ANDREW JENSON'S
BIG ISLAND TOURS
OF 1895 & 1928
By Riley Moffat

Andrew Jenson was Assistant Historian of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for many years. He was born in 1850 in Damgren, Denmark. The family joined the Church in 1854 and emigrated to Zion in 1866, settling in Pleasant Grove. After a mission back to Denmark Andrew becomes interested in publishing material about the history of the Church. In 1888 he traveled throughout the East collecting material on Church history. In 1891 Jenson is called and set apart as a “historian in Zion” by Apostle Franklin D. Richards to collect Church history material in the stakes and missions of the Church. On May 2, 1895 Jenson was again set apart under the hands of Presidents Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith and Apostle Franklin D. Richards to travel throughout the world collecting Church history in all the missions. This mission would last for two years. His missionary certificate is worded as follows:

“...To all persons to whom this letter shall come: This certifies that the bearer, Elder Andrew Jenson, is in full faith and fellowship with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and by its general authorities has been appointed to a mission to the various nations of the earth, where said Church is established, to preach the gospel, and to administer in all the ordinances thereof, pertaining to his office and to collect information by the examination of records, etc., essential or desirable for the writing and preservation of the correct history of the various missions of the Church, and we invite all men to give heed to his teachings and counsels as a man of God, and to assist him in his travels and historical labors whatsoever things he may need, or that may be advantageous in the prosecution of his inquiries. And we pray God the Eternal Father to bless Elder Jenson and all who receive him and minister to his comforts, with the blessings of Heaven and earth, for time and all eternity. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Signed at Salt Lake City, Territory of Utah, May 9th, 1895, in behalf of said Church. Wilford Woodruff,

George Q. Cannon,
Joseph F. Smith,
First Presidency.”

Jenson’s first stop was in Hawaii from May 29th to July 26th, 1895. He toured all the islands and reviewed records and collected history in all the districts. In visiting the Big Island he arrived from Maalaea, Maui on June 15th, stopping at Kawaihae and Mahukona where he met with the missionaries and checked their records. Then sailed on around to Hilo on the 16th. On the 17th he took a carriage to visit the volcano and stayed at the Volcano House and there reviewed the records of the South Hawaii conference. Returning to Hilo on the 19th he was with Pres. Matthew Noall when he purchased a quarter acre in Hilo for $250 to build a chapel (Kukuau). Then on the 21st Jenson sailed back to Maui after stopping again at Mahukona and Kawaihae.

BIG ISLAND TOUR OF 1895

Saturday, June 15. Elder Andrew Jenson wrote the following which was published in the “Deseret News”:

Saturday 15th - At 12:30 o’clock a.m. after waiting at the Maalaea landing three hours the fine steamer Kinau hove in sight, and soon afterwards cast anchor some distance from shore, from whence boats were sent to the landing for freight and passengers. At 1 o’clock we were all on board and steamed off for Hawaii. At 2 a.m. a stop was made off Makena, from which point the small horseshoe-shaped islet of Molokini was in plain sight and beyond it the island of Kahoolawe. The latter is one of the smallest inhabited islands of the Hawaiian group. The highest elevation on it is 1,450 feet. There is a good harbor and a plentiful supply of grass. Molokini is merely a bare rock formed of a horseshoe-shaped crater, about 165 feet high at the summit. There is excellent fishing near the island, which is not inhabited.

