opportunity to speak to you. Our pictures were not ready for us and so I said to the brethren that I will get them together and have the pictures of these past areas and places sent to you so you can put them in your binder.

And what was really coincidental. I'd like to tell you something. May I share it, Margaret? I had interviewed Margaret and asked her if she could please help me with this today because she is really from this area and from this ward and her inlaws are those people that were strong in the gospel and these are the people that built up this ward to where it is today. And Margaret came to me the other day when I gave her the information that I had typed out so that we could have some kind of plan. She said to me, "Delores, you must of known." And I said, "Known what?" And she said, "The Bishop called me into the office to be the Historian of the Ward." And I said, I didn't know that. I knew that they were looking for one and hinted that I didn't want them to have me be one and to think it over. And Margaret said, "Well, I got the call. You must have known." I said, "No, I didn't know." And so Margaret shares this with me and I'm really happy that she's going to be the historian of our ward because we need to put these things together and we really don't have very much put together and we're sorry about that. But I'd like Margaret to share the time from Waipio Valley that they came out of Waipio Valley into Kukuihaele and from Kukuihaele into Honokaa.

**Sister Margaret Loo**  
Church History in Waipio  
March 24, 2001

Aloha. You may look at me, and think I am a haole. Now what is a haole? A haole is a foreigner, not white skin. Right? Akamai, yeah? But anyway. What I'd like to tell you is that I'm a convert to the church. I became a convert in the church in 1953, but I knew the Mormons because some of my teenage friends were Mormons and I remember attending MIA, the Gold & Green Ball, and things of that sort. But anyway, and they used to have the MIA in the Kukuihaele school cafeteria because the Kukuihaele chapel was too small. You remember Sister Ramos saying that the building from Kalopaa came to Kukuihaele. Well that's not the chapel that is standing now because they converted it into a home. It was a smaller one. It was like, from the right, this wall there by the side of the piano and this. Right there. That little area here. That was the Kukuihaele chapel that I remember as a teenager attending MIA. And they only had that for meetings. And I remember the branch president there was John K. Thomas. He was a schoolteacher in Kukuihaele. He also was the principal later on at Kukuihaele School.

Now, going back to Waipio, my husband's grandfather, Paul Hanai Nakanelua, excuse me, I get emotional, was in Waipio and I remember my father in law telling us stories and my mother in law because they had this home in Waipio, but when I got married to my husband they had already moved to Kukuihaele. But being a large family, my mother-in-law always had family home evening. At that time the church didn't have Family Home Evening, but my mother-in-law had Family Home Evening.

And so, I remember my mother-in-law and my father-in-law telling stories to us about Waipio and how her father would do the work of the Lord there, because he was
the branch president. And whenever somebody was sick in the valley they would hear
the conch shell and when they heard the conch shell they knew that somebody was sick.
And so my husband's grandfather, Paul, would take one of his counselors or whomever
he could get and they would go to the person's home. And I remember my mother-in-law
saying they would not come home until the person was well. And sometimes they would
sleep at the member's home that was ill. And so this was the kind of man that my
husband's grandfather was. My husband was raised by his grandfather.

So, when the people from Waipio started moving out from the valley because a
lot of the families wanted their children to get better education and so they moved out.
And then that's when we had this little chapel in Kukuihaele. And I remember John
Thomas as being the branch president there. And later on, when that chapel wasn't
enough for all of the members because the missionaries were already converting people.
It was too small. And so then what happened, the Kukuihaele had their own two
missionaries. And the missionaries lived right in Kukuihaele village and they started
building, along with the members, started building the chapel in Kukuihaele. And this
chapel that was built, the branch president was John K. Thomas, and the first counselor
was William Hedge, and the second counselor was my brother-in-law, Calley Loo, and
the ward clerk, I don't know if you've ever heard of Sam Kalainaina, who wrote the song
to Hiilawe. He is the original composer to the song, Hiilawe. They were the ones that
were there.

And when they started building that chapel in Kukuihaele, my father-in-law was
not a member of the church because I was already married to my husband. We got
married in 1953. But like I say, I associated with the teenagers that were Mormons and
because in the morning I would perk coffee. And my father-in-law and I would drink
coffee together. We had something in common in those days. But then later on my
father-in-law decided to leave me and he started helping to build the chapel. And my
father-in-law was baptized Oct 25, 1954. That's when he was baptized into the church.
Excuse me, he was baptized in '53. That's right.

