

UPDATES  
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This is an update to two articles I previously published on Spanish American War sites in Hawaii: The 1st New York Volunteers on the Big Island: New York meets Hilo, 2015, [https://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/spanAm/infantry/1stInf/1stInf\\_SpanAm\\_Article\\_Greguras.pdf](https://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/spanAm/infantry/1stInf/1stInf_SpanAm_Article_Greguras.pdf); and Spanish-American War Sites in Honolulu, page 19, Hawaiian Journal of History, Vol. 39, 2005, <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/5014609.pdf>. The 2005 article provides details on sites in and around Honolulu, The 2015 article focuses on the detachment of the 1st New York Volunteers who went to Hilo from Honolulu in November, 1898.

I want to record some of the information I've learned since publication of the articles. There are many more online information resources available now which help solve some of the unknowns in my articles. The Library of Congress, for example, has the Sanborn insurance maps mentioned below as well as Chronicling America, a large collection of newspapers including many on Hawaii. The Newspapers.com library also has many Hawaii newspapers available for research. The University of Hawaii at Manoa has extensive online resources. The Hawaii State Archives has many resources online including early city and island directories: <http://ags.hawaii.gov/archives/about-us/archives-research/city-directories/>

My thanks to Taylor Cockerham, Peter Young, Gladys Suzuki and many others for their kind assistance.

I would appreciate additions and corrections on any of the topics discussed.

## Honolulu 1898

The 1899 Dakin Insurance Maps are available online: <https://digicoll.manoa.hawaii.edu/maps/index.php?c=1>. The Library of Congress has Sanborn Insurance Maps online for Honolulu for 1914; 1927 and later: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/?q=honolulu+sanborn>. The Progress Block Building mentioned below shows on the 1899 maps. The Camp McKinley and St Augustine's Church areas were not covered until later maps.

### Army HQ Building

The Progress Block building in Honolulu that still stands at the southwest corner of Fort and Beretania Streets was a U.S. Army headquarters for the 1898 period. I mentioned this building in my 2015 article but didn't have this information for the 2005 article. See Alexander Allen, American Hawaii, Overland monthly and Out West, Nov 1898; p. 432: <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moajrnl/ahj1472.2-32.191/438>. According to newspaper accounts, the offices of the headquarters of the Military District of Hawaii, commanded by Brigadier-General Charles King, U.S. Volunteers, opened on

UPDATES  
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September 10, 1898 on the second floor of the then new Progress Block. General King and his staff were in Rooms 13 and 18; Major E. R. Morriss, Chief Surgeon, in Room 17; Lieut. Col. Ruhlen, Chief and Depot Quartermaster, in Rooms 1 and 2; and Col. Ruhlen's Chief Clerk in Rooms 3 and 4.

Camp Gulstan

St Augustine by the Sea Catholic Church on Ohua Ave near the beach is the site of Camp Gulstan. The 1898 period St Augustine chapel was built of coconut leaves, in the 'lanai' style, and had not been used regularly for mass until the soldiers arrived. In 2014, we went to Honolulu on vacation and stayed at the Marriott at the south end of Waikiki beach. I noticed that St. Augustine was across the street and looked up the history page on the church web site. The history page discusses the chapels for Catholic soldiers that were at the church site during the Spanish American War: <https://staugustinebythesea.com/our-history>/<https://staugustinebythesea.com/our-history/> . I visited the church museum at that time but found nothing about the early chapels. The book *Pioneers of the Faith*, page 62, also discusses the small chapel that gave way to a larger chapel for Catholic soldiers during the 1898 period.

On June 3, 1892, the pope chose Francis R. Gulstan from France to become the third Vicar Apostolic of the Hawaiian Islands. He was consecrated as titular bishop of Panopolis which means he was not the bishop for a specific geographical area because the diocese of Hawaii had not yet been established. He would later become the bishop of the new Republic of Hawaii. The Panopolis designation was important in helping locate another site along the Volcano Road on Hawaii.

St Augustine's also served as a place of worship during the Vietnam War. Many military personnel on R&R in Honolulu went to the church for mass. The Catholic Church was listed in the R&R guides and was close to the R&R center at Fort DeRussy.

