

KAUAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Helen Takes the Helm

The Kaua'i Historical Society welcomes Helen

Wong Smith of Hilo to the post of executive director. She brings to the organization 30 years in the field of collections and archiving, including holding a seat on the Council of Society of American Archivists in North America; being the first archivist assigned in the Pacific Region for the National Park Service and also at Queen's Medical Center; and being the former Hawaiian Collection Librarian for UH Hilo. She holds a Master's degree in library and information studies science (MLIS) and is a Certified Archivist (CA) by the Academy of Certified Archivists, a national organization.

Complimenting the KHS, Helen says, "It looks like a very proactive organization, as far as programming and publications. It is not just resting on its laurels. I was thrilled to see that the

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Helen Wong Smith, KHS executive director. Photo by Anne E. O'Malley

News in the Collections

Rice Family Bible Bequeathed

Several months ago, the Kaua'i Historical Society received word that John Harry Rice Plews had bequeathed the family Bible of William Hyde Rice and his wife Mary Waterhouse Rice to the Kaua'i Historical Society. In early August, a package from the Bank of Hawai'i Estate and Trust Department arrived at our office.

After carefully cutting through shipping tape, we uncovered a Styrofoam box. Inside was a volume measuring 10" x 12" x 4", covered in dark brown, sculpted leather accented with gold, and with a metal lock that fastened the covers. Photo at right.

The front flyleaf bears an inscription that reads, "William and Mary, with the best wishes of their loving mother. Lihue, Dec. 25th, 1874."

Beautifully handwritten inside are family births, marriages and deaths, with some small portraits of family members. The binding has loosened, with some pages coming out and crumbling. Given the historical value of the book and its deteriorating condition, the Historical Society will seek funding to properly preserve this treasure.

Just before his recent passing, Mr. Plews donated a large collection of handwritten manuscript, notes and typed pages comprising some of the source notes for William Hyde Rice's authoritative collection, Hawaiian Legends. [For more on the Hawaiian Legends collection, see the lead article in our Winter 2015 Newsletter Issue 43.]

We are honored that Mr. Plews chose us to safeguard this treasure from one of Kaua'i's foremost families.

Finding Images of Relatives

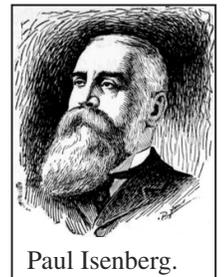
Not every hunt for photos of ancestors is as richly rewarding as the one Carl Magnus Bickel of Munich, Germany embarked on. He came to KHS looking for pictures from the Isenberg Collection. His great, great Grandfather was Paul Isenberg, a well-known community leader in the early 1800s.

Researcher Marianne Buley was intrigued by this request from someone so many generations and many miles away. She did a keyword search on Isenberg's name in the Historical Society's collection of 13,000 scanned and cataloged photos.

Carl ordered 51 pictures, of which 17 were negatives. Four of the negatives are glass. This collection spans from 1836-1903. Another satisfied history hunter at KHS!



Rice family bible. Photo by Donna Stewart



Paul Isenberg.

Genealogy Lectures Scheduled

The Kaua'i Historical Society will present a free lecture titled "Genealogical Resources for Hawai'i 'Ohana" on Wednesday, September 9 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Kōloa School and Public Library. The lecture will be repeated on Thursday, September 10 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Līhu'e Public Library Meeting Room. Light refreshments will be served.

Kaua'i Historical Society Executive Director Helen Wong Smith, MLIS, CA, will guide you to sources of records on immigrants, marriages, births, deaths, census data, and land deeds pertaining to families in the Hawaiian Islands. She has a deep understanding of this work, having delved into Hawaiian collections for the past 30 years. She will highlight the pathways that you can follow to locate family documents and public records.

Mahalo to our public libraries for cosponsoring these talks. For more information, call KHS at 808-245-3373.



Our Mission

is to collect, preserve and disseminate the oral, written and pictorial history of Kaua'i County and to educate ourselves and the public about the history and cultures of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau.

Board of Trustees

Bill Wilcox, president
Reg Gage, vice president
Kay Koike, secretary
Lori Dill

William Fernandez
Pua Rossi-Fukino
Gaetano Vasta
Linda Warriner

Executive Director

Helen Wong Smith

Kaua'i Historical Society

is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization supported by its membership, private trusts and the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

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Closed weekends and holidays.
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info@kauaihistoricalsociety.org

Follow us on Facebook by searching both 'kauai historical society' and 'kauaihistoricalsocietycentennial' as one word.

Kaua'i Historical Society Newsletter

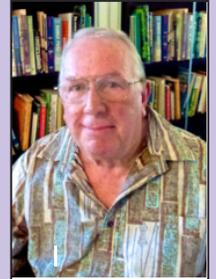
Anne E. O'Malley, guest editor
Christine Faye, design & layout
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From the President

Aloha! I'm Bill Wilcox, and I am excited to assume the office of president of the Kaua'i Historical Society. I have high hopes and expectations for the coming year. The Board of Directors and I thank Bill Fernandez for his leadership over the past two years and his hard work to assure the Society's successful 100th Anniversary celebration in 2014.

My goals for the coming year include reactivating lost membership, increasing availability of in-house and online archival information to the public, increasing funding through grants, attracting more volunteers and also new board members who will contribute their expertise.

In partnership with our new executive director, Helen Wong Smith, the board members and I look forward to the closer involvement of the business sector and the Kaua'i community with the Kaua'i Historical Society. Working together, the KHS team can accomplish many of the above goals, making 2015-16 a banner year for the Society.



