

THE ALEXANDER FAMILY

Jan. 5, 1979 This is a valuable interview with three members of one family who lived in the valley in the first decade of this century. Mrs. Mary Alexander Smith has added her comments and citations to the original transcript; they are shown here in brackets.

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THE ALEXANDER FAMILY INTERVIEW

at Lyon Arboretum

on Jan. 5, 1979

William P. Alexander (b. 1891); DeWitt Alexander (b. 1893);
 Mary D. Alexander Smith (b. 1906)

Members of the Manoa History Seminar present: Beatrice Krauss,
 Janet Gordon Roach, Peggy Robb, Louise Vicars, Evelyn Trapido,
 Jean E?

DA: I don't know whether John Ena lived there all the time; I don't think so.

X: Where was the home located.

BK: It was the first house and over here was the Shingle's house.

DA: Who was John Ena?

BK: Well, John Ena comes up again and again in Hawaiian history. "John Ena Road" in Waikiki named after him because he owned property down there. He had a tremendous amount of land here in Manoa.

DA: Was he an alii or something of that sort?

BK: Through his mother I think it was. But, you see, Boki was a chief here. This was his valley. He is the one who gave the land to the mission society. Boki was a chief; no Hawaiian owned land.

DA: That's right. The moment I said that I realized it.

BK: The gods left land in trust to the chiefs...Boki was the chief of this valley. He gave the land to Punahou, against his wife's wishes. She didn't want him to do it. He made other grants around. We just heard this morning how Woodlawn got its name. ^[LILIHUA] Tani was the name of the Dillingham home place down where Central Union Church is now. You remember the old Dillingham house there. And that was called Woodlawn. Dillingham also owned a lot of land up here.

WA: My father surveyed the roads and all the lots and was the developer as you call it now days. He did the selling of Woodlawn. You could buy

an acre for \$700.

BK: Well, and then you know that there was Woodlawn Dairy. Remember the Woodlawn Dairy?

WA: I don't remember the Woodlawn Dairy.

DA: That----in the corner there [at the arboretum] was all marked with cattle paths----Is there a stream that furnishes water to this house up here somewhere?

Dr. Sagawa: Well, there is one, but it's quite a distance up.

X: They just hold a tin can out and fill it with rain. There are 200 inches a year.

Dr. Sagawa: Until 1969, all the water on the site here was siphoned off by Palama Stream, from this stream th-t comes through.

BK: The main Manoa Stream. You know there are several tributaries that come together.

DA: What do you call the main one; the one that goes up that way?

BK: And then from each waterfall there is a tributary. You know, Manoa Stream used to flow along the base of Tantalus. And then there was an eruption from Round Top. The lava diverted it to where it is now.

DA: The lava diverted what?

BK: The stream to the middle of the valley.

DA: Well, then eventually in the lower part on the right thumb up against the next ridge. I often wondered about the original creation of Manoa. I don't know of any place else in the world, we travel a good deal, where I've seen a valley, a large valley in the dimensions of Manoa. Short, very high on two-thirds of each side, very high up in the end, short and stubby. Where, I've never seen such a place.

JGR: Well, it's a characteristic of the volcanic construction of the Island.

DA: I'm no geologist, certainly not a geological expert on the volcanic formations, but it just looks to me that there must have been a tremendous crater up there.

JGR: No, I think this is an eroded valley. It's what they call an amphitheater-----valley. It's a geological, it's a volcanic thing, and it's the way they erode.

DA: Well, the amphitheater can be by craters-I suggested this.

X: Yes, apparently, though this is not the case.

DA: But, doesn't anybody else here agree with me that they've never seen a valley as short and deep.

BK: Well, I think it's so as far as Islands go-because Nuuanu is deeper but it's narrower.

DA: And longer.

BK: And Waipio which is a big valley, wider than this but still it goes way back into the mountains.

DA: Waipio comes close, I never thought of that.

WPA: Beatrice, what do you have on the Boyds-where the stream comes down from the last waterfall, on that side was the Boyds when I was a boy. Is that where it was. The Boyds were way over there.

X: Yes.

BK: You know, beyond this ridge is what they call the hidden valley. Do you remember that as . . .

DA: Where the banana plantation was.

BK: Yes.

DA: Who owned that? I've never known.

BK: I don't know there were two Chinese and Japanese.

DA: It was operated by them. There were Chinese, yes.

BK: And remember all the Japanese flower growers that were up here?

DA: There was a steady stream of cards coming up from the stages down town.

X: There was an orange tree half way up the ridge and every once in a while the boys would go and take a bag and get beautiful oranges, like Kona oranges.

