

HENRY OPUKAHA'IA

THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY OF FAITH CONTINUES.....

Almost 195 years after it was first published, the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands, formed under the Kingdom of Hawaii, announced a dramatic book launch, dedication and book signing of the historic "Memoirs of Henry Obookiah," on Thursday, October 18, 2014 at the Hawaiian Mission Houses.

The newly revised edition contains a collection of both vintage and current photographs, along with a brand new epilogue documenting how Deborah Li'ikapeka Lee, the blood relative responsible for leading the charge to bring Henry Opukaha'ia's intact earthly body (iwi) back to the Big Island an amazing 175 years after he was originally laid to rest in a cemetery in Cornwall, Connecticut.

"It's an extraordinary journey of an ordinary woman who answered God's call, 'He wants to come home,'" said Karen Welsh, president of the Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands and author of the epilogue. "It was a privilege and honor to interview Deborah and work with her on the editing process of the story. We laughed and cried together. I knew this was a meaningful piece of both Hawaiian and American history and it was something bigger than both of us."

The original memoir, written by Edwin W. Dwight, detailed the amazing story of a uniquely able, adaptable, alert, curious, educated, hard-working, unusually intelligent and very remarkable 19th century young Hawaiian man who forsook idol worship, jumped into the ocean at Kealakekua Bay, boarded a ship headed for America, where he fully embraced Christianity.

Known as the first fruit of the Christian faith amongst the Hawaiian people, the story is honest and untainted, as told through Opukaha'ia's own perspective, as recounted through his personal diary entries and letters to close friends. It is a poignant narrative of suffering, pain and tragic death, but it is also a story of healing, renewal, joyous faith and a new life everlasting that inspired a generation of young missionaries to leave the East Coast and travel to the islands to fulfill Henry's desire to have his people hear the gospel message.

Through the reprint it is hoped this newest generation will take advantage of the opportunity to know, appreciate and share this life changing story. It is a story that all should know.

Soft back editions are available for \$15. A limited edition of the hard back is available for \$50. For retailers, wholesale prices are available. For more information please contact our office at (808) 791-5647.