Proceeding on our voyage from Makena at 3 a.m., we sailed along the south shore of Maui and thence across the 30-mile wide Aleumihaha channel, which separates the island of Maui and Hawaii. When daylight finally dawned upon us the mountains of the latter island were in plain sight. There are three grand mountains which form the basis of the great island of Hawaii. One of these is Mauna Loa (13,675 feet high) whose summit is near the center of the island; Mauna Kea (13,805 feet,) whose rugged top was
covered with snow, and Mauna Hualalai (8,275 feet). As we sailed along the west shore of Hawaii the sight of the three grand elevations, as they appeared in the cloudless morning was beautiful beyond description. At 9 a.m., we cast anchor off Kawaihai Bay. From our place of anchorage we had a good view of the rocky shore, and a short distance to the right of the landing could be seen the ruins of an ancient heathen temple on which human sacrifices were made in olden times. At 10:30 a.m., anchor was again weighed, and the Kinau retraced her course ten miles and then cast anchor off Mahukona, in the district of North Kohala, where we remained till 5 o'clock p.m., there being a great deal of freight to land at this place which is the shipping point for all the sugar plantations in North Kohala, a railroad recently built from Mahukona along the coast around the northernmost point of the island is a great help to the transportation business. Soon after anchoring off Mahukona we were much pleased to see Elder Thomas Brimley, of Salt Lake City, accompanied by a native missionary companion (Kainuawa) come on board. Elder Brimley is the president of the North Hawaii conference, and had been advised by letter that we were coming. After spending some little time on the steamer, I returned with him and his native companion to shore, where we spent an hour or more together, while he gave me the needed information in regard to his conference, and I gave him the instructions I had for him in regard to keeping records.

The North Hawaii conference, over which Elder Brimley presides includes the north half of the island of Hawaii, which is the largest of all the Hawaiian islands, being 90 miles long and 74 miles wide; the area is 4,210 square miles, and the population in 1890 was 26,754. The island is divided into eight districts. Of these North Kohala, South Kohala, Hamakua and Hilo border on the northeast, north and west coast and are comprised in what we in a Church capacity call the North Hawaii conference. The other four districts, namely, North Kona, South Kona, Kau and Puna are embraced in the South Hawaii conference. The island of Hawaii presents the grandest scenery of any island in the group; its area is more than one and a half times all the other islands put together. When viewed from a distance, the island seems formed of three large domes, viz, the mountains of Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea and Hualalai. The slope of these mountains is so gentle that it is impossible to realize their height. The island being of such a large size, the climate varies very much. The eastern or windward side receiving the trade wind showers, is well watered, and the land is much cut up by gulches. The climate is moist. Along the western or leeward coast, the trade wind is shut off by the mountain masses in the center of the island. The climate along the coast is dry, and for miles no running streams are to be found. Ascending the mountains, every variety of climate can be found until frost is reached. At the summit of the mountains there is always a little snow; but in the winter time, when there are storms, the snow sometimes extends for more than twelve miles from the summit of Mauna Loa. Wedged among the three large mountains, is a table land, between 1,000 and 6,000 feet high. The region is very bleak, but affords pasturage for sheep. The most striking features of Hawaii are the active volcanoes and the lava flows. The whole island like the rest of the group is volcanic; but we see here the volcanic action still going in, while on the other islands it has long since ceased. The most fertile parts of the island are along the northwestern coast, and in the extreme southern part. Large tracts of land are extremely barren, being nothing but bare lava rocks extending for miles. At a height of from 1,500 to 2,000 feet above the sea level is a broad belt of forest land which reaches up to a height of from 4,000 to 4,500 feet. Above this the mountains are bare and rocky. Hawaii stands first in agricultural importance, and its products are more varied than those of any other single island in the group. ("From a geography of the Hawaiian Islands."

In my conversations with Elder Brimley I learned most of the following about the North Hawaii conference. Elder John D. Hooper is his only white missionary assistant the present term. Each travel separately most of the time, with native companions. Two of these are laboring in the conference the present term, one of them being Peter Kealakahi'oua the first and only native Hawaiian Elder who has been sent from the headquarters of the church as a regular missionary to his native land; the other is Kainuawa, whom I met in company with Elder Brimley. The north Hawaiian conference at the present time consists of 22 branches of the Church with a total membership of 997 including children. There are 85 Elders, 38 Priests, 40 Teachers, 35 Deacons and 610 lay members, namely 239 males and 371 females. Eleven of the branches have meeting houses or regular houses of worship, fifteen have Sunday Schools, eleven Relief Societies and ten Mutual Improvement Associations.
The branches briefly described and given in their geographical order are as follows:

The Puakea branch comprises the Saints residing in a village of that name situated near the northwest extremity of the island of Hawaii, in the district of North Kohala, about four miles north of the landing place Mahukona, on the seashore. There is a lumber meeting house situated on a hill above the village. There is also a Sunday School and a Mutual Improvement Association. Keawoeluna presides over the branch, twenty-two members.