BK: Has everybody drunk their coffee? Otherwise, Let's go inside; I'm sorry they are going to move their activities here. We'll have more coffee inside.

Dr. Sagawa: We agreed not to stand in the way of progress.

WPA: There were playgrounds all over the place. It was a little distance to get where we are right now, but we came over here and we played in the streams.

X: You still went to the waterfall in those days, that long hike back through the valley?

DA: Not too often, but we did. The waterfall had a pool at the bottom.

X: And then there was a Castle home back here towards the waterfall; that is now burned down. Is that right?

X: No. Carter. Carter.

X: You remember that at all?

DA: No, I don't remember that no. I understand that the place was here. I don't know. I have a suspicion that that was built after I left these Islands.

BK: I think so too.

~~MSET~~(?): The early Punahou boys in the first class loved to climb up to Tantalus and over into Kaneohe and come back in the same day. [It's written up in Mary C. Alexander, Punahou, pp. 129-134.]

DA: Where would they go. Can you say the route?

~~MSET~~: They went to the Parker home. Well, there were two different routes that are described in Aunt's book(?).

DA: There is a flat sort of peninsula land a little way down in the hills and so on. But only on these places on the ewa side. When I was real young, that was a grassy piece of land. Both places like that were full of lantana. That was a grassy piece of land and down at the mauka end was a kukui tree. My father took us up through there once, I was quite young then. He showed me this kukui tree covered with initials. He knew the initials; I couldn't possibly remember who they were now, but a lot of old time, well-known old names in Hawaii.

X: There is still a very large kukui tree.

DA: It's a shame that the tree wasn't preserved.

PR: No, I think there is a very large kukui tree in a flat area on Tantalus now. It may be the same one.

DA: Could be.

MAS(?): It's in a forest. Not near the edge, not near a ridge.

X: Can you lead us to it?

X: I know people who can.

DA: The place I'm talking about is not near a ridge either.

X: I think so.

MAS: The "name tree."

DA: I think it might be assumed that in going on this hike, they used it, their initials, to register having passed there. I think they must have climbed up where we climbed up the ~~ridge~~^{upward} ridge up by Mother Castle's home. The easiest way of getting up.

BK (or MAS): Oh, yes, I remember going up, climbing up, right up the hill. We used to go up to the Waterhouse place.

DA: Oh, up crisscrossing the ravine.

MAS: DeWitt led me up when I was about six years old. I remember-I thought it was so great to get up there.

~~MAS~~: Also the early Punahou boys collected land shells. They had a collection of over 2,000 specimens in 1853.

DA: Well, Gulick, John Gulick was it. He had a collection which he separated into the various valleys they came from. Just as Gordon Brown had a collection from every valley from the Koolau range and Gulick had a board, a "V" shaped cardboard thing, I remember was about 8 or 10 feet long, with all the valley's marked and pasted on each valley land----- that came from it. And that was taken and exhibited at the Philadelphia Centenary exhibition as a demonstration of evolution.

X: I think that's in the Bishop Museum now.

DA: No, it was at Punahou in the Bishop planetology section. But some boy came along and ran his hand over the entire board and knocked many of the shells off. [MAS notes: "I have asked Mrs. Gordon Brown recently [1982] about her deceased husband's land shell collection. It was given by her to the Makiki library through Margaret Smith Young and can be seen there."]

X: Dr. Cooke did a study of the plant shells too, didn't he?

DA: Yes, but his primary study was all kinds of shells, not just the tree shells. I knew Monty Cooke quite well when we were small boys.

X: There was a very interesting article about the plant shells and how they are practically extinct now.

DA: It 's a peculiar thing, their becoming cannibals.

X: Eating each other?

DA: I was told this by somebody out at the museum a year or so ago.

X: They imported a cannibal shell.

X: Oh, is that what happened?

PR: Because of the African snail "came in" and got loose and took over the whole place. They are trying to get rid of it, and they imported this new Euglandina rosea, a snail, which got to be about this big; to get rid

of the African snail, but it also ate any other snail it could find.

MAS: Well, I have your land shells, William; when you moved to Arcadia; you wanted me to take care of them. All the little match boxes and everything as you had when you were in high school.

WAP: Do you have them now?

MAS: Yes. You told me that one of your grandsons might want them and you just wanted me to take them temporarily. They're faded so,-I think.

WPA: Bo [a grandson] is studying up there in Washington.

MAS: Well, let me get them for him before he goes back.

DA: Gordon Brown had his collection about all of the valleys. I asked some-----about the Bishop Museum taking his collection thinking if they wanted any more land shells collections. And they said no, oh, they had an awful lot.

DA: Is there anything more about Manoa?