Bill Wilcox,
KHS president.
Photo by Donna
Wilcox

Annual Board Meeting



Newly-elected KHS board members pictured with Executive Director Helen Wong Smith, second from left, include (l-r): Kay Koike, secretary; Reginald Gage, vice president; Bill Wilcox, president; Gaetano Vasta; Lori Dill; Pua Rossi-Fukino. Not pictured: Linda Warriner and Bill Fernandez. Photo by Donna Stewart

by Donna Stewart, KHS consultant

New KHS administrative director, Helen Wong Smith, greeted the board of directors and KHS members present at the June 20 annual membership meeting, held at Sun Village. Helen's open smile and friendly welcome presaged her positive attitude and the energy she brings to the position.

Members re-elected William Fernandez, Kay Koike, Linda Warriner, and Gaetano Vasta to three-year terms, and confirmed board members Bill Wilcox and Pua Rossi-Fukino to the remainder of their three-year terms already underway.

Prior to the meeting, KHS bylaws appeared on our website for all to see. Members made a motion to accept the amendments and they passed. One amendment was to hold the annual membership meetings in January, coinciding with the start of the fiscal year.

During refreshments of cheese, crackers and wine, Reg Gage introduced Helen, who spoke briefly about some of her goals. Members viewed a screening of the DVD of the KHS pa'ina in May, filmed and edited by Robert Zelkovsky.

Mahalo to board members and staff for arranging accommodations and refreshments.

Helen Takes the Helm

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Society has finding aids online.”

She continues, “I’ve been very impressed with the board’s willingness for change. I was formerly the president of the Hawaiian Historical Society founded in 1892 and I think when you have long-term organizations like these, people are often bound to tradition, but in my limited time here, everything I’ve recommended, the board seems open to.

Some of her recommendations include seeking national grants, bringing speakers from other islands, creating collaborative efforts among libraries, archives and museums, raising community awareness about the KHS and including it in library consortia. Too much to kick off with? Not for Helen, who says, “My theme song is *I’m Just a Girl That Can’t Say No!*”

NEW MEMBERS

May 1, 2015 through August 30, 2015

Paulette Burtner
 Daniel P. Carvin
 Robert Castro
 Jay Dorrance
 Yvette K. Gettner
 Carol Hasegawa
 David Katz
 Thomas Lambert (Guardian Self Storage)
 Barry Mick
 John Riggins
 Heather Riggins
 Diane Rodill
 Harvey Scott
 Cynthia Welti

DONATIONS

June 1, 2015 through August 30, 2015

Up to \$99

Thomas Armbruster
 Stu Burley
 Donn & Gale Carswell
 Helena Cooney
 Friendship Force of Kaua’i
 Reg & Sandy Gage (Memory of John Plews)
 Betty Lu Rowe

\$100 to \$499

Harlan Lee

\$500 to \$999

Mr. & Mrs. G. Albert Lyon, III

\$1000 & Over

Judy & Dick Corson (honoring Caryn & Michael Grippe)



Your membership in the Kaua’i Historical Society helps support the only general archive dedicated to the county of Kaua’i and saves a unique historical legacy for our island community. Being a member also entitles you to receive:

- ✂ Free access to the Society’s collections and reference library by appointment
- ✂ 10% discount on KHS publications and some research/reproduction services
- ✂ Members only tours and events
- ✂ Quarterly newsletter

KAUA’I HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35 | Business Level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$120 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$1,000+ |

- New Renew Gift

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Tel (H): _____ (B) _____

E-mail: _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____

payable to the Kaua’i Historical Society

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard

in the amount of \$ _____

CC#: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on credit card: _____

Signature: _____

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Kaua’i Historical Society
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The KHS Newsletter is a project made possible with support from the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

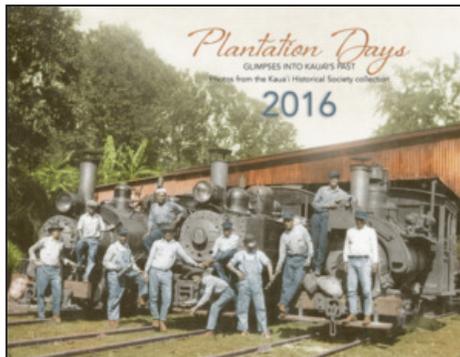
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2016 KHS Calendar is Irresistible

by Donna Stewart, KHS consultant

The Kaua'i Historical Society is publishing a calendar for 2016 that showcases colorized historic photos. Titled *Plantation Days*, this collection of photos showing perspectives of plantation work, camps, and families was selected by the Publications Committee, then placed in



2016 KHS Calendar cover features plantation locomotives and crews. Kaua'i Historical Society archival photo

board member Lori Dill's skilled hands to develop into a work of art.

Lori designed all pages, transferring the original black and white photos from the Historical Society's collection to her computer, removing specks and scratches, adding a muted palette of colors to the photos, and fitting photos and calendar information into elegant pages. The effect resembles hand-tinted photo prints or colorized black and white movies.

Printing Services Corporation of Līhu'e will print the calendar and it will be available by the end of September, in time for early holiday shopping. The Society will announce the price and sales locations via a special mailing, soon.

All photos are from the Kaua'i Historical Society digital photo collection that now totals over 13,000 images. We began the hunt for selected photos by searching for the keyword "plantation," then narrowing the search to 29 photos. Committee members make the final choices.

You can request photos from KHS for yourself. Though not all photos are stored with keywords, and therefore, a search may not identify all photos of a certain topic, still, by using several keywords and spending some time on the computers in our office, it is possible to find many relevant and amazing historic photos.

Call our office at 808-245-3373, or email archives@kauaihistoricalsociety.org to find out how to start your photo search.



Makee Sugar Plantation, Kealia. Kaua'i Historical Society archival photo