The Honomakau branch embraces the Saints residing in the village of that name and at the Union Mills situated about a mile inland from the north shore of Hawaii, in the district of North Kohala. The branch has a lumber meeting house and a Sunday School, eighty-three members or souls, and Kuamoo for president.

The Halawa branch embraces the Saints residing in the village of Halawa and the plantations of Halawa and Kohala, on the north coast of Hawaii, in the district of North Kohala. The meeting house, a lumber building, is situated in a small gulch on the out skirts of the village of Halawa. The branch has a Sunday School, a Relief Society and a Mutual Improvement Association. It is one of the liveliest branches in the conference. Halawa is about ten miles by railroad northeast of Mahukona.

At present (June, 1895) the Saints of the Halaula branch met at Halawa; Keaweamahi is president.

The Halaula branch comprises the Saints working on the Kohala plantation, which is situated about one and one half miles inland from the north shore of Hawaii in the district of North Kohala between Halawa (about two miles southeast) and Union Mills (about three and one half miles northwest). In the latter part of 1894 the foreman of the Kohala plantation deprived the branch president Keohuhu of his house, in which the meetings were held in consequence of which the branch was temporarily joined to the Halawa branch to which it had belonged once before. There were fifty three members in the branch when the change was made, and it was the addition of these to the Halawa branch which made affairs there lively.

Niulii branch comprises the Saints residing in the village and plantation of Niulii situated near the northern externity of the island of Hawaii, in the district of North Kohala, about two miles inland, and nearly three miles from Honokane and the east terminus of the Kohala railway. The branch owns a lumber meeting house, the best of the kind in the conference. There is also a Sunday School, a Relief Society and a Mutual Improvement Association. Honolii presides over the branch; fifty-nine members. Honokane comprises nearly the entire population of the village of that name, which is situated in the Honokane gulch, and inclosed on three sides by steep mountains, while the sea is on the other. This branch which has forty-eight members, is also in North Kohala, has a meeting house, a Sunday School, a Relief Society and a Mutual, and is presided over by Nalii.

At Kawaihae, a seaport village in south Kohala, there are five members of the Church presided over by Uliama Hookuanui.

At Kalaia, a very small native village, situated in the mountains about five miles inland from Kawaihae, there are eight members of the Church.

Waimea is a stockraising country situated on the table land at the foot of Mauna Kea where the people are engaged in raising cattle and horses. The place is about twelve miles inland from Kawaihae landing, on the west shore of Hawaii, in south Kohala. The small branch presided over by Kauwe, has thirteen members, a Relief Society organization also exists.

The Waipio branch comprises fifty-six Saints residing in the village of Waipio, situated in a deep gulch away by itself, on the northeast coast of Hawaii, in the district of Hamakua. Kuamoo presides over the branch, which also has a Sunday School and a Mutual.

The Waipio branch with eighty-four Saints, is one of the most lively branches in the north Hawaii conference, and comprises a portion of the inhabitants of a rice-raising village situated in a deep gulch on the northeast coast of Hawaii, in the district of Hamakua about twenty-five miles northwest of the Laupahoehoe landing. The branch has a meeting house, a Sunday School, a Relief Society and a Mutual Improvement Association; and Beniamina is president. A few Saints living at a small village called Kukaihele, situated about one and one-half miles from Waipio also belong to that branch.

The Honokaa branch comprises the Saints residing in a village and sugar plantation of that name, situated about ten miles southeast of Waipio, on the northeast coast of Hawaii, in the district of Hamakua. The branch has seventy Saints a Sunday School, a Relief Society and a Mutual, but no meeting house, Kuapalahalaha is president.