WPA: I feel quite close to this arboretum because Dr. Lyon was a co-worker at the Experiment Station. I graduated from the University of Hawaii with a Master's Degree and went to work for the experiment station. Dr. Lyon, at that time, well forestry was quite the thing. That's when he started to make a tree collection here. I don't think he visualized what would be done after he died. Then, Mr. Agee, the head of the experiment station, had a home right down here. So, I was up here quite often. Then they wanted to get some place on Oahu which would be similar to places where sugarcane would grow. Mr. Brodie, is he still living down here?

BK: No, he's living further down the valley. He's in very poor health.

WPA: Yeah. Well, in that area he planted sugarcane; about that time that I was 16 I think, (1916?). [NOTE: WPA born 1893.] The ideas were that the varieties that would do well there would do well in some of these out of the way places on Hawaii. They kept going that for a great many years. But they never got anything that I heard of.

X: Is it still growing?

BK: No, but there are remnants.

X: You don't know the earliest date of the earliest sugarcane growing. It was always growing up here as far as I have read. I haven't found the earliest date.

BK: Well, you see, this was, I don't know if you know it, Bill and Mary, that this area was absolutely denuded. 124 acres up here were completely denuded, because of cattle. Dr. Lyon wanted to show what reforestation would do. That's why he chose this spot. That was 50 years ago (so the oldest trees up here are only 50 years old). He also used this project to try out exotics. He traveled all over the world and brought trees and tried them here. Then he also just loved other trees, so he brought many varieties, and that's why this Arboretum existed.

DA: That must have been something after I left the Islands.

BK: Yes it must have, and also when he bought in new sugarcane varieties they tried them out here. They also did other things, they began to use fructose for sweetening so they had a big ti plantation up here, ti not "tea." Remnants of those are still here.

X: What did ti have to do with fructose?

BK: The root is pretty sweet. You know the ancient Hawaiians used to bake it in their imu and eat it as candy. It was sweet.

DA: I was wondering too, when it was first known up here.

BK: We could get it from the records.

DA: In one of the Reynolds' journals [MAS "These journals at HMCS Library."], Reynolds made experiments with that and came up to Manoa to see what Marin (?) was doing in the way of making sugar. ?

BK: I see what you're getting at. Boki gave a piece of land around here to Wilkinson, a Britisher. Wilkinson was the first person to grow sugarcane up here. It was used as sweetening but then they began to make rum out of it,

So Boki took back the land, because he didn't want any rum. He was a good Christian.

X: However, Bingham planted sugarcane on the Punahou land, and he had cane there and taro, so apparently that must have been after Wilkinson.

BK: Yeah. That was little bit after. Actually these two major agricultural crops, sugar and pineapple, have their real origin in Manoa Valley.

DA: That's curious.

BK: Wilkinson with the sugar plantation and old, what's his name, pineapples, where the University is now.

X: Kidwell, that was in the early 1900's.

BK: So it's interesting that most of our big agricultural industries got their start right here in Manoa Valley.

DA: I once asked when sugar was first raised commercially in Hawaii.

(William should know more about this than I do.) [The answer was that the Chinese raised it on Lanai.]

[MAS NOTE: The first man who raised sugar lived there but it didn't last.

See Potter & Kasdon, Hawaii: Our Island State, 1964, p. 145. In 1802 a Chinese brought rollers from China in a Junk. Marin grew it in 1819; Wilkinson in 1827.] One of the earliest plantations that continually operated was at Loloa, on Kauai, starting 1835.

MY: Do you have anything to add about what you did here as boys?

WA: There is a picture around somewhere of the three of us riding home on a horse.

BK: Is that a horse you owned?

WA: Yes.

MAS: Was it named Princess?

WA: I don't know.

BK: I remember Mary, your mother, had a carriage. She used to take us kids all down to Waikiki in that horse & carriage. I wish we had a picture of that. Then your aunt was the first one who brought in an automobile - - an electric one. [MAS: Actually, one of their uncles, either H. P. Baldwin or Sam Alexander, brought in the 1st electric autos and gave one to Aunt Mary & Agnes Alexander, perhaps in 1912.]

MAS: That electric was always stalling.

BK: It must have been these Manoa hills.

[The Naming of Mountains on Oahu]

ET: On the subject of hiking, books say that William DeWitt Alexander was known at Yale as "Fiji" or "Aleck." He and other boys, sometimes Gulick, when they were hiking, they amused themselves by naming the various mountain peaks from their classical reading. They're the very ones who named Tantalus, because it was a summit which they found to be hard to reach. And they also named Olympus. (They didn't know that it was already Puuohia, which in Hawaiian means "tree hill.") Mr. Alexander, when you were a boy in Manoa, what were the special games you played or special places you visited with your friends?

