

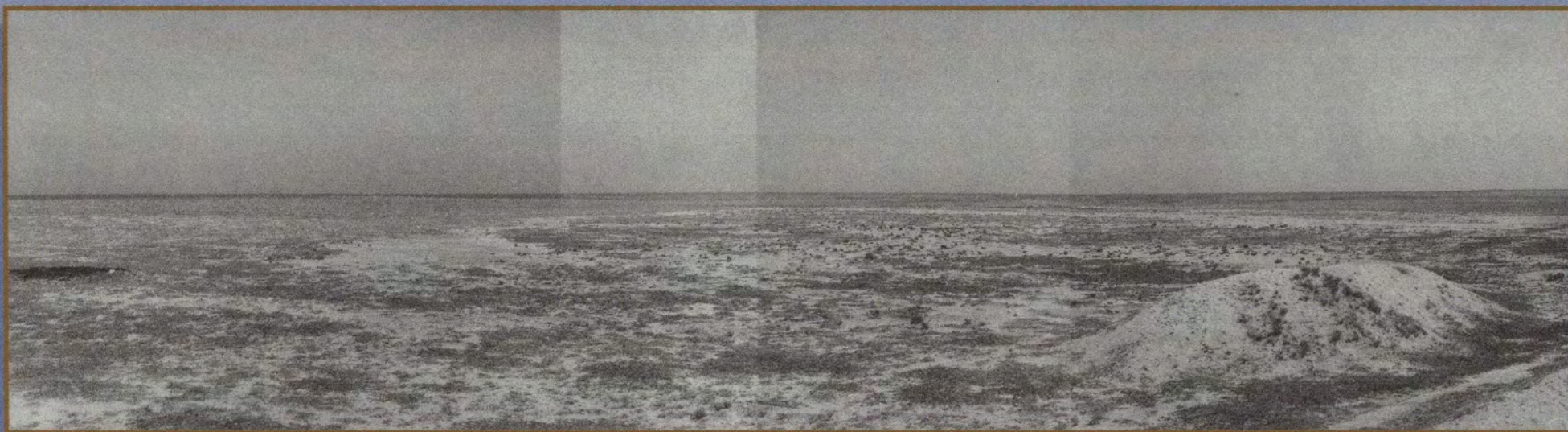


JARVIS MODULE

Mural
(35.25" x 36")

JARVIS ISLAND-

"The sight of it was disheartening..."



A view of the basin of Jarvis, with a mound of guano in the foreground, dumped from a tram car and never shipped.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

Five days and nearly 1,000 miles from Honolulu, the colonists caught a first glimpse of what would become, for some, their home for the next three months. A low, dry, desolate saucer-shaped island, the central portion of Jarvis was depressed practically to sea level, the result of decades of guano digging. At its highest peak, it measured 23 feet above sea level, and at its widest, it was only 1 3/4 mile.



Recent view of Jarvis Island.

Photo courtesy of Scott Godwin

"We couldn't have had a very good navigator because we spent half the morning looking for Jarvis. We were going all over the ocean, back and forth, trying to find Jarvis. So it gives you an idea that these islands were so small in the Pacific that it was very easy not to find it."

— George Kahanu, Sr.
Interview, March 27, 2002

"The sight of it was disheartening. All I could see was a white sand bar glaring in the sun, and scarcely visible above the surf."

— George West
Honolulu Star Bulletin,
June 13, 1963

"I got out on deck and saw Jarvis, a barren, flat island so small that you could see the whole island with one glimpse."

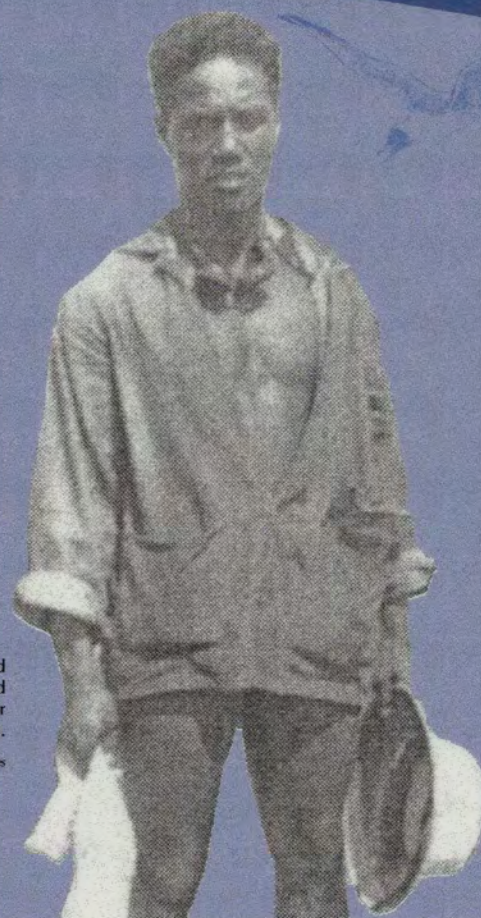
— Diary of James Carroll
January 15, 1936