The Paahau branch with seventeen members, contains the Saints living in a village of that
name, situated about one mile inland from the northeast coast of Hawaii, in the district of Hamakua, about ten miles northwest of Laupahoehoe; A. N. Kaaua is president.

The Aleakila branch is a continuation of a former branch called Paauilo, comprising thirty-one Saints residing about four miles southeast of Honokaa, in the district of Hamakua; J. Polani is president.

The Kihalani branch comprises the Saints residing in the native village of that name situated about one mile inland from the northeast coast of Hawaii, in the district of Hilo and about two miles south of the Laupahoehoe landing. The branch owns a small lumber meeting house, and Kaai Kuma is president.

The Weloka branch (formerly known as Maulua) comprises the Saints residing in the native village of Weloka, situated in a deep gulch, on the northeast coast of Hawaii in the district of Hilo. There are forty-seven Saints in the branch; also a meeting house, a Sunday School, a Relief Society, a Mutual, and Keliipuleole for president.

The Wailea branch comprises the Saints residing in the villages of Wailea and Hononomu in the district of Hilo. The branch has thirty-six members and a Sunday School organization; Kahuena presides. Wailea is fifteen miles north of Hilo and on the coast.

The Kahuwe branch, with seventy-one Saints comprises the members of the Church residing in the village of Kahuwo and the plantation of Pepeekeo, on the Hilo district and about ten miles north of the town of Hilo. It is a lively branch and has a meeting house, a Sunday School, a Relief Society and a Mutual; Kepeliela presides. The Aleamai branch (formerly called Kahalii) comprises the Saints (ninety-five in number) residing in the native village of Aleamai and the Papaikou plantation. The branch has a meeting house (built in 1895), a Sunday School, a Relief Society and a Mutual. Aleamai is seven miles from Hilo; S. W. Waiono is president of the branch.

The Keaukaha branch comprises the Saints residing in a native village of that name situated about three miles east of Hilo on the coast. Kahoilua presides over the branch which has thirty-one members, a meeting house and a Sunday School.

At 5 p.m. (June 15th,) the steamer Kinau weighed her anchor once more and sailed on her course. Leaving Mahukona she rounded the northern most point of Hawaii and thence steamed along the northwest coast of the island toward Hilo. The scenery along his coast is grand and beautiful, but as the darkness of the night set in just as we were getting to the most interesting parts we could not enjoy it. Besides the sea was quite rough and the wind blew hard from the ocean side. Consequently the steamer rolled fearfully, and my traveling companions were trying to duplicate their actions of the previous night. As for myself I barely escaped giving my supper to the fishes. Toward midnight the steamer stopped to unload freight at Laupahoehoe.

The Volcano House is in the district of Puna, which is embraced in the South Hawaii conference. This conference comprises all the Saints residing in the districts of Puna, Kau, South Kona and North Kona. The conference consists of eleven branches, containing a total membership of 517, including children under eight years of age. Of these 50 are Elders, 7 Priests, 11 Teachers, 10 Deacons and 350 lay members, namely, 154 males and 196 females. Five of the branches have meeting houses and Sunday Schools, four Relief Societies and three Mutual Improvement Associations. Elder Wm. Thompson presides over the conference the present term (from April to October, 1895), assisted by Elder Wilder T. Hatch. The branches named in order of their geographical situation are as follows: Koae, 19 Saints; Kapaahu, 51; Pahala, 101; Naalehu, 86; Hinakukui, 32; Puueo, 30; Papa, 58; Opiale, 40; Kaohe, 26; Keokea, 26, and Kahalu, 28.

The Koae branch comprises the Saints residing in the native village of that name, situated near the extreme eastern point of the island of Hawaii, in the district of Puna, and about twenty miles southeast of Hilo; Kipi presides.

The Kapaahu branch, (sometimes also called Kalapana) comprises the Saints residing in the two native villages Kapaahu and Kalapana, situated on the southeast coast of Hawaii, in the district of Puna. There is a meeting house (built
in 1895) at Kalapana; a Sunday School organization exists, and Josepa Haapai presides.