Hospitals

The Red Cross hospital at the Child Garden building at the corner of Beretania and Alapai Streets opened on June 24, 1898 according to newspaper accounts available in *Chronicling America*. The dance pavilion building on King Street at Independence Park which was to be used as a hospital was not yet ready and the soldiers needed a hospital. There was at least one soldier who died at the Child Garden building hospital. The Child Garden building was where Anna Forbes held kindergarten classes. It reopened for use for Ms. Forbes kindergarten on November 1, 1898 after being used for the Red Cross Hospital.

The Independence Park Hospital opened on August 15, 1898 and closed in January, 1899. The hospital was located in a dance pavilion at Independence Park, southeast of the corner of Sheridan and King Streets. I found part of a diary of a 1st New York soldier on eBay that contained a hand drawn diagram of the rooms of the hospital. I donated the diary to the Fort DeRussy Army Museum in Honolulu.

UPDATES  
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Neither of these hospital buildings were in areas covered by the 1899 Dakin Insurance maps.

The Buena Vista Hospital, the successor to the Independence Park Hospital, was also not covered by the early maps. In August, 1900, the new owner of the Buena Vista Hospital property wouldn't renew the government's lease. The hospital buildings were moved west a few blocks along Wyllie Street to a location near Liliha street according to an article at page 7 of the August 28, 1900 Honolulu Republican. The last newspaper mention of the Buena Vista Hospital was in 1907 just before the post hospital at Fort Shafter opened.

Soldiers Burials

There were a number of soldiers who died in Honolulu from illness. Most of them were interred in the soldiers' plot at Nuuanu Cemetery (now the O'ahu Cemetery) and the Catholic Cemetery (aka King Street Catholic Cemetery) according to obituaries in the Honolulu newspapers and the 1<sup>st</sup> NY News Muster newspaper rather than being immediately shipped back to their relatives on the main land for burial. Several of the obituaries mention that the soldier's body was placed in a vault at Nuuanu Cemetery. Other obituaries indicate the soldier was buried. I visited O'ahu Cemetery and searched the records but found no mention of the burials.

I later determined that the USS Hancock brought back the bodies of about 1500 American soldiers and sailors who died in Hawaii, the Philippine Islands, Guam and China arriving in San Francisco in December, 1900 according to a New York Times article. Another article indicates there was a decision in early December, 1898 not to send any more bodies of 1<sup>st</sup> New York Volunteers soldiers back to New York until the regiment was there to receive them with military honors. The October 9, 1900 Pacific Commercial Advertiser, p9, indicates that the USS Hancock was in Honolulu with coffins to bring home the bodies of 37 soldiers and Marines buried there from the Spanish American War period. This included soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> New York as well as other volunteer regiments. The 1900 article lists the dead who were to be exhumed and their U.S. address. Bodies for which there was no next-of-kin information were to be buried at the Presidio National Cemetery in San Francisco. The Hancock departed Honolulu on October 11, 1900 for Guam and then Manila to pick up more bodies before heading to San Francisco.

I was surprised there weren't any cemetery records even if the soldiers were exhumed later. You would think there would be a record of the interment and disinterment.

UPDATES  
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## Hilo 1898

The Library of Congress has Sanborn Insurance Maps available on-line for Hilo for October, 1914; July 1921 and later: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/?fa=location:hilo> . The 1914 maps show the wharf where the steamer Kinau docked and the soldiers landed on the northwest side of what is now Banyan Drive. The maps also show a number of warehouses by the wharf, one of which was likely the 1898 bivouac site of the soldiers. I recently purchased a 1943 Navy pilots landing map for Hilo NAS which shows the pilings of the old wharf as a landmark for visual navigation. There are still some remains of stone pilings along the shore where the wharf was located.

