

Mr. E. Durrett Ayers, of Hilo Wins the \$100 Waltham 1785 Capt. Isaiah Bray, of Honolulu Wins the \$50 Waltham

Mr. Ayres owns a Waltham bearing the lowest number reported: 1785 Wins the \$50 Waltham Extra Prize

We have decided to award an extra prize of a \$50 Waltham to Mr. St. C. Sayres, who owns Waltham No. 34,449. This watch, while newer than Mr. Ayers' Waltham, is a great deal older than the next lowest reported, and, too, it has a very interesting history, which we mention below. Right up to almost the last moment it seemed as if Mr. Sayres was to be the winner of the big prize, and then came the letter from Hilo! If Mr. Sayres will call, the \$50 Waltham (extra prize) will be presented to him with our compliments.

Winner of the \$100 Waltham, E. DURRETT AYERS.



Messrs. Wichman & Co., Gentlemen:—I am sending via Wells Fargo & Co., Waltham watch No. 1785. The watch was given to me by an older cousin when I was twelve years old. At that time he told me that he received it from his father who had worn it many years and that it belonged to his father, my cousin's grandfather. It has been used by me, since I received it, almost continuously and has kept good time and is now in good condition. Very truly yours, E. D. AYERS.

H. F. Wichman & Co. Sirs:—I would state that my Appleton Tracy open-face Waltham Watch, No. 979,043, with bullseye crystal, was presented to me by Boston friends when leaving home in 1878, to come to Honolulu to take command of the missionary brig "Morning Star." It has therefore been in constant service for thirty-seven years, without any expense except necessary cleaning and renewals of springs.

It was guaranteed to be of the best and most valuable make. At that time a stem-winder was unknown, I think, and for thirty-seven years I have patiently wound with key (13,875 times). It has sailed down the Atlantic to Cape Horn, through the Magellan Straits, up the Pacific as far north as Alaska. It has been through the Marshall, Gilbert, Caroline, Ladrone and Philippine islands, to China, Japan, and across the American continent several times, without any appreciable error from climatic changes. It has been three times immersed in the ocean, once while I was swimming with an

"A Waltham runs the 'Morning Star'"

THE PRIZE LETTER AND ITS WRITER



overturned boat for two hours—without stopping, changing time, or needing cleaning or repairs. I learned to have such perfect confidence in its accuracy that on starting on my long sea voyages I had rated it with my ship's chronometers, and found it as reliable for obtaining the longitude as any chronometer I ever used.

In fact, on one voyage from the Caroline Islands my two chronometers became so erratic and untrustworthy that I relied only on my Waltham. On sighting Oahu I found the longitude only seven seconds out.

Again, when I took the steamer "Lehua" from Honolulu to San Francisco, I navigated the 2100 miles entirely by my Waltham Watch. On sighting the Farrallones I found the landfall, or longitude, absolutely correct.

The watch is keeping as perfect time today as when I first received it, thirty-seven years ago, and I have perfect confidence that it will as faithfully serve me for the balance of my life. (Capt.) ISAIAH BRAY.

Winner of Extra Prize, ST. C. SAYRES.



Following is a brief synopsis of the interesting history of Mr. Sayres' Waltham:

Originally owned by his grandfather, Henry D. Sayres of Wilmington, O., who sent it as a gift to his son, Lt. man Davis Sayres, who was at the time corporal of Co. H, 39th Ohio Volunteers. The watch was carried to Corporal Sayres from his father by Mrs. Fannie Strickle Corbin (wife of General Corbin), who accompanied her father, Captain Strickle, to Vicksburg; carried by Corporal Sayres through siege and capture of Vicksburg and many other engagements and thrilling adventures in the Civil War.

The Waltham, being highly prized for its history and reliability, was carried back to Wilmington by Corporal Sayres, who wore it for many years longer and finally passed it on to his son, St. C. Sayres of this city. The Waltham is now in good order and is soon to become the property of Robert A. Bly Sayres, who is looking forward to the day when he will be the proud possessor of Great-Grandfather's Waltham watch.

TO THE PUBLIC: We desire to thank the public for the interest shown in the Waltham contest. Especially do we desire to thank those who sent in numbers and who wrote letters. The three hundred and fifty odd numbers submitted to use revealed two very interesting things. First, the wonderful quality of the watch, which has served its owners faithfully for so many years; second, the very old Walthams which are owned in this Territory, as shown by the remarkably low numbers submitted. The contest was a success far beyond our expectations and we are greatly pleased with the results. WICHMAN & CO., LTD. M. M. JOHNSON, Vice-President.

STATEMENT BY THE JUDGE. Gentlemen:—It has been no easy task to decide on the merits of the letters submitted to me and to judge which was the most interesting true account from the standpoint of "Why I Bought My Waltham," or "How It Has Served Me." Many of the letters are excellent. Special mention is due the interesting letters of Mrs. J. T. Warren, Miss Helen Sprinks and C. B. Hofgaard. However, all points considered, I have selected the letter of Captain Isaiah Bray as easily the prize winner. Trusting this is satisfactory, I am, yours very truly, ROBT. W. BRECKONS.

(See the display of Old and New Walthams in our window)

The following sent Numbers, or Letters, or both:-----

Table listing names and their corresponding Waltham watch numbers. Includes names like E. A. K. Williams, John Warren, Mrs. M. H. Hanson, etc., and numbers ranging from 8,061,303 to 709,118.

Wichman & Co., Leading Jewelers