WPA: I think we were about half way down, maybe three quarters of the way down, and we kind of felt close to the Hawaiians up here. They had a little church down there in what we called "The Village." I don't know if it is still there. I have memories that when there was a death in the family there was a lot of wailing that we could hear, because the trade winds came right down from that side. This wailing would go on for long periods of time, in the Hawaiian style.

WDA: There was cholera epidemic then. Any number of them died. I can remember the wailing away, as clearly as can be.

ET: When you came up the valley to as far as the arboretum, were there

a great many Hawaiians up here?

WDA: I don't remember Hawaiians up here. They were around the taro patches, in the central bottom lands. I think the growers of taro were all Chinese.

BK: A lot of Chinese had come in here by the time we were children.

WDA: You could tell the Chinese taro patches from those of the Hawaiians because the Hawaiians used wider dikes between the patches (these used for cleaning the patch). These were so wide you could walk on them. The Chinese, being more economically-minded, would make more out of the land by narrowing the dikes so that they were barely wide enough to walk on.

X: Well, they were smaller people so they didn't need wide walkways!

X: When you were hiking in this valley, do you remember finding old Hawaiian ruins? Old walls, heiaus?

WDA: There was the old well-known heiau where Monty Cooke's home was. Just below the home are all the remains of the old heiau.

ET: There is supposed to be an old heiau near the site of the Manoa Valley Church. Do you remember any of that?

WDA: Kenneth Emery has listed all the neglected ones. We were always on the lookout for an adz. There weren't very many.

LV: Were you ever up in the Castle property, the big Castle home up there?

WA: Yes, when we were going up Tantalus, it was right there.

X: Admiral Ronald Higgins lived on that Castle property.

BK: He is still alive, living near the Oahu Country Club.

WA: He calls himself a gravestone admiral, one who becomes an admiral only when he retires, most of them ^{houses at the Castle property were} mauka of her own home. But the one Higgins was in was makai. It may well be that it was intended for the manager of the dairy there.

X: We've come across a reference to a swimming tank.

WDA: Well, there was tank for the collection of rain water.

LV: No not that but a swimming tank next to Puuhonua. Did W.R. Castle have a house next Mother Castle's?

WDA: I don't recall a swimming tank, but I clearly remember those rain-collecting pools, up on the hillside.

ET: Do you have any memories of Hawaiians telling you stories, or talking about how they lived? Did you ever go into any of their houses?

WDA: Like so many of the haole boys at that time, we didn't learn the Hawaiian language, and didn't get much help from anyone Hawaiian, very little indeed. We knew them, we knew them but.....our playmates were other haole boys.

Lady: Right

WDA: One of my memories is the Chinese funerals.....

WDA: that came up the valley and they were a block above where we lived. We kids heard the bang, bang, bang of the drums that were to scare the devils in Hawaii. We'd run across to see the Chinese funeral, and see the papers that they were throwing up, that the devil had to go through- the pukas in the papers, and it never get there.

WDA: Didn't that noise come from a band that was hired to ride ahead of the hearse?

WDA: I don't know about that.

Bea: They used to have trucks.

ET: Yes. Once in a while you still hear it. Once in a great while people still have it.

WDA: And they had food to leave at the grave. Oh, if you could see the food up on the seat of the hearse.

Bea: Do you remember the movies? The movie truck that came down into the valley where the village was, they'd gong-gong all day. Then they

set up the trucks and put up a cloth around. Everybody sat on the ground and they had a movie. Do you remember those Japanese movies?

ET: Does someone want to ask a question?

LV: I was going to say what about Mary? M.A.S. is here in Honolulu for a short time and their reminiscences are older and I can talk to Evelyn some other time about.....

Bea: Oh, how about talking about Punahou-what you used to do? Did you have, did you used to throw the boys into the pool and into the pond in those days?

WDA: Oh, there was some of that. If you want to that sort of thing, I remember catching centipedes, cutting off their nippers, and going around scaring the girls.

MAS: Charley Cooke was the greatest one for that.

ET: You said you have no recollection of a "Woodlawn Dairy" up here?

WPA: No particular recollection, but I remember the cattle load.

ET: My house is on the east side of this valley, on former Woodlawn Dairy property. I looked up the background; I did a sort of title search. I found that a tremendous amount of the land on that side belonged to Woodlawn dairy.

DA: Who owned the dairy next door to us?

WPA: Andrade.

BK: What was once Woodlawn Dairy was all engulfed when they made the Woodlawn subdivision.

