -- he was an aristocrat from Wisconsin. They were married in the Congregational Central Union Church in an elaborate event. After many moves, they settled in Berkeley near her sisters. After becoming a widow, Henrietta married Rear Admiral Armin Fahrenholt, who outlived Eta and his step-daughter Marie, who was crippled by arthritis.

Pt. 58-59

Julia, her mother’s namesake, was called Julie by the family. In 1886 she married Arthur M. Johnstone. Many of his articles about Hawaii appeared in Thurm’s Hawaiian Annual. He edited the Hawaiian newspaper *Elele Poakolu*, with a weekly circulation of about 4,000. Then he became editor of the *Daily Bulletin*, a predecessor of the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*.

Pt. 60-61

Helen Gertrude Afong married William A. Henshall, a young newspaper reporter in 1898. They had a son, Burrows. In 1905, Henshall sailed to San Francisco to meet his father – the ship wrecked off the Golden Gate and he was lost.

George Frederick Henshall – her husband’s brother, became editor of the *Hawaiian Star* in 1906. Helen and George Henshall were married soon afterwards. In 1911, they moved to the Bay Area. Henshall died in 1924, Burrows, the son, died in 1947. Helen returned to Honolulu and lived there until her death in 1953.

Pt. 62

Elizabeth Afong wed I.R. Burns. The couple lived in New York where he was a stockbroker and sold insurance. After he died, she moved to San Francisco to be near family.

Pt. 63

Martha and Caroline helped Stanford Dole organize events for Army troops en route to Manila and the Philippines.

Pt. 64

Caroline marries J. Morton Riggs, a paymaster in the Navy in 1898. At the end of the Spanish American War, Riggs left the Navy. After his death, Caroline remarried, becoming Mrs. Leonard Camp.

Martha met Corporal Andrew J. Dougherty, a Minnesota Regiment volunteer, enroute to the Philippines. They became engaged – he wishing to wait until war's end to wed. After a year, Martha travels to the Philippines with a Navy couple moving there, where they are re-united and marry – Martha becoming a career Army wife. They have three children.

Pt. 65

Beatrice Melaine – the youngest daughter – married James Walker Wall Brewster, who died young, leaving Beatrice with two sons (Dorsett and James). Her second husband, Frank Moss, shared her love of music and was director of the Punahou Music School. Later they moved to San Francisco.

Pt. 66-67

Albert Fayerweather Afong was 13 when his father and older brother Anthony (Toney) moved to China. Albert received his degree from Harvard in 1903. En route to return home, he wed Anna Elizabeth Whiting (niece of Admiral Whiting who was married to Albert's sister Henrietta). They had met at a family gathering. In Honolulu, Albert became a stock and bond broker. He was a charter member of the Pearl Harbor Yacht Club. Albert died in 1948. They had four daughters.

Pt. 68

The next generation also had daughters who married servicemen. Julia Kamakia Magoon married Harmon Anderson Kipling of California; after he died she married Cecil A. Gorelanghton, a British officer wounded during WWI and teaching at Cal Tech for the U.S. Army. They have three children. Both the parents die young, and the children were then raised by A.K. Magoon.

Mary Catherine, the second daughter of Emmeline and J. Alfred Magoon, married Frank Ward Hustace, becoming step-mother to seven Hustace children.

Emmeline, the youngest Magoon daughter, married Army Lieutenant Orville N. Tyler in a double marriage ceremony with her brother John Malulani Magoon and his bride Juliet Carroll of California on December 3, 1918.

Pt. 69

Abram Henry Afong – the youngest son to survive (a fourth son, James, died at 6 weeks of age) attended Punahou and Harvard, returning with a bride from New York – May Harvey. Henry was a Honolulu businessman. He made a trip to visit brother Toney in China, and died there suddenly in 1933. Henry left one son, also named Henry, who graduated from Annapolis and became a Captain in the Navy.

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Afong Family, p. 11

Container List

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Folder

A Notebook with newspaper clippings

B Photocopy (for use by researchers)

Finding Aid for

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Kaua'i Historical Society

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