

Notes & Queries

Portraits of Kalaupapa Residents by Father Joseph Julliotte, SS.CC.

STUART W.H. CHING

COVER IMAGE

Palakiko Kuokala, from Laupāhoehoe, Hawai'i Island, was eight years old when he was sent to the Kalaupapa Settlement on November 1, 1905. He died there on December 3, 1917. Photograph by Father Joseph Julliotte, SS.CC. Collection of Congregation of the Sacred Hearts U.S. Province.

NOTES AND QUERIES

The image of Palakiko Kuokala, on the cover of this issue of *The Hawaiian Journal of History*, is one of many photographic portraits of Kalaupapa residents taken by Father Joseph Julliotte, SS.CC. It is printed from a collection of glass plate negatives in the archives of the

Stuart W.H. Ching is a graduate of 'Iolani School and Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. For the past 30 years he has worked with museum and archival collections at both large and small institutions in Hawai'i. Since 2010, he has been employed as the archivist for the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts United States Province. He has served as a board member and secretary for the Hawai'i Museums Association, the Association of Hawai'i Archivists, and, more recently, the Hawaiian Historical Society.

The Hawaiian Journal of History, vol. 50 (2016)

Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (SS.CC.) United States Province. Located within St. Patrick Monastery in Honolulu, this archives contains the collective memory of a religious congregation of priests and lay brothers. Its members were the first Roman Catholic missionaries to the Hawaiian Islands, arriving in 1827. Historical records and visual images found in the Sacred Hearts provincial archives document the Congregation's personnel and activities as well as that of the communities in which they served. Kalaupapa was one such community for which the Sacred Hearts Congregation left a written and visual record.

Father Joseph Julliotte, SS.CC., was born in France on April 27, 1867. Although he began his career as a diocesan priest, he later made his profession with the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts. He arrived in the Hawaiian Islands in February of 1901. The following month he was assigned to St. Philomena Church at Kalawao, Moloka'i. Father



Fathers and Brothers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary missioned to the Kalaupapa Settlement. Pictured left to right: Brother Sylvanus Van Volsem, Brother Aloysius (Louis) Leisen, Father Wendelin Mollers, Father Paul-Marie (Joseph) Julliotte, Brother Severin Baltes, and Brother Laurence Bergmans at the grave of Father Damien De Veuster, Kalawao, Molokai, 1902. Collection of Congregation of the Sacred Hearts U.S. Province.

Robert Schoofs, SS.CC., in his book *Pioneers of the Faith: History of the Catholic Mission in Hawaii (1827–1940)*, notes Father Julliotte's avid interest in leprosy:

Having as able assistants Mr. Joseph Dutton and the Brothers, Father Julliotte could devote a major portion of his time to the study of leprosy, its causes, and its remedies. His findings were recorded in a number of noted articles which he wrote for medical research magazines. To enable him to pursue his own research the U.S. Government provided him with modern microscopes and photographic instruments that permitted him to photograph the bacillus of leprosy and contribute substantially to the 1904 Washington Congress on Leprosy.¹

An incident recorded in the journal of the Sacred Hearts Brothers at Kalawao illustrates Father Julliotte's standing in the Kalaupapa community and his relationship with the Settlement's superintendent, Jack D. McVeigh:

Rev. Father Joseph Paul Mary Julliotte arrived at Kalawao on March 2nd 1901 where he resided as Pastor. He was called away by his Superiors to go to Lahaina (Maui). He left Kalawao on January 27th 1903 very much regretted by the Brothers whos (*sic*) spiritual Superior and guide he was, as also by the Inmates of the Baldwin Home and the people in general. He was well beloved by All . . . Rev. Father Joseph Julliotte returned to Kalawao on Feb. 3th (*sic*) after he had been out for a week only and Rev. Father Thomas left the same day. Rev. Father Joseph was sent back by request of Mr. McVeigh Superintendent of Leper settlement who menaced the mission that in case they would not grand (*sic*) his request by sending Father Joseph back to the Settlement, he would dismiss the Brothers and all Religious (Brothers and Sisters) from the Settlement and have other arrangements made concerning the Homes. The Mission gave in and sent the Father back.²

Following his election as Provincial Superior of the Congregation on March 11, 1907, Father Julliotte returned to Honolulu. In 1923, he became a missionary to Hainan, China, and later served as the first Prefect Apostolic of that area. He died in Montgeron, France on August 30, 1956.

One of Father Julliotte's most enduring legacies are the photographic portraits of Kalaupapa residents he produced between 1901

and 1907. His portraits were executed with sensitivity and respect. Unlike the clinical photographs of the Public Health Service, which focused on the effects of the disease, Father Julliotte's portraits brought out the dignity of each person. Through the hair styles, clothes, and accessories they selected for their portraits, each resident asserted his or her own individuality. Added to this were the treasured possessions with which they were photographed—a bicycle, guitar, or pet dog. While Father Julliotte photographed many of his subjects alone, photographs of couples or groups illustrated the friendships and familial ties that existed within the Kalaupapa community.

Besides portraits, other images in this collection show surrounding landscapes, buildings, and Settlement activities at Kalaupapa. These images chronicle an important period when Kalaupapa was becoming a model for leprosy treatment facilities around the world. Father Julliotte's photographs show a vibrant and active Kalaupapa community, with its own occupations, celebrations, and recreational activities.

The glass plate negatives, from which these images were printed, were stored in the former monastery of the Sacred Hearts Brothers at Kāneʻohe. They were retrieved shortly before that building was demolished in the 1970s. Some of the negatives were cracked. Others showed evidence of water damage. Portions of the paper envelopes, in which the glass negatives were housed, had adhered themselves to the emulsion side of the negatives.

The Sacred Hearts U.S. Province Archives undertook a number of measured steps not only to ensure future preservation of this collection, but also to facilitate access to its images. Glass plate negatives were rehoused in archival-standard materials and digital scans created. With funding provided by the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities and Damien and Marianne Foundation, the process to identify photographed subjects began. Forged partnerships with Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa and the International Association for Integration, Dignity and Economic Advancement (IDEA) Center for the Voices of Humanity allowed access to Kalaupapa resource documents, and a photo bank containing more than 1,000 images of leprosy patients sent to the Settlement.

The result of this effort is that many formerly unidentified Kalaupapa residents photographed by Father Julliotte now have a name. Personal data found in resource documents offered additional back-

ground information as well as verification of identities. Collected data was entered into a computerized database, which is now available for viewing by Kalaupapa family members and the general public at the Sacred Hearts U.S. Province Archives. The process continues, as many more individuals still remain unidentified.

Each person residing at Kalaupapa brought with them a past personal history. Weaving their individual life stories into the fabric of the community contributes a richness and complexity to the overall story of Kalaupapa. These personal stories, along with the photographic portraits created by Father Julliotte, provide the threads that reconnect the people of Kalaupapa with their families and other communities throughout Hawai'i. They help redefine the narrative of Kalaupapa beyond the Hawaiian government's response to leprosy, and restore the dignity and memory of those separated from their families.

NOTES

- ¹ Schoofs, SS.CC., Robert. *Pioneers of the Faith: History of the Catholic Mission in Hawaii (1827–1940)* (Honolulu: Louis Boeynaems, 1978), p. 339.
- ² Journal and Guestbook of the Brothers of the Sacred Hearts, Kalawao, Moloka'i, 1901–1951. Collection of Congregation of the Sacred Hearts U.S. Province, Honolulu, RG IX.2.2f.