Then when the chapel was already finished and everything, and I was married to
my husband, then I would go to church with my husband. I come from a Catholic family
and I would go to church with my husband on Sundays, and then from there I would
come back to visit my mother and what not. But the chapel started to be too small again
for us and Honokaa was depleting. There were very few members—not enough to carry
the program. And so what happened then, I remember being in Kukuihaele for two years;
and then in 1956 we moved to Honokaa. They consolidated the Honokaa branch and the
Kukuihaele branch in 1956. And John Thomas was still the branch president. And then
after John Thomas was released, my husband became the branch president of the
Honokaa branch. And then it was during my husband's time that the church was looking
for property and they purchased this property here and it was, uh, we had
groundbreaking, and my husband got hold of all the inactive young priesthood brethren to
help with the chapel.

And this is just something I would like to share with you, Brother Kailimai;
you've met all Abbey Kailimai. You came from Honomu, well her husband was the first
counselor in the North Hawaii District at that time. And I remember Brother Kailimai
telling my husband, "Brother Loo, have your people come into Hilo and help us build our
stake center because when you build your chapel in Honokaa you're going to need help.
And my husband told him, "Don't worry Brother Kailimai, whomever I can take into Hilo to help so be it, but when it comes time to build our chapel, don't worry. I have everything taken care of."

And sure enough he got all of our inactive young people to come into the chapel here. Brother Ferrin, from Salt Lake City, Utah, he was our building superintendent. We had Brother and Sister Short from the Mainland that came here with their three children. They were the ones that laid all these bricks. Along with Alfred Stroud, who was not married at that time. He was learning about putting the bricks together. And that's how he received his trade from that. And from Brother Stroud we had other building missionaries. We had two from Maui. I remember one was Malaekini. And we also had some from Kauai. We also had two steady, full-time building missionaries from our area. I don't know if you're familiar with Brother and Sister Auna. They were our building missionary mother and father for our ward. And then down at the old chapel we also had a kitchen. And that's where the missionaries slept, downstairs, the building missionaries. And Brother and Sister Auna cooked for them in the small kitchen.

I was the Relief Society President at that time. My husband was the Branch President. And I had the sisters volunteer their services to do the laundry for our Building Missionaries. And that was no problem. The sisters volunteered willingly to do the laundry. And so we helped out also with Brother and Sister 'Auna taking care with feeding the missionaries. At dinnertime they did not have to feed the missionaries. They just took care of them breakfast and lunch. Dinnertime, the sisters in the ward--because their husbands and their sons and their daughters were up here helping in whatever way they can--the sisters cooked dinner and brought it up here. Every night you might say we had a luau because so much food that the sisters brought. And so the Building Missionaries ate over here with us until the chapel was finished.

Well, I need to tell you that we have some pictures of the groundbreaking. We also have pictures of the dedication days that we were not able to put together for you people, but we will be sending it later on. And before the chapel was to be dedicated we had services in here already. And before the chapel was dedicated, my husband was called to the North Hawaii District as the second counselor in the district presidency. And Brother Sproat, I don't know if you know "Kolohe" Sproat. I call him "kolohe" because he's a rascal. He has a lot of jokes to tell. Brother Sproat was our District President. Brother Kailimai was our first counselor, and my husband became the second counselor.

Well, for nine months my husband was in the North Hawaii District as the second counselor, and our chapel was not dedicated yet. And his brother, Robert Loo, became the branch president in this chapel here. Then, because we had financial difficulty in our ward, and many of you old timers know that in those days we had to come up with 20% of the building. The church paid 80% and we had to come up with 20%. Well, the ward didn't have the 20%. So they called my husband back to be the branch president again in this ward. And so when my husband became the branch president in this ward he had, and in those days we were permitted to do projects. And my husband had a lot of projects going on. And our ward is noted to make the best kulolo in the state of Hawaii. I don't know if any of you are going to disagree with me, but a lot of people make kulolo, but they say can not beat Honokaa Ward. They make the best.
My mother-in-law, I remember, very good lady. She's pure Hawaiian, my mother in law. I say she's pure Hawaiian because up there she's still pure Hawaiian; she didn't change. My mother-in-law, she's a very good lady too. I say that, not because she's gone, but because it's true, she was a very good lady. So, she headed our projects, the Kulolo Project. And we made twenty cans, sometimes thirty cans, and we sold all those cans. We had each priesthood or the single sisters sell whatever they can. And the rest, my mother-in-law would say, don't worry, I take the rest. I have Margaret here to help me, and I was her chauffeur. And my mother-in-law, I remember, that's why I am able to talk so much, is because of her and of course the church. I give all that I am; I give credit to the church. But anyway, my car would be loaded with kulolo. And everywhere we'd go. My mother was popular. She knew everybody. She would say, "Ehh, come, come, come. I get kulolo from our ward." "Yeah, when you folks made it." "Oh, yesterday." "Come, come, come." Oh, and before you know it she was jus' selling, selling the kulolo. And she had some regular old timers. We sold all the Kulolo. And we made projects like that. Projects and projects.