The 1914 maps also show many of the places where the soldiers visited while in Hilo: the Hilo Hotel, First Foreign Church, Queen Victoria annex at the hospital and the Waiakea Sugar Mill. On Thursday, November 24, 1898 the soldiers were guests of Charles C. Kennedy for a Thanksgiving Luau in the “sugar room” at the Waiakea Sugar Mill. Kennedy was the manager of the mill and had a home there. The mill complex was located at the intersection of Kilauea Avenue and Kekuanaoa Street. All of the mill buildings are gone.

I believe there are only three remaining buildings in Hilo that were part of the 1898 landscape of the soldiers: Haili Church, Lyman House, Portuguese Christian Church (Central Christian Church). I keep searching but haven't discovered any others.

## Hike to the Volcano

There were two overnight stops along Volcano Road on the hike to and from Hilo to the Kilauea volcano. The 1<sup>st</sup> New York soldiers camped at the “11 mile house” or “Kilohana” the first night, Monday, November 14, and, on the second night, Tuesday, November 15, at Wailiili, the Edward G. Hitchcock summer home and plantation at 23 miles on the Volcano Road. The “11 mile house” was near the site of present day Kurtistown on Volcano Road. The soldiers started the return hike to Hilo on Saturday morning, November 19. There were two overnight stops on the way down from the volcano at the same locations. The first night, Saturday, November 19, was at the Hitchcock's and the second night, Sunday, November 20, was at the “11 mile house”. There were mile posts along the Volcano Road marking each mile.

From about 1895-1902 the area along the Volcano Road traveled by the soldiers was known as the Olaa coffee district. The coffee plantations started about 5 miles

UPDATES  
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outside of Hilo and ended about 5 miles before reaching the volcano. Lower priced coffee from foreign competition ended the coffee district.

11 Mile House Camp Site

The soldiers were hosted by Peter Lee for the first night's camp site at his "11 mile house" according to the Hawai'i Herald newspaper. It was also the site of the second night's camp on the soldiers hike back to Hilo from the volcano. Lee had a coffee plantation near his 11 mile house and there was a small catholic church nearby. The 1898 directory lists him as a "coffee planter." Early directories list his residence as at Kilohana which was also mentioned in 1898 newspaper accounts. Lee had one of the better coffee plantations in the Olaa coffee district. Kilohana is a Hawaiian word used to describe excellent qualities.

Because of the rain, the accounts reported that the soldiers slept in the small church, underneath Lee's house, the barn of Lee's coffee plantation and in nearby houses. The soldiers used the coffee dryers to dry off after the rainy day. Lewis J. Davey was a private in Company I of the 1<sup>st</sup> New York. He wrote a series of letters which were published in a Middletown, New York area newspaper about his experiences in Hawaii, including a November 24, 1898 letter about the hike to the volcano. This letter identifies the church as a Catholic church.

I believe the small Catholic Church was St. Clement Catholic Church in the Puna District. The 2000 book *Leper Priest of Molokai: The Father Damien Story*, indicates that Father Clement Evrard became the priest for the Puna District in March, 1865. The 1978 book *Pioneers of the Faith*, page 205, identifies a St. Clement Church at 11-Miles, Olaa. It had a congregation of 60 in late 1881. The 1927 book *Catholic Missions in the Hawaiian Islands*, page 244, indicates the Puna District had chapels at several places including at Olaa (11 miles). A 1927 newspaper article indicates there were seven chapels in the Puna District including at Olaa (11 miles). A 1941 listing of Catholic Churches in Hawaii in a newspaper article mentions "St. Clement, Olaa (11 miles)".

St. Clement Church, also known as the Kurtistown Catholic Church, would have been between the present day Holy Rosary Mission Church (Olaa Catholic Church) in Keaau and St. Theresa (Mountain View Catholic Church) at Mountain View. I checked with the office for both churches but they had no information on St. Clement. I have also checked with the archives of the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu (which includes Hawaii) and the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts. I obtained photos of the St. Clement building from the Sacred Heart archives but they have no other information on the church.