DA: Oh, there were dairies all over this place. My brother William here had a dairy! Three cows before he went to college.

WPA: At the end of Alaula Way was Andrade dairies. Not the Andrade that had or had a clothing store. This was a Judge Andrade. Pamoia Road wasn't there yet. Pamoia Rd. was built right through where the dairies had been.

BK: Yes that was all dairy there at the foot of the hill.

ET: According to this Oahu College Development Real Estate Map, what you are calling Alaula Way was first "Bishop Street, then it became Jones. [MAS note: Parker Pl. was "Aolani" when the College Hills tract was laid out. The Alexander home was built in 1901. See HJH, vol. 9, 1975.]

BK: It was a Miss Green that named it Alaula. [MAS note: In 1920's many residents wanted a Hawaiian street name (they had nothing against P.C. Jones, for whom the street had got its 2nd name). Laura Green was asked to offer a name. She named it "Alaula Way"--figuratively, "was toward the rising sun" or literally, "red way."]

DA: I think Father had Parker Street moved when he bought his place. He owned one or two of those lots in there.

MAS: When Will was in high school he peddled milk around the valley. He himself milked the cows. He went all over Manoa delivering milk. It was called William Alexander's Dairy.

DAL: "William's Dairy," that's all.

MAS: He had a cow pasture.

DA: Three cows. He started with a loan of one.

WA: I delivered the milk in great big cans, carrying one in each hand, walking, about 6-6:30 in the morning. Lots there didn't sell very fast. There were just a few sold, and I think our house was probably the third. I used to go to the Monty Cooke house on Oahu Avenue (where he lived for a while before he got the place he wanted). Theodore Cooke and I were quite friendly.

ET: When did your family move into the house on Oahu?

DA: 1902. [MAS note: Does anyone know who built the first "western style" house in the valley? My mother used to say that there was only the Cooper's barn, built by the Henry Cooper family, in the valley before

we built our house. My husband, Gordon Smith, pointed out to me the date in HJH, IX, 107 (1975), listing it as built in 1901, architects Dickey & Newcomb. The house is shown as being at "Bishop Street and Aolani Rd." in "College Hill." All this concurs with De Witt's 1902 date for moving in.]

BK: We moved in 1903, down in the lower part of the lot.

MAS: Beatrice, you and your family went to Maui and then you came back?

BK: Yes, returning about 1907. My papa remodeled that back house that we were living in.

DA: Do you remember the little rock hill there at the corner where the street car came along Oahu Avenue at the corner of Alaula Way (by its present name)? That was completely taken down, flatly, with a stone crusher working there. The stones or rock then used to Macadamize Oahu Avenue and other streets.

BK: You remember that was only a shuttle car. It went only as far as Punahou.

DA: The Punahou students riding home or walking home would get on it, some on one end, some on the other, and they would bounce up and down, drive the motorman crazy.

BK: Another thing they did. They used to pull the trolley off the overhead wires and stop the car.

DA: Jack London describes the people of Manoa as being perhaps the most honest he had ever run across. He saw how when they come downtown with umbrellas (for it would have been raining behind them in Manoa but not down town), they would set their umbrellas up above over the pull cord, to be retrieved when they came home at the end of the day. Jack London rode this car and marvelled at the umbrellas riding above him. I can't remember where I read this. Perhaps in a newspaper?

X: Did horse carts ever come up to Manoa?

DA: I'm pretty sure not. They ended at Punahou. I rode in a horse drawn car from Sereno Bishop's place on School Street in Nuuanu to Punahou in 1901. [MAS note: I have a recollection of seeing a horse drawn trolley being turned around at the end of the Manoa line. Perhaps a trial run, or perhaps I really saw this at the end of the Nuuanu line. I think perhaps they were giving the horse car a trial run up Manoa from Punahou, but never did it regularly. I certainly do not remember riding in a horse car. I do remember how rebellious the horses seemed. I now realize what a job it would have been to unchain the horses and move them to the other end of the for such a short "shuttle run" at either end -- the Punahou corner, the Oahu Avenue terminus.]

X: Do you know Andrew Westervelt?

MAS: He was in my class at Punahou, but I only remember him when I was a child, about third grade.

X: I wrote to him in Rhode Island or Conneticut and asked whether he would give us some of his family history. I have not heard from him. I know that he has replied to the women of the AAUW. They had an oil painting of his mother that they wanted to find a new home for. They wrote him, he sent back a check for having the picture crated and shipped to him.

X: Do you remember a Westervelt pre-school that Bea has told us about?

MAS: No, Miss Clara Hemenway's school. [MAS note: Because I always loved Miss Clara's school and because Caroline Cooke and I transferred from there (after 3 years and entered Punahou at the 3rd grade in September 1914) with a good basic background, I am glad to give her school a mention here.]