Pahala, the largest branch in the conference, comprises the Saints residing in the village and sugar plantation called Pahala, which are situated inland about five miles from the southeastern coast of Hawaii, in the district of Ka‘u, and five miles from the seaport town of Punalu‘u, with which it is connected by railway. There is a meeting house, a Sunday School, a Relief Society and a Mutual. Ikaaka is president of the branch.

The Naalehu branch consists of the Saints residing in the native village of that name, situated inland about two miles from the coast town of Honuapo, near the southern extremity of the island of Hawaii, in the district of Ka‘u. Joseph Kaikolii presides over the branch, which contains a meeting house, a Sunday School, a Relief Society and a Mutual. The meeting house of Naalehu was built in 1893, and is the only church building of any kind in the place.

The Hinakukui branch comprises the Saints residing in and about the sugar plantation of Hilea, situated about four miles inland from the southeast coast of Hawaii, in the district of Ka‘u. Hilea is four miles from the landing place if Honuapo; Kaamahawale is president of the branch.

The Puueo branch comprises the few Saints residing in the villages of Puueo, Manuka and Waichimu, which are situated near Naalehu on the southeast coast of Hawaii, in the district of Ka‘u; J. W. Kahoahí is president of the branch.

The Papa branch comprises the Saints residing in the native village of Papa, situated on a mountain slope and inland about four miles from the west coast of Hawaii in South Kona, and about four miles from the seaport town of Hoopuola. Makauhaoele presides over the branch which has a meeting house and a Relief Society.

The Opialale branch consists of the Saints residing in the native village of that name, situated about two and one half miles inland from the west coast of Hawaii, in the district of South Kona, and about nine miles southeast of Hookena. The Saints meet for worship in a private house; and the branch which is presided over by R. W. Kalalauwale, has a Sunday School, Relief Society and Mutual Improvement Association.

Kaahe branch comprises the Saints residing in a village of that name situated about one and one half miles inland and six miles southeast of the coast town of Hookena, on the west coast of Hawaii, and in the district of South Kona; it is presided over by J. W. Kaleohanu.

Keokea is a native village situated about one and one half miles inland on northeast from the coast town of Hookena, on the west coast of Hawaii, in the district of South Kona. The small branch of the Church here owns a meeting house with rock walls and thatched roof. There is also a Sunday School, and Kalele presides over the branch.

The Kahaluu branch comprises the Saints residing in the native village of that name, situated on the western coast of the island of Hawaii, in the district of South Kona, and near the town of Napoopoo; Palikapu presides over the branch.

The South Hawaiian conference is the fartherest away from the mission headquarters of all the conferences in the mission.

At the conclusion of his visit to Hawaii Elder Jenson was in Fiji from August 5th to the 17th, in Tonga from August 19th to September 9th where he had the opportunity to interview King George Tupou II, in Samoa from September 11th to October 4th, in New Zealand from October 10th, to January 23rd, 1896. He was in the Society Islands from February 3rd to April 1st, mostly in the Tuamotus, then on the Australia and Europe.

Jenson returned to Hawaii on April 17th, 1928 to meet his son Leo R. Jenson, who was returning from a mission to South Africa by finishing his circumnavigation of the world. They returned to San Francisco on May 4th. Ever the collector of history, Jenson spent some of his vacation collecting information about the mission, its districts, and branches.

Andrew Jenson not surprisingly kept a detailed diary of his travels and work. It is was published in 1938 as the Autobiography of Andrew Jenson by Deseret News Press. His first visit to Hawaii can be found in Chapter 31 and his second visit in Chapter 82. He also sent back “letters” to Church headquarters in Salt Lake City that were published in the Deseret News. These are more descriptive than personal and were printed in various issues from August 3rd to October 26th 1895 and on June 9th 1928.
The first Latter-day Saint Elders who labored as missionaries on Hawaii were James Hawkins and Hiram H. Blackwell. They sailed from Honolulu Dec. 21, 1850 and arrived at Hilo, on Hawaii, a few days later and immediately began to preach the gospel to the few white inhabitants on the island. Soon attention was directed to the native population of whom a number were baptized and ever since that time there have been Latter-day Saints on the island. At the present time the missionary work in the island is divided into four districts, namely: Hilo, south Hawaii, Kohala and Hamakua.

Hilo District embraces all of the civil districts of Hilo and Puna which lies along the southwest coast of the island of Hawaii with headquarters at Hilo. It consists of eight organized branches, namely: Hilo, Keaukaha, Olaa, Kapoho, Kalapana, Aleamai, Honomu and Kihalani, besides some scattered Saints. Marvin P. Leonard of Farmington, Utah, is district president, assisted by Milton G. Williams of Salt Lake City, Russel Homer of Idaho Falls, Idaho, Alofa Conley and wife (Edith P. Conley) of Salt Lake City and Virginia Ashton of Salt Lake City.

Hilo Branch consists of about 300 Saints in Hilo and vicinity. Hilo has a total population of about 15,000. The Church owns a good meeting house with a seating capacity of 300, centrally located on Kukuan Street in Hilo and also a seven room mission home and a new and commodious amusement hall, fitted with showers, dressing rooms and baptismal font; it is one of the best halls in the city of Hilo. There is also a private Latter-day Saint burial ground in Hilo. The Hilo Branch has a Relief Society, a Sunday School, a M.I.A. for both sexes and a Primary Association. David K. Kailimai is president of the branch and one of the most successful native missionaries in the Hawaiian Mission.

Keaukaha Branch consists of about 200 Saints residing in a section of country known as Keaukaha about three miles southeast of Hilo. A new frame meeting house with a seating capacity of 250 is situated near the beach and is surrounded by government homesteads. The Saints have a private cemetery containing one and a half acres. There is in the branch a Relief Society, a Sunday School, a M.I.A. for both sexes and a Primary Association. Kualii, a native Elder, is president of the branch.

Olaa Branch consists of about fifty Saints residing in and near the village of Olaa, which is situated about nine miles south of Hilo in a fertile sugar-cane district. Meetings are held in the private homes of the Saints but land has been obtained for the erection of a meeting house. There is a Sunday School in the branch and Sunday School sessions and other meetings are held regularly. William Kama is temporary president of the branch.

Kapoho Branch consists of Saints residing in and near the village of Kapoho, which is 32 miles south of Hilo, in the Puna District. Though there is a Sunday School there is no fully organized branch at present but Sunday School sessions and meetings are held regularly in private houses every Sabbath.
Kalapana Branch consists of about 27 Saints residing in a district of country about 33 miles south of Hilo. Formerly there was an active branch on that part of the island, but now only a few scattered Saints reside there with no permanent organization. There is a small frame meeting house with a seating capacity of 75 in which Sunday School and regular meetings are held at intervals. Kalapana is rich in Hawaiian folk lore and tradition.

Aleamai Branch consists of about 200 Saints residing in the village of Aleamai and vicinity, about five miles north of Hilo. A good frame meeting house with a seating capacity of about 150 is situated on the country road, not far from the sea shore and near Papaikou postoffice. The branch has a Relief Society, a Sunday School, a M.I.A. for both sexes and a Primary Association. William Kama is president of the branch.

Honomu Branch consists of about 150 Saints residing in and near the village of Honomu which is located on the Hawaii Consolidated Railroad about 12 miles north of the city of Hilo. Together with Aleamai and Kihalani it is situated in the midst of one of the richest sugar cane belts on the island of Hawaii. A fine new Latter-day Saint chapel is now being erected at a cost of about $3,000, with a seating capacity of 250. The branch, of which David Kalani is president, has a Relief Society, a Sunday School, a M.I.A. for both sexes and a Primary Association.