And sometimes we made laulau also. We made laulau and we sold it. And we got our 20%. And so after we got our 20%, then we paid our 20%. My husband was still the branch president. And so one day, President Hinckley, he was the one that dedicated our chapel. And I remember when President Hinckley came, my son was just a little youngster. He was about eight years old. And because my husband was a branch president. I don't know if there are any branch presidents here or former branch presidents, but my husband always told his priesthood brethren, "Wear your coat and tie to church. Be properly dressed." And so, my son always came to church in a coat and a tie. And I guess President Hinckley saw that the little boy was dressed like that, he was very impressed. And he shook hands with my son. And he told my son, "How are you young man." And my son said, "fie." "What's your name?" "Jeffrey Loo." "Is that your Dad, the branch president?" He said, "Yes." "Are you going on a mission?" "Yes, I am going on a mission." "Well, where do you want to go?" "I want to go to Spain because my father came from Spain and my background is all Spanish." And President Hinckley said, "Well, we don't have a mission in Spain now, but I'm sure when the time is ready for you to go on your mission we will have a mission in Spain." And sure enough there was only one mission in Spain. Now I believe there's more than four. The last I remember there were four missions in Spain and at that time my son went to Spain for his mission.

Going back now, and then we had the 20%, now we were looking forward to, because at this particular time we belonged to the North Hawaii district. We didn't belong to Kona. Waiohinu, on the other side of the island, would go to Kona, and we belonged to Hilo. So now we needed to have attendance because enrollment was so much, but your attendance is down so we needed attendance. So here, my husband again, with the priesthood brethren, we got people. And you know what, this was full at one time. Full. And so we became, when they announced that we were going to conference, and they announced that we were going to be a ward. Well, we had already told our members because Brother Loo had gotten the word.

And we went and then my husband became the first Bishop in this Honokaa Ward. He became the first Bishop in this ward. And then after my husband became a bishop and then he got released; our bills were all paid. And so, he went to the high
councilman. And after him came the other bishops that followed him were Takashi Domingo; he is presently now our bishop, that's why I mentioned him. But before that, we had Ainsley Loo, another brother of his. We had Brother (Emil) Wolfgramm. I believe he's in Laie someplace. Not too many bishops after that. And brother Howard Loo, my brother-in-law, another bishop.

We had all together four of my mother in law's sons serving here in this particular ward. This is how our chapel became what it is today. And we renovated now, like I told the brother. We needed more rooms this way because we didn't have the two rooms on the other side. In fact, two on that side and two on this side. The Relief Society room was kind of small so they added that because we needed more room. That addition was like about twenty years ago that they added that portion. It's been just about two years now, we have new carpet, the seats are orange because we're waiting for them to change the carpet. Up here we have seats instead of our regular seats over here because they're redoing it.

But, one thing we have taught our children is to respect the building. This is the Lord's house, whenever you drop anything, pick it up, don't scratch on the walls, take care of it. So, we as parents here, we look after them. And even I and Sister Ramos, the two outspoken wahines in the ward. When we see our kamali'i do something wrong we scold them and the parents say thank you. We're all integrated here; we're all family-like you know. So this is very good. We have a lot of aloha in our ward. And this is the way our ward is today.

If you have any questions I'll be more than happy to answer your questions, but when we were down in the old chapel--it's down on this Maile Street right here--there was not enough room, but we managed. And that's when I got to know Sister Ramos. I love Sister Ramos. I served with her as first counselor in the Relief Society and I learned a lot from her. And she said she learned a lot from me, but I don't know what she learned because I learned more from her than she learned from me... So this is what our chapel is all about. I think I left one page out, but, anyway...

The first funeral, sorry to say, that was Sister Chong's husband. Sister Lily Chong, our matron, our matron of this ward. We have a lot of aloha from her. I keep telling her, Sister Chong, when you leave us, where our references. Because she knows the four works by heart let me tell you. And her husband was the first funeral we had here and then Sister Chong went and served a mission on the island of Kauai. So this is how we have what we have today and I'm glad to say that I'm a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Because all that I have today I owe to the church.

I come from a family that's hard-headed and the reason I say hard-headed is because they are all Catholics. I speak from experience; I know. Because when the missionaries used to come to our home and my mother would invite them in. And my mother would say, "We're Catholics and we're not going to change." But my mother was very kind. She offered them juice; she gave them sandwiches. But she did not accept the gospel. And you know, we have been taught in our homes that Catholic was the first church on earth and we accepted that, but that is not true. Because there was the Dark Ages. The apostles were all beheaded. There was no church on earth, no true church. And so we grew up with that idea.

It was only later on that when I married my husband and I investigated the church. Because I would go to church with him and Brother Thomas was the Gospel Doctrine
class and I would ask a lot of questions. And what impressed me most about the church at that time was temple marriage. And I told my husband, "I don't want to marry you only for this world. I want you for the next world too. And so, because of that more so I investigated the church and I found out. And so, I learned a lot and all that I am today I owe to the church. So if you have any questions to ask about the area please do so now while my mind is still fresh.

_Someone: When was this building dedicated?_
This building was dedicated in 1964. Because we didn't have any historians we went from the dedication day and how old my son was and we figured it. So that's how we came up with 1966. We didn't have historians and nobody wrote anything down. And I remember how old my son was. And Sister Ramos and I put our heads together. And she came in with one figure and I said, "No, Sister Ramos." Because somebody else had told us. And I said, "No, Sister Ramos. I remember my son was this old and then that's when." And she said "yeah." So 1966 it was dedicated.

_Riley Moffat: There's also records of branches in Paahao and Haleakila. Do you remember any of that?_
Ah, Paauhau I don’t remember
I’m thinking that maybe Paauhau was just cottage meetings (Delores). Because Sister Chong is in her nineties and she didn’t say anything about a chapel in Paahao. What she mentioned was Kalopaa and Kukaiau, yeah. So probably it was more like cottage meetings, you know different places where they would meet.

_Riley Moffat: How about Haleakila, down past Kalopaa? The records say there were 31 member there in 1895._
Oh, 1895! Man! That's probably when the missionaries first went over there. That's a long time ago. We don't even hear that word now "Haleakila." Any other questions you want to ask about the area?

_So, since you're a ward now - When did it get changed from a branch to a ward?_
Well, this chapel was dedicated in 1966 and two years later that's when... Well actually, going onto three that we became a ward because that's when they brought my husband back and we had to come up with the 20%.

_Dale Robertson: This is such a beautiful site. How did the Church get this land?_
Well, this was ranch land here. Along here and up where the rodeo is. And when the church first started looking for it my husband was the one that took the area president around to look. They went downtown. I don’t know if you’re familiar with the old Rickard Hotel. It’s in downtown. Right now that's where the Salvation Army is. The church first looked at that property and said no, that’s not big enough. And then they looked at this property, right by the intersection where the Tex Drive-in is right upside there’s going to be a church over there now. The church went and checked it out and then they found out later on that there were a lot of caves under there and the church didn’t want to buy someplace with caves.

And then this one became available and then my husband let the area president know and then they came and said, “This is it, this is it.” And this was a hill, all the way down. This was a hill you know. The groundbreaking. We have pictures that later on we’re going to share with you. We sent it to BYU. The ground breaking and you can see how the property was. And the parking lot wasn’t as wide as it is, but we had some contractors doing some job out in the community and they were looking for some place
to unload the dirt and so the church let them come and unload the dirt here. So the parking lot is a little bit bigger now with the yard. And we’re still trying to figure out what we're going to do down. And somebody said, well, put in some more dirt and make it a yard or maybe put a gym if you can come up with the money. Or whatever.

*Riley Moffat: Did I hear that the old church is still down on Maile Street?*
Yeah, it's still there
*It's still there?*
Yeah. The church sold it.
*Sold it?*
Yeah, they sold it because the church had owned the property. They sold it. The one in Kukuihaele the church didn't sell it because it was given to the church. Not outright. It was given to the church with the idea that if the church moved away from there that they would give it back to the owners. So they gave it back to the owners. The owners sold it; likewise, with the Waipio property. The Waipio property had belonged to the church. And I believe the church sold that property also down in Waipio Valley.

Any other questions you want to ask. 10% royalty now, remember that.

Well, Sister Ramos and I enjoyed giving you whatever information that we're able to, but this information that we gave to you, I'm going to have to redo it now that I've been called as the Ward Historian. I'm going to start doing books and have new members that are baptized and those that go onto missions. And keep a record of that. We have had quite a few missionaries from this ward that we are proud to say. Any more questions? Let your priesthood brethren know and we'd be more than happy to answer it later on. But, I say these things to you in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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We would like to recognize and thank **Brother Joseph Borges**. He did give us a talk at the Honoka’a Chapel, but due to technical difficulties we were unable to transcribe the copy.