BK: Before that I went to Mrs. Westervelt's on Kamehameha Street.

MAS: Miss Clara Hemenway had a little school and I went there for 3 years, kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 1911-1914.

BK: Euphie Shields also had a little kindergarten.

MAS: The Clara Hemenway school began in a little cottage that was near the present Waioli Tea Room. I have a picture of us (in kindergarten) around a May pole. Then she had to find another place, though she liked that place I think. The next place was in a cottage in someone's backyard between Oahu Avenue and what is now University Avenue (then "Vancouver Highway"), near what had been the Theodore Cooke home. [MAS note: Some children who attended: Caroline Cooke, Dr. Baldwin's children, Jack Bottomley, Bodero (?) family, Charley Hemenway. Miss Clara (herself the sister of CR Hemenway) and her father later went back to Vermont.]

X: Do you remember the Montana family at all?

DA: I remember the location of their home, but I never got to know them.

BK: Was that the place there at Punahou and Manoa streets?

DA: Right there in there triangle where upper and lower Manoa roads came together. It's called "Gore Way."

X: It is a triangle, a "gore" as in dressmaking.

X: Did you know of a Mrs. Willard Wax, Mary Jane?

MAS: Mary Jane Brown. [MAS note: Was it Mary Jane Brown's "mother" who was really her aunt, Mrs. Willard Wax (a Montana somehow). I think she in my class at Punahou in the elementary grades -- very friendly.]

DA: She lived down "College Hills" near Punahou School. Her Mother took care of an orphan that was her niece.

PR: They didn't have any children. He married a Mrs. Davidson who had several children, and while they didn't take the name Monatana, they lived in various Montana abodes.

DA: Going somewhere off this subject, nobody has mentioned the old Hawaiian stone wall that Boki built.

BK: You mean the one that ran all along Wilder?

DA: It ran all along Wilder, the stone wall with night-blooming Cereus.

That was only a part of it. He had all this land that was given to him

marked off by this old Hawaiian stone wall. Great big thick thing. I don't know if there is any remnant left. Last year I went looking for it at the end of Alaula Way. I saw a little pile of rocks somewhere, perhaps the only thing that's left. [MAS note: REgarding rock walls in my childhood. It was the custom to have them around your property -- not all were ancient. The one between our lot and Andrade's Dairy (at the top of the hill) was high and could have been very old. There were rocks all over the area, but I remember well the rock pile at the corner of Oahu Avenue & Jones (Alaula Way) on the Sutton property, all overgrown later with haole koa.]

ET: Could it [Boki's wall] really have been by Alaula Way?

DA: That was an edge of the "College Hills Tract."

ET: In Mary Alexander's book and somewhere else, I read that there was a wall built from Punchbowl almost to Moilili by Kaahumanu. That she ordered it built. Each chief had to do a section. It was about a mile and a half long. The remains of it are still there at Punahou.

X: But DeWitt you said that this wall went up to Alaula Way?

DA: It just went all around the edges of the tract.

MAS: Well, we all had walls around our gardens. [See her note above.]

DA: Ours was down at the bottom of our paddock, at Andrade's land, of course, and clear around to Alaula Way and right across from the end of the street, where the hill went down. The surviving one at Punahou may have been a different wall, not the same as our tract wall. I don't know.

X: The reason for the Boki wall across the valley was to keep the cattle down in the dry area. It kept them from coming up into the Punahou land.

DA: I always assumed that the Wilder wall was to mark off Boki's land, not merely to confine grazing area of cattle.

WA: We had a baseball team formed of day scholars at Punahou. Buster

Brown was one, Gordon Brown's another. Do you remember playing baseball down there?

DA: Not particularly on Francis Cooper's father's property. Because if it was on his father's land, he always had to be catcher or pitcher.

This property was between lower and upper Manoa road beginning somewhat mauka of the Montana's and clear on east across Oahu Avenue to about where there was the Boki (as I think) wall, somewhere around there. A large piece of property. He built a 9-hole golf course on it. I was a caddy on it. My older brother William here, was smarter. He just opened up, with Francis Cooper, a soft drink stand. Easier than caddying!

DA: Would this golf links come into your history of Manoa valley? At the Oahu Country club there is still a Manoa Cup. This 9-hole course was around both sides of the house to the upper Manoa Road. Then clear across Oahu Avenue on the Kokohead side.

WA: Francis Cooper and I had our soft drink stand at the top of this long hill the golfers had to come up. They'd be thirsty then.

X: Did you sell guava juice?