UPDATES  
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A February 8, 1985 article in the Hawaii Tribune-Herald, at page 6, asks for volunteers to clean up the overgrown Kurtistown Catholic Cemetery and states "The cemetery is located at the site of the demolished Kurtistown Catholic Church, ...." The Kurtistown Catholic cemetery is located on the hill behind 17-291 Volcano Highway according to the Dodo Mortuary in Hilo. This is on the left side of the road heading toward the volcano, across from South Road, and just before you get to Olaa Road. The sign for the cemetery is gone. The location of this cemetery is within the Panopolis Catholic Mission property on Registered Map 2865 provided by Peter Young (<http://ags.hawaii.gov/survey/map-search/>). [See "Camp Gulstan" above at page 2 for the relevance of Panopolis]. In 1898, Volcano Road may have been a little to the east of its current route so that the church was closer to the road.

I believe the 11 Mile House was located on the east side of Volcano Road where Middle Road (Kuaaina Road) intersects with it in Kurtistown and that the church was just south west of this location. Registered Map 2865 shows Peter Lee's property, as well as the Panopolis Catholic Mission property, on the east side of Volcano Road. In RM 2865, the Middle Road connects with the Volcano Road where the Peter Lee property was located. RM 2865 also shows a North Road and South Road connecting with Volcano Road. I found these three roads on topographical maps (1914, 1963 and current) as well as Google maps and earth.

There are early articles that identify three other places at the 11 mile post which you can find on current maps. The Eleven mile Homestead area still shows on many maps. It borders Middle Road (Kuaaina Road) on the south side. These homesteads were established by the Olaa Plantation in 1906 as incentives for its workers to stay on the job for three years. A 1906 newspaper article indicates that a 200 acre tract was set aside at the eleven-mile station on Volcano Road for this purpose. Another 1906 article indicates the homesteads were near the 11 mile post on the Volcano Road.

The second place is the Kurtistown Jodo Mission on the south side of Middle Road (Kuaaina Road) to the west of Volcano Highway which was built during the 1902-1905 period. This road is also known as Iwasaki Camp Road according to the address for the temple. I found a 1902 article that indicates that the Japanese at 11 miles were building a temple and school house and the Mission's web site indicates its history began in 1902. This temple was also known as the Olaa Eleven Mile Jodo temple according to another source. The mission is still there and the remains of the Iwasaki Camp for the Olaa Plantation where many Japanese people lived are just down the road to the west from the temple. A newspaper article identifies Iwasaki Camp as being at "11 miles, Olaa".

UPDATES  
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There are differences in the distances between the current Highway 11 mileage markers and the old Volcano Road mile posts. I found an article dated March 25, 1921 that describes the buildings at Peter Lee's place at 11-mile, Olaa existing as of that date. The buildings were to be used as a base of operations for the construction gang making improvements to the Volcano Road. The article also mentions how mileage on the Volcano Road between the four mile and eight mile posts had already been shortened by about one mile because of improvements in the road.

I also found several articles that identify the one mile post on the old Volcano Road as at or near where the road crossed the Waiakea ponds in Hilo. There is still a stone pillar at this point on Kilauea Avenue with illegible markings that may be an old mile post. The mile marker 0 for the current Highway 11 is in Hilo at the intersection of Kamehameha Avenue, Banyan Drive and Kalanianole Avenue. I did some distance calculations on current Google Maps and compared the distance out Volcano Road/Kilauea Avenue to Highway 11 via Highway 2000 and the distance from current mile marker 0 to the same point, Highway 2000, on Highway 11. Distances are about 2.7 and 1.9 miles, respectively. Between the road improvements and the change in the starting point of mile marker 0, the decrease in distance is at least 1.5 miles.

#### Mountain View House

The "Mountain View House" was a brief rest stop on the second day of the soldiers hike. The Mountain View House was 14 miles from Hilo, according to the *1899 Guide*. The building is gone but Mountain View Village is still a community along the Volcano Road. I enjoy driving down its main street which is an old portion of Volcano Road and is bypassed by the present day Volcano Road.

