Extract from Opotiki Minute Book 30 pages 93 etc.

Opotiki 7th March 1940.

J. Harvey, Judge.

40B. Hiwarau Block: Application under Section 38/1931 for amendment of an Order dated 2/9/1881 appointing successor to Mere Katene.

40C. Hiwarau Block: Application under Section 38/1931
for amendment of an order dated 15/3/1904 appointing successor to Maria Watene.

Mr. Hislop: The two deceaseds were full sisters and consequently the two cases can be taken together.

Minirangi Kotu sworn: My mother was Erana Akeake - her father was Wi Akeake - his father was Te Kohoki. Te Kohoki's parents were Hinetahi (father) and Kuratakiwhara (mother). Hinetahi had three children - no - only had one child. Had two children - Te Kohoki and Rahi Kohia. Rahi had Maria Takere and Mere Katene. Maria Takere married Watene and became Maria Watene. Both Mere and Maria are dead without issue. Te Kohoki had:-

Te Ani Akeake Wi Akeake Kaumaiwaho Akeake Irihapeti Akeake

Irihapeti had issue - two only - both dead without issue surviving them.
Kaumaiwaho had no issue.
Te Ani had one ohild, Kokere, now dead - had no issue.
Wi Akeake had

Erana Akeake Hoani Akeake Horopapera Akeake Patuwhare Akeake Timotimo Akeake

Further descendants are set out on record.

Both Maria and Mere lived with me. When they died the Kotu family paid all expenses. The Mokomoko family did not pay any of the expenses and did not come to the tangi.

Hapua Apanui for Albert Mokomoko xxd. I have been drawing rent money from this block. I considered the Board was not paying me properly.

Mr. Hislop re xd. Mere Katene Tanaropaki was a different person from Mere Katene. I was still small when this one died. I think she was dead before this land was given back to us. I knew Hiro Tipa. Her father was from Tauranga. Irawaru was his name. Her mother's name was Rahapa Pawhare. Tikikini was Hiro Tipa's mother's husband - second husband. When Tikikini married Hiro she gave birth to Paki Pueru.

Rahi Kotu sworn: Hinetahi was Wi Akeake's father.

Te Kohoki was Akurata Kaiwhata's son by Hinetahi. I made a mistake. Hinetahi - Akura Takaiwhara had two children

Te Kohoki and Rahi Kohia. Rahi had Maria Takere (married Watene) and Mere Watene. They had no children. Rahi Kohia was a woman - do not know name of her husband.

Wi Kohoki had

Ani, Wi, Irihapeti and Kaumaiwaho, four in all. Irihapeti had two children

Wera Taikete Tu Kariaha.

They died leaving no issue.

Irihapeti and Kaumaiwaho were twins.

Kaumaiwaho left no issue. Te Ani had kokere who died leaving no issue. Maria and Mere lived with us until they died.
Our mother paid for the burials and tangi.

Question: If these people were relations of Mokomoko's who should have paid the expenses ?

Answer: Ask that question of the Mokomokos. If they were their relatives why did they not pay their funeral expenses?

Hapua Apanui xxd. It is a Maori custom that relatives pay the expenses of their dead. My hapu is Upokorehe. I know we are a tribe - a branch of no tribe. I know that a hapu shoulder expenses of the dead. There are six hapus in Whakatohea. I do not know how many years ago it was when Mere Katehe died. I was grown up at the time and married. Irawaru was the father of Hiro Tipa. Hiro Tipa married Mokomoko. Pawhera married Tikikini and begat Paki Pueru No.1. The Paki Pueru who is Albert Mokomoko's uncle is another person. Irawaru was first husband of Rahapa Pawhera. Tikikini was her second husband. They had Paki Pueru I. Hiro Tipa had Paki Pueru II. Thus lst Husband Irawaru a Rahapa Pawhare Tikikini 2nd husband

Hiro Tipa

Paki Pueru I

Hiro Tipa called her son Paki Pueru after her half brother son of Tikikini.

Mr. Hislop xxd. Do not know how old I am.

Ani Ruff: sworn - a daughter of Mihirangi Kotu.

Men were cutting posts on the block. I got a list of owners then found out that these successions had gone astray. Then I
made application.

Mr. Hislop: That is case for applicant.

Court: If Maria Watene and Mere Katene were sisters and the evidence makes one to be Tikikini's sister and the other his cousin then Tikikini must be his own cousin.

Also no evidence of the identity of the father of Maria and Mere has been given.

Adjourned to the May sitting for further evidence.

Opotiki 15th May, 1940:

J. Harvey, Judge

Opotiki Minute Book 30 pages 109 etc.

Mr. Hislop Mr. Murray

Mr. Hislop: Mihirangi Kotu sworn. The father of Mere Katene and Maria Watene - I have forgotten (then remember) Koroiti was his name. He married Rahi Kohia. They had Takere and Mere Katene. Takere was also called Maria Takere. I got this information from my elders. I have known it for a long time.

Mr.Murray No questions.

Mr. Hislop: I am relying on evidence of two old ladies.
Both very old and remember what has happened. Both of old school who were versed in whakapapa.
Theirevidence show that both (Maria and Mere) were children of a sister of their (Mihirangi and Rahi) great grandfather. Draw attention to evidence on successions to Maria and Mere - very contradictory if taken as referring to two sisters - twin sisters we are told. Question is really one of identity of Maria Watene and Mere Katene.

Mr.Murray: We cannot find any witnesses to match these witnesses in age. Orders made in 1881 and 1904 - Very wrong that

they should be attacked now.

Only evidence is of two old ladies. Memory of Mihirangi is intermittent if not faulty. We remember their brother Wi Kotu-active minded and acquisitive by nature. Inconceivable that he would have let a thing like this pass. We submit these two ladies were near relatives of Tikikini father of Hiro Tipa and that it was with knowledge of all parties that orders were made as they were made.
Wi Kotu was not an easy going person.

Reports to be made.