

Pa 1840.
Kahuki

U P O K O R E H E

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Kahuki was a distinguished ancestor through descent, marriage and association with Ohiwa and Waiotahe, being the son of Rongopopoia and Rangiparoro.

After leaving her husband in Poverty Bay Uetupuke fled to Te Karaka pa at Huntress Creek, stayed a while there, then joined up with Tane-moe-ahi from Onekawa pa, Ohiwa. When she left her husband she was already pregnant and he said to her if the baby was a girl she should be named after the flowing waters of the Waioeka and if a boy after the lobes of his ears (te popoia o aku taringa). The baby was a boy and therefore was named Rongopopoia. As he grew and reached manhood he took a wife from Panekaha Pa (Ohiwa) named Rangiparoro, and through these two Kahuki was conceived, but he never knew his real father, as he was killed before he was born by Tuamutu.

Tuamutu was an uncle to Rangiparoro and lived at Te Mawhai Pa in Ohiwa, one day below this pa on the beach, himself and his men saw some children from Onekawa Pa playing with kites. The kites became entangled on the pallisades of the pa and the children started to climb up to free them. On reaching the top they were all massacred by Tuamutu and his men. Upon doing this they then fled to Paerata Pa before Rongopopoia found out about the incident. When Rongopopoia did find out, himself and his men went to Te Mawhai and found only Tuamutu's father Repanga (Ihonga), they killed him, and in doing so exacted utu for the childrens' deaths.

When Tuamutu realised his father was dead he devised a plan to kill Rongopopoia and his men at the mouth of the Waiotahe river (Te Karihi Potae). Firstly he gave orders to his men to make a huge fishing net out of flax and to only weight down some side of it with rocks. He then invited Rongopopoia and his men to help cast out the new net for fishing. Rongopopoia and his men were given the side of the net that had no sinkers to hold, and when Tuamutu gave the order to throw the net out, his men threw their side over the unwary party, thus drowning them. Little did Rongopopoia know that himself and his men were the sinkers for their side of the net. Through this incident the river mouth has been known as Te Karihi Potae.

Soon after the death of Rongopopoia, Kahuki was born.