

New Building to Displace Old Graves in Kawaiahao

Within the next few months a modern concrete building will rise in Kawaiahao churchyard to take the place now occupied by graves of many old Hawaiian families, including descendants of the alii and many who served faithfully in governmental offices during the monarchy.

The past will make way for the future as Kawaiahao Church

keeps pace with the many demands now being made upon it by erecting a Sunday school hall which will serve as a gathering place for its modern congregation.

For this purpose, bodies now buried in the sections to be used for the proposed building will be exhumed or disinterred and transferred for burial at the Kamohili cemetery of the church.

Chiefs' Descendants

Among those who are to be moved are the Haalelea family, descendants of the chieftains prominent in Hawaiian history; J. W. Moanauli, former member of the legislature under both the monarchy and the Territory; S. K. Kanakahi, territorial surveyor for many years; John H. Wise, former senator; W. R. Chilton, noted figure in government circles; and many other figures prominent in Hawaiian circles.

When many of the bodies were laid to rest, back in the last century, Honolulu was only a stopping place in the Pacific and little did its residents think that one day it would be a rapidly-growing cosmopolitan center.

Some Foreign Graves

Not only Hawaiians, however, are buried in the historical old grounds. Some of foreign birth have also found a peaceful resting place beneath the plumaria trees which scent the air. The headstone of Joseph James Hoare, for instance, tells all who stop to gaze that he was "a native of London, England." And there are a few American flags flying, marking the resting places of soldiers who did their bit in the last World War.

But with the march of time, they must leave the grounds surrounding the old weatherbeaten, stone church.