Left: Colonists pose with surfboards made from the wreck of the *Amaranth*, Jarvis, 1935.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

Henry Ahia, one of the first Hawaiians placed on Jarvis, became the island's second "mayor," and served in that capacity for three "tours." Jarvis, 1935.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives



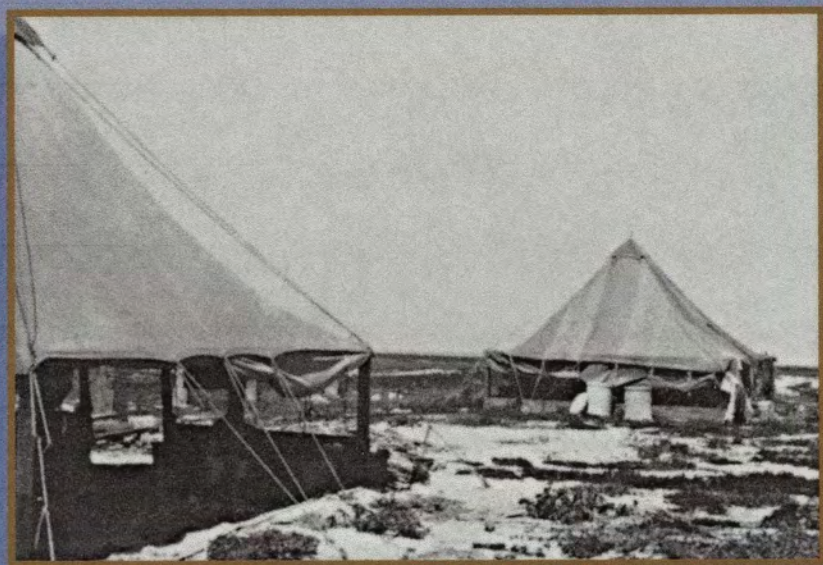
JARVIS MODULE

2.A.1 Middle Panel
(41" x 48")
Jarvis Island

FIRST CAMP

March 26, 1935

The landing was accomplished at a small break in the fringing reef on the northwest side, just below a four-sided, triangular beacon. The camp consisted of three tents set up in a depression between two mounds of low-grade guano.



These rudimentary tents served as home for the young colonists, 1936.
Photo courtesy of George Kahana, Sr., 1936

"The first night on Jarvis was a frightening experience. We had no radio, no means of communications with the rest of the world. It was exile. As we sat down for dinner, hundreds of hungry mice scampered around us. We heard them as we slept."

— George West
Jarvis Island, March 26, 1935

"Collins made a flag pole and attached it to the top of the beacon. At 1:25 pm the American flag was hoisted by Collins and Ahia while Aune, Toomey, and Graf stood at attention, and members of the official party watch the ceremony."

Jarvis log, March 26, 1935



Jarvis Island map, showing the landing site and Millersville.
Map courtesy of Michael Blasco, Bishop Museum

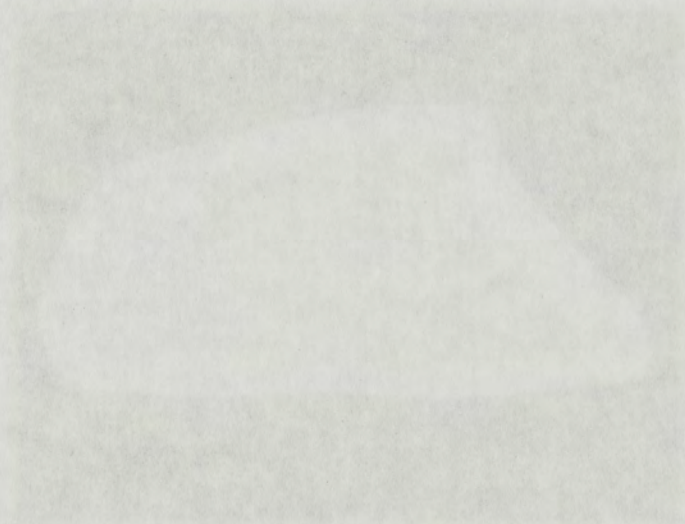


From the outset, raising of the American flag became a central task, a constant reminder of the true nature of the colonists' endeavors — to serve as occupiers of land on behalf of the United States, 1935.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

