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Vis D. V. Cottrell

OHAKANA ISLAND - NOTES OF - BY D. V. COTTRELL.

21. Aug. 1967.

These notes on Ohakana Island result from porusing various papers, articles and notes as collected by Mr Cottrell over the years. The information is in note form only, for Mr Cottrell had not set down anything in order - however, there is value in what he did and for that reason we have the following. The pity is that he never got round to doing it himself, for much must have gone with him.

Just incidently, the Ohakana Island pa - our end, was known as the cemetery, so should be a field for research.

Ohakana Bates (Pa Tel) took over with Hall (relatives of ex Constable Middle) took over to supply early Auckland with peaches and produce; yaws etc coming to Ohakana island. The cave was used for storing produce, kumaras etc; the island was noted among early settlers and Maori's for wild grapes and peaches. Sailing vessels sailed right up the then deeper channels and for these Maori's whose who saw their first sailing vessel were very frightened - thought it was a large bird.

Historical Society visit 1963.

By far the biggest pas Wharokura at Ohiva proper and Panekaha at Wainui (Howell) Confiscated by the Crown in 1866. B.V.C. then relating on Ohakana island has the following notes:-

- Cave, marks are Maori axes,
- Canoe ramp on the pa,
- Hut terraces - shell middens,
- 2 terraces - 2500 people, huta 8'x10'x12'
- Ohiva - place of watch watching.
- Ohopo pa. What happened ? 3 plagues.
- Whanupani - homeless ones, grapes and peaches grown.
- Bates and Hall produce etc sent by yawl.
- Terraces, side defences, hidden entrance.
- Rat holes, women and stones, wooden weapons,
- Hut sites, what happened to these people ?
- My theory not Pomara - 3 plagues, very bad at Mayor Island.
- Canoe ramp, coach race, oyster farms, 2 watch towers.
- Tamarau, the bird man connected with Ohiva ?
- Vast shell middens.

Rua - kai on the side of the pa (ball pit) was once lined with punga and about 8' in depth, found like this in 1937 by C Garraway when clearing the island.

According to Kotare at about 1847 the chief on Ohakana Island was Kape Taatini of the Ngati Whakatohea. Taatini married Maroara the daughter of Tamarangi the Ngati Awa chief of Ohiva pa. ∴ Ohakana was populated in 1847.

Cottrell states that in his opinion the depleted population of Ohakana was due to the disease brought here by traders (disease Te Roharewha) His side of the island, i.e. the pa, was declared tapu and a vast burial ground. He declares the site on Goodwin side as never. Hole, belt hole on our side of pa.



Whitiwhiti pa and point - here was the crossing place to Ohakana island, possibly only at low tide at that although evidence points that the Ohiva estuary was once quite deeper than now, K.W.M.

Ohakana island - re population, huts, sites etc say 12' x 8'. Ohakana population I estimate at 2-3000, especially as a noted place for growing kumara. According to "Tuhoo" (Best) the Tuhoo tribe who owned Ohakana was Whiakane.

Notes taken from Historical Poverty Bay by Mackay, with probable details concerning Ohakana island.

- Pages 72-73 Pomare and Te Weta with muskets raided in 1818-1824.
- " 116 One of the last Whakatane chiefs was Makau alias Rangimatanuku.

Sections given to ex armed forces at Ohakana after the confiscation. According to the Biddle family, Bates and Hall - ex constabulary shared Ohakana after the conflict and ran a scow with fruit, produce etc and used the cave as a store.

Notes of interest in connection with Ohakana Is - also Whakatane gleaned from S Percy Smith's "Wars - Maori 19th Century".

Why the local Maoris do not like to tell one about events at Ohakana Is, one always has the feeling that something terrible happened to the Maori at such a place. About 1790 fatal epidemics raged among the Maori known as Te Upoko o te Rewharewha. Then again in 1810 another epidemic raged taking perhaps the Ohakana people making the place most tapu.

Page 91. We learn that Te Mārenga in 1818 landed at Whakatane and chased the local Ngati Awa. 1818-19 saw the despoiling of Ohakana, as the broken mere was found at the end of the island. Ngapuhi chief Pomare in 1822 visited the Bay Of Plenty. He killed a number of Urewera chiefs at the mouth of the Whakatane gorge at Waikirikiri, one of the chiefs was Hako Purakau of Ohiva.

- " He kororo riri kei wharau rangi " (anger prevails at Wharau rangi - a village by Pointaruru)
- " He ta matau kei Otunwhako " (but binding on fish hooks at Otunwhako, village where the Whakatane hotel is now.)

Jan. 1962.

As told to me by a Mr Hunt - an old Rotorua and Tanoatua store customer. States that Gilbert Mair, who, as we know married into the Ngati Awa. (re Cropp Emily Smith families) Hunt was an Arawa therefore entitled to a land grant at Ohiva. Mair told Hunt to take land at Ohakana. He stated that many natives from the back country - Waimana and Urewera came to Ohakana, shelled and prepared pips. They also stayed and produced early kumaras on the slopes, as we have noted, (great soil in parts) kumaras very early, in Feb, states Hunt

More history of Ohakana as supplied by Mrs Coir (Neo Biddle of Wainui) a big fight took place at or near Bluntt's creek. There is a grave yard or burial ground at Bluntt's creek by the maorooarpa trees. The Tuhoo do not claim the burial ground for they lost the fight with the Whakatane who mistimed the haka resulting in the Tuhoo taking them too cheaply. Te Kooti's kainga was near Stewart's house, his ceremonies taking place on the summit of Ohopa pa. There was a residence on the corner where oysters are nearest to Bird Island approx about the time of Bates living at Ohiva. Bates lived on the O/Island by our bay, he had a Maori wife



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