

## MY GENEALOGY AND HISTORY EXPERIENCE

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Wife of Elmer Doong Shing Tyau  
Mother of Winston, Jennifer, Jeffrey, Warren,  
Jacqueline, Michele, and MaryCallie

### DEDICATION

*I would like to dedicate this paper to my dear mother, Callie Belle Arrington Ward, who inspired me, through her example and teaching, to love history and genealogy. On April 27, 1981, my mother finished her mortal life and in her 90th year returned to our heavenly home for life eternal.*

Recently I organized a booklet with short histories, ancestral charts and descendant charts for the Tyau Family. I have been asked to speak to you today on the details of putting together that booklet. In order to appreciate and understand that experience, I feel it will be helpful if I give you a summary of some of the highlights of my genealogy and history experiences.

I was born in a small farming community in Declo, Idaho. My parents, George David and Callie Ward, were active members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They were enthusiastic genealogists and historians. In fact, many in my extended family are also genealogists and historians. I was taught to read and write on family history sheets, pedigree and family group sheets! Between the ages of 5 and 8 I had written my short history several times! I was taught to appreciate the family unit, and taught that genealogy and history was not only good, but was an experience our Father in Heaven desired for us to have.

In 1950, while attending Brigham Young University, I saw the handsome "Island Boy" who would eventually become my husband, Elmer Doong Shing Tyau. We met again in 1954 at Utah State University and fell in love and married. Elmer was the grandson of King Tong Tyau and Fong Tai Seau, and the son of Khi Fong Tyau and Mary Ah Ping Wong Tyau. We married and lived in Los Angeles, California where we had a son, Winston, and a daughter, Jennifer.

In 1957, while employed as a Lab Technician for Aero Jet General Corporation, a terrible explosion ripped through the plant where my husband worked. My husband's arm was severed and his internal injuries were so severe that the Doctor said they did not think he would live! They told me to call our Priest to give the "last rites"!

My cousin, Leonard Arrington, was doing research in Southern California at that time. I hurriedly called him and he rushed to the hospital to give my husband a priesthood blessing.

Miraculously Elmer's life was preserved and he was restored eventually to good health! As my husband began to regain his health I began to have deep reflection about the value of our marriage association and our family. My earlier years of conditioning and training in the values of genealogy and history began to manifest themselves in my growing desire to research my husband's genealogy for the benefit of our children.

In February 1959, I began my research by going to the Los Angeles Public Library where in 1936 Who's Who in China I discovered pictures and biographies about two TYAUS! Dr. M.T.Z. Tyau and his brother, Dr. Philip K.C. Tyau.

In an incredible chain of events, my husband went to a Veterans Hospital the following week and was assigned to see a Dr. Victor Tyau, who subsequently invited us to his home. I showed him the page copied from the book, and he surprised me by saying he had the current Kowloon, Hong Kong address for Dr. Philip Tyau!

I eagerly wrote my letter to Dr. Philip K.C. Tyau, but was somewhat intimidated by his fame and I wrote and rewrote my letter, being fearful that this very important man would toss my letter into 'piles of things of little priority! I decided to put my parents address on the envelope also, so that in years to come--if he ever got around to answering my humble letter, he could reach me through my parents' permanent address!

To my surprise, in twelve days I received this wonderful letter from the famous Dr. Philip K.C. Tyau:

"Your letter of February 23rd, 1959 came as the pleasantest surprise in my life. It was like manna from Heaven relieving me of hunger for closer relations with my relatives. It has probably been my own fault for not keeping up correspondence with my own people. I am just as much to blame as they are. You have brought to life my dormant desire for knowledge of

the welfare of my kin. I had been persuaded to think that my brethen in Honolulu have forgotten that they originated from Hing Ning. You Le'Ruth, have given life to this and I am overwhelmed with joy....."

I, too, was overwhelmed with joy as I read that beautiful, responsive letter! That was the beginning of a 15-year correspondence with a very special man, a man who had been a great leader in the Chinese Republic. Philip K.C. Tyau died in 1974 at the age of 94.

