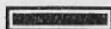


# Official History of the County of Patea



Compiled from County and Official  
Records and from personal experiences  
of pioneer families in the district . . . .

by

C. J. ROBERTS



"SOCIATIS LABORIBUS OMNIA FORTITER VINCIMUS."  
— "With labours shared we conquer all things courageously."  
(From the original seal of the County which was lost in the '80's.)

Published by the authority of the Patea County Council and  
dedicated to the pioneers of the district.

# INDEX



	Page
Prologue . . . . .	3
Maori Place Names . . . . .	6
The Coming of Turi . . . . .	9
General Cameron's Campaign . . . . .	11
General Chute Takes Over . . . . .	14
"Titokowaru's War" . . . . .	16
The Settlement of Patea . . . . .	22
Early Waverley Associations . . . . .	33
Difficulties at Manutahi . . . . .	38
The Story of Waitotara . . . . .	42
Broughton and Collins — and Others . . . . .	47
Patea Township in 1869 . . . . .	50
Cattle Trek from Wanganui . . . . .	55
Up the Patea River in 1870 . . . . .	58
Experiences in Waverley in 1868 . . . . .	61
The Murder of McLean . . . . .	66
Early County Council Records . . . . .	70
Alton Settlement — Odds and Ends . . . . .	79
Titokowaru's Second Coming . . . . .	84
County Chairman's Review . . . . .	86
Patea County Councillors . . . . .	91
Statistics of the County . . . . .	94

## Prologue



**N**EARLY 75 years ago an intrepid band of pioneers, imbued with the same spirit of adventure that sent Sir Francis Drake and Captain James Cook voyaging into the unknown, came to Patea and there entered into the process of making for themselves a home in a new land. Five hundred years earlier Patea had been settled by the Maori people and the descendants of these warriors at first provided the pakeha settler with severe opposition, but the spirit of adventure that sent them in search of a new land was one not to be taken lightly, for associated with it was a determination to achieve what they set out to do. Many of these pioneers were killed in battles with the Maori, who proved a worthy foeman, but those who remained carried on with the same indomitable spirit and lived to see their original ambition brought to fruition—the creation of a new nation, the new Britain beyond the seas.

In the early days the pioneers had their troubles apart from the wars with the Maori, for they were in a land that had been inhabited by a primitive people, and much of it was still in its virgin state. It fell to their lot to make and form roads, bridge the numerous rivers, prepare railway lines, and finally set about the formation of a harbour whereby the fruits of their labours on the land could be shipped to the Mother Country. This was not an easy task, but the pioneers set about it in such a manner that by the time the war ended in 1869 much of the spade work had been accomplished and a great deal of the country opened up.

Then in 1876 came the passing of the Counties Act and the constitution of the Patea County Council. On January 4, 1877, the Council met for the first time, and progress within the County area began. At first the Council had to contend with a severe handicap in a shortage of funds, but in spite of this the councillors "cut the coat according to the cloth" and carried on. But there came a day when more settlers arrived, more land was opened up and placed under settlement, and as a result more revenue in the form of rates. This enabled the Council to give attention to its roads and public services, and to-day we find the Patea County among the foremost in the Dominion in that respect, all of which has been accomplished as the direct result of the foresight and careful administration of the pioneers.

In January of this year (1937) the County Council celebrated the diamond jubilee of its first meeting by a jubilee luncheon, and at that function those of the pioneers who remain were present as honoured guests. To them the members of the present Council realise they owe a great deal, more than can ever be repaid in words. The pioneers gave their life's work as a legacy to the present and future generations by whom their memory will always be cherished.

Associated with the pakeha in the building of the County area to a land of fertility was the Maori who had been conquered in battle, and no tribute to the work of the pioneer would be complete without some reference to the Maori race. The war is long past and rapidly becoming forgotten, so much so that 20 years hence there will be few, if any, who have any personal recollection of it. To-day, Maori and pakeha stand side by side as brothers and as such share in each other's joys and problems. They fought together in the Great War of 1914-18 and returned to New Zealand to take up their former positions where they left them. In the battles of the '60's the Maori was an honoured foeman—to-day the pakeha is pleased to count him as an honoured friend. Together for half a century they have assisted in the march of progress in the Patea County, and they have converted the area from standing bush, fern, tutu, flax and other native flora to a land of green pastures where hundreds of dairy cattle feed and contribute to the wealth of the Dominion. At the mouth of the Patea River, where once Turi stood and perchance gazed on his fleet of canoes there has been built a harbour where ships enter to load and carry away thousands of crates of cheese each year. Farther south, there abounds some of the finest sheep