BK: No, it wasn't thought of then.

WA: We made lemonade. Also, there was a Sunshine & Soda works.

DA: I think that was all over the islands.

WA: If they didn't want that soda water, we gave them lemonade.

ET: Now this was private property, but the Cooper's opened it up for recreational golf?

DA: I don't know whether it was a club or a half pay or what--I don't know what it was. Cooper owned the golf links. This would be about 1910, William would have been 17. So before that by a good deal, maybe between 1905 and 1910.

WA: I went to college in 1912, so it must have been 1908-9-10.

DA: I think between 1905 and 1910.

X: I remember the Brown boys.

DA: Gordon Brown was my friend. I saw him a year or two ago in his highrise downtown.

X: Was he with the Gordon Walker Supply?

WA: Yes. Gordon might have more facts than me because he lived farther up valley.

X: He's in Lanialu now. You were talking about playing baseball, which the boys called aipuni, which means to "go around". Did you ever hear that name? It was a form of baseball.

DA: Never heard of that. Around the bases, no? Is this in Mary Alexander's book?

BK: Yes.

X: Another interesting fact, Punahou boys were once very much interested in botany. In the Punahou Gazette, for about 1850, there is a list of some four pages, of plants found at Punahou, with their botanical names. Apparently they have a whole collection of these in the Gazette in the Archives. I understand from you, Mary, that Punahou is recording now the reminiscences of old timers?

MAS: Will has been to Punahou for interviews; and they came to you and Alice, didn't they? DeWitt, did you have any phone call?

DA: No.

Jean E: She was supposed to call me but she hasn't yet.

ET: Can we return to those Chinese Funerals? Can you describe them? Did they march into the valley, or were they in cars?

DA: They were in a procession of hacks, carriages.

MAS: My father came home in a hack [i.e., a "taxi"] after he had been to the other islands, I remember that.

DA: He always came up in a hack from a steamer. The funeral band music

was like a brass band (there are still such in Chinese funerals in San Francisco). Then came the hearse. Up in the very high seat in the front was the driver and also the man who was throwing out these little papers, like a transfer, that William was telling you about. And there was food up there. There might be a whole cooked pig.

X: Oh, did they throw the pig, throw the pig in the air?

DA: No, no, no, they carried it in the front seat to get it to the grave. Then they left it overnight and of course it disappeared. They thought that the spirits had taken it, to heaven with them. It seems to me that there were many hired hacks in the procession.

BK: Then later it was automobiles.

DA: And depending on whether or not it was a prominent man, it could be a tremendous funeral or a small one.

ET: And noisier too, if he were an important man.

X: How did the band for the music travel. In a hack too/

DA: Don't call it music. It was just banging. To my vague recollection, the drummers were in a wagon. I'm not sure. [MAS note: I remember the band in the funeral being on a flat bed truck, as Bea says. The noise was deafening. I was then mostly interested in the pieces of paper, all punched with holes. I imagined "evil spirits" having an impossible time going in those and never reaching the corpse. As children, we played with the papers. To us they became imaginary streetcar transfers.]

X: Up in Nuuanu the music (or banging) would be our announcement, so everyone would congregate out in the streets to watch the procession go by. But there in Nuuanu, at the start of the procession, there were marching men, some of whom carried incense on long poles.

DA: I'm sure that if there were men marching here I would have remembered.

BK: Well, it was a long climb up here and they would be coming from downtown. Now I want to show you this map, made under you grandfather's survey.

This is the head of the valley. Here is Mt. Olympus. These were the districts within the valley. This is the stream. Right now, we are about here.

DA: We used to go swimming over here and jump off a cliff.

X: There isn't any good swimming pool anymore.

BK: Now it's forbidden to go into Manoa stream it's so polluted. But we certainly used to go in and swim. Now here you see is where East Manoa and Manoa Roads veer off, at that triangle. It was called Punahou Street all the way, not called Manoa Road at all. There wasn't even a Wilder Avenue.

X: Where was this place where you went swimming? Was it near where the East-West Center is now?

BK: Yes, it wasn't very far to walk from my Pamoia Road house. [MAS note: It seems to me it was mauka of the EWCenter--perhaps there were several swimming pools? Going to Manoa stream was fun. Our mothers did not like it but as long as we told them where we were going it was allowed. I remember the pool as somewhat mauka of the EWC. We never heard of pollution, but were warned never to dive. Betty Lindsay & Charlott Mclean I remember going too. We had to cross several cow pastures on the way.]