JARVIS MODULE

2.A.2 Right Panel
(30" x 48")
First Camp



DAILY LIFE ON JARVIS ISLAND

Daily life for the young colonists consisted of taking weather readings; farming; studying bird life; collecting specimens for Bishop Museum; mapping the island; fishing; recording types of fish caught; preparing a landing field; keeping a log; as well as any other occupations which might be "advisable."

SURF'S UP!

Island life was not all work, however, and it wasn't long before the young Hawaiians felt the surf beckoning. Kenneth Bell made Jarvis' first surfboard, which measured 6 1/2 feet long, and surfing soon became a weekly activity. Unfortunately, safety concerns regarding the shark infested waters would hamper future colonists from enjoying the surf.



Kenneth Bell, Jacob Haili, Henry Ahia, and Dan Toomey (not in order) with their surfboards, Jarvis 1935.
Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

"Saturday was our day of celebration. The cook would use his ingenious talent and would make maybe lobster egg - he'd get his eggs out, he'd tell the assistant, 'Hey I need so many eggs!'...Or, 'I need a bird, for fresh meat to make hekka...It usually ended up in a fabulous meal. But if the meal wasn't all that great, and you didn't like what the cook was doing, you'd cook your own. That was the rule."

— George Kahanu
Interview, March 27, 2002

"We spent lots of time making our surfboards but when the Itasca came, they saw them and confiscated them. We were reprimanded for possibly putting ourselves in danger, because of all the sharks. They got taken away before we ever used them!"

— George Kahanu
Interview, March 27, 2002

MEALTIME

During the day, the young colonists were often separated, performing their daily tasks on remote parts of the island. Evening time would draw everyone together to eat and talk story. Cooking duties were often rotated. A meal's ingredients were limited only by the imagination of a young chef and his helpers.

Lobster Fu-Yung
2 plain boiled lobsters
2 booby bird eggs
Scramble eggs with
chopped up lobster meat
Add onion, if available
Seasoning to taste

Seabird Hekka
2 fresh booby birds,
skinned
Marinate breasts in
soy and sugar
Cook on medium heat
Add onions, if available

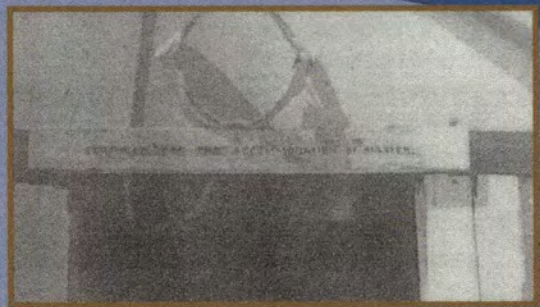


Jarvis colonists, from left to right: Henry Ahia, Hartwell Blake, Sgt. Austin Collins, George Kahanu, Frederick Lee, and Charles Kaninau.

Photo courtesy of George Kahanu, Sr.

"No one has developed a habit of nursing idle moments, there is reading, swimming, games, and exercises though out the day and as a rule, sleep is reserved for night time hours."

— Jarvis log, May 16, 1935



Danger lurked constantly. "Jarvis is a fisherman's paradise. But the sea was infested with sharks and danger lurked constantly...sometimes we'd spend days hooking sharks. They were easy to catch. They'd bite anything on a hook. On the door of the cottage, we hung a shark's jaw. Every time a larger jaw was caught, it would replace the smaller one."

— George West

"Some of the noblest acts of bravery I have witnessed occurred on Jarvis. One day we had a visiting schooner, the Kinkajou. Vessels visiting Jarvis cannot anchor. They lie off the reef in deep water. The captain and all hands had come ashore on a rowboat, leaving only the engineer in charge on the schooner. A few hours later, the rowboat had been torn loose from its mooring by the current. It had drifted past the reef, leaving the captain and crew terrified. The schooner also was some distance away from the rowboat. In the rowboat's vicinity, sharks were lazily splashing.

Without a thought of self-preservation, Dan Toomey...swam to and rescued the boat while the rest of us looked on helplessly. At another time, the physician of the Itasca had become so engrossed in his fishing that he forgot the dangers of the reef until he was knocked over by a wave. His weak cries for help were fortunately heard by (Henry) Ahia, who swam out and saved him. Minutes later, the very scene was a mecca of hungry hammerhead sharks."

—George West
Honolulu Advertiser, December 22, 1946

"What is a night like on Jarvis? Despite its closeness to the equator, it is not warm or uncomfortable. It is cool and the breeze is soothing. At times two or three blankets are required to keep warm. We watch the phases of the moon and clusters of stars."

Jarvis log, August 6, 1935

JARVIS MODULE

2.B.1 Middle Panel
(41" x 48")
Daily Life On Jarvis Island

THE WRECK OF THE AMARANTH



The barkentine Amaranth of San Francisco ran aground upon Jarvis's jagged shores in 1913. All survivors, including the captain, his wife, and 18 month old baby, landed their life two boats on Jarvis Island, then set sail for Samoa, where they were eventually rescued. More than 20 years later, the shipwreck would provide a wealth of resources for the young colonists.

"When I first saw the wreck of the Amaranth in the summer of 1935, her poop was deeply imbedded in the sandy shore, and immovable against the violent surf. The sight stirred the imagination about tales of mutiny, castaways, and shipwrecks that abound in novels...We spent hours on that tragic night when the barkentine went aground. We rummaged for foreign coins and other souvenirs or just lounged on the poop deck and observed the antics of the birds as they dived into schools of fish."

— George West
Honolulu Star-Bulletin, June 13, 1963



The shipwreck Amaranth, as it appeared to the new colonists on Jarvis, 1935.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

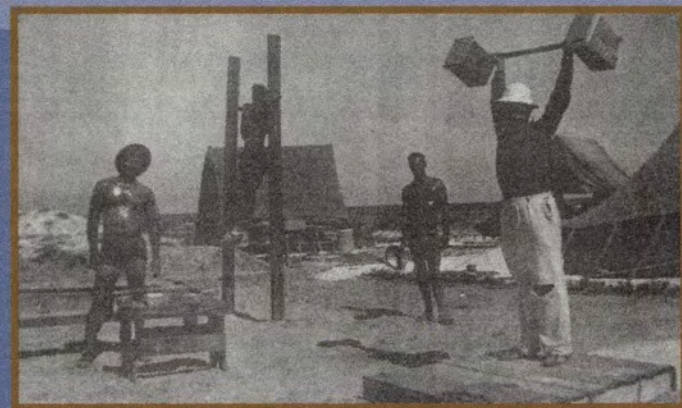
"To the colonists...the remains of the Amaranth, proved a blessing. Its lumber was salvaged and provided shelter, comfort, recreation, and a means to obtain food from the sea. The settlers built shacks which enabled them to move from the shelter of the tents, bunks, surfboards, and a raft from which to fish off the reef."

— George N. West
Honolulu Advertiser, December 22, 1946



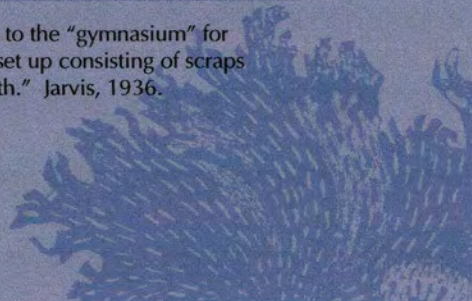
Kenneth Bell built this surfboard and a small one-room house from the wreck of the Amaranth.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives



In the afternoon, everyone reported to the "gymnasium" for their daily exercises – a make-shift set up consisting of scraps from the shipwreck of the "Amaranth." Jarvis, 1936.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives



JARVIS MODULE

2.B.2 Left Panel
(30" x 48")

The Wreck of the Amaranth

THE CAMP GROWS

Named for the head of the Panala`au Expeditions, William T. Miller of the Bureau of Air Commerce, Millersville grew with each passing year. The "town" would have eventually have many of the modern conveniences of the time, including radio communication, a gas stove, and refrigeration.



Lt. Harold Meyer and Sgt. Austin Collins on Jarvis, 1936.
Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

NEWS FROM HOME

The arrival of a visitor, such as Albert Judd of Kamehameha Schools and Bishop Museum, would bring welcome news to the lonely colonists.

"We learned that we were popular people in the featured section of our home newspapers. There was a pack of letters from home telling us all about the things that were happening. Who could image how thrilled we were to see these people with all the good news and good things they brought."

Jarvis log, Sept. 1, 1935

"The particular handshake of Mr. Judd and the tone of his words were so sincere and well meaning that they touched us all. We would make good for Kamehameha (Schools) and all other Hawaiians."

Jarvis log, June 15, 1935

"WHO HAS A PIANO FOR KAM BOYS ON JARVIS ISLAND"

Editor, The Advertiser:

There are four boys from Kamehameha schools on Jarvis Island, a United States equatorial possession in the Southern Seas...so far as we know, they are the only four citizens on that small island of the sea. The boys are: Solomon Kalama, Yau Fai Lum, Jacob Halli and Manuel Sprout. Naturally, their vocation is lonely and mail and visitors come very seldom.

These boys are wondering if some one in Honolulu would not like to send down to their island a piano, which would be a welcome visitor. I believe the Department of the Interior, under which these boys are working, will gladly care for the transportation of the piano from Honolulu to Jarvis Island.

NORMAN SCHENCK,
Mission Memorial Building, Honolulu

Honolulu Advertiser,
October 9, 1936
Excerpt from "Letters from the People"

"WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO LAND PIANO ON JARVIS WITHOUT DAMAGE"

Editor, The Advertiser:

We appreciate the interest shown in the welfare of the boys on Jarvis Island in the suggestion that a piano be donated for their use. However, due to the fact that there is no anchorage for the Itasca, and no docking facilities for small boats, and that all supplies and equipment must be landed in self-bailing surf boats through heavy surf and on to a steep beach, it would be virtually impossible to land without damage an article as large and delicate as a piano.

The boys on Jarvis, Howland and Baker are encouraged to carry with them such musical instruments as they possess and with ukuleles and steel guitars, a creditable quartet, using the entire personnel, has been formed on each island.

Very truly yours,
RICHARD B. BLACK
Field Representative for Division of Territories and Island Possessions (Baker, Howland and Jarvis)



Four Jarvis colonists in a candid moment.
Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

Honolulu Advertiser, October 11, 1936
Excerpt from "Letters from the People"

JARVIS MODULE

2.B.3 Right Panel
(30" x 48")
The Camp Grows

HUI PANALĀ'AU-

PHOTOS & DOCUMENTS



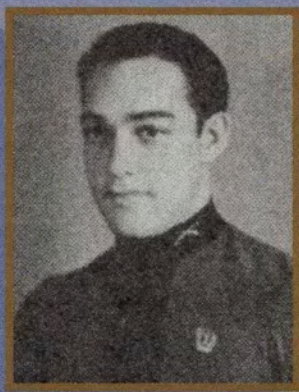
Jacob Haili,
Class of 1935, from the
Kamehameha Schools
yearbook.

*Photo courtesy of Kamehameha
Schools Archives*



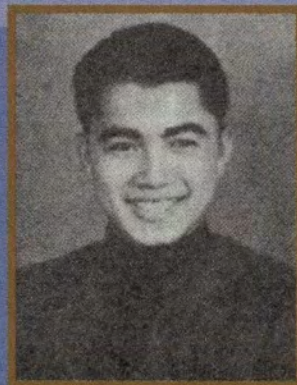
George West,
Class of 1935, from the
Kamehameha Schools
yearbook.

*Photo courtesy of Kamehameha
Schools Archives*



Kenneth Bell,
Class of 1935, from the
Kamehameha Schools
yearbook.

*Photo courtesy of Kamehameha
Schools Archives*



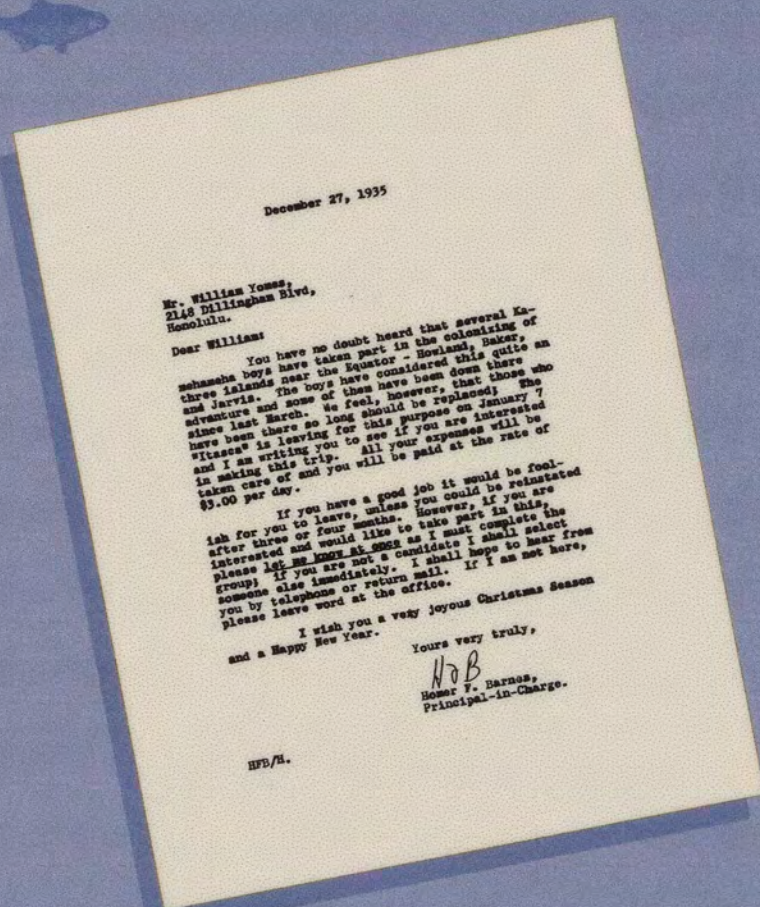
William Yomes,
Class of 1935, from the
Kamehameha Schools
yearbook.

*Photo courtesy of Kamehameha
Schools Archives*

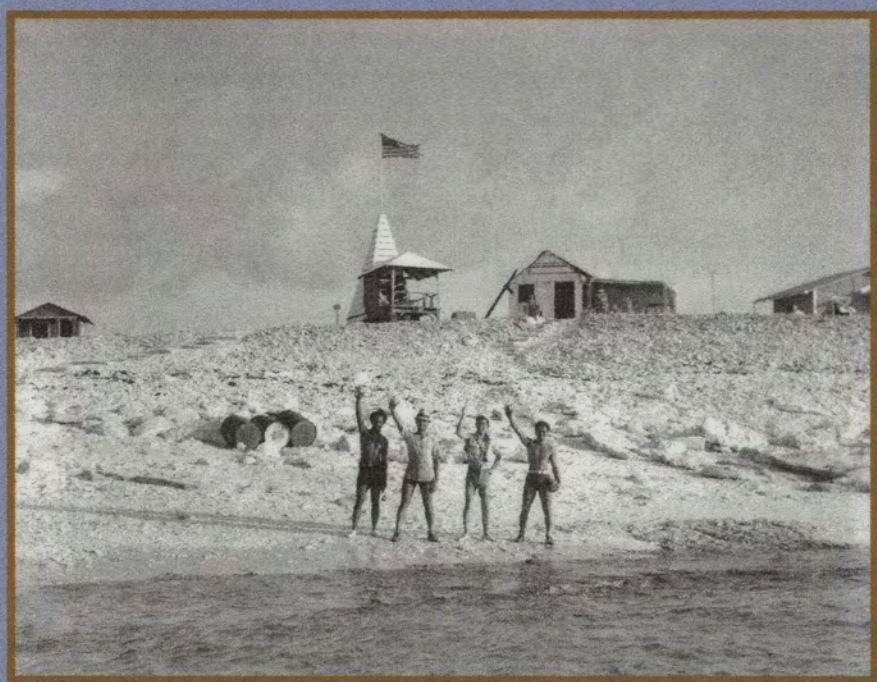


Kini Pea,
Class of 1937, from the
Kamehameha Schools
yearbook.

*Photo courtesy of Kamehameha
Schools Archives*



Letter courtesy of
Kamehameha Schools Archives



Jarvis colonists Charles Ahia, Edward Young, Victor B.K. Kim, and Joe Kim
wave goodbye.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

JARVIS MODULE
2.C.1 Right Panel
(30" x 36")
Photos & Documents

JARVIS ISLAND ROSTER

Listed by Expedition

1 March 25 and April 22, 1935

Collins, Austin (Leader)
Aune, Edward (Army)
Graf, Wyman (Army)
Ahia, Henry
Toomey, Daniel

2 June 15, 1935

Ahia, Henry (Leader)
Toomey, Daniel
Cockett, Frank
West, George

3 September 15, 1935

Ahia, Henry (Leader)
Toomey, Daniel
Bell, Kenneth
Haili, Jacob

4 January 15, 1936

Bell, Kenneth (Leader)
Haili, Jacob
Mahikoa, Henry
Yomes, William

5 June 19, 1936

Ahia, Henry (Leader)
Blake, Hartwell
Kahanu, George
Lee, Fredrick

6 July 30, 1936

Kalama, Solomon (Leader)
Haili, Jacob
Lum, Yau Fai
Sproat, Manuel

7 October 22, 1936

Kalama, Solomon (Leader)
Haili, Jacob
Lum, Harold C.
Ahia, Charles

8 January 18, 1937

Kim, Joseph (Leader)
Ahia, Charles
Kim, Bak Sung
Young, Edward

9 March 24, 1937

Kim, Joseph (Leader)
Ahia, Charles
Kim, Bak Sung
Young, Edward

These colonists stayed a double shift because the ships which were to pick them up were redirected to search for Amelia Earheart.

10 August 2, 1937

Kim, Joseph (Leader)
Kalama, Solomon
Leong, Ah Kin
Pea, A.K. Kini

11 October 31, 1937

Akana, Albert (Leader)
Burke, Eugene
Kaninau, Charles
Leong, Ah Kin

12 March, 1938

Akana, Albert (Leader)
Burke, Eugene
Kaninau, Charles
Wong, Alexander

13 August 8, 1938

Wong, Alexander (Leader)
Akana, George
Kahalewai, Carl
(Died of appendicitis enroute to Honolulu, October 8, 1938)
Haili, Jacob

14 December 11, 1938

Lee, Francis (Leader)
Pires, Manual
Wong, Alexander
Stillman, F.M.

15 March 30, 1939

Akana, George (Leader)
MacKellar, Ian
Stillman, F.M.
Lee, Francis

16 June 15, 1939

Kinney, James (Leader)
Paoa, Melvin
Phillips, M.W.
MacKellar, Ian

17 October 15, 1939

Kinney, James (Leader)
MacKellar, Ian
Kalama, David
Ching, Lawrence

18 March 17, 1940

Kinney, James (Leader)
MacKellar, Ian
Kalama, David
Ching, Lawrence

19 August 1, 1940

Lee, Henry K. (Leader)
Stillman, F.M.
Kalama, David
Ching, Lawrence

20 October, 1940

Lee, Henry K. (Leader)
Stillman, G.C.L.
Kalama, David
Ching, Lawrence

21 April 1, 1941

Lee, Henry K. (Leader)
Henderson, Waldron
Phillips, M.W.
Hartwell, David K.

22 August 2, 1941

McCorriston, E.M. (Leader)
Lee, Henry K.
Phillips, P.G.
Renken, E.K.

23 November, 1941

Jensen, K.E. (Leader)
Phillips, P.G.
Renken, E.K.
Hartwell, D.K.
Hall, Bernard H.

24 February 9, 1942

All colonists removed

JARVIS MODULE

2.C.2 Left Panel
(30" x 36")
Jarvis Island Roster

VISITS TO OTHER ISLANDS



PALMYRA, SWAINS AND SAMOA

During the course of the project, visits were made to several islands, including Palmyra, Swains, and Samoa. The month-long Samoan visit in 1936 was made at the behest of Dr. Peter Buck, director of the Bishop Museum, and Albert Judd, on behalf of Kamehameha Schools, to give the Hawaiian colonists "an opportunity to get acquainted with other Polynesian young people."



Reproduction of 1936 watercolor of Palmyra Island by of James Carroll, a spare on the 4th expedition.
Courtesy of Kamehameha Schools Archives

"[...The Samoan trip] gave me the understanding that there's more - the fact that we were Pacific Islanders... I think it made me feel more like a cousin, distant cousin, to them as they might feel of us, who were Hawaiian. We weren't...strangers. Broadly, we were family."

- James Carroll
Interview, April 3, 2002



Samoan Kava Ceremony at Ta'u (Luma) with members of the 11th Expedition.

Photo by E.H. Bryan, 1938, courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

"When we arrived, the British came out to the pier. 'I want you to know you are landing on British territory.' Black told the British, 'Our government had asked us to be here and we are going to build a shack here.' We lived 200 to 300 feet away from the British camp!"

- Manuel Pires
Interview, May 1, 2002

"Our meal consisted of two pigs, four chickens, four Tokelau puddings, one plate of Tokelau jam, 20 fried bananas, 10 fried fish, and two baskets of boiled bananas...Before we commenced, one of the old men made a short speech in the Tokelau language, saying that the feast was the best that the could prepare as the land was on the threshold of famine. He also said that for years the people of Olosega [Swains] had heard of Hawaii, but never had they had the privilege of knowing any Hawaiians until we had come to Olosega and now that we are here, that we had partaken of their food, that we had entertained them, that we had doctored their young ones, the best that they could do for us is to love us and treat us as one of their own people."

Abraham Piianaia and Killarney Opiopio
Swains Island, April 30, 1935

THE STRANGE JOINT OCCUPATION OF CANTON AND ENDERBURY

On March 3, 1938, President Roosevelt placed Canton and Enderbury under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, even though the British were already occupying the islands. In a friendly "invasion", Hawaiian colonists from the 12th expedition landed on each island. Living several hundred feet from each other on an otherwise deserted island, the co-inhabitants tolerated each other's presence. By April 1939, both governments had agreed to place the islands under joint control for a period of 50 years.



The American colony at Canton Island, August 1938: A.K. Leong, John Roberts, James Kamakaiwi, Fredrick Lee, standing with a Fijian assistant to the British.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

JARVIS MODULE

2.D.1 Right Panel
(30" x 48")
Visits to Other Islands

CANTON & ENDERBURY ISLAND ROSTER

Listed by Expedition

CANTON

- 11 November 14, 1937
Visited
- 12 March 7, 1938
Kamakaiwi, J.C. (Leader)
Haili, Jacob
Pires, Manuel
Kaahea, Henry
- 13 July 25, 1938
Kamakaiwi, J.C. (Leader)
Lee, Frederick
Leong, A.K.
Roberts, John
Kaahea, Henry
- 14 December 2, 1938
Kamakaiwi, J.C. (Leader)
Lee, Frederick
Calley, C.D., Jr.
Pea, A.K.
Waiwaiole, Luther
- 15 March 24, 1939
Fialkowski, Henry (Leader)
Kahalewai, Sam
Pea, A.K.
Waiwaiole, Luther
- 16 March 28 & June 6, 1939
Kahaleiwai, Sam (Leader)
Lee, Frederick
Wilhelm, Frederick
Beatty, R.H.
- 17 October 9, 1939
Paquette, Maurice (Leader)
Lee, Henry K.
- 18 March 12, 1939
Stein, Charles (Leader)
Lee, Henry K.
Zagara, D.P.
- 19 July 25, 1940
Stein, Charles (Leader)
Bederman, Thomas
Zagara, D.P.
- 20 October, 1940
Colonists withdrawn –
deemed unnecessary due
to Pan American Airways presence

EDENBURY

- 11 November 14, 1937
Visited
- 12 March 6, 1938
Kim, Harold (Leader)
Braun, Clarence
Pires, Manuel
Wood, Joshua
- 13 July 26, 1938
Kim, Harold (Leader)
Braun, Charles
Pires, Manuel
Wood, Joshua
- 14 December 3, 1938
Braun, Charles
Leong, A.K.
Paoa, Melvin
Roberts, John
- 15 March 23, 1939
Kinney, James
Paoa, Melvin
Beatty, Rupert
Tavares, William
- 16 June 7 & 12, 1939
Kim, Harold (Leader)
Harbottle, Isaac
Rahe, Bernard
Paquette, Maurice
- 17 October 10, 1939
Kim, Harold (Leader)
Rahe, Bernard
Wilhelm, Fred
- 18 March 13, 1940
Kim, Harold (Leader)
Hartwell, David
Roberts, Oliver
Smith, H.M.
- 19 July 27, 1940
McCorriston, Mike (Leader)
Hartwell, David
Roberts, Oliver
Smith, H.M.
- 20 October, 1940
McCorriston, Mike (Leader)
Hartwell, David
Roberts, Oliver
Smith, H.M.
- 21 March 23, 1941
Jensen, H.P., Jr. (Leader)
Kilbey, John C.
Kaulu, Albert F.
Smith, H.M.
- 22 July 30, 1941
Jensen, H.P., Jr. (Leader)
Kilbey, John C.
Kaulu, Albert F.
Riley, James K
- 23 November 1941
Kepoo, Joseph
Brahn, J.F.
Riley, J.J.
- 24 February 9, 1942
All colonists removed

JARVIS MODULE

2.D.2 Left Panel
(30" x 48")

Canton & Enderbury Roster