

rural Scotland, who gravitated naturally to open space and crofts (farms). On the sugar plantations the young Scots found their second home—and their challenge. At one time there were 26 sugar plantations along the Hāmākua Coast area, and Scots were represented at various levels on all of them. The area became known as the “Scotch Coast,” an appellation at once descriptive but erroneous—the term “Scotch” is used *only* when talking about the whisky. Everything else is Scots, or Scottish. Given the capacity of many Scots, then and now, “Scotch Coast” may not have been so far wrong, in retrospect.

Scots who came to the Big Island tended to congregate in Hilo on Saturday nights. The railroad took them as far as the corner of Kamehameha Street and Waiānuenue Avenue, a place old-timers remember as the “Scot’s Corner.”

Scotsman John T. Moir Jr. remembered his era on the plantations in an interview for an oral history project of the Caledonian Society, an organization of Scots in Hawai‘i. Said Moir, “It

was typical on the home plantation where I grew up that the manager, assistant manager—or *luna*, as they were called in those days—team boss who had charge of all livestock, gang foreman...all these would be Scots.” Scots who were in the Islands generally sent back to the home country to hire assistants.

They also sent back for wives. Married Scots on the plantations were provided with houses, and the women settled down to bear numbers of children, do most of their own cooking, run the household and be prepared at any time to turn the house into a hotel as new Scots arrived and had to be accommodated before they found housing of their own. “God-fearing and hard-working” were oft-used descriptive words for the Scotswomen of the era.

The Scots came individually or in small groups, never in the large contingents that marked the arrival of other races in Hawai‘i; consequently their impact in the Islands has been frequently overlooked. Many Scots arrived

*Continued on page 164*



LILLIAN CUNNINGHAM

*Scottish dancers and pipers perform at Honolulu's Highland Gathering held every spring.*



WALEU STONE