DA: I walked home from that swimming pool once after a swim with the other boys. We went right through a kuliana (a Hawaiian place). They were having poi out in front of the house and there was a car on the lot. I saw a man there with this group with tremendous whitish pinkish ears and spots on his face. When I got home I told about this, and people there recognized it at once as leprosy. Now let's talk about the Boyd's place. That's behind us here [at the arboretum]. Nothing of Kaahumanu anywhere? This would be where Agee had his house. There is the "Castle Home" area [before they built]. My family knew Carrie Westervelt quite well, though we were quite humble around the Castle's.

MAS: The Gulick's is the first place I remember on East Manoa Road.

DA: So this is my grandfather's map!

BK: Isn't that interesting, when the date is 1882.

DA: When we left Punahou, he was working for King Kalakaua. He was Surveyor General. I wonder why he picked Manoa to do such a map?

BK: This is the only existant map of all of Manoa valley. It's never been done again. Now here is an older partial map. ?

DA: This is surveyed by Parker, it's an amazing thing.

DA: My grandfather didn't form a partnership until about 1900. [MAS note: He and Erdman Baldwin formed their partnership after 1901...Erdman Dwight Baldwin. Probably between 1902 and 1907. It was called "Baldwin and Alexander, Surveyors and Civil Engineers. Office in the Judd Building. It was of course our grandfather surveying in 1882.]

Jean E: My great grandpa, their is W.P. Alexander from Kentucky.

DA: 1882 is quite reasonable, because W.D. Alexander left Punahou in the 1860's or 1870. Do you know that on the Punahou grounds was an octagonal house, a very popular thing in the 1860's? [Punahou archives has a picture of this Alexander house, which was given to the school.]

X: Mary Alexander's book is so full of information, not just about Punahou; for it is relative to the history of this valley. There is so much about agriculture. For instance, we know that when the missionaries at the mission houses lost their first crop, completely wiped out. Perhaps by the inch worm, or some other kind. They called it a worm. But William Hanson Wright was farming for ten years at Punahou. He had an onion crop, watermelon, beans.

DA: And he had no insecticides then.

WA: The arboretum looks so beautiful with the sunshine today.

ET: We haven't asked you about the university. Were you in the first Master's class?

MAS: He got his BA at Yale, then a MA at UH, 1922.

[At this point there was somewhat general conversation. Some talk of trips made by Punahou boys across Tantalus to Kaneohe, all taken from Mary Charlotte Alexander's Punahou, pp. 129-134.]

DA: You know there is a very deep cave at the Kokohead side of this valley? Way in deep. An awful lot of bones there.

X: I think boys of today know where these caves are.

DA: It's at the corner of the valley, at the bottom of a very steep cliff.

ADDITIONAL NOTES BY MARY ALEXANDER SMITH

1. I hope the Japanese flower growers and vendors get a good mention. Seems to me they specialized in asters of all colors - also Easter lilies. All of this I remember between about 1913 and 1923 along main Manoa Road above Waioli.
2. As a child I enjoyed walks up the main Manoa Road every Sunday p.m. with my father. Always started out going past the graveyard with its plumeria trees and through "the village". We never shopped there but at ~~the~~ vegetable cart which came to the door. CQ Yee Hop delivered meat. I think the "cart" must have had some staples, too. Maybe they were delivered from May & Co. later. Ice came to the door. Eggs, chickens, milk and bananas were on the place. Ice cream made in the "crank freezer" every Sunday. Also remember delicious mulberries and figs. The latter had to be bagged so the mynahs would not rob us.
3. I first walked up Tantalus with DeWitt (he does not remember it). I must have been 5 or 6, in 1911 or 1912. My Aunt Mary C. Alexander's Cottage was new to me and had not been there long. The land was acquired in 1907. So I think the cottage was built and 1st used between '09 and '10. We went up the "Castle Trail" which started just makai of the big Castle Home which dominated the valley for a long time. It zig-zagged across the ravine and went by what is now Mrs. Mary Eapposito's house, then up between the Waterhouse's and Frear's. From there we went along the ridge past the Charley Dickey property and house, the Wilder's, and came out at Paleieli, my Aunt's place. There also still was a good trail going along side the F. Bishop's place, now ~~her~~ Brash's, and down a ravine where I believe "the name tree" was. It was a good spot to rest. There seems a wide difference in where people thought this tree was. On the trail going up the

Alexander Family

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ravine lantana was an awful pest to children.

Mary Alexander Smith
b. Manoa Valley, August 12, 1906

Interviewees:

Mr. DeWitt Alexander
William P. Alexander
Mary Alexander Smith

At Lyon Arboretum on _____

Members of History Group Present:

Beatrice Krauss
Janet Gordon Roach
Peggy Robb
Louise Vicars
Evelyn Tropido
Jean E.
others