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House Calls, Long Distance

IN THE FIELD OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY, one is used to encountering raw data in many forms. I had already spent many years teaching and researching aspects of historical geography when I came upon a treasure trove of geographic data in what would seem to be a most unlikely place: the family attic. Five generations of pack rats had accumulated a virtual museum of miscellany in the sixteen-room Michigan farmhouse where I was born. Among the wonderful relics were many letters dating back to 1800, including some written by Seth and Parnelly Andrews from the Sandwich Islands, where Seth (my great grandmother's brother) worked as a missionary doctor from 1837 to 1848.

As a doctor, Seth made "house calls" throughout the island of Hawai'i, and his family often accompanied him. Because many of the family back home were educated in natural history, the letters between them often shared observations of the landforms and the native flora and fauna. When I discovered the letters written by Seth and Parnelly, I encountered a wonderful primary source of information on the history and geography of the Hawaiian Islands.

I further researched the activities of the missionaries by examining manuscript collections at Boston, Detroit, Honolulu, and various private collections, thus assembling a more complete history of their journeys.

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Information from letters of family members and friends helped me understand Seth's and Parnelly's background and their decision to volunteer for a foreign mission. Journals written by their companions on the voyage describe the journey to the Sandwich Islands. Finally, two of the letters that Seth and Parnelly wrote shortly after their arrival in Honolulu will show you why, as a historical geographer, I was captivated.

BACKGROUND

Seth's decision to enter the missionary field is summarized briefly by one of his fellow passengers, Horton Knapp. (Spelling and punctuation in all quotations appear as in the original.)

Dr. Andrews related some of his religious experiences. Said he was blessed with pious parents whose faithful religious instructions often had made a serious impression on his mind. At a later period he had the care of a class, which, while he was endeavouring to explain the truths of the bible, he felt that he was not prepared to instruct others in the things of religion when he was unacquainted with them himself. This led him to more serious thought on the subject but no saving change was produced in his heart. He constantly enjoyed great religious privileges, attended protracted meetings, yet could not or would not give up his heart to God. His father being a clergyman was frequently visited by agents of the American B.C.F.M. [American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions] so that he unavoidably received missionary information from his childhood. He thought that if he became a christian it be his duty to become a missionary, and thought he could not endure the idea of leaving home and country to go carry the Gospel to the destitute.

His father wished to give him a good education & sent him to [Dartmouth] college in the year 1828. In the third year of his college course there was a revival of religion which brought the subject of religion to bear with much weight upon his mind again. His solicitude however again abated. He graduated A.D. 1831. His feelings continually under the influence of religious truth in a greater or less degree, though he could not date his conversion until the spring of 1833. He commenced studying for a physician immediately after leaving college. While thus engaged it was suggested to his mind that if he ever became a christian he should become a missionary in the capacity of a physi-

cian. He had been informed such men were wanted among the heathen. He offered himself to the A.B.C.F.M. in the [spring of 1835]. The consequence was that he was here.¹

Parnelly, on the other hand, had wanted to become a missionary for much longer. Her story is summarized by Mrs. Knapp in her journal:

I have resolved to learn something of the feelings of the sisters with respect to missions before they offered their service to the Board and how long they have had the subject in contemplation. I feel that it will be interesting to me and will serve to unite our hearts more closely together. I commenced with Mrs. Andrews formerly Miss Peirce of Woodbury Conn. She told that from the moment of her conversion which was at the age of 13 or 14 her thoughts were directed to the heathen and that she immediately consulted her pastor and other friends in regard to it but they thought that her feelings would decline with more mature age upon weighing the difficulties attending such an enterprise and she said they did so and she disliked to be called their Missionary and not feeling qualified she directed her attention to the west and accordingly engaged in teaching school in the western part of N. York town of Pittsford where her husbands parents reside. She however did not feel satisfied and she thought of the subject so much that it injured her health and she corresponded with her former pastor who advised her to make it a subject of prayer and follow the leadings of Providence which she accordingly did and she came to the conclusion that it was her duty to go to the heathen. She accordingly offered herself to the Board about 4 years since and was accepted by them. She indirectly received appointment to teach among the Indians but the people were not willing she should leave and continued to teach till Dr. Andrews made his proposal to her to accompany him and she decided to go to the Sandwich Isl.²

Parnelly's decision to move to Pittsford to teach school brought the two together. Seth's father, the Reverend Elisha Deming Andrews, had had a division of the church he served in Putney, Vermont, and chose to seek a post in a more prosperous agricultural area of western New York. My future great grandfather, Eleazer Wells True, had also moved there from Durham, Maine, and when Seth returned between terms of college and medical school, they all became good friends.

Once Parnelly accepted Seth's proposal and the decision to travel

to the Sandwich Islands had been made, they began preparations for a departure originally set for the summer of 1836. Seth was asked by the Board to spend the winter months in Philadelphia attending medical lectures, and Parnelly returned to Woodbury to help sister Fanny care for their dying mother. Much also had to be done to assemble the items suggested in the Board's list of the outfit to be taken to the Islands. The departure date was later postponed owing to the Board's lack of funds for the mission.

Also postponed was the date of the marriage until the departure date was relatively firm in late November or early December. On the third of August, Parnelly wrote to her future mother-in-law, Betsey Andrews, "I should prefer that the contemplated union be deferred until just before sailing on account not necessary to specify." A wedding was finally held in Pittsford on November 11, Seth's father officiating, and the couple left for Boston to join the others appointed by the Board.

THE SHIP AND THE VOYAGE

The merchant ship *Mary Frazier* was chartered to carry the group around Cape Horn and provided far better accommodations than some of the other missionary groups had experienced. Each couple was to have a separate stateroom, and all the equipment for the missionaries, doctors, and teachers was also carried aboard. The trip was to be made nonstop to Honolulu.

The journals of Horton and Charlotte Knapp contain interesting comments about the trip. They left Boston in early December and traveled southeast. On January 5 they sighted the northernmost of the Cape Verde Islands. Horton reported that Captain Sumner said he had not intended to come within sight of the islands, but that he did not have a good chronometer, which made the determination of longitude difficult.³

Drinking water was limited, since the voyage was intended to be nonstop. Charlotte Knapp reported that rain water was collected in barrels as it ran off the quarterdeck during frequent showers and some in pails as it ran off the sails. "Capt. observed . . . that one tumbler full a day was sufficient for each to wash themselves in. that if

each one used only one gallon each day for cooking and all other uses he should have enough to last on the voyage.”⁴

The long voyage in cramped quarters made getting exercise important, but also difficult. The ladies often enjoyed skipping from side to side across the deck, while the men learned to climb the ropes and to pump water from the bilge. Other activities to pass the time included learning the ropes:

As I was sitting with Dr. Andrews and his wife amusing ourselves in trying to tie a knot which the mate had showed them the Captain came along and asked us if we did not want to know how to splice ropes too as it might be useful to us hereafter. While he was showing us brother Cooke stepped up to us and the Captain turning to him says I suppose you are thinking of being spliced onto a happy hereafter as all your ideas seem to run that way. Said he I was thinking a little of it myself.⁵

The *Mary Frazier* was also most fortunate in her passage around the tip of South America. Mrs. Knapp reported: “We are now in sight of the island of Staten Land and Tierra del Fuego and we are to pass through the strait between them. It is fifteen miles wide.” On February 18 she wrote:

Captain S. remarked to us that he was just thinking there was not more than one ship in two hundred that had as favorable a passage round the Cape as we had had. I asked him if he had ever passed it in as favorable weather, he said not but when he passed it before he was a month in doubling it and had several gales of wind⁶ . . . we were but 7 days in what he called doubling the Cape that is the whole island of Tierra del Fuego from the straits of La Maire to the straits of Magellan on this side. . . . The nights at the Cape were but 4 or 5 hours long.⁷

As they neared the end of their journey, Mrs. Knapp reported:

We might well give thanks as we were even last night at this last end of our voyage preserved from dangers greater than any we have yet been in although I knew it not till this afternoon. We passed through a strait only 5 miles wide and were surrounded with breakers on every side. As Mr. Treadwell [the mate] expressed it we had to make Virginia fence to avoid them.⁸

They had passed on the wrong side of Molokai and were told they were most lucky to have made it through safely. They arrived in Honolulu 116 days after departure, the fastest voyage of any of the reinforcement companies.

THE FIRST LONG DISTANCE HOUSE CALL

After their arrival in Honolulu, they were introduced to Hawaiian royalty and to others of the mission there. Many were assembled for the annual General Meeting and others were expected. Seth sent home a copy of his journal for the intervening period, a wonderful account of his first long distance house call:

April 29

Journal

Most of the members from the mission from the eastern islands came in this morning. Those from Kauai have not arrived. A vessel goes to Kauai this day and will bring those who are able to come, on its return. Mrs. Gulick's state of health requiring the aid of a physician, it was decided that I should go up in the schooner. Accordingly made ready with all dispatch. In the afternoon embarked with P[arnelly]. The vessel is a small one of about thirty tons; she is owned & manned by natives. Accommodations not equal to those of the M.F. [*Mary Frazier*] but as good as could be expected in so small a vessel.

We were not much seasick until late this morning and began to congratulate ourselves that we should escape but coming into rough water our hopes were soon blasted. We spent the day upon deck vomiting repeatedly; notwithstanding our weak state we were obliged to support our umbrella to protect us from the burning sun. The cabin was so perfumed with bilge water that we could not endure it. Our Capt. is a pious man & maintained morning & evening worship. He also had a Sabbath school.

A little before sundown we came to anchor off Koloa the residence of Mr. Gulick. After evening worship the Capt. got his canoe along side & sent us ashore. We found a horse at the beach which Mr. G. had sent; P. mounted him & we were soon on our way to the mission house followed by fifty or sixty natives. A ride of a mile brought us to Mr. G's. We were very kindly received by Mr. G. & family. You may be sure that

we were right glad to enjoy their hospitality, after having been rocked in our little bark for twenty-four hours & eaten little or nothing for thirty hours.

May 1st In the morning brought off our trunk &c. While at the sea Mr. Whitney, from Waimea station, came down. Koloa is much more verdant than Honolulu owing to more frequent rains, & a good stream of water. It is like every part of the Sand. Isl. which I have seen a bed of lava covered with a thin stratum of soil. A stream of water flowing from the mountains is conducted by small channels to a considerable distance on either bank for the purpose of supplying kalo [taro] patches &c. For two or three miles there is a gentle ascent from the sea when the hills become more abrupt, and soon rise into bold rugged & lofty mountains.

I saw a variety of plants both wild & cultivated generally growing luxuriantly. The castor oil plant is here a shrub of considerable size, sugar cane grows luxuriantly; saw also kalo, bannanas, sweet potatoe, pine apples, cabbage &c. &c. Two or three species of convolvulus decorate the scene with large & beautiful flowers.

Observed near the sea two rounded hills with hollows in their summits, apparently extinct craters.

Visited a sick woman, wife of the head man of the place, several other patients came to me at Mr. G's.

P.M. attended monthly concert. The house of worship is of grass, & like that at H. much the worse for age. A new place of worship is building, the walls of which are dobie the roof thatch. Dobies (perhaps I have not spelt it right, never saw it written & do not know its origin.) are large bricks, about eighteen inches long, made by mixing mud & straw which afterwards receives its form from a mould; after drying they are laid up with mud. These walls are generally covered with a coat of lime mortar. About 100 persons were present at the prayer meeting. Two or three natives led in prayer & all appeared devout and attentive⁹

. . . 3d Visited Messrs Ladd & Co's sugar plantation. Called on Mr. Hooper a young gentleman from Boston who has charge of the establishment. After refreshing us with oranges, the first ripe fruit of the season, he kindly showed us the sugar mill & the plantation explaining to us the cultivation & manufacture & the plans of the company. The establishment is yet in its infancy, having been in operation but a few

months. The works are imperfect but will soon be replaced by a more complete apparatus. I see not why the experiment will not succeed. Much is to be hoped from it for this nation.

From the sugar mill which is a mile farther from the sea than the mission house Mr. H. accompanied us back another mile to the house of Mr. Peck. Our way for a short distance was across a plain, but much of the way up steep hills. Mr. P. is engaged in cultivating the mulberry for feeding silk worms. He has planted 42000 trees. He has not yet procured any worms but daily expects a supply of eggs from the U.S. Mr. P. is about to engage in the cultivation of cotton also.

From Mr. Peck's house we had a delightful view of the surrounding country. Before us lay a fertile country covered with vegetation & variegated with hill & dale. The fields of cane & the mulberry plantation, the latter an oblong field of 60 or 70 acres divided by avenues into regular squares, were sufficient of cultivation to show what was wanting to make an enchanting view. On either hand rose high & rugged mountains whose steep & often inaccessible sides presented a scattered growth of herbage. Directly back of us opened between these rugged peaks a pleasant valley. Not least in beauty or grandeur before us rolled the broad Pacific. We would gladly have spent hours in viewing this scene but approaching night warned us to return.

Although very much of the surface of these islands consists of inaccessible mountains God hath scattered his bounties here with an unsparing hand. A fertile soil yields a rich reward to the cultivator. Perhaps not more than one tenth of the *good* land which I have surveyed today is under cultivation. There may be more however my estimate is made from a very slight examination. This however is clear, that this land is capable of supporting an immensely greater population than it now does & that with every enjoyment that heart can wish.

4th Visited a curiosity at the sea shore to day. Having secured a boy for a guide, P. on horseback & myself on foot we set forward, two or three miles brought us to the end of our jaunt. The wonder is a spouting of the sea through a perforation in the lava. As we approached the spot our ears were saluted by a sound perfectly resembling the roaring produced by letting off the steam from a large steam engine. This was followed by a jet of water thrown to the height of ten or fifteen ft. Upon approaching the aperture I found it to be irregular, perhaps 2 ft. in diameter. Very soon the roaring was renewed, the water could be seen through the aperture, boiling & foaming as it was driven along by the surf. This was a signal for me to retire to a respectful distance until

the sea retired. The roading [roaring] proceeded from a small opening a little distance from the jet through which the air was driven with considerable violence by the waves pent in the caverns below. A number of apertures of from an inch in diameter to several feet, were scattered over a surface of twenty or thirty rods, through which the water was forced at every approaching wave. None of the jets were thrown to much height except the one first mentioned. The height of the jet would doubtless be much greater in a high surf than when I saw it. Numerous pools of water were scattered over the bed of lava through which these jets were forced & were supplied by the constant spray. They were filled with fish & other inhabitants of the sea. Numerous shells, remains of sea eggs, &c. &c. were scattered over the surface. Crabs are also numerous; the natives eat almost every thing which is found in the ocean both raw & cooked. One of the numerous children who fell into our train having caught a crab wished to use both hands for something took the animal between her teeth by one of its limbs; they eat them alive; you may often see natives searching the sea weed for a little transparent animal with plenty of legs, feelers &c. which they devour as fast as they find them.

The lava here seemed to have cooled from a state of great agitation, doubtless from flowing into the water. Saw numerous places where it had apparently been in a state of ebullition & cooled [hole in paper] series of concentric circular ridges; each series being three ft or more in diameter.

On our return visited a large cave. it was apparently formed when the lava was in a soft state by a quantity of gas or vapor confined. The only opening which I could discover was a broken one in the roof. The sides & roof show evidently that they were once in a fluid state. Such caverns are numerous here.

In one of my walks to day falling in with a prickly pear about ten ft. high & the trunk ten or twelve inches in diameter, I felt a curiosity to know the dimensions of its leaves. I accordingly made an attack upon it with my feet, but soon had occasion to repent for its long spines easily penetrated both shoe & foot. The thorns are an inch or two long, they grow out with the little stiff hairs which are so troublesome in the Am. prickly pear. I however secured a leaf, which I found to measure twelve inches by twenty & to weigh seven & three fourth pounds.

5th Vessel came in sight; expecting she would come in before night or in the evening our things were all sent to the shore and all hands were prepared to march but as she did not come in we retired.

6th This morning the vessel was at anchor in the harbor. As soon as possible we all got on board. Mr. Whitney and family, Mr. Alexander & family were on board. We were soon under way with a fair breeze, but with a prospect that we should be two or three days on the water. Mr. Alexander having a settee on deck gave it up to P. as she did not like to stay in the cabin. Mrs. Gulick also took her place on deck. You may be sure we not wish any further additions to our number. There were about 60 persons on board men women & children, a large proportion of them sea sick; every corner was full both deck & cabin; it was really necessary to be cautious in going about, lest we should step upon some one.

7th Notwithstanding we were so numerous we were constrained to receive an additional passenger. Mrs. G. had a son born during the night. The sixth son, all living.

We were all too sick to hold publick worship but had prayers in native & English.

8th During the last night Mr. W. awoke & found all hands asleep even the . . . man at the helm. We were going¹⁰ out to sea as fast as possible. Mr. W. awoke the sleepers who soon changed their course.

We came to anchor at Honolulu about sunrise and were right glad to set our feet once more on terra firma. We were soon restored to our former quarters.

The meeting of the mission for business had commenced. If you could have looked in upon us during our voyage you might have some conception of our condition. All seasick; none of the ladies were able to sit up at all, the gentlemen not much better off, many of the natives in the same predicament, every nook & corner was filled with the seasick.

The Lord has been merciful to us all & we have abundant reason for thanksgiving and praise. The most delicate & trying circumstances were ordered in mercy.

Mrs. G. with her little son of the ocean are in very comfortable circumstances.

14th Sabbath An event which has been feared for some days took place this morning, filling many hearts with sadness. Mrs. Lyons having just entered upon an earthly Sabbath has gone to her eternal rest. She came in feeble health & two or three weeeks after her arrival was attacked with a diarrhea which all efforts to check were unavailing.

Mrs. L. was very much beloved in this mission. One who had been sometime a resident at the same station, said that he never saw her in the wrong.

By this providence, to us dark, a faithful laborer has been removed. Mrs. Lyons you may be aware was a sister of Mrs. Bliss of our reinforcement. After years of separation they had only been permitted to meet and enjoy each others society for a few days, and are called to part again until they shall meet when parting is unknown.

June 9th Visited Manoa in company with Dr. Judd and family & the Misses Smith.

Manoa was the favorite residence of the distinguished chief Kaahumanu. It is situated in a lovely valley open at one side to the sea, on all the other sides it surrounded by high & precipitous mountains. Their steep sides, often almost perpendicular, are partially covered with soil and trees are thinly scattered here & there. The rugged lava often appearing in perpendicular walls is festooned with several species of convolvulus in full bloom & other creeping plants. Numerous ravines are deeply cut in the sides & are wild & romantic in the extreme. The bottom of the valley is level, or nearly so; much of it cultivated. A beautiful stream flows through it.

From the valley most of the party returned, but P. Miss S. & myself rode a mile or two in another direction, to the beach. Our way was over a dry & thirsty plain, but presenting some vegetation. Even on the dry sand of the beach one species of convolvulus flourishes. We soon arrived at a large grove of cocoa-nuts. These are flourishing in a bed of sand. There was also the kou tree which flourishes only on the sandy beach; it has a short trunk but throws out its long branches very wide covering with a dense foliage. They have also numerous orange coloured flowers, in form & size like the four o'clock. Pursuing our ride we arrived at an ancient heiau. It is in good repair & consists of a yard walled in on three sides, but open to the sea which is half a mile distant. The open side is raised about 15 feet by two offsets. The yard is about 200 ft. by 400 ft. This was one of the most important temples and was a place for offering human victims. We arrived at home about sun down much pleased with our visit. We have seen much of the goodness & power of God manifested in his works, & have by viewing the temple of idolatry been reminded of the former degradation of this people while we admired & adored the matchless grace which has overthrown their idols and abolished their inhuman rites, planting upon their ruins a religion pure and holy.

This brings me to about the time when we left Honolulu. Parnelly has given you an account of our voyage to Hilo & journey across this island (Hawaii). I shall therefore omit that.

Your affectionate son Seth L. Andrews¹¹

THE JOURNEY TO KAILUA

After the General Meeting, the couple left for their new home in Kailua. The trip is described in a wonderful letter from Parnelly to Seth's brother Joseph, who received many special letters. Joseph had been sick as a teenager, suffering from a high fever that affected his brain. All letters to him were carefully written to appeal to him, often concentrating on a special topic such as lizards, spiders, or fish. Parnelly's account of their trip from Honolulu to Kailua is quoted below:

Kailua, District of Kona, Isl. of Hawaii

Sept. 19th 1837

My dear Brother Joseph,

As Seth is writing to our dear Parents, & the rest of the family, I thought I should like to write you, & believed that you would like to read a letter from me. First of all we are very anxious to know respecting your health. We hope & trust that you are better than when we left. We hope that you enjoy yourself very much, in making machinery & in various ways.

I think you would like to know where & how we have been. Since Seth wrote & sent across the continent while we were at Honolulu. We were stationed by the Gen. Meet. of the Mission, at this place, but before coming here a Physician was needed at Hilo on the eastern side of this Island. At first we thought of coming here, & then going round the north side by land, but we were advised not to, as the travelling is very bad. When any of the missionaries leave Honolulu it is customary to have a farewell meeting. Accordingly as an opportunity to sail for Hilo presented on the 19th June, all the Brethren then at H. assembled at Mr. Bingham's where there was singing twice, & a prayer. then we parted with them all, & prepared to embark immediately. We walked down to the shore, a boat came off for us & we went on board. We found the vessel crowded very full. The cabin which was small & was stowed full to the deck, & many things could not be under cover. Seth had made a settee of boards, for me to recline upon during my sea-

sickness, & we had filled some cotton sacks with paper shavings from the bookbindery for beds. Finally a place large enough for the settee was found on deck. I spread the cushions & quilts & before anchor was weighed was obliged to lie down from sickness. At 4 o'clock P.M. sails were set, & away went the Victoria. Thro' the night we made headway considerable, but in the morning & thro' the day were becalmed. The sails flapped about if spread, the sun beat very hotly upon us, & we were very sick. At eve. the land breeze blew, & we went on & in the morning entered Malea Bay, on the South West side of Maui. After beating about several hours, we finally entered by help of the trade-wind & dropped anchor. There Mr. Green & family were to leave us but we accepted their invitation to cross the Isl. with them by land, & wait for the vessel to go round. This was Wednes. Accordingly all hands went ashore. Two or three grass houses occupied by poor fishermen were all that we found. One of them was vacated for us, & there we prepared dinner with tea. The mat on which we sat, served also for bed & table, but we were very happily once more to be on land, where we could breathe fresh air. After dinner some on horseback, & some in carts drawn by oxen, mounted high above the vehicle on loads of goods, we crossed the Isl. which in this place was only 8 miles wide, being a low Isthmus, once probably covered by the sea. At four o'clock our whole train arrived at Wailuku Station, where Mrs. Armstrong had a good dinner prepared for us. This is a beautiful place but as Seth will give a description in his journal I forbear. On Friday eve. the little vessel again came in sight & we went off, arriving on board at dusk. Our company consisted of Mr. & Mrs. Coan & child, Mr. Wilcox & wife & ourselves, besides a great many natives. Very soon we were thoroughly seasick again. In the morning we had not advanced much, neither at eve. Thro' the Sabbath gained but little, but on Monday crossed the channel between Maui & Hawaii, about 25 miles wide, & had a distinct view of Mauna Kea, presenting a barren appearance. In the afternoon I fell asleep & on awaking could scarcely tell where I was, for instead of a barren mountain we were close upon the shore of a most beautiful & rich valley, laden with luxuriant vegetation. A lovely stream of water flowed thro the midst & emptied in front of us. On either side were thrifty cocoanut trees, back a little large plantations of kalo, edged with bananas & specked with breadfruit with here & there a clump of kukui or kou trees all of a deep & lively green gave many charms to the scene. We "lay to" & the Capt. halloed for fresh supplies of food & wood. A little was brought. We tacked again & the next time approached shore with other prospects before us. The shore was bold & precipitous, ris-

ing nearly perpendicularly several *hundred* feet & in some places thousands. Here & there the water had worn channels on the top & from those channels cascades were formed. At one time we counted 20 in sight. In many instances large bodies of water rushed into the ocean. I thought you would like such a place for your water wheel. You could gratify the extent of your wishes in its size. At eve. copious showers which somewhat *dampened* the ardour of our enthusiasm in gazing upon land, as our attention was necessarily directed to our paper beds &c. We continued to have frequent showers the rest of the voyage yet I did not leave the deck during the whole trip. On the tenth day at 4 P.M. we arrived at Hilo Bay. Natives came off with melons, grapes & pineapples. A boat carried us ashore thro' the surf. Hundreds of natives crowded about to say "Aloha". It was with much difficulty that we could press our way through the crowd to reach the mission house. Mr. Lyman & family welcomed us, & our home was with them while we remained. This is the most fertile region of the Sandwich Islands. Fruit is very abundant. Of pineapples there seemed to be no end, until the season was passed. It is most delicious fruit, far surpassing the best of oranges, in my estimation. They grow without care. The top of the fruit is cut off & if thrown where it can find soil & even where there seems not enough to nourish *anything*, it takes root & grows, provided there is frequent rain. After passing several weeks pleasantly at H. our stay no longer necessary, we left on the 7th Aug. The house & yards were thronged with those who lamented the "Kauka's" departure. Seth & myself were furnished with horses, for a saddle to accommodate me he fixed a horn on to an old Spanish saddle. Mr. Coan, Mr. Wilcox & wife concluded to accompany us to the Volcano. Our whole company, natives & all consisted of more than thirty souls. Our way lay through forests, over precipices, rocks, & pits. We arrived at the volcano on the second day at 3 P.M. where we found a house in readiness, that is to say, occupied by no one, & no one to dispute our taking possession of it. The construction of it was this, a row of crotched posts set up & poles laid on them, then other sticks & brush set aslant against them on one side, & a few tufts of grass thrown loosely over them. It was about six feet deep & 30 ft. long. One side was open and that towards the crater, & within three feet of the precipice of 1000 ft. which terminated in the burning lava. We did not much like to stop there, but there was no alternative. This was all the house near, & from it we could have a view of the whole, in the night. We spread fresh brake leaves, mats, quilts, & cloaks & prepared for the night. But for the crater, do you wonder that I say nothing about it? What shall I say? No one has ever yet described

it to my satisfaction. No account ever gave me any just idea of it. When we first gained a view of it it looked like a level, deep dark abyss, of black liquid, with here & there a fiery lake rolling in red sluggish waves, & a dense vapor rising from all parts of the pit. The crater is not on the summit of a mountain as I had before supposed, but the ascent is gentle for miles before arriving at it. It is 3,993 feet above the level of the sea. When the missionaries first visited it, what is called the Black Ledge was considered half way down to the bed of the crater, being 1000 ft. & another 1000 ft. down to the fires. The Black Ledge is a regular surface of lava, once evidently fused, & probably the bed of the crater, varying in width from a few feet to $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile, extending nearly round the pit. The crater at the top is estimated to be 9 or ten miles in circumference. It is nearly circular. The bed of the crater has arisen so as in some places to be considerably elevated above the surface of the Black ledge. On the next morning after our arrival, all hands furnished with long stiff canes, to aid us in descending, & with which to try whether the lava would bear us, we commenced our descent. It was a weary & in some places a dangerous way, but we arrived in safety. Mr. Wilcox caught a fall into a pit shaped like a tunnel, while reaching out without suspicion to cut a cane. The rest of the company had passed on, but he succeeded in climbing out with the aid of little twigs & ferns growing on the smooth sides. The natives who accompanied us had no shoes, but made for themselves sandals of leaves, & thus were able to walk over places where the eve. before we had counted numerous fires & which were hot enough to blister the flesh. We visited all the principle lakes one of which it was judged covered several acres & another several rods in diameter, probably 200 feet below the surrounding lava. The steam which issued from these abysses was so strongly sulphurous & so heated as almost to stifle. one. As the waves of fire dashed in quick succession against the sides of the pit, the force threw out the burning lava. We gathered some of the pieces as they fell & shall sometime hope to send you some. I had forgotten to tell you that the evening before we heard an unusual groaning & hissing & presently a new crater burst forth in a terrible stream of fire & ran off like a river of red hot coals. Seth went to the place. It was on a high ridge of rocks & I was so fatigued that I did not ascend. He went so near the burning cone as to push the end of this cane into the melted lava, & take it out covered with it. He has preserved it, stick & all, & will send it home with other specimens. In some places the lava is piled up in great blocks like ice on banks of large rivers in the spring, in others it has cooled in all manner of curious forms, appearing in form like a pond of boiling mush.

Mrs. Wilcox & myself with a native or two returned before the gentlemen were ready. We lost our way amidst the hills & pits & roaring lakes. The whole mass at times seemed to tremble, & we finally were obliged to descend a precipice where the smoke poured forth in smothering quantities, attended by as loud a hissing as the letting off of steam from a steamboat. The following eve an eruption took place in the very spot & for some distance each way from where we passed only a few hours before. We arrived at our little hut, just before sunset, well repaid for the toils of the day. In the eve. & during the night the appearance was much more brilliant than we had before seen it. The whole pit was illuminated by the activity of the fires. In the morning the gentlemen not yet satisfied, started again to descend, but had proceeded but a mile or two before meeting a messenger from Hilo with a letter saying Mrs. Lyman was dangerously ill. They returned to consult what should be done & it was at last decided that Seth should [return] immediately to H. & I remain where I was until I should [hear] from him. Mrs. Wilcox had already returned. Messrs C. & W. [were to] leave the next morn. on an itinerating tour thro' Puna. Men to carry our baggage were to meet us at the volcano from the other side of the Isl. but they had not yet arrived. Seth started about four o'clock & travelled until 9 in the eve. & in the morning went on, his feet became very sore, & his shoes quite worn from his feet. When he arrived, he found Mrs. L. a little relieved. The same morn. Thurs. I received a letter from Mr. Forbes who had accompanied our men from Kailua into Kau saying that they would arrive the next day at the crater, & that if we would come to such a place we could all spend the Sabbath together. I resolved to go on the next day & meet him or at least go where my men could get food, for theirs was gone. Accordingly we made preparations to leave, but the men did not come. At noon however one arrived & said the rest would soon be up. Then we sent those from Hilo home. Mr. C. & W. could not well wait longer, & left, & I staid with a few natives until 4 P.M. when we sa[hole in paper] like sp[hole in paper] opposite side of the crater coming. They were [hole in paper] altho it rained, & we went on, very [hole in paper] about [hole in paper] when the lava became so sharp and the [hole in paper] so high [hole in paper] precipices, long & almost perpendicular, that I [gave] my horse to a native & walked. The way was the same until [hole in paper] when we came to long hills the path leading thro' high grass. I had become so much exhausted as to be obliged to sit down, the horses not having yet arrived. It grew dark. I inquired where we should find a house. The natives said they had never travelled this way before & could not tell, but supposed there was

none. I concluded that I should be obliged to travel all night or lie down in the wet grass & perhaps looked a little sad, for one of the natives ran a head among the rocks & trees & soon called out "Na hale nuhu!" Cheered by the sound I quickened my pace the rest following my example. We found it was a little shelter thrown up by some passing traveller, constructed of the branches & leaves of trees. It was high enough to admit of sitting upright on a mat spread upon the ground. The natives struck up a fire in front of it, repeated their verse of scripture, had prayers & then we all composed ourselves to sleep on our mats. In the morning it appeared th[at an]other long piece of rocks & lava lay before us, & the man told me that I must [walk & my] feet were sore, but I walked several miles, & then told them to bring the horse. They grumbled some but I was decided & they obeyed. Just as I was seated in the saddle, a native came running with a note from Mr. Forbes in which he stated that as soon as he heard of my lonely situation, he started with a Chief to meet at a certain cave where the natives said we should stay all night. They travelled thro' the night & arrived at the cave but did not find us, & now had sent on a messenger to learn our fate. I hastened on & in half an hour was with a kind brother. He brought a baked turkey, a bottle of goats milk & a bag of oranges. We breakfasted & went on, riding as fast as the horses could go, until 1 o'clock P.M. & arrived at the house of the Headman. He & his wife are good people. They gave up their best house to me, containing a table 8 inches high, one Chinese chair & a divan for a bed. The Chief woman cooked for me, set my table, washed my dishes & nursed me with the kindness of a Mother. Mr. Forbes went five miles farther to spend the Sab. & then returned. The next Tues. I recd. a letter from S. saying that he could not leave Mrs. L. until the next week. We accordingly pursued our journey the next morn. over mountains up & down precipices, sometimes riding & sometimes walking. We halted at 9 o'clock in the eve. on the top of a precipice more than a 1000 feet above the village below where we were to stay. Two natives took me between them & set me down in safety at the bottom. An entertainment was prepared for us. The next morning Mr. Forbes examined several schools, married 23 couple, & at noon we again started, rode two hours, where he examined schools, again married several more, & then went on a few miles by a good road, arrived at a "pali" (precipice,) dismissed the horses, & descended 1500 ft. down the side of the mountain, varying but a few feet from perpendicular, crossed a wide field of level lava, & arrived at an open canoehouse, which was to be our lodging place if we staid until morning. People began to collect as soon as we arrived, one

or two schools to be examined & several couple to be married. It was dark, but some kukui nuts were lighted, the weddings were despatched, the examinations attended to, some fish cooked for us, & we ready to retire. A room was made for me by suspending a sail & I slept quietly. At daylight we went aboard of a double canoe, being simply two fastened together, & at the end of 24 hours arrived at Kaawaloa. I was sea-sick all the way. We stopped once, had a pig which was presented, baked in native stile, & eat of it under a wide spreading kou tree. I remained at K. till after the Sab. & then Mr. Forbes accompanied me on horseback 15 miles to Kailua, where Mrs. Thurston was waiting to welcome us. In one week more Seth arrived & the week following we commenced [hole in paper] house built & vacated by Mr. Bishop. It is a barren place on the shore where we live, but back on the mountain food is raised. Our water is brought five miles, our clothes are carried the same distance to be washed. We have as yet bought no food. presents have supplied the table. One of our domesticks speaks Eng. a little & assists about interpreting. He is a Society Islander. This is a large village & there is a wide field for usefulness here. We cannot do much *yet* but are studying the language with Thomas Hopu, Obookiah's friend & companion. I expect to aid Mrs. T. in instructing her children & thus enable her to take a native school, until I am qualified to teach. We enjoy very good health & are quite happy. Gov. Adams resides in this village. He is a member of the church & is a very good man. He has just built a large stone church.

And now my dear Brother my time is gone, my paper is used up, & I must close. Will you not write Seth & Parnelly a letter? We wish you would. Tell Ann & the boys that they must write too. Give our affectionate regard to Grandmother & all the family.

Your affec. Sister

Parnelly P. Andrews¹²

Seth and Parnelly spent about ten years in Kailua. In addition to being the doctor for the whole island, he also acted as superintendent of the schools. They had four children, three of whom died in the islands. Parnelly died in 1846. George, their eldest son, returned to the mainland with Seth in 1848 and also became a doctor. Seth sought a second wife with the intention of returning to Hawaii, but by 1850 the Board was withdrawing support for the mission. Dr. and the second Mrs. Andrews settled in Romeo, Michigan, and after practicing there for many years, Seth died in 1893.

Seth also collected many Hawaiian artifacts and sent them home. He was keenly interested in collecting specimens of natural phenomena as well as articles of Hawaiian arts and crafts. During the present century many of those items have been donated to the Bishop Museum, where they comprise a significant collection of Hawaiiana. Many of the letters he and Parnelly wrote have survived. Some of them are held by family members; others are in archives or with collectors. To discover a part of a letter in one place and then locate the rest of it in another, as I did with the first letter here, is a thrill. Together they tell a wonderful story of both the physical and the human landscape of the Islands.

NOTES

¹ Horton Knapp, *Journal*, I, Dec. 20, 1836–Mar. 8, 1837, pp. 14–15. HMCS.

² Mrs. Charlotte (C.) Knapp, *Journal*, I, Dec. 13, 1836–June 23, 1838, pp. 36–37. HMCS.

³ H. Knapp, *Journal*, p. 17.

⁴ H. Knapp, *Journal*, p. 21.

⁵ C. Knapp, *Journal*, p. 26.

⁶ C. Knapp, *Journal*, p. 43.

⁷ C. Knapp, *Journal*, p. 47.

⁸ C. Knapp, *Journal*, p. 95.

⁹ Seth Andrews letter to Elisha Deming Andrews, 1837, private collection.

¹⁰ S. Andrews letter to E. D. Andrews, Detroit Public Library, Burton Historical Collection.

¹¹ S. Andrews letter, private collection.

¹² Parnelly Andrews letter to Joseph Andrews, Sept. 19, 1837, private collection of author.