Kihalani Branch consists of about 200 Latter-day Saints residing in or near the homestead section of Kihalani, situated about 27 miles north of the city of Hilo. It has a fine frame chapel with a seating capacity of 250; also an old chapel which is used for class room purposes, together with two acres of sugar cane land now under contract to the sugar plantation. A Bro. Simmons, who holds the position of district judge of Laupahoehoe, is president of the branch; he is highly respected and influential citizen. The branch has a Relief Society, a Sunday School, a M.I.A. for both sexes and a Primary Association.
South Hawaii District (or conference) embraces all the civil district of Kau and North and South Kona, on the island of Hawai‘i or the southwest part of said island. Kona is an important farming and cattle raising district, while the main industries of Kau are sugar cane and cattle. Lynn A. Berlin of Ogden, Utah, is president of the district and Elliot Dennison of Sterling, Utah, together with Stephen Kila and Kumukoa (two natives) are his assistants. There are six organized branches of the Church in the district, namely: Kau, Puuanahulu, Kalaoa, Keei, Pahoehoe and Papa.

Kau Branch consists of Latter-day Saints located in the district of Kau. The branch, which is presided over by Andrew Auld, a native, has a Relief Society and a Sunday School. Public meetings and Sunday School sessions are held in the village school house but land has been purchased by the Church for the erection of a meeting house in the village of Waiohinu, about 45 miles south of Kealakekua Bay (Capt. Cook’s landing place).

Puuanahulu Branch consists of Latter-day saints residing in the vicinity of the Puuanahulu Ranch, which is situated about 38 miles north of Kealakekua Bay. There is a Sunday School in the branch and meetings are held regularly in the homes of the Saints, presided over by the traveling missionaries.

Kalaoa Branch, in North Kona, comprises the Saints residing in the village of Kalaoa and vicinity. This village is situated about 25 miles north of Kealakekua Bay and about four miles east, or inland, from the ocean. There is a frame meeting house in the branch with a seating capacity of about 125. Joseph Kahananui is president of the branch which has a Relief Society, a Sunday School, a M.I.A. for both sexes, and a Primary Association.

Keei Branch consists of about 100 Saints residing in the village of Keei, situated in the heart of a coffee raising belt, about three miles east, or inland, from Kealakekua Bay. Keei is also the district headquarters and here is situated a frame L.D.S. meeting house with a seating capacity of 150; also a new amusement hall and district mission house. Joseph Paakaua presides over the branch in which there is a Relief Society and a Sunday School. Meetings are held regularly.

Pahoehoe Branch consists of Latter-day Saints residing in the village of Pahoehoe, which is situated in South Kona, about 15 miles south of Kealakekua Bay. There is in the branch a
frame meeting house with a seating capacity of 125, situated about 3 ½ miles inland on the west slope of Mauna Loa. Meetings and Sunday School sessions are held regularly.*

In Papa, a section of country about 22 miles south of Kealakekua Bay, there is a Latter-day Saint meeting house, but no organized branch at present. There is also a small frame meeting house at Naalehu, in the Kau District, about three miles southeast of Waiohinu, but, as in Papa, there is no regularly organized branch of the Church there at present.

KOHALA DISTRICT

Kohala District (or conference) embraces North Kohala on the extreme north point on the island of Hawaii. It has three organized branches, namely, Niulii, Honomakau and Kokoiki, besides a number of scattered members residing in localities where branches of the Church have formerly existed. David M. Davis of Salt Lake City is president of the branch assisted by Joseph C. Shill of Provo, Utah and Sister Billie Hollingshead of Koosharem, Utah. The later is a native of Texas and also acts as missionary president of Primary Associations.

Niulii Branch consists of about eighty Saints residing in the village of Niulii near the extreme eastern boundary of North Kohala, Hawaii in the midst of a sugar cane district. A meeting house (a fine frame building), with a seating capacity of 200, is situated near the beach, about eight miles from the Kohala postoffice or court house, or ten miles east of Honomakau, the district headquarters. There is in the branch a Relief Society, a Sunday School, a M.I.A. for both sexes and a Primary Association. S. K. Kapeliela is president of the branch.