His letters gradually began to give me some information about my husband's family and I was thrilled, but always my letters ask more questions and finally he wrote that he had an Ancestral Book and had decided to send it to me! He said his copy was perhaps the only copy left, as the people in Mainland China had been forced to destroy their books! It was with some degree of anxiety that I awaited and prayed for the safe arrival of that precious book!

February 18, 1960--The Ancestral Book arrived! I thanked the Lord for its safe arrival. The book had photographs of the family that organized it, and it was handwritten in beautiful Chinese characters.

Next, I needed to find a translator! Everyone I talked to said that it was too difficult for them to translate. One said to me, "It is like asking an American to translate Chaucer!"

Then a letter arrived from Philip Tyau. "I have just found out that my sister's three grandchildren are attending the same University as Elmer! They live in Logan, Utah and here is their address.....!"

As soon as possible I left to find these new cousins, named Fok--two brothers and a sister. The eldest brother, Yu Si Fok, told me he would be able to translate part of the book for me!

I could see miracles happening! First I found Philip Tyau's name, then I got his address from the Doctor my husband met, eventually Philip Tyau tells me of the Ancestral Book he has, and sends it to me, and now a translator has been

provided! After Yu Si Fok translated the Pedigree Charts, I was able to make a large English style chart showing 600 years--21 generations!

The Book was taken to the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City where it was microfilmed and photocopied. The original was then returned.

In 1962 my mother gave me an article from a 1950 Improvement Era about Kwai Shoon Lung and his wife Gladys, telling of their extensive genealogy work. Shortly after that we moved to Hawaii and it was on my first Sunday at Church that I met Brother Lung. He, unselfishly, gave of his time to help me prepare Family Group Sheets with the Chinese Characters written following the English spelling of each name. These sheets were all sent in to the Genealogical Society.

In 1963 Brother and Sister Lung were called on a Genealogical Mission to Hong Kong! They were to help people there in doing their genealogy! They met a Brother and Sister Siu On Tiu (the Hong Kong version of our name). As he helped them with their genealogy he was amazed to find that we had the same common ancestor! They had descended from the first son and the Tyaus in Hawaii had descended from the second son! The Genealogy had been preserved for both branches! Eventually Brother and Sister Tiu came to Hawaii and I was able to meet them.

In 1964 we moved into our home on Ohelo Lane in Honolulu, and soon after this we had our fifth child, a daughter, Jacqueline. I was very busy with our young family, and with helping to organize the La Leche League (mothers to encourage breastfeeding) here in the Islands. I also became deeply involved in studying World Religions. In 1966 my husband and I took our children to the Hawaii temple where we were sealed together for time and all Eternity. In 1969, we had our sixth child, a daughter, Michele.

I did very little on the extended family genealogy and history during this time, but I did teach our children how to organize their own Book of

Remembrances, and began to train them to become genealogists and historians!

In 1974 I had an increasing desire to know how the Tyaus came to Hawaii. There were many Tyaus in the phone book who I didn't know, and I began to wonder how everyone was related. Every adventure starts with that "first" step, so one day I got out the telephone book and started calling each Tyau listed and asking them questions about who they were. I told them I was the family genealogist and tried to put them at ease about who I was and why I was interested. It was like trying to put a giant puzzle together! Soon all the pieces began to fit together and I could see that there were 9 cousins who came to Hawaii in the 1800's. After talking to various members of each family I was able to feel which would be interested in acting as a family representative and helping me to compile the genealogy and history for their families. By this process I found 12 willing family members and in October of 1974 I organized a meeting and we all met at one of the families beautiful home (Vernon and Blossom Tyau). I shared with them my goals and desires for the family and they were enthusiastic and willing to help gather family information. I taught them how to fill out the family group sheet and gave them each a stack of sheets. They went home to their families and filled out the family group sheets and then brought them back to me. We met once a month for 3 or 4 months and in the process of gathering information they even found a brief genealogy in Chinese characters that was kept by one of their great grandfathers! During our meetings we talked of a future goal to someday have a big family reunion dinner and I told them of my goal to some day write a book about the Tyau History and Genealogy.

