

H. B. Arey #2.

Now as to Siada. While we were at Iloilo, a port in the Philippines, the captain of an English ship in the harbor came on board one evening, bringing with him a dark skinned, long, straight haired, bright eyed girl, apparently about 8 years old. He said that he had just come from the Zulu Islands. At this time these islands were among the few remaining cannibal group islands. He said that he bought this girl from her uncle and paid him \$8.00 for her, that he was anxious to place her with a good woman in a good home, that there was no woman on his ship and he realized that it was not a suitable place to bring up a child. He pleaded with my mother to take her. After talking the matter over with my father she consented to take the child. At first she seemed silent and sad, but she soon found that we were her friends and was perfectly contented. She became a member of our household. We all loved Siada. She learned the language rapidly and spoke English, without a trace of dialect. She had a good disposition, was respectful and obedient and never gave mother any trouble. She was devoted to the family and extremely loyal.

One day after Henry, the Jap boy, came to live with us, mother and father went away for the afternoon, leaving Siada and Henry home alone. When they returned, mother found Siada crying. On asking the trouble found she and Henry had been quarrelling. Siada said that Henry had called her a "nigger" and Henry said "yes" but she called me a "Chinaman".

After my mother died, Siada went to Ipswich, Massachusetts and worked in a stocking factory. She was there several years and after a short illness passed away. She was brought back to Milbridge and is buried in our family lot there.

Henry, the Jap boy, came to America with my uncle Andrew Means, who was captain of the bark "Cremona". This boy came back with him from Yokohama as a cabin boy. The boy was anxious to stay in the country. As my uncle at the time had no home, and when they came back to Milbridge the boy made his home with us and went to school. After leaving Milbridge, he attended school at Charleston, South Carolina where he married an attractive American girl. He and his bride visited us at Milbridge. He was in business at Boston for several years. Have heard nothing from him for a long time and do not now know where he is.

I remember the Mansfield Wharf well but have no pictures of that or of the Sawyer ship-building yard. I am glad to be of some service to you in your laudable undertaking.

Yours truly,

(Signed) Edgar L. Means

RECOLLECTIONS OF SIADA 1871-1915

Siada was a polynesian native child raised by Captain Lemuel B. Means. During one of Captain Means' later voyages when he was in Iloilo, Phillipine Islands, a young native girl named Siada was given to Captain and Mrs. Means as a gift by another sea captain. Probably Siada had been purchased for about eight dollars at the slave market by the English sea captain. Realizing that he could not raise an 8 year old Zulu child aboard ship, he asked Mrs. Means to take care of the child. Mrs. Means, who accompanied her husband on his voyages, took charge and brought her back to Maine. Siada Means lived in Milbridge with the family of Captain Means while they were there, later going to Portland and staying with Mr. and Mrs. George F. West during their early married life. There she acted as nursemaid for Vernon West when he was a small child.

Siada possessed coal black very straight hair in addition to very prominent teeth and jaw which made her appearance seem homely to those who remembered her. However, she possessed very great family loyalty and could sew fairly well. Her disposition is best described as marcurial from recollections of her spitting when meeting those she disliked. Jennie Means Thompson recalled Siada's violent temper when Siada's new 98¢ hat was accidentally knocked into the Saco River on a boating trip. Siada refused to be mollified with any promises of a better replacement. Correspondance of Edgar L. Means describes Siada as respectful and obedient. He remembered her as devoted to the family, loyal with a good dispoosition.

When she was about 20, Siada left Portland for Ipswich, Mass. where she went to work in a stocking factory, becoming very proficient at handling a stocking machine. At one time Fletcher West sent Siada a horse for her boy-friend John's farm where she was living. Jenny Thompson recalled the arran-

gement was without benefit of clergy since Siada felt that with this arrangement her Irish boyfriend did as she wished.

In 1915 Siada died of tuberculosis in Ipswich but at her request was buried in the Means family lot at Milbridge, Maine.

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