country in the world from which is exported a large proportion of the Dominion's wealth in wool and frozen mutton. Dotted here and there are busy factories—busy each day with the manufacture of butter and cheese, while at the mouth of the Patea River is situated another factory, one through which thousands of cattle and sheep pass each year to be turned into beef and mutton for the purpose of supplying the needs of Great Britain's commissariat.

And yet only a little over half a century ago this land was in its virgin state! Truly this is a wonderful monument to the pioneers of the County of Patea who fought first their battles with the Maori and then harnessed nature and conquered in another direction.

The idea behind the compilation of this history is to place on permanent record the deeds and hardships of the pioneers of the Patea County and to these pioneers the book is dedicated. Many difficulties have had to be overcome in its compilation owing to the fact that there are so few left who are able to recount incidents as they actually happened. These troubles, however, were made considerably lighter by the willing co-operation of those who were able to give any information. The County Council and the author desire in this connection to extend grateful thanks to the following ladies and gentlemen for the manner in which they have assisted: Mr. Harry Locker, Patea; Mr. Adam Sergeant, Hawera; Miss Sophia Ginger, Hawera; Mrs. Peter Elmslie, Waverley; Mrs. Dierck, Waitotara; Mr. E. Symes, Waverley; Colonel W. Davis, Waverley; Mr. W. Hurley, Waitotara; Mr. E. C. (Ned) Gibson, Normanby.

The author also desires to extend personal thanks to Mr. John Houston for his friendly advice and for permission to reproduce portion of his book, "Turi and the Aotea Canoe." He also desires to acknowledge the use of portion of Mr. James Cowan's "New Zealand Wars," portions of the chapters relating to the Maori War being taken therefrom.

C. J. ROBERTS.

Hawera, October, 1937.

# Maori Place Names

THE County of Patea is one of the oldest districts in New Zealand as far as the Maori race is concerned, and many places throughout the district have names associated with the early history of this splendid race of people. It is the wish of the County Council that the origin of some of the well-known names should be described herein, in order that readers may be able to follow some of the Maori history associated with the district. Some of the localities enumerated below are not now within the confines of the Patea County, although they were in the early days. As the traveller passes through them on his way from Hawera to Patea, however, they have been included.

**PATEA.**—There are two schools of thought concerning the derivation of the name given to Turi's halting place in Taranaki. One opinion holding favour in high places is that the locality was named after the sacred marae of that name in Tahiti, while another opinion holds strongly to an entirely different view, although there may be some association between the two. The second opinion is that upon reaching Patea after the long march from Aotea harbour his warriors threw down their loads and remarked "Ka patea tatau!" "We are relieved of our loads." It is from this phrase that some authorities claim the town's name had its origin. It must be remembered, however, that the phrase may have been used in another sense—a sense of relief at reaching the end of a long trek from the northern end of the North Island, and it may have had no further meaning than that. Mr. John Houston, in his book, "Turi and the Aotea Canoe," says the river was named "Patea-nui-a-Turi," "Great River of Turi," and he also says the generally accepted literal meaning of Patea is "white fort," this being adopted by Messrs John White and Percy Smith in their historical writings.

**MANUTAHI.**—Literally "one bird." This is one of the names associated with very early Maori history, for this is one of the oldest settlements in the district. The name arose through the deeds of one Maori warrior who through his own efforts, prevented an enemy tribe from conquering that particular district, and was coined in the days of the inter-tribal wars long before the advent

of the pakeha. It was at Manawapou, only two miles from Manutahi, that the notorious Kimble Bent made his escape from the British troops. Manawapou is described in the Maori portion of this history.

**TANGAHOE.**—As the final syllable indicates, this word has an association with the canoe, for the word "hoe" means "paddle." After one sweep of the paddle, the boatmen paused for breath before taking the next "sweep," hence ta-nga-hoe. This word is frequently mis-spelt "Tongahoe." It is believed that Tangahoe obtains its origin from Turi, and that there may be some truth in that opinion is found in some of the old chants. The Tangahoe River flows into the sea about two miles from the boundary of the Patea and Hawera Counties.

