Reynolds Henderson and Stacey Avrett (Continental Pacific, LLC) prepare the shipment of sugar plantation records headed for the Lyman Museum.

Once upon a time, in the early 2000s, a company called Continental Pacific, LLC purchased property in Pepe'ekeo which included the former Pepe'ekeo Sugar Mill office building. The premises needed renovation, and in the course of the work a variety of Hawai'i sugar plantation records (from 1910 to 1972) were discovered in the building's vault. As a protective measure, the books and other documents were deposited in an air-conditioned, off-site building for several years. When the building was sold, Continental Pacific was concerned that these important documents not be lost to history. They were sent to company headquarters in Florida for safe storage until an appropriate, permanent home for them could be found.

Company Secretary Stacey Avrett exercised due diligence on behalf of her employer, by seeking the best possible repository for the plantation records. In so doing, she contacted Lyman Museum Registrar Lynn Elia, and set in motion the donation which was finalized earlier this year.

The donor generously shipped all the records free of charge to the Museum. They include handwritten log books from the 1920s to 1950s, labor agreements from as early as 1910, and agreements between sugar companies and other businesses. A comprehensive list of items assembled by Stacey provided essential information that supported the Museum's acceptance of the donation. We extend our most appreciative mahalo to Stacey Avrett, company Manager Reynolds Henderson, and to Continental Pacific, LLC itself, for recognizing and protecting the value of these records for so many years, and taking the time and trouble to ensure their preservation for generations to come.
PHYSICAL WORK BEGINS ON NEW ISLAND HERITAGE GALLERY

On June 1, the entire upper floor of the Museum was closed to the public to allow physical work to begin on our new Island Heritage Gallery. In the first few weeks of this effort, the Special Exhibits Gallery and the former Shipman Gallery were transformed into combined storage and work spaces, where artifacts and furnishings from the old Gallery will be conserved and temporarily stored as other work proceeds.

The new Gallery is scheduled to open in late 2018. In the meantime, Museum staff and volunteers are exploring alternative ways to share the history and culture of the Islands with our visitors and schoolkids. One way is being made possible by a partnership with Nā Leo TV, which has produced a 30-minute video tour of the former Island Heritage Gallery for broadcast on their local stations. Channels, air dates, and times are as follows: Channel 53: Thursday, June 29, 11:30AM and Saturday, July 1, 05:00PM; Channel 54: Wednesday, June 28, 02:00PM and Friday, June 30, 07:30AM. This video tour will also be available for viewing at the Museum, beginning in early July.

Museum employees are also creating a large photo display board, to be placed in the lobby area, which will allow visitors to "track" progress made in the various stages of creating the new Gallery. Ever wonder about all the physical labor that goes into taking down and installing a large museum gallery? Who does what? What tools do they use? What does the process actually look like? Photos revealing these and other details will be posted on our Island Heritage Gallery Photo Board beginning in July, and will be updated on a regular basis to show progress made in creating this amazing new Gallery for our community. Come in to watch us grow!
Aloha, Kalezua Parker

Museum Assistant Kalezua Parker left May 15 to join the County Department of Parks and Recreation as a community service worker. “I’ll be helping the kupuna,” she says, “helping them live a quality life... it’s something I’ve always wanted to do.” Kierz began working at the Museum in February 2014, at the front desk, in the Museum Shop, and as a tour guide in the galleries and the Mission House. When asked what she will miss most about the Museum, Kierz says, “The staff ... the people ... the friendships that I’ve made here.” She continues, “I’ve learned a lot working at the Museum. To be more confident in public speaking. I also became a better listener. I truly enjoyed sharing my culture with students and visitors of all ages!” We miss you, Kalezua, and wish you well in all you do.

Recent Archives Research

Researchers continue to make good use of the Museum Archives. Archivist Eric Page highlights two projects in particular that investigate the connections between Hawai‘i and other places.

Author Bonnie Tocher Clause lives in Royalton, Vermont, the hometown of Sarah Joiner Lyman. Her forthcoming book on Sarah Joiner Lyman’s childhood explores the values she brought to Hawai‘i as a missionary.

Seri Luangphinith, Ph.D., Professor of English and Chair of the Humanities Division, together with others at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, are writing The Paths We Cross: The Experience of Koreans on the Big Island. Historic documents, many from the Archives, are being used to help to illustrate the lives of these immigrants.

