

Hawaiians in the Civil War

March 2015

Note: *This is a working document. The service of the soldiers and sailors listed here has been confirmed and corroborated by various sources. This may be the largest repository of API servicemen in existence, but it is not comprehensive. There are likely more who have been discovered by other researchers, and still others whose stories have yet to be recovered.*

Note on the term “Sandwich Islands:”

In January 1778, sailing from Tahiti to North America while searching for the Northwest Passage, British vessels commanded by Capt. James Cook bumped into the Hawaiian Islands. Cook had his mapmakers label the place “Sandwich Islands” to honor Britain’s Earl of Sandwich, first lord of the admiralty. British maps spread the Sandwich Islands name widely in Europe and eventually America. Kamehameha I, who united the islands in 1795, rejected the British name. From the first written constitution in 1840, the name used was Hawaiian Islands. The same year, a government newspaper editorially proclaimed in an article entitled, “Hawaii versus Sandwich Islands,” that the citizens have ever used ‘Hawaii nei’ as applicable to the islands. Although the Hawaiian Islands government never overtly used “Sandwich,” it would respond to foreign governments’ use of it. Hawaiian citizens entering the United States, some of whom would fight in the US Civil War, traveled on Hawaiian Island, not Sandwich Island, passports. The Hawaiian names of each island were spelled irregularly by speakers of English, French, Spanish, or Russian trying to transcribe spoken Hawaiian. Just as it was convenient to rename Hawaiian sailors and soldiers, it was convenient for foreigners to refer to Hawaii as the “Sandwich Islands.” -Anita Manning

Information on Servicemen

Jack Adams, born Sandwich Islands, about 1834; resident of New York; enlisted in the United States Navy, at Brooklyn, New York, for 2 years, as ordinary seaman, on November 10, 1864, aged 30; previous occupation, seaman; personal description, at the time of enlistment shown as black eyes, black hair, brown complexion, and standing at 5 feet 8 inches tall; india ink on arms and chest. [Naval Enlistment Rendezvous Records at www.fold3.com.]

John Adams, 6th United States Colored Troops; born Honolulu, Sandwich Islands; enlisted January 3, 1865, aged 23, at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, as substitute. (Muster Roll.)

Peter Adams, born Sandwich Islands, about 1837; complexion, mulatto; 5 feet 4 inches in height; occupation, seaman; enlisted at Boston, Massachusetts, July 27, 1861, for 3 years in the United States Navy; served as ordinary seaman aboard the *USS Clara Dolsen*, 1863. [NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.]

George Albert, born Warhoo [Oahu], Sandwich Islands; aged 39; height 5 feet 11 inches; black eyes, black hair, dark complexion; occupation, seaman; enlisted May 16, 1864, at Reading, Massachusetts, for 3 years; served as private, company A, 5th Regiment Massachusetts Colored Cavalry; died September 12, 1864. [CMSR.]

John Aram, born Wahoo [Oahu], Sandwich Islands; aged 25; height 6 feet; black eyes, black hair, black complexion; occupation, seaman; enlisted March 15, 1864, at Dorchester, Massachusetts, for 3 years, by J. Catton; sent to the 5th Regiment Massachusetts Colored Cavalry, but was rejected for service on March 26, 1864. [CMSR.]

William Bill, born Sandwich Islands, joined the *CSS Shenandoah*, as Seaman, May, 1865, from the captive *Abigail*; died October 26, 1865. (*Information from a List of the Officers and men of the Shenandoah, included with an affidavit filled out by William A. Temple at Liverpool, on December 6th, 1865.*)

John Boy, born Sandwich Islands, joined the *CSS Shenandoah*, as Seaman, May, 1865, from the captive *Abigail*. (*Information from a List of the Officers and men of the Shenandoah, included with an affidavit filled out by William A. Temple at Liverpool, on December 6th, 1865.*)

Johnny Boy, born Sandwich Islands, about 1842; complexion, black; 5 feet 5 inches in height; occupation, sailor; enlisted in the United States Navy, at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, October 19, 1864, for 3 years; served as 1st class fireman aboard the *USS Isonomia* and the *USS San Jacinto*, 1865. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*]

John Brown, born Honolulu, Sandwich Islands; aged 22; height 5 feet 7 inches; black eyes, dark hair, dark complexion; occupation, sailor; enlisted and mustered in at Providence, Rhode Island, on January 10, 1865, for 1 year; served in the 11th Regiment United States Heavy Artillery (Colored). [CMSR.]

