

HAWAII HISTORY UPDATES

Fred Greguras

fgreguras@hotmail.com

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; 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 that went to Hilo from Honolulu in November 1898.

I want to record some of the information I've learned since the publication of the articles. There are many more online information resources available now which help solve some of the unknowns. 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/>. AI search capability also helps find new information.

My thanks to Taylor Cockerham, Peter Young, Gladys Suzuki, Mike Skinner, Robert Niimi, Seiichi Sako and many others for their kind assistance.

I welcome 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. The "last vestiges" of old Camp McKinley, a frame cottage which served as post headquarters, was being demolished, according to the August 12, 1929, Honolulu Advertiser, p. 12. It was located opposite the main gate of the then territorial fairgrounds.

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

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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 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. Morris, 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 New York 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 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.

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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.

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 1st NY News Muster newspaper, rather than being immediately shipped back to their relatives on the mainland 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 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 1st 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 1st 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.

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

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 several warehouses by the wharf, one of which was likely the 1898 bivouac site of the soldiers. A 1943 Navy pilots landing map for Hilo NAS 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, and the 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 1st 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 Waililii, 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 Hitchcock's and the second night, Sunday, November 20, was at the "11-mile house". There were mileposts along the Volcano Road marking each mile.

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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 outside of Hilo and ended about 5 miles before reaching the volcano. Lower priced coffee from foreign competition and the climate ended the coffee district. The land owners turned to sugar crops.

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 newspaper 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 1st 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, was between the present-day Holy Rosary Mission Church (Olaa Catholic Church) in Keaau and St. Theresa (Mountain View Catholic Church) at Mountain View. I obtained photos of the St. Clement church building from the Sacred Heart archives.

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The church and its cemetery were on a rectangular shaped tract of land at 17-291 Volcano Road originally owned by the Roman Catholic Church, i.e., the Panopolis Catholic Mission property on Registered Map 2865 provided by Peter Young (<http://ags.hawaii.gov/survey/map-search/>). The church cemetery is still there at the east end of the 17-291 tract. There are three topographical maps showing the church location. The church is shown on the 1917, 1932 and 1943 topographical maps but not on the 1964 map. It is the building symbol with a cross on top. The church building is shown along Volcano Road just north of South Road.

It is not clear when the church building was demolished but 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," This is on the left side of Volcano Road heading toward the volcano, across from South Road, and just before you get to Olaa Road. The sign for the cemetery is gone.

I believe that Lee's 11 Mile House was located on the east side of Volcano Road where Middle Road (Kuaaina Road) intersects with it in Kurtistown. 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 Google 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 is still shown 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 schoolhouse 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

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fgreguras@hotmail.com

road to the west from the temple. A newspaper article identifies Iwasaki Camp as being at "11 miles, Olaa".

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 milepost. The mile marker 0 for the current Highway 11 is in Hilo at the intersection of Kamehameha Avenue, Banyan Drive and Kalaniano'le 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. Its main street 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 sorcerer 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. The Lyman Museum at Hilo has two photos of the house in its collections, one photo taken in 1897 and the other in 1900. The current address of the Hitchcock property is 18-2790 Volcano Road. The photos at the Lyman show the house in a setting of high ferns and trees. Present day aerial photos show the area of the

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house has been cleared, perhaps back at the time when the plantations shifted from coffee to sugar cane crops.

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 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 Volcano Road is just southwest 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 April 23, 1934. Mrs. E. G. Hitchcock had died in mid-October 1926. As indicated, the current address of the E.G. Hitchcock land grant is 18-2790 Volcano Road. I had a title search report prepared on the property in early 2026 which shows the changes in ownership after Mrs. Hitchcock's death.

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/lulhhvol4.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.

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fgreguras@hotmail.com

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 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), in a columbarium at the Santa Barbara, California cemetery at 901 Channel Drive. I visited her grave in November 2023. Anna was born in 1877 (the marker by her niche has her birth date as 1872) 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 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 Rose home where Anna grew up was where the Palace Theater is in Hilo. The last Rose family homes in Hilo were on Reeds Bay. Otto's home was on or near the site of the Doubletree Grand Naniloa Hotel and he is honored by a banyan tree along Banyan Drive. In a 1902 map, Anna Rose's home was on the southeast side of Reed's Bay near today's Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Park. 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.