Other recent Archives research topics have included the Hawaii Consolidated Railway, Hilo Electric Light Company, Iolani Hotel, Kilauea Military Camp, and Hui Hookuoonono (a women’s savings bank), among others.

Pierce Project

Efforts also continue to identify photos from the John Howard Pierce Collection. The Hawaii Tribune-Herald publishes a different unidentified historic photo every Saturday, and folks regularly call the Museum to name the individuals, locations, and events depicted. Many of them share related stories about their own lives, providing additional information about these remarkable images. Mahalo to you!

MAHALO to our Supporters!

The Lyman Museum depends upon the support of donors, including the following individuals (and companies) who made contributions from April 1, 2016 through June 6, 2017.

Download the Summer 2017 Saigo Program Flyer, click here!

For more information go to: http://lymanmuseum.org/events/

PATRICIA E. SAIGO PUBLIC PROGRAM SERIES
SUMMER 2017

Monday, July 17, 2017, 3:00 - 4:30 PM
AND AGAIN Monday, July 24, 2017, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Letters from the Ali‘i: 1820-1887

Monday, July 31, 2017, 3:00 - 4:30 PM
AND AGAIN from 7:00 - 8:30 PM
The Great Barrier Reef: Still Great!

Monday, August 14, 2017, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
AND AGAIN Tuesday, August 15, 2017, 3:00 - 4:30 PM
What You Need to Know About Rat Lungworm Disease.

Monday, August 28, 2017, 3:00 - 4:30 PM
AND AGAIN from 7:00 - 8:30 PM
The Plant Extinction Protection Program:
Singing Hawai‘i’s Rarest Plants.
This summer the Lyman Museum is again participating in Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America, to offer free admission to active duty military personnel (including the National Guard and Reserve) and their families, from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2017. Because the Museum is closed on both Memorial Day and Labor Day, the participation period will actually span Tuesday, May 30 through Saturday, September 2, 2017. The Museum will also be closed on Tuesday, July 4 (Independence Day).

The free admission program is available to any bearer of a Geneva Convention Common Access Card (CAC), a DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card, which includes active-duty U.S. military-Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, as well as members of the National Guard and Reserve, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps--and up to five family members.

For more information, go to: https://www.arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums/frequently-asked-questions, or call the Museum at (808) 935-5021. The Lyman Museum is a Smithsonian Affiliate, located at 276 Haili Street in historic downtown Hilo, and is open Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. except on Federal holidays.

Pierce Photograph Collection Identification Project

This is the twenty-fifth in a series of images from the Pierce Collection that we are sharing with our members in The Journal. This photo was taken on June 20, 1962. It shows the construction of Café 100. The Flintkote Company’s cane factory stands in the right background. If you can identify the people on the road roller, or share any additional information about this photo (hey, is that a cow lying in the grass?!), please contact Eric Page at 808-935-5021 or e-mail him at archives@lymanmuseum.org.
Go Green and sign up for our E-Newsletter.

Email membership@lymanmuseum.org or sign up online to remove yourself from our printed mailing list and help us save hundreds of dollars each year in postage and printing costs.

Did you know the Lyman Museum can also be found on social media? We've got over 830 followers on Facebook and 180 on our new Twitter account already! Are you following us yet?

Join Us!

WE'RE CREATING A COMPLETELY NEW ISLAND HERITAGE GALLERY AND WE'D LIKE YOU TO JOIN US IN MAKING IT HAPPEN!

Our new Gallery features will include an interactive learning space for our keiki called the Kipuka, where students can experience hands-on activities such as Hawaiian kapa and tattoo design, cordage making, mat plaing, and storytelling through hula, chant, petroglyphs, and oral legends, creating take-home materials using traditional techniques—and more importantly, appreciating the culture behind these arts.

The Lyman Museum has been called "the gem of Hilo," and has been voted Best Museum in East Hawai'i by the community every year since 2007. Help us continue to represent our town and island as a primary, "go-to" resource for Island folks and keiki as well as a destination of choice for visitors from local and global communities alike.

You can be a part of this effort by making a generous tax-deductible gift right now, helping to ensure that the Museum can sustain its commitment "to tell the story of Hawai'i, its islands and its people."

Please send your gift today to help make the new Gallery a reality.... give online at http://lymanmuseum.org/support/donate/kipuka-for-the-keiki/.

Mahalo nui for your dedicated and enthusiastic support! The Lyman Museum is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Your gift is a charitable deduction for income tax purposes.

Lyman Museum, 276 Haili St, Hilo, HI 96720

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