#### Wailiili

Wailiili, the summer home and coffee plantation of the Edward G. Hitchcock family of Hilo, at 23 miles, was the site of the second camp site of the 1st New York 1898 on their hike to the volcano. It was also the site of the first night's camp on the hike back to Hilo from the Volcano. Wailiili was a coffee plantation in the Olaa coffee district. Mr. Hitchcock was an expert on the scorcerer Wailiili, according to a newspaper article, which was the source of the name. There was very likely a 23 mile post on Volcano Road near Wailiili. Construction of the home had been completed in February, 1897

Edward G. Hitchcock, then serving as a judge, had died on October 9, 1898 just prior to the arrival of the soldiers. Newspaper accounts indicate his brother David H. Hitchcock hosted the soldiers. Taylor Cockerham identified land grant 4345 for E.G. Hitchcock and land grant 4839 for D.H. Hitchcock and sent me tax map key (TMK) maps 18000 and

UPDATES  
Fred Greguras  
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18010 (<http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/display/Search?moduleId=12309862>) that show the locations of the land grants. The maps also show land grant 4346 for Dr. W.L Moore who was D.H.'s son in law. E.G. Hitchcock's land grant 4345 on the Volcano Road is just south west of the 22 mile Road (Glenwood Road). His brother's land grant 4839 is adjacent as is Dr. Moore's. The location of these land grants along Volcano Road is closer to the present day 22 mile marker than the 23 mile marker. All three of these properties were in the Olaa coffee district.

The earliest online reference I found to the 23 mile location along Volcano Road was a February, 1895 newspaper article that identifies David H. Hitchcock's coffee plantation at that location. His plantation at 23 miles was named Pohakuloa.

Local social news in the Hilo Weekly Tribune newspaper in the early 1900s reported Mrs. E.G. and daughter Harriet were using Wailiili as a summer home. A July, 1919 article mentions "Flower garden corners" as being a "little below Wailiili". The last newspaper mention of Wailiili I found was June 18, 1925. Mrs. E. G. Hitchcock died in mid-October, 1926.

Charles H. Hitchcock, a distant cousin of E.G., in his 1901 book *Hawaii and its Volcanoes* wrote of the June 1899 eruption of Kilauea: "On June 20, 1899, a very distinct earthquake shock was felt at Wailiili, my temporary residence, twenty-three miles from Hilo and eight from Kilauea". See [www.donch.com/lulhvol4.htm](http://www.donch.com/lulhvol4.htm) Hitchcock may have identified the distance as 23 miles from Hilo based on a 23 mile post or the twenty-two mile road (now Glenwood Road) intersecting with Volcano Road. Given that newspaper accounts of the soldiers' hike indicated Wailiili was at 23 miles on the Volcano Road and published lists of coffee plantations listed Wailiili at that distance, the distance may have been common knowledge at the time. Google Earth shows a house in the vicinity but I am not sure if it has any connection.

## Queen Anna Rose of Hilo

Anna Wilhelmina Kanaina Rose was the 1898 Topeka, Kansas Fall Carnival queen from Hilo that traveled back to Hilo on the steamer Kinau with the New York soldiers who were coming from Honolulu. She participated in the flag raising on Reeds Island on November 10, 1898 and in other activities with the soldiers in Hilo. Anna died on May 23, 1967 in San Francisco. She is buried (cremation urn) by her husband, Carl Ernst Alfred Anderson (died in 1946), at the Santa Barbara, California cemetery. Anna was born in 1877 according to her wedding license so would have been 90 years old at the time of her death. She had an active social life in Hilo and Honolulu. Anna was married in 1911 and moved to the mainland with her husband. She lived mostly in San Francisco but did return to visit family in Hawaii. There is a Rose family plot at Homelani

3/5/2020 VERSION

UPDATES  
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Cemetery in Hilo where her German father, William Leonard Rose (died 1903), and her Hawaiian mother are buried as well as her brother Otto and his wife. The last Rose family homes in Hilo were on Reeds Bay, on or near the site of the Doubletree Grand Nanihoa Hotel. The Rose home where Anna grew up was where the Palace Theater is located in Hilo. The newspaper articles indicate she traveled in the U.S., including to Miami, but I found no mention of her going to New York to meet any of the soldiers she befriended in Hilo in 1898.

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Corrections and additions are welcomed.