William Brown, born Sandwich Islands, joined the *CSS Shenandoah*, as Seaman, May, 1865, from the captive *Abigail*. (*Information from a List of the Officers and men of the Shenandoah, included with an affidavit filled out by William A. Temple at Liverpool, on December 6th, 1865.*)

James Bush, born Sandwich Islands, about 1843; credited to Epsom, New Hampshire; enlisted as a substitute in the United States Navy, for 3 years, September 27, 1864; served as ordinary seaman aboard the *USS Vandalia*, and *USS Beauregard*; discharged for disability, July 14, 1865, from the receiving ship at New York City. [*New Hampshire Rosters.*]

James California, born Sandwich Islands, joined the *CSS Shenandoah*, as Seaman, May, 1865, from the captive *Abigail*. (*Information from a List of the Officers and men of the Shenandoah, included with an affidavit filled out by William A. Temple at Liverpool, on December 6th, 1865.*)

James Conant, born Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, about 1840; enlisted at New Bedford, at the age of 21, as ordinary seaman in the United States Navy, on May 21, 1861; personal description at the time of enlistment shown as black eyes, black hair, "very dark" complexion, and standing at 5 feet 6 inches tall. [Naval Rendezvous Enlistment records at FOLD3.com.]

Henry David, born Sandwich Islands, about 1843; complexion, copper; 5 feet 4 inches in height; enlisted aboard the receiving ship *Princeton*, August 13, 1862, for 1 year; served as coal heaver aboard the *USS Vanderbilt*, 1863. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*]

Peter Davis, born Warhoo [Oahu], Sandwich Islands; aged 26 years; height 5 feet 7 inches; black complexion, black eyes, black hair; occupation, sailor; enlisted March 9, 1864, at

Weymouth, by G. C. Burrill, for 3 years; served in company D, 5th Regiment Massachusetts Colored Cavalry. [CMSR.]

Howard Everson, born Sandwich Islands; aged 21 years; height 5 feet 6 inches; black complexion, black eyes, black hair; occupation seaman; enlisted April 19, 1864, at Roxbury, for 3 years, by Samuel J. Fletcher; served in 5th Regiment, Massachusetts Colored Cavalry; [CMSR.]

Mariano Flores, born Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, about 1841; complexion, mulatto; previous occupation, sailor; enlisted as landsman, in the United States Navy, at New London, August 14, 1862, for 3 years. [NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.]

John Franks (surname also shown as Frank), born Warhoo (Oahu), Sandwich Islands; aged 25; height 5 feet 6 inches; black eyes, black hair, black complexion; occupation, sailor; enlisted December 16, 1863, at Provincetown, Massachusetts, for 3 years; mustered in at Readville, Massachusetts, January 9, 1864; served in company A, 5th Regiment Massachusetts Colored Cavalry; appointed corporal, September 29, 1865; shown on a muster out roll, dated at Clarksville, Texas, October 31, 1865; stated to be a free person of color on April 19, 1861. [CMSR.]

James French, born Sandwich Islands, joined the *CSS Shenandoah*, as Seaman, May, 1865, from the captive *Abigail*. (*Information from a List of the Officers and men of the Shenandoah, included with an affidavit filled out by William A. Temple at Liverpool, on December 6th, 1865.*)

Henry Givens, born Sandwich Islands, joined the *CSS Shenandoah*, as Seaman, May, 1865, from the captive *Abigail*. (*Information from a List of the Officers and men of the Shenandoah, included with an affidavit filled out by William A. Temple at Liverpool, on December 6th, 1865.*)

Elien Haley, born Sandwich Islands, about 1838; complexion, black; 5 feet 5 inches in height; previous occupation, sailor; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, October 19, 1864; served as seaman aboard the *USS San Jacinto*, 1865. [NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.]

John Hall, born Sandwich Islands, about 1827; complexion, black; 5 feet 11 inches in height; previous occupation, mariner; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, at Boston, Massachusetts, June 3, 1864; served as seaman aboard the *USS Ithasca*, 1865. [NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.]

John Hastings, born Sandwich Islands, about 1837; complexion, black; 5 feet 8 inches in height; occupation, mariner; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, November 23, 1864; served as ordinary seaman aboard the *USS Richmond*, 1865, and the *USS Estrella*, 1866 – 1867. [NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.]

Charles Heatley, born Niyahu, Sandwich Islands; aged 26 years; height 5 feet 10 inches; black eyes, black hair, black complexion; occupation, mariner; enlisted May 9, 1864, at Princetown, Massachusetts, for 3 years, by T.C. Hatch; mustered in on the same day, by captain Goodhue; served in company G, 5th Regiment Massachusetts Colored Cavalry (joined his company on July 15, 1864); stated to be “absent without leave” in October, 1864; absent sick at Petersburg, Virginia, since April 15, 1865; died July 15, 1865, at Fort Monroe, Virginia, of chronic diarrhoea. [CMSR.]

George High (surname also shown as Height), born Sandwich Islands, about 1832; complexion, mulatto; 5 feet 5 inches in height; previous occupation, mariner; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, at Providence, Rhode Island, September 9, 1864; served as ordinary seaman aboard the *USS Vanderbilt*, 1865; also served aboard the *USS Ohio* and the *USS Colorado*. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database; From the Muster Roll of the USS Colorado, dated January 1, 1865, copy of which is in possession of the author.*]

George Holland, born Sandwich Islands, about 1826; complexion, negro; 5 feet 8 inches in height; previous occupation, mariner; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, at New Bedford, May 28, 1864; served as seaman aboard the *USS Lackawanna*, 1865. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*]

Peter Johnson, born Sandwich Islands (one service card in his CMSR shows birthplaces as “Calafornia”), about 1839; occupation, sailor; enlisted at Bridgeport, Connecticut, by captain Wessells, on April 18, 1864, for 3 years, as a private in company F, 29th Regiment Connecticut (colored) Infantry; personal description at the time of enlistment shown as black eyes, black hair, black complexion, and standing at 5 feet 5 inches tall; died January 9, 1865, at Point of Rocks Hospital, of gastritis (gastritis?). [*U.S. Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1863 – 1865, at Ancestry.com.*]

Joseph Kanaca, born Sandwich Islands, joined the *CSS Shenandoah*, as Seaman, May, 1865, from the captive *Abigail*. (*Information from a List of the Officers and men of the Shenandoah, included with an affidavit filled out by William A. Temple at Liverpool, on December 6th, 1865.*)

Joseph Kanaka, born Wahoo, Sandwich Islands, about 1835; enlisted at Kittery, Maine, for three years, as seaman in the United States Navy, on November 10, 1864; previous occupation, mariner; personal description at the time of enlistment shown as black eyes, black hair, dark complexion and 5 feet 6 inches tall; letters tattooed on arm. [*United States, Naval Enlistment Rendezvous, 1855-1891.*]

Peter Kelekai, born Sandwich Islands, Pacific Ocean, about 1839; enlisted at New Bedford, aged 22, for three years, as ordinary seaman in the United States Navy, on September 13, 1861; physical description at the time of enlistment shown as hazel eyes, black hair, copper colour complexion, and standing at 5 feet 4 ½ inches tall. [Naval Rendezvous Enlistment records at www.familysearch.org.]

Thomas Lee, born Wahoo, Sandwich Islands, about 1843; resident of Taunton, Massachusetts (in 1864); enlisted, at the age of 21, at New Bedford, Massachusetts, for three years, in the United States Navy, on June 28, 1864; received a bounty of \$42, on enlistment; personal description, at the time of enlistment, shown as black eyes, black hair, “copper color” complexion, and standing at 5 feet 8 ½ inches tall; also indicated to have a tattoo of the letters: OTWAY.HAMAIKUWA on his left forearm. [*United States, Naval Enlistment Rendezvous, 1855-1891.*]

