

Pre-interview with Mrs. Louise John

By Charles Langlas, 1/16/90

1) life events

--b. May 12, 1917 at Kalapana (GPa's house)
--later her M and F had a house on cane lot at Waiakea Homesteads in Hilo; moved between Waiakea and Kalapana where GM lived; she spent first grade and half of second grade there going to Waiakea Waena school
--then her father died (six months after her GF had died) and they moved back to Kalapana to live with GM (she went to Kalapana school through sixth grade)
--she went to Honolulu for seventh and eighth grades
--1933 she married husband (at 16); he's from Hilo; she met him going back and forth to school at Honolulu; they lived at family place of husband (Waiakea Houselots), plus went back and forth to Kalapana; also spent time in Keaukaha where her M-in-law had a place
--1941 they built a house at Keaukaha
--1946 sister Jennie Awai moved back to Hilo (from Honolulu), lived first at the family house at Waiakea Homesteads --her mother (Annie Campbell) was from Honolulu; came to Kalapana to spend summer with friend from Kalapana; met father there and they married (not one of Puna Campbells; a schoolteacher named Campbell lived at Opihikao)

2) Kama land

--land bought by her GF from Ka`aiihili brothers (David and Albert--probably sons of the original grantholder); they wanted money to go to school, moved to Hilo (she's not sure if they actually went to school though); she knew David, who was about the age of her father
--he bought the parcels called Holua (near the new road), Papaiki, Mo`oloa from Ka`aihilis
--her grandfather had no land at Kalapana before; came from Kealakomo

3) household

--in their household was just the grandmother, mother and children (oldest William--died, then Louise, Jennie, Abner--also died)

--had a hard time because no men, but got along; raised pigs, cows, sweet potato, little taro, `ulu, also chickens

--describes her GM going fishing in the morning at low tide w. a basket of reeds (pai) and chasing them into the basket w. a coconut frond

Q: Had a taro patch in the mts.? A: no, only before the GF died, he had a patch

Q: Did others share with you or did you get along by yourselves? A: Mostly got by on their own--sold weaving and occasionally a pig or cow; others shared fish, certain "smelly" fish they didn't want but Kamas would take them; when other

butchered a cow they'd give tripe and the Kamas would take it, not particular.

GM could still work, but M worked the hardest; even her GGM Ka`iu Waiwai used to work--go up to Keipo`ole (a long way) to get `ulu, carry the bag back bent-over, would pound poi

4) LJ says the kupuna "should tell Kalapana stories." CL: Like what? LJ tells story of huaka`i po that she witnessed:

They went torching early in the night--M, girls, cousin--when the moon was low. Went toward Kupahu`a. They saw two horses off at Kalapana Gardens, horses got bigger, M said to turn off the path and wait for them to go by, but they never did go by. They went on to fish. After about 15 minutes, her M said all the fish had already been taken and they went home (about 12:00 now [?]). They had tea, then dogs began to howl. Her GM said to turn out the lights and don't talk. They all heard a squeaking noise, got louder, and finally passed by them--from Ka`u side to Hilo side. Her GM said, "At least they passed in peace [not war]."

5) then she mentioned the fireballs (akualele)--She didn't see, but her GM and M stayed up at night to weave on the porch while the children slept, and they saw.

On Sunday after church, her GM invited certain ones over, they would talk on the lanai and shoo the children away--talk about this one's sick and that one, saw the akualeles going here and there.

6) she mentions others--played with Louise Keli`iho`omalu, good frineds now with Teresa Waipa; says Mrs. Dunn also has an older sister [?]