**WHENUAKURA.**—The name Whenuakura is one of the many associated with the famous navigator, Turi. Among Turi's treasured possessions was a cloak "Hunakaiko," to which was accorded a certain amount of reverence. It is believed that this cloak was possessed of certain properties whereby fire or sparks arose as it struck the earth. It was particularly bright in colour and was once displayed to an admiring throng at the place now known as Whenuakura.

**WAITOTARA.**—To a student of Maori this word presents no difficulties, "Wai" meaning water and "totara" a native tree well known for its lasting qualities. Perhaps in the dim and distant past there may have been some tribal association with the name, but as far as can now be ascertained, it arose from the fact that totara stumps were found growing in the river. Some of these may still be found to-day. This is most probably the authentic version of the origin of the name, because in the days of the old Maori the locality was known as Kaipo.

**NGUTUWERA.**—The Maori had a delightfully brief way of expressing himself, and this word is a good example. Literally, it means "burnt lip," and attached to its origin is the story of a man who was hungry, or perhaps greedy. However, he was impatient to get at his food and could not wait for it to cool, but took it straight from the steaming stones and devoured it, burning his mouth, and presumably his stomach, in the process.

**MOUMAHAKI.**—This word was coined only comparatively recently, and signifies the cessation of hostilities between the Maori and the pakeha in 1869. The actual meaning of the word is "declaration of peace." At least that comes as near to the English translation as anything else.

**PARIROA.**—The literal meaning of Pariroa is “the long cliff,” and the word arose from a saying of a Maori chief, Tupito, resident in the Pariroa Pa many years ago. He was wont to say that were he as long as the cliff on the opposite side of the Patea River, he would be able to step across the river and deal with any enemies who may arrive in the vicinity with malicious intent. A descendant of the chief who coined the word is now chief of the pa at Pariroa. This is Tupito Maruera.

**KAKARAMEA.**—This word means literally “a thing that is scented.” It arose from the fact that in the vicinity there grew a certain scented weed which was crushed by the Maoris and used as a perfume. This was mixed with the juice of the titoki berry and used as a hair-oil and in other similar manners.

**OKUTUKU.**—A word that has been misused and is at present a corruption of the original which was Roto-o-kotuku, meaning the lake of the bittern. No particular association relative to the derivation of the name can be discovered beyond the fact that a lake or a swamp in the vicinity was the haunt of the bittern.

**MOKOIA and PUKEMOKO.**—Attached to these two words is the colourful history of the inter-tribal wars of several centuries ago. “Moko” means “tattoo,” hence Mokoia “to tattoo.” The word Pukemoko has a much wider history attached thereto, a history dating back many centuries to the days when inter-tribal wars continually took place. The tribe who inhabited Pukemoko had on many occasions endeavoured to successfully carry out an assault on the pa at Turuturu-Mokai, but they had always been repulsed. Being unable to effect an entry to the stronghold by forceful means the tribal leaders resorted to strategy. They sent a message expressing a desire for peace, a message which was received with pleasure and agreed to. The cessation of hostilities was the reason for a great feast, when the haka was danced and the two hapus generally made merry at Turuturu-Mokai for several days. Among the visitors from Pukemoko were several members of the haka team whose legs were tattooed with wonderful designs, these attracting the envious glances of their hosts, who asked whether their warriors could also be tattooed. The visitors agreed to the request, performed the operation and departed for their own pa. However, four days later, groans and a general uselessness and swelling of their legs announced the effect of the tattooing. Then the visitors returned, this time with hostile intent. Soon the place was a shambles, as the inhabitants were unable to resist the invaders and the stronghold was captured.

## Chapter I.

### The Coming of Turi

THE history of Patea may be said to have had its beginning in the year 1350 when Turi, after his voyage from Rangiatea, some 125 miles from Tahiti, to New Zealand, made for South Taranaki and settled at the place he called Patea, probably named after the sacred marae of that name in Tahiti. Contrary to the general opinion, Turi did not make Patea his first port of call in New Zealand. He landed first on the north-east coast, then travelled north and remained for a time at Tamaki. Then the Aotea, as his canoe was called, was dragged across the isthmus at Otahuhu and