LDS CHAPELS ON MOLOKAI
by Mokihana Davis

My name is Mokihana Davis, *keiki o ka aina o Kalamaula*, the first homestead village settled by my goodly parents, George Wellington Maioho and Mildred Kekulanani Bertleman, who journeyed here as a young married couple in 1921 from their birthland of Koloa, Kauai. They heard and accepted the request of their much revered friend and fellow Koloa resident, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaole, who established the Hawaiian Homestead program in 1920, under U.S. Congress approval, to be the numbered first few pioneers in the land of Kalamaula, on this island of Molokai.

I am number nine of ten children and fortunate to have been born at Ualapue Hospital, East Molokai. I have lived here all my life and went away only to attend higher education and returned to marry a young man, G. Hienie Nuhiwa Davis of Ho'olehua, Molokai, another Hawaiian Homestead village. We raised five children here on Molokai. Currently, I have my last two sons attending Brigham Young University-Hawaii Campus, in Laie.

I have always reminded my children that they are what they are today because of the righteousness and faith of their father who raised them under the influence of the priesthood in the home. We have four temple marriages and our youngest son returned from his mission in Japan. My sons have expressed to me the one thing they realize now and are forever grateful to their father was the fact that he taught them never to be afraid of work. Mothers are always the first to hear their children complain of work assignments, but usually never within the earshot of their father. This was so in our home. At age twelve, my sons usually wanted to go surfing or play games after school; but I always reminded them that as long as their father was at home, they are to remain home and work alongside him fixing fenceline or building animal pens or work on the farm equipment, or renovating our commercial buildings. When he is at work twenty-four hours, they are free to cruise with their friends after school. Once they understood, their father would seldom deviate from this plan; they grew to know that this was part of their lifestyle.

The fun side was the hunting and the fishing my sons learned at a young age, when they placed food on our family table, venison and fish at age eleven and twelve. My husband served as branch president of Kaunakakai LDS for ten years and so my children were raised under the constant work assignments and bazaars and paid their tithe and fast offering collections and participated in the home teaching program and youth activities. We have always explained to our children's friends whom they invite to spend the summer or vacation with us, that our home is a fast-paced home and that if they want to go with us they are welcome; just jump in the first car that leaves. It may be to the farm to work at sunrise or it may be to go fishing or picnic at the beach or do errands. If the friends are from the city and unaccustomed to work, they remain at home to sleep late and watch TV all day until everyone comes home. And so I view the lives and activities of our children today as they raise their individual families, each of them centers first around the priesthood of the home, who as father and head of each family, provides an umbrella of protection and love and faith, which my daughters and daughters-in-law and their children sustain and enjoy the presence of the influence of the gospel teachings and principles.
I have enjoyed conducting personal interviews with residents and former residents who lived on Molokai in the 1920's, in gathering pertinent information concerning the LDS chapels on Molokai. They remembered when there was a surging of great faith of members and missionaries who preached the gospel and brought the faithful people of Molokai together to worship.

**HO'OLEHUA**

1922 to 1928--The Hawaiian Homes Commission warehouse was used as a weekly meeting place to worship for the homesteaders in this area. It was located behind the present Ho'olehua fire department.

1929--A one-room chapel was built near Mary Lee's homestead, below the old Molokai High School. The branch president was Elder Sam Kalama, husband of Emma Kalama. (I note the presence of their daughter, Nahele Souza, in the audience; also daughter-in-law, Mrs. Melvin Kalama, Aunty Martha Kalama as we affectionately call her, and granddaughter, Mrs. Theresa Kalama Bigbie, and her husband, Fred Bigbie.)

1935-1938--Newly built chapel on a hill on Puupeelua Highway.

1952--A gymnasium building was completed adjacent to the Ho'olehua chapel.

1974--Stake organized this year known as Kahului Hawaii Stake with Ho'olehua Ward's first bishop ordained, Elder William Luckie Davis, son of William Hampton and Otchie Davis, homesteaders of Ho'olehua, Molokai.

1982--Ward moved to new stake facility in Kalamaula.

**KAINALU (East Molokai)**

1938--Chapel built and branch organized using members from Ho'olehua who were assigned and delegated to serve as leaders in Kainalu Branch. The elders who served as branch presidents were: de Fries, Mawae, Kahikina, Aiwohi Kawai, Weli Duvauchelle, and John Perreira.

1964--This chapel was discontinued and members thereafter attended Kaunakakai Ward located in Kalamaula, center of the island.

**KAUNAKAKAI**

1921--Members met in Kapuaiwa Coconut Grove under the leadership of Elder Clarence Kini, homesteader of Kalamaula, who served as the first branch president.

1938--First chapel built in Kalamaula on main Maunaloa Highway under Elder Albert Kahinu, branch president who served for twenty-five years. Chapel discontinued and members moved to new location in 1964.

1964--New location of six acres with new chapel built and dedicated by Elder Gordon B. Hinckley. Branch president is G. Hienic Nuhiwa Davis, son of William Hampton and Otchie Davis, who served for ten years.
1975--Kahului Hawaii Stake organized with first bishop, Oliver Young, over Kaunakakai Ward.

1982--Renovated design as stake center. Two wards meet in the enlarged facility, Ho'olehua and Kaunakakai Wards.

1992--Improved cooler interior, additional meeting rooms and extension to building and parking; new wall to wall carpets and tiled flooring.

MAUNALOA PLANTATION BRANCH

1938--Organized under Elder Esteban Arce, branch president. District leadership, Elder David Mokuilima, district president. Board members: Henry Kaahanaui and John K. Pawn; Sunday School, John Wahilani; Relief Society, Emma Kalama.

KUALAPU'I PLANTATION BRANCH

1950--Organized under Branch President Esteban Arce, with the following members: Mrs. Mildred Lee and children, Mrs. Emily Lindo, Mrs. Anita Arce and daughter Sandy, Nohara sister (five), and the Adachi family.

My husband and I had occasion to take cottage meeting lessons with nine other couples in 1955. Of the ten couples, only Alexander Bishaw and I were non-members. As a result of these weekly lessons, six couples, including my husband Hienie and I, entered the Hawaii Temple in November 1955 and [were] sealed for time and all eternity. Brother Alex Bishaw followed with his family soon after. I express gratitude to Elder Jerry Raty Martin and Elder Denning, two missionaries who came from Logan, Utah, and spent twenty-one months laboring on Molokai. And who conducted and taught the weekly lessons and assisted in the conversion and baptism of me, six months prior to entering the Hawaii Temple in Lale. My mission president was D. Arthur Haycock, who set my husband, G. Hienie Nuuhiwa Davis, apart as [an] elder one month prior to our temple sealing. My deep appreciation to my branch president, Riley Naumu, who recommended my husband and I enter the temple with the Molokai annual excursion of temple members from Molokai in November of 1955. If it were not for the Church missionary program sending men and women to Molokai to labor and teach the gospel lessons and given opportunity to the faithful who hunger and thirst after the word of God, the growth would not have been so rapid. Surely the faith of the people stirs when the Spirit bears testimony through the leaders and the missionaries, that Jesus is the Christ and prepares man and his family to follow in His footsteps, offering eternal life to all.

I express gratitude to the Scout leaders, the Primary teachers, the Young Men and Young Women leaders, the bishop and his counselors, the home teachers, the visiting teachers, the seminary teachers, all who assisted in the teaching and molding of gospel principles in our five children, who assisted my husband and me in producing the current end result of our five children as present active leaders in the Church, in their wards, in their temple work, and in their individual family units. More so, I give credence to my husband's parents, William Hampton Davis and Otchie Davis, who were examples of true family love and lived the gospel principles when they cemented their family relationships for time and all eternity in 1949 in the Hawaii
Temple. Truly, they set a pattern for their eldest son, G. Hienie Nuhiwa Davis, and his six brothers and sisters to follow in their footsteps. It is the membership within the walls of these beautiful chapels on Molokai that give life, spirit, direction, love, sacrifice, reverence, devotion, obedience, and leadership through the gospel of Jesus Christ, thus providing a continuity of blessings from our Heavenly Father to the people and community of Molokai.