Honomakau Branch consists of about twenty Latter-day Saints residing in a section of country known as Honomakau, and vicinity. A frame meeting house with a seating capacity of about 200, and also a four room mission or district home is situated about three miles inland or south from the coast. Paul K. Kaelemakule, a most faithful and energetic native Elder, is president of the branch which has a Relief Society, a Sunday School, a M.I.A. for both sexes and a Primary Association.

Kokoiki Branch consists of about 100 Latter-day Saints residing in that erection of Kohala which is known as Kokoiki, and its vicinity. The branch has a frame meeting house with a seating capacity of 200 and has a Relief Society and a Sunday School. Meetings are held regularly. The meeting house is situated about 2 ½ miles inland on the north coast of the island, of about three miles east of Mahukona, the principal seaport of North Kohala; it is also three miles northwest of Honomakau, the district headquarters.

HAMAKUA DISTRICT

Hamakua District embraces south Kohala and Hamakua on the north east side of the island of Hawaii. The district has six organized branches, namely Waimea, Kalopa, Honokaa, Kukaiau, Kukuikaele and Waipio, and some scattered members. K. Alton Storrs, of Lehi, Utah, is president of the district, assisted by Marlow T. Stoker of Huntsville, Utah. Hamakua is a sugar cane and cattle raising district.

Waimea Branch consists of about 200 Saints residing in the famous Waimea Ranch district, one of the largest cattle ranches in the world. It is situated on the extensive plateau between Mauna Kea and the Kohala mountain. The branch has a frame meeting house with a seating capacity of about 150. About 18 miles west and inland from Honokaa, the county seat of Hamakua. The branch which has a Relief Society, a Sunday School, a M.I.A. for both sexes and a Primary Association, is presided over by Thomas Chesbro.
Kalopa Branch consists of about 150 Saints residing mostly on government homesteads in the vicinity of Kalopa. The branch meeting house, a frame building with a seating capacity of 250, is situated about three miles east, and inland, from Honokaa, the county seat. George Needham, a young and very promising Hawaiian Elder, is president of the branch in which there is a Relief Society, a Sunday School, a M.I.A. for both sexes and a Primary Association. Meetings are held regularly.

Honokaa Branch consists of about 75 Saints residing in and near the town of Honokaa, the county seat, and the most important town in Hamakua. A frame meeting house, with a seating capacity of about 100, is situated about one mile seaward from the town of Honokaa, near the coast. It has a Relief Society, and a Sunday School. John K. Kealoha is president of the branch. The Church owns a parcel of land in the heart of the town, on which it is proposed to erect a mission district home in the near future.

Kukuaiau Branch consists of about fifty Saints residing in or near a section of country known as Kukuaia about 2 miles east of Paauilo, the railway terminus of the Hilo Consolidated Railroad. Meetings and Sunday Schools sessions are held regularly in the private homes of the Saints. Samuel Kauahipaula is president of the branch and meetings and Sunday School sessions are held regularly.

Kuuikaele Branch consists of Latter-day Saints residing in and near the village of that name, located on the brink of the famous Waipio Valley, about ten miles northwest of Honokaa, the county seat. A small frame meeting house belonging to the Saints, with a seating capacity of about 50, is conveniently located in the village. The branch, which has a Sunday School, is presided over, temporarily by Haa Kahanamoku.

Waipio Branch consists of the Latter-day Saints residing in the valley of Waipio – a valley famous in Hawaiian legends and history. Waipio Valley furnishes much of the poi used in the Hamakua district. There is in the branch a frame meeting house with a seating capacity of about 150; it is situated in the mouth of the valley, near the beach and is accessible only from the land side by a circuitous path winding down the steep mountain, making the Waipio Valley secluded from the rest of the island by high mountains. The Waipio Branch has a Relief Society, a Sunday School, a M.I.A. for both sexes and a Primary Association. Paul H. Nakanelua is temporary president.

Palana Branch?