From the information they brought to me I made a large Chart--13 feet long and 5 feet high! This showed the descendants of the 9 Tyau cousins who came to Hawaii 100 years ago.



I had discovered that the first Tyau had run away from his village of Hing Ning to come to Hawaii! Tyau King's father had died soon after his birth and he and his mother were struggling to survive. He heard men talking of the prospects of making good money in Hawaii, so he arranged to make the trip. When he got here he was too young to work in the plantations as he was only 13 or 14 years of age, so he got a job as a houseboy for a wealthy family. When his Uncle Tyau Hoong heard he was doing well in Hawaii, he, too, decided to journey here. He established a store in the downtown area and one by one he began to send for various other cousins to join him. They would work for him for awhile and then would open their own stores.

In order of their arrival they are as follows: Tyau King, Tyau Hoong, Tyau Tong, Tyau Fui, Tyau Ping, Tyau Moi, Tyau Kun, Tyau Sen, Tyau Kui.

Of these nine, only Tyau Tong has descendants who became members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Tyau Tong's son, Khi Fong, became a member of the church following the sudden death of his very active Mormon wife, Mary Kalaupahiwa Ah Ping Wong Tyau. Their family was raised in the Church.

The rest of the Tyau family were members of St. Peter's and St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Churches.

Our seventh child, a daughter, MaryCallie, was born in 1975. I was very busy with my immediate family during that time, and although I had the history and genealogy of the extended family ever in mind as a goal to accomplish, I found that other things took priority during those years.

Our eldest son, Winston, was called on a Mission to Taiwan in 1975 and we were so thrilled that he would be able to learn Mandarin and be able to share the gospel with our Chinese Brothers and Sisters in Taiwan. In 1979 Winston married a lovely Chinese girl, Sau Ying Leung, who had served a mission in Hong Kong.

In 1978 our second son, Jeffrey, was called on a Mission to Hong Kong! To our surprise, when he went to the Mission Training Center in Provo, Utah, one of his missionary companions was Steven Tiu, the son of Siu On Tiu of Hong Kong! Again the chances of probability came to my mind. Here were two descendants of Ching Tyau in the 23rd generation from him. Two young men descending from two of his sons! Both young men called on a mission to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of Hong Kong at the very same time! Incredible! I still feel amazed when I think of it! Our son learned to speak Cantonese and he enjoyed his mission experience very much. Six months after his return in 1980, he married a sister missionary he had met while on his mission, Eloise Goo, the daughter of Charles and Mildred Goo of Laie.

Our eldest daughter, Jennifer, wanted to go to San Francisco to work and study fashion design. Our son, Warren was called on a mission to serve in Sacramento, California. Our three young daughters were in their formative years--Jacqueline, a student at Kamehameha School; Michele, attending Royal School along with her sister, MaryCallie.

But then, I began to think about the need for closer, more loving relationships in the inner family circles of our family. I was aware that in my husband's family of brothers and sisters--that they were not as close as they should be, so it seemed only right to start "close to home" to organize and bring people together. With this thought in mind, in the summer of 1979 I organized a reunion picnic for the descendants of my husband's father, Khi Fong Tyau. It had been a long time since everyone had been together, so it was a wonderful occasion as we met at Moanalua Gardens.

In 1980, it was time to expand to the next level of the family. So, I organized a picnic reunion for the descendants of my husband's grandfather,

King Tong Tyau. For this occasion I made a chart to show the descendants and wrote a "time-line history" which would begin to preserve some of the sequence of events in Tyau Tong and his wife, Fong Tai Seau's life. We again went to Moanalua Gardens and over 50 attended. After eating our picnic lunch, my husband, Elmer, called everyone to gather in a big circle. We all sat down and each Uncle and Aunty told about themselves and introduced their families for the benefit of the younger members of the family. It was decided that we would make the picnic an annual event!

In the summer of 1980 just prior to the reunion, our son Jeffrey returned from his mission, and several of his missionary companions began to stop in Honolulu to stay with us for a few days. One of these companions was his very good friend, Chi Lai Ho. One day as we visited I shared some of my genealogical adventure with him. As we talked he asked me why Jeffrey didn't have a regular Chinese generation name. I told him that after the 22nd generation we didn't know what the system was, so we were unable to continue the custom. He looked thoughtfully for awhile and then said, "They probably know that back in the village!" The idea struck with force in my mind and I said to Chi Lai, "Do you really think it is possible to write to the village?" "Sure," he said. "You can just address it to any Tyau family member, and it will probably be given to someone who would be glad to write to you!"

But then I suddenly remembered something! In about 1965, an elderly member of the Tyau family, William King Ming Tyau, had given me an envelope which he had received from the village of Hing Ning. His family had sent him a picture of a birthday gathering honoring his mother. Everyone had gathered in front of the ancestral home. Suddenly I remembered that envelope and rushed to get it, saying, "Wait a minute, I think I have an address!" The envelope was postmarked 1949! It was from a Hing Shau Tyau. Immediately I sat down and wrote a letter to the Tyaus in Hing Ning, China! I introduced myself and then

asked them about the generation names, were they using them, what were the names planned for the future? I asked them about a cousin, Tyau Sen, who came to Hawaii and then made several trips back to Hing Ning to take boat loads of tools and plumbing supplies and sewing machines, etc. His children, here in Hawaii, did not know their grandfather's name, therefore we did not know how to connect their family to our genealogy chart. I also asked them about another Tyau, Tyau Kui, who came here when he was 9 years old. He came from Poo Get Village near Canton. His Uncle, Tyau Bian Fui, also came to the Islands living on Maui and he had a large posterity. They had been told they were also from Hing Ning originally, but we did not know the connection. So these were the three questions which I asked the Hing Ning Tyau family.

I gave my letter to Chi Lai Ho and he took it with him to Provo, Utah, where he diligently and expertly translated my letter into classical Chinese and then sent it to me to mail to China.

I mailed the letter to Hing Ning, Kwangtung China, with some degree of "great anticipation" and a prayer for a good response, on August 7th, 1980. To my surprise, on August 21st, I received a letter of response! In the days that followed I received 20 letters! Each letter indicated their joy in having heard from their cousins in Hawaii. They said their homes had "added lustre" the day my letter arrived! Some said they "leaped for joy". "The whole family was ecstatic and exchanging information." Some said "their joy was beyond words to express!" Each letter showed me that the Love for family, even for family we have never seen, it may lie dormant for years, even be suppressed by government, but in the end it survives. Family Love is a strong reality.

Each of these letters presented me with a real challenge! I first had to find someone to translate them for me! Since everyone is busy in life, it is difficult to ask someone to take time to translate a letter, so I feel a great

deal of frustration about this need for a translator.

I received letters from the sons or grandsons of the brothers of the cousins who came to Hawaii. They were anxious to hear more about their families in Hawaii, and they told me of their life in Hing Ning. Life has improved, they said, since the arrest of the Gang of Four! It turned out that the man I addressed my letter to was the brother of William Tyau (the one who gave me the envelope). He had been imprisoned over 20 years ago and was assassinated in prison! His son received my letter and then took it around to other family members.

When Chi Lai Ho translated my letter into Chinese, my name was translated as follows: Le became "Na" and since Ruth in the Bible was translated as "Su"-- I now have a Chinese name, Na Su. All the letters kept referring to Na Su and how they were grateful for her work on the genealogy and history. Finally I realized I better get used to my new name! Na Su Tyau!

The wife of the man I originally wrote to in Hing Ning, wrote to her son in Hong Kong and told him to write to me. It was wonderful to receive a letter in English! I wrote him a long letter telling him all about our families in Hawaii and asking him all the questions I could think of about Hing Ning and the families there. His life had been threatened when he was about 19, so he fled to Hong Kong where he has lived for 16 years. He told me he had never been back to Hing Ning, and was still fearful about making the trip, but after I revived his interest and desires to return to his birthplace, he finally made a decision to return and did so in February of 1981. He sent me these two current photographs of the Tyau Ancestral home. It is interesting to compare it to the picture taken in the early 1900's.

In one letter from Hing Ning I was told about a Fong Tyau who returned to Hing Ning from Hawaii, with his wife and family, and was a self-motivated Christian Missionary. In other words, he was not sent by any church, he just

had a strong conviction and testimony about the teachings of Jesus Christ and he returned to teach his other Tyau brethren. Many became Christians at that time, and the writer of the letter told me that as soon as someone establishes a Christian Church in the area many of them will be happy to return to church. At the present time, however, he indicated that the people are still having a struggle over the past restrictions and many are still fearful that others will criticize them if they show interest in religion. There are over 4,000 Tyaus in the District! I was happy to hear that some of them are Christian like their cousins in Hawaii.

After receiving their letters I wrote a long letter in response. Students at BYU-Hawaii translated it for me and I photocopied the 12-page letter and sent each a copy. They have answered my letter and many have sent pictures of their families.

As the letters from Hing Ning, China arrived, I couldn't help but call various members of the family to tell them the exciting news!

Finally, it just seemed the right time to call the representatives and have another meeting. We talked about the recent communications from the village. Then we decided that now was the time to have that family reunion that we had talked about back in 1974!

We decided on January 24th, 1981 as our date for the event. Later we discovered that Tyau Tong had arrived in Hawaii on January 22nd. We eventually realized we would be having a Centennial Celebration!

Everyone had a responsibility. Each representative had to notify their family and take a count of who would be able to come to the dinner. We had to decide on the restaurant. There was name tags and greeters and displays to plan. Table decorations, door prizes and leis to be arranged for.

I wanted to put together a booklet which would give brief histories of the cousins who came to Hawaii 100 years ago. I wanted to include charts of the



ancestors and the descendants. I had thought I could do it in about 20 pages, but we ended up with 55 pages! We decided we would charge every one \$2.00 above the cost of the dinner and we estimated this would cover the cost of the Booklet and other costs. (In hindsight we should have placed this figure at \$5.00 over the costs!)

The Booklet was organized in the following way. Since this Booklet was primarily about the original cousins who left China to come to Hawaii, it seemed fitting to show where the roots were, so I wanted to use a picture of the Ancestral Home on the cover. We decided on the words "The Tyau Family-- Genealogy and History - Hawaii, 1981. It also seemed fitting to have the Tyau Character on the cover. I wanted to include a map of China showing Hing Ning in the Booklet, but suddenly I thought of the idea of using it as the back cover, and it worked out very nicely.

The Booklet begins with a two-page preface, which was written after we had everything else ready to take to the copy service. In this preface I thanked those who had helped me put the Booklet together. I stated my goals in organizing the family together and someday publishing a complete book of genealogy and history. I expressed the great values in preserving genealogy and history. I expressed my love and appreciation for my husband, Elmer, who gave me the opportunity to be a TYAU and who has always encouraged me in my interests in genealogy, history, art and religion. Without this backing and support I could never have spent so much time on the family history and genealogy.

Following the Preface, there are three pages showing the descendants of Ching Tyau down to the 21st generation. Then one page ties in with the first three pages by showing how one branch in Hawaii linked with the main chart at the 14th generation. Then on the fifth page we have the branch of Tyaus from Poo Get Village. I am still doing research to discover the link between their family and the main branch.

Then we have 16 pages showing the descendants of the 9 cousins who migrated to Hawaii. On these small charts it would have been impossible to put everyone's middle names, so we just used first and last names. I looked at my big chart to first draw a rough draft of each family, then I used a photographer's table with a light underneath to place my typing paper on. Underneath I had a graph paper to help me line it up better. While in still rough draft form I took the charts to a representatives meeting and had them check them for errors, but I found that in spite of this when we had our reunion, there was numerous errors in spelling and occasionally names were omitted, so I learned the value of longer proofreading time.

Following the charts, are histories of the nine cousins, plus five others who needed to be included. One of the cousins had four sons, but three sons had 12, 9, and 8 children and their posterity was so large that it would have been difficult for one representative to take care of all of it. Therefore, I decided to find representatives for the four sons of that cousin, besides those four sons were in the same age range with the other cousins. Then, as I delved into history, I found that Tyau Hoong had adopted his friend's daughter when his friend was killed during the time of the overthrow of the monarchy. Her grandson was Yu Si Fok who had worked so hard to help me in translating the Ancestral Book, so I wanted to include her history also. Therefore, we had 14 histories to write. At first, I asked the representatives to each write a history of their ancestor, but I found that this was an overwhelming task to most of them! Four of the relatives were able to write the histories of their ancestor, and I worked day and night to gather the information for the other ten histories. It might have been an ideal time to take oral histories, but my situation at home was such that I could not easily leave home to do this, therefore, I used the telephone and took notes! I called the children of the Tyau I was writing about and just

started their minds to recalling the early days, and by asking questions I was able to get the histories organized. Afterwards I read the history back to them to double check my information. During this time I did make a 3-1/2-hour oral history tape of the eldest Tyau's recollections. Henry Akui Tyau is 93 years of age! (This summer, I plan to make oral history tapes with the rest of the "eldest" in the family.)

After the charts were prepared and the histories were finished, we were running out of time, so our proofreading was all too short. We did have two excellent typists in the family volunteer to type the charts and the histories (Gordon Tyau and Blossom Tyau). They were able to use the same type on their IBM Selectrics so we feel that the finished booklet is very readable and attractive.

One of our representatives, Gordon Tyau, teaches at the University of Hawaii and he recommended the University Copy Service, and they gave us the lowest price we could find. The owner and workers were all very nice and helpful during the process of getting the booklet compiled. We ended up with 55 pages, plus the cover and back. We had them staple the books together since that was the least expensive way, but later some of us took the staples out and put another more sturdy binding on our books. It cost a dollar to laminate the front and back covers, and we laminated the representatives books and some of the books which we donated to various places, as well as some personal ones.

We had decided we would just prepare a booklet for each family, and each representative decided how many books to make for their families. We prepared 138 books, plus we sold 25 other books the night of the reunion and later had orders for 70 more! In some ways it might have been good to just print one book per table and then take orders for the number they wanted, and in that way we could have made the corrections before distributing all the books.

Nevertheless, Hazel Tyau Yee and I found that as historians we wanted our Booklet to be as correct, as possible, so after the reunion we made the corrections and either gave the family errata sheets so they could cut and paste in corrections, or many had us run off corrected sheets and we took out staples, replaced sheets and restapled the booklets.

After checking all the restaurants and considering facilities and parking, we decided to have our reunion dinner at the China House Restaurant, right next to Ala Moana Shopping Center.

My Co-Chairman's wife has worked for years with President Lines, so through her "know how" she had programs printed up with the Rooster on the cover (remember 1981 is the Year of the Rooster). On the cover, we noted that this was our Centennial Celebration. Inside we listed the Representatives and had our program outlined, and the acknowledgements on the back.

One representative, Vernon Tyau, was in charge of seating arrangements and making the name tags. One representative, Lily Tyau Ing, mounted a set of descendant charts on heavy board and made plans to hang them on dividers in the restaurant. One of the talented wives, Grace Tyau, made a beautiful red banner--72 inches x 54 inches. On it was a large gold Chinese character of Tyau. We hung it right up in front above the stage.

Finally the big night arrived! January 24th, 1981. The beautiful red silk wall hanging was in place and I had prepared a long table on which I could display pictures and the Ancestral Book and other treasures. Soon the Tyau family began to arrive. It was such a thrill to see them all gathering--255 family members attended! Each one received a table assignment and a name tag when they arrived. On the name tag we had the name of the cousin--their ancestor who arrived first and then their name. The large 13-foot chart was up on one wall, as well as the Ancestral Chart I had made 21 years ago in Logan, Utah. The descendants charts from the booklet were mounted on cardboards and



hung around the wall, and people were told to make corrections on those charts if it was necessary. I met as many of the family as I could before dinner and then after a few bites of dinner, I began going around the room to each table so that I could meet everyone. It was wonderful to finally see all the faces of the names I had been writing on charts these many years!

Vernon Tyau greeted everyone and his wife Blossom was the Mistress of Ceremony. One of the members of the family is a talented opera singer--Gerald Ting--and he sang the Lord's Prayer. It was beautiful. Then my husband's nephew, Craig Lock, offered the invocation and we had a special 7-course dinner. We then introduced the special guests. I had decided to honor Yu Si Fok for his service in helping to translate. He is now on the staff of the University of Hawaii as a Professor of Civil Engineering. Then I invited Tin Yuk Char and his lovely wife, Wai Jane. They have written many books on the Chinese in Hawaii and have been avid supporters of the value of recorded history. Tin Yuk Char also knew Philip Tyau when he was a student in China. We gave them beautiful red carnation leis and told of their accomplishments.

Then we called up the eldest male and female member of each family and presented them with beautiful red carnation leis. (These leis were made by my dear friend, the talented and generous Genoa Keawe.) When she heard of my project and our need for the leis, she insisted that she wanted to make them for us!) They were special leis.

I then gave a talk about the Tyau Genealogy and History. I told them about the early history of the Tyaus in Hing Ning and how each of the nine came to Hawaii. I then shared a story or two about each of the nine cousins.

Following my talk, I introduced the representatives and I had prepared a surprise for each of them! I had made each of them a replica of the Ancestral

Book that I had seen 21 years ago! I am really amazed that I got it all done, but when the idea came to me I was determined to carry it to completion. A generous Uncle Frank Tyau financed my project and I made a copy of my copy of the Ancestral Book and then pasted pages together so they could copy it on two sides. I found a friend at the Hawaii Chinese History Center to letter the cover and I had to use red paper that was not as thick as I would have liked, but when we finished, it looked quite authentic. I even decided to sew the books together in the old Chinese style! (I ended up needing help on the last day to finish the sewing--my daughter Jacqueline and Grace Tyau came to my rescue.) I presented a book to each of the Representatives for their entire families to have as a treasure. Even though most of the families cannot read Chinese, eventually I plan to publish a book with the English translation of the Ancestral book in it.

Following this, we organized things for a slide presentation. We had asked each family to give us some choice pictures of their early ancestors or families. We showed these and everyone wished we had more time for viewing and talking about each picture.

We then had "family picture taking time". We had each family gather in a certain area of the dining room and family photographers did their best to record the evening.

We were happy to have Steven and Ryman Tiu, the sons of Siu On Tiu of Hong Kong, as our guests also. (Remember Steven was our son's missionary companion in Hong Kong.)

Near the end of the reunion, the representatives surprised me by presenting me with a gift--a fine quality tape recorder, so that I can pursue my desire to record many oral histories!

It was a wonderful evening. One thing I know for sure about genealogy and history. It does indeed have the blessings of the Lord. Our Father in Heaven

and Jesus wants us to be interested in our families and wants us to go through the process of preserving our family lineage and histories for the benefit of the present and the future. When we are willing to do it, when we are willing to take the first step, I found by experience that great things do and will happen because we go forward in partnership with divine help.

I once read that "The true perspective and understanding of a human being can be had only by the full and unprejudiced study and correlation of origin, history, and destiny..." and I'm sure the same applies to understanding our families.

It is a high and lofty experience to remove the limits of our love, to bridge the time barrier and broaden our horizons and love those before us, love those with you and love those to follow us. It is the beginning of an ability to love all mankind. As I see it, The brotherhood of man starts with us, and loving our families is the beginning.

Genealogy and history provide us with experiences that are nothing short of great and marvelous adventures for each individual. In my case, what began as a solemn covenant with my Father in Heaven, unfolded into a challenge which I accepted, and there followed one adventure after another, one miracle after another which brought to me the vital information I needed in order to compile the Tyau Genealogy and History.

It is my hope that my presentation today has motivated you to want to take further steps in compiling and recording your family histories.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding, in all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths."