



FIVE MUSEUMS, FIVE EXHIBITS

In Celebration of
Women's History Month
March 1-31, 2020

ALEXANDER & BALDWIN SUGAR MUSEUM
Pu'unene
Women in Hawaii's Sugar Plantations

BALDWIN HOME MUSEUM
Lahaina
Kealoha: A Life of Earnest Devotion

HALE HO'IKE'IKE at BAILEY HOUSE MUSEUM
Wailuku
Hawaiian Women's Fashion: Kapa, Cotton and Silk

MAKAWAO HISTORY MUSEUM
Makawao
Honoring Three Upcountry Women

WO HING MUSEUM
Lahaina
Gertrude Vierra: Preserving Wo Hing

Stay Tuned for Future Exhibitions:

National Preservation Month - May 2020
World Book Lovers' Day - August 2020
National Archives Month - October 2020

Admission to exhibits included in regular museum fees
For hours, admissions and more information, please visit us on Facebook
@CelebrateMauiMuseums

Program partially funded by



Kealoha: A Life of Earnest Devotion

A Celebrate Maui Museums Women's History Month Exhibit

March 1-31, 2020



Baldwin Home Museum
Lahaina Restoration Foundation
120 Dickinson St., Lahaina, HI 96761
(808) 661-3262
www.lahainarestoration.org

Kealoha at Baldwin Home

Julia Kealoha, a native Hawaiian woman, was a long time resident of the Baldwin Home. During her 30+ years with the family, she served as the children's nurse, a house helper, and companion to and, in later years, caretaker for Mrs. Baldwin.

As is often the case in the studying History of the underrepresented (women, native groups, servants, etc.), what we know of Kealoha comes from the words of others. We have her obituary,

“She was born at Hamakua, on the Island of Hawaii, in the year 1798, as far as the date can be ascertained. When thirty years of age, she became member of the Mission Church of Lahaina, only a few years after the arrival of the first Christian missionaries at these Islands.”

- Excerpt from obituary in *The Friend* newspaper, December 1877

the reminiscences of the Baldwin family,

“She came to us first when Charles was a baby and very ill. She was a school teacher and after school hours, would come in to assist our mother with the children. - Excerpt from *Dr. Baldwin of Lahaina*, section by Harriet Baldwin Damon

and quotes from journals and letters,

“You will be surprised when I tell you, that while I write, I am the only occupant of our house except as Kealoha holds unlimited sway of the lower part by day...” - Letter from Dr. Baldwin to daughter Abbey at Mt. Retreat, Baldwin Mt. Cottage - Aug. 27, 1853

Luckily the words of others paint quite a picture.

The Death of Kealoha

“Our dear old Kealoha passed away so gently & peacefully that we could hardly realize that she was gone. She showed signs of decline about Nov1 -- Nov. 22 she was thought to be dying, because she did not pray aloud that morning as usual. She took her food regularly, when fed, till the 27. That morning her breath was labored -- her mind was clear. She died at 12 noon. -- funeral next day, 10 a.m. She was buried in the New Cemetery East of Punch Bowl.”

- Dwight Baldwin to Abbie & William Alexander



Grave marker of Julia Kealoha at Makiki Cemetery, Honolulu, HI

In Memory of
Julia Kealoha
Resident of Lahaina Maui.
Died in Honolulu, Oahu
Nov. 26, 1877
Aged about 80 years.
A life of earnest devotion to her Savior.

Further Quotes About Kealoha

Excerpts from *Dr. Baldwin of Lahaina*
section by Harriet Baldwin Damon

“Full of loving sympathy, she proved a great comfort. When the examination of teachers was instituted, failing to pass – thereafter she became a servant in our home, doing house work, mending, etc. Upon her husband’s death, she gave up her home to live with us, and occupied the cottage in our yard.”

“And I have known her to pray every half hour almost continuously through the night. On one of these devotional occasions, there was literally no sleep for one in the room with her.”

“She was very devoted to us all, and would deny herself anything and everything for our pleasure.”

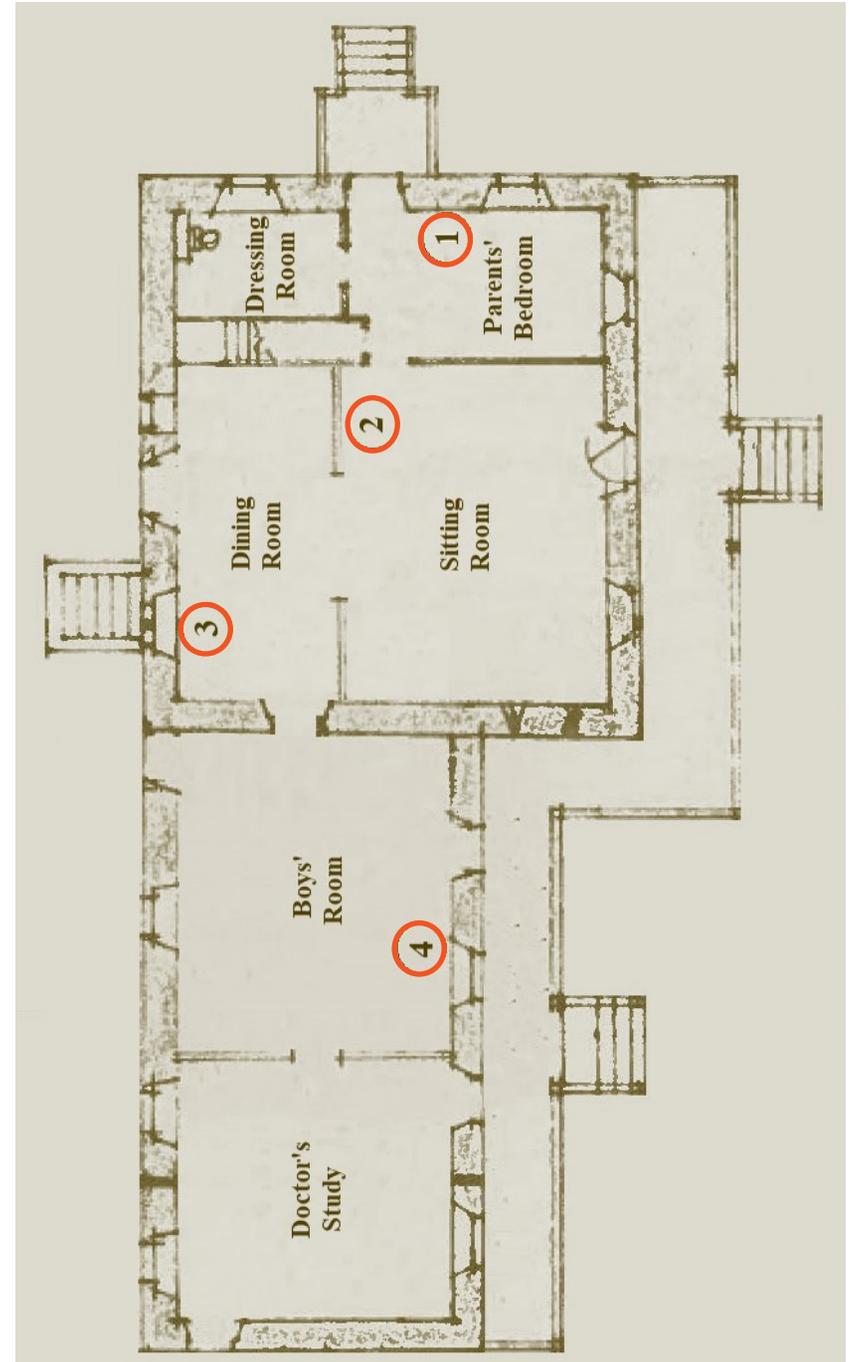
“She never knew how old she was. She might be eighty, ninety, or a hundred, she would tell us.”

Excerpts from Dr. Baldwin’s Diary, 1873

“Our pious and faithful old Hawaiian woman, Julia Kealoha, who has been in our family for thirty-eight years, was utterly inconsolable, when she found Mrs. Baldwin was no longer among the living. She moaned and cried aloud. She has been Mrs. B.’s constant companion. They have wept and prayed together.”

“For the three or four years that Mrs. B. has been ill, and growing more helpless, Kealoha was with her always from sunrise to sunset, dressed her in the morning, brought her food, and did everything, in short, that could be done for her comfort. Kealoha had become almost entirely blind; but yet only the day before she died, Mrs. B. said that she was worth her weight in gold.”

Using the floor plan below and quotes inside, we invite you to explore and see the ways - big and small - that Kealoha shaped life at the Baldwin Home.



A Tour of Julia Kealoha's Life at Baldwin Home Through Quotes

1 Daguerreotype of Kealoha (reproduction)

“Bro. H.'s fine little daughter, born March 13 ^ 1856, had not been baptized, & they had not fixed on a name. Bro. H. had proposed Jessie, the wife of Fremont - but Fremont had failed of being elected Pres. & they were doubtful about the name. So I proposed to give the baby a name to which they both assented, & brought me the Family Bible to write it down, in which I wrote, Charlotte Kealoha, the name of Mrs. B. & of a pious Hawaiian woman who lives in our family, & whose daguerreotype we had brought with us.”

- Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1856. Travel journal of Dr. Baldwin 1848-1858

2 Pallet bed

“As for myself, I am getting along better than I expected. Kealoha spreads her bed in the corner of the sitting room next to the bedroom. And several times during the night do I hear her voice in prayer, as faithful as ever.”

- letter from Charlotte Baldwin to daughter Abbie

3 Mending Basket and Bible

Kealoha is “a Hawaiian woman of noble exemplary Christian character, devoted to her daily cares and duties, and always it would seem with the spirit of prayer upon her lips. Beside her mending basket lay her Bible, from which at intervals through the day she would read passages of scripture.”

- Excerpt from *Dr. Baldwin of Lahaina*, Mary Charlotte Alexander, 1953

Mending Basket and Bible (cont.)

“The wedding [Abigail Baldwin to William Alexander] occurred on the evening of Wednesday, July 18, 1860, at Lahaina, in the old rambling missionary house then occupied by Dr. Baldwin, which some of you may remember...

The wedding fruit cake caused the most anxiety, but decisions were made and work began. The dining room was the scene of action....

Chattering and merriment made a happy scene. [Dr. Baldwin] frequently took occasion to pass through the dining room, watching our proceedings. The old domestics of the house were also much interested, Kali, the cook, often looked in at the back door, and the dignified old Kealoha sat at the window nearby with her mending basket, fully enjoying the scene.”

- excerpt from *Fifty Years Ago*, by Mrs. S.E. Bishop

4 Seashells

“From the house a lane led down to a natural pier where the ocean spray dashed high into the air. The children spent hours watching the waves and playing with small black crabs which ran over the rocks. A few steps away was a sandy beach where shell gathering was another favorite pastime. Dr. Baldwin built a bath-house on a nearby pile of rocks with coral steps leading down into the water. Here Kealoha, the Hawaiian helper, taught the children to swim and took them regularly to enjoy the water.”

- *The Story of the Baldwin Home Museum*