Henry Lewis, born Sandwich Islands, about 1835; complexion, yellow; 5 feet 8 inches in height; previous occupation, mariner; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, at Lota, Chile, July 21, 1864; served as landsman aboard the *USS Wateree*, 1864 – 1866. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*]

Henry Lobson, born Sandwich Islands, about 1839; complexion, black; 5 feet 10 inches in height; previous occupation, mariner; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, at

Kittery, Maine, December 7, 1864; served as ordinary seaman aboard the *USS Dacotah*, 1865 – 1868. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*]

Joseph Long, born Sandwich Islands, joined the *CSS Shenandoah*, as Seaman, May, 1865, from the captive *Abigail*. (*Information from a List of the Officers and men of the Shenandoah, included with an affidavit filled out by William A. Temple at Liverpool, on December 6th, 1865.*)

John Mahoe, born Sandwich Islands, joined the *CSS Shenandoah*, as Seaman, May, 1865, from the captive *Abigail*. (*Information from a List of the Officers and men of the Shenandoah, included with an affidavit filled out by William A. Temple at Liverpool, on December 6th, 1865.*)

John Manuel, born Sandwich Islands, about 1844; complexion, negro; 5 feet 2 inches in height; enlisted in the United States Navy, at New London, September 8, 1862; served as landsman aboard the *USS Vanderbilt*, 1862 – 1863. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*]

Jack Norton, born Sandwich Islands (his Naval enlistment records shows birthplace as Strongs Island, but complexion is noted as “Sandwich Islands”), about 1837; enlisted in the United States Navy, at Boston, 7 October, 1862, and served as seaman aboard the *USS North Carolina*, 1863; personal description at enlistment shown as standing at 5 feet 3 ½ inches tall; admitted to the Naval Hospital (at New York?), with pneumonia, on March 16, 1863. [*Registers of Patients at Naval Hospitals, 1812 – 1934, at Ancestry.com; U.S. Naval Enlistment Registers at www.familysearch.org.*]

John Ourai, born Sandwich Islands, about 1840; complexion, negro; 5 feet 9 inches in height; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 1 year, at New York, February 9, 1863; served as ordinary seaman. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*]

Antonio Perez, born Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, about 1843; complexion, mulatto; 5 feet 2 inches in height; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, July 9, 1862; served as landsman aboard the *USS Wyoming*, 1863 – 1864. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*]

Frederick Rain, born Sandwich Islands, about 1832; complexion, black; 5 feet 4 inches in height; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, at Boston, Massachusetts, January 3, 1862; served as ordinary seaman aboard the *USS Constellation*, 1862 – 1863. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*]

William Rodoma, born Sandwich Islands, Pacific Ocean, about 1837; complexion, mulatto; 5 feet 6 inches in height; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, at New Bedford, July 17, 1861; served as ordinary seaman. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database; Naval Rendezvous Enlistment records.*]

Prince Romerson (his surname is also shown as Robinson), born Owyhee [Oahu], Sandwich Islands (his birthplace is also indicated as being in India), about 1840; height 5 feet 3 ½ inches (his naval record shows his height as 5 feet 2 inches tall); black complexion (naval record lists complexion as mulatto), black eyes, black hair; occupation, barber; originally enlisted at New York, January 22, 1863, for one year, as landsman in the United States Navy; served aboard the *USS Wamsutta*; also indicated to have enlisted in the United States Navy, aged 23, at Boston, and served as ordinary seaman aboard the *USS Wabash* (this particular enlistment shows his surname as Robinson, birthplace as India, and personal description as black complexion, and standing 5 feet 5 inches tall) later enlisted April 23, 1864, at Boston, by G.W. Messinger, for 3 years, in the United States Army; mustered by lieut. D. Madden,

May 5, 1864, at Readville, Massachusetts; served in company M, 5th Regiment Massachusetts Colored Cavalry; promoted to sergeant by virtue of Regimental order to date from June 1, 1864; absent sick at New Orleans, since July 8, 1865; shown as being present on the Hospital Muster Roll of Corps d'Afrique, U.S.A. General Hospital, at New Orleans, Louisiana in July and August, 1865; mustered out of service at New York City, October 9, 1865; discharged October 10, 1865, at Dav. Island, New York Harbor. [*CMSR; NPS Soldier and Sailor Database; Find The data web site at <http://civil-war-sailors.findthedata.org/>.*]

John Sailer, born Sandwich Islands, joined the *CSS Shenandoah*, as Seaman, May, 1865, from the captive *Abigail*. (*Information from a List of the Officers and men of the Shenandoah, included with an affidavit filled out by William A. Temple at Liverpool, on December 6th, 1865.*)

Henry Smith, born Sandwich Islands, about 1836; complexion, copper; 5 feet 4 inches in height; previous occupation, mariner; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, at Hoboken, April 5, 1865; served as ordinary seaman aboard the *USS Hartford*, 1865. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*]

John Smith, born Oahu, Sandwich Islands, about 1836; complexion, yellow; 5 feet 4 inches in height; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, at Boston, Massachusetts, November 12, 1861; served as seaman aboard the *USS Portsmouth*, 1863 – 1864. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*]

Peter Smith, born Oahu, Sandwich Islands, about 1838; complexion, black; 5 feet 2 inches in height; previous occupation, mariner; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, at Kittery, Maine, September 10, 1864; served as ordinary seaman aboard the *USS Bohio*, 1865. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*]

Julius Stone, born Sandwich Islands, about 1832; complexion, black; 5 feet 2 inches in height; previous occupation, cook; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 2 years, at Boston, Massachusetts, July 29, 1862; served as ordinary seaman aboard the *USS Ino*, 1862 – 1863. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*] – The Naval Rendezvous Enlistment records actually show that he was born at St. Josephs, Col. (Colorado?), and his complexion is shown as Indian.

Isaac Thompson, born Sandwich Islands, about 1844; complexion, mulatto; 5 feet 4 inches in height; previous occupation, labourer; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, at Boston, Massachusetts, June 13, 1864; served as landsman aboard the *USS Kennebec*, 1865. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*]

Peter Warren, born Wahoo, Sandwich Islands, about 1834; resident of Chatham, Massachusetts, in 1864; enlisted, at the age of 30, at New Bedford, for three years, as ordinary seaman in the United States Navy, on June 28, 1864; received a bounty of \$42, on enlistment; personal description, at the time of enlistment, shown as black eyes, black hair, “copper color” complexion, and standing at 5 feet 5 ³/₄ inches tall; tattoos of the letters: RAAIPUNI on his left forearm, and a crucifix on his right forearm; served as ordinary seaman aboard the *USS Glaucus* in 1865; the roll of this vessel shows his height as 5 feet 4 inches tall, and his complexion as mulatto. [*United States, Naval Enlistment Rendezvous, 1855-1891; NPS Soldier and Sailor Database.*]

Samuel M. Watt, born Sandwich Islands, about 1843; previous occupation, sailor; enlisted by captain Nugent, at Kingston, New York, aged 21, for one year, as a private in company A,

20th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry, October 16, 1864; personal details at the time of enlistment shown as black eyes, black hair, black complexion, and standing at 5 feet, 8 inches tall; discharged, August 12, 1865, for disability at New Orleans, Louisiana; disability shown as chronic diarrhoea. (Muster Roll.)

Henry Williams, born Owhyhee [Oahu], Sandwich Islands, about 1834; complexion, copper; 5 feet 7 inches in height; occupation, mariner; enlisted in the United States Navy, for 3 years, at New Bedford, November 17, 1864; served as ordinary seaman aboard the *USS Midnight*, 1865. [*NPS Soldier and Sailor Database*.]

William Williams, born Sandwich Islands; enlisted, aged 25, as ordinary seaman in the United States Navy; served aboard the receiving ship *USS Ohio*, at Boston; shown in the medical log, dated January 20, 1862, as having rubiola, and sent to hospital. [Data sent by Ed Milligan, of Alexandria, Virginia, in an e-mail dated July 7, 2008, obtained from National Archives files.]

Researched and compiled by Terry Foemaker with assistance from Edward Milligan and others.

Sources:

CMSR: Compiled Military Service Records, available online at Ancestry.com.

NPS Soldier and Sailor Database: Data from the National Park Service Civil War Soldier and Sailor database, at URL: <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss>