

THE EDITOR

Journal of Pacific Archaeology

Dear Sir,

I would like to draw the attention of your readers to the contributions to Polynesian archaeology of Marion Kelly, who died in Honolulu, 12 November 2011, aged 92.

Marion Greig Anderson was born in Honolulu, 4 June 1919, daughter of Thelma and William Greig Anderson (widely known as Captain Bill Anderson). She was the great granddaughter of a Scottish emigrant, William Greig, who married Teanau Atu of the Northern Cook Islands.

Captain Bill Anderson was a schooner captain who was often engaged as pilot on scientific expeditions, including the Bishop Museum's Mangareva Expedition in 1934, in which archaeologist Kenneth Emory took part. In that year Marion made her first trip to the South Pacific, visiting Fiji, New Zealand, the Cook Islands and Tahiti, meeting up with the members of the Mangareva Expedition in Papeete. In 1938, along with Emory's two daughters, she participated in his weekend investigations at the Mokapu burial ground on O'ahu, which he had recently discovered.

Marion graduated BA from the University of Hawai'i in 1941, majoring in business and economics, and worked initially for two major labour unions. In 1943 she married musician and legendary surfer John Kelly, whom she had met through her involvement with the Honolulu Symphony, in which she played the violin. She modelled for her father-in-law, well known artist and printmaker John Melville Kelly. After the end of the Second World War, Marion and John moved to New York, where he attended the Juilliard School of Music and between 1945 and 1947 Marion carried out further studies in economics at Columbia University. She wrote a paper on the relationship between Native Hawaiians and their land for a seminar in primitive economics; this was the start of her serious involvement in Hawaiian history and anthropology.

The family, now with two young daughters, returned to Hawai'i in 1950. In 1951, Marion began part time graduate work at the University of Hawai'i, graduating MA in the Pacific Island Area Program in 1956, with a thesis on changes in land tenure in Hawai'i, 1778–1850. During this period she volunteered at the Bishop Museum bookstore on Sundays; worked as a research assistant for E.S. Craighill Handy, did secretarial work for Director Alex Spoehr for the Tri-Institutional Pacific Program, and undertook the first of many research assignments for Kenneth Emory, contributing to his study of the pu'uhonua at Hōnaunau on the island of Hawai'i. In 1958 she was appointed Assistant in Anthropology (effectively secretary to Emory) at the Bishop Museum. This was at a time when Hawaiian archaeology was experiencing an efflorescence

and the Museum was poised to take a major role in Polynesian and wider Pacific archaeological programmes.

In an interview in the *Honolulu Advertiser* at the time of her 80th birthday, Marion said that 'cultural anthropologist' would come close to describing her. Her field of scholarly interest was primarily Hawaiian ethnohistory and culture, to which she made an enormous contribution. At the Bishop Museum, however, she also used her skills in economics and management in writing grant applications and organising the logistics of the fieldwork programmes, not only for the Bishop Museum staff, but for all the participants in the various projects the Museum headed. I first met Marion when I went to Nukuoro in 1965; it was she who organised my travel and accommodation en route. It had probably been Marion who put together the application to the Wenner-Gren Foundation for the funds for the Nukuoro project. On several subsequent visits to Honolulu I was made very welcome at her home at Black Point.

In their 1965 report on the Bishop Museum's part of the first NSF-funded Three-year Polynesian Prehistory Programme, Kenneth Emory and Yosi Sinoto acknowledged the able assistance of 'Mrs. Marion Kelly, who from the office at the Bishop Museum kept constant track of all operations not only of the Bishop Museum expeditions but also of those carried on in other areas by the New Zealand institutions and the Fiji Museum.' She had a major role in organising the Sigatoka conference in 1969, acting as symposium recorder and, with Roger Green, editing the three volumes of papers that resulted. She had been involved in the establishment of the Museum's Pacific Anthropological Records Series and served as its editor for 10 years from 1968. In 1978, she became an Associate Anthropologist at the museum.

With the development of salvage archaeology in Hawai'i from the late 1960s onwards, Marion was heavily involved in many Bishop Museum archaeological projects, carrying out historical research in parallel with the archaeological investigations, as she had done at Hōnaunau in 1957. Some of her most notable contributions concerned fishponds and gardens. Her 1983 volume *Nā Māla o Kona: Gardens of Kona* (BP Bishop Museum Department Anthropology Report Series 75-2) is widely regarded as her most important work. A paper based on this study, 'Dynamics of production intensification in Pre-contact Hawai'i', was presented at the First World Archaeological Congress in Southampton in 1986 and published in 1989 in one of the volumes of conference proceedings. Although much of her research involved documents, she loved going into the field to visit the landscapes and sites whose history she was researching, and meet and work with the people close to the land.

The third strand of Marion's contribution was her interest in education. In 1965, the Bishop Museum had

launched a research project under the direction of Alan Howard into the effects of culture and economic circumstances on the Hawaiian community at Nānākuli on O'ahu to the west of Honolulu. Marion was a researcher on that project and a consultant for the associated school programme. This led her to offer courses for teachers in Hawaiian and Polynesian culture through the Continuing Education Department of the University of Hawai'i and in 1969 she became a part-time lecturer on the staff of the newly formed Ethnic Studies Program at the university. In the mid 1970s, with the assistance of Barbara Hunt, Bishop Museum education director, she compiled a series of audio-visual programs for schools.

In 1985, restructuring at the Bishop Museum saw Marion and other significant researchers made redundant. She then concentrated on teaching. She had been promoted to Associate Professor at the University of Hawai'i in 1984 and gained tenure in 1992. She taught a range of Ethnic Studies classes, including Land Tenure and Use Change in Hawai'i, and had a devoted following among her students. She retired in 2000, at the age of 81.

From her early years, Marion was a firm believer in social justice. Her research revealed many injustices suffered by Native Hawaiians and she was never afraid to speak out about these. She was an activist; in the late 1970s, when the Ethnic Studies Program at the University was under threat, she helped organise a protest that ensured the program was preserved, eventually becoming a separate Department. After her retirement, she continued to devote her energy to the Hawaiian sovereignty movement and the preservation of Native Hawaiian land and culture, taking part in demonstrations, organising placards and T-shirts, helping in any way she could.

Marion Kelly combined managerial skills, thorough academic research, inspiring teaching, and a passionate belief in justice. She was a charming and gracious person and I feel very privileged to have known her. I thank Colleen Kelly, Pat Kirch, Charles Meyer, Earl Neller, and Yosi Sinoto for information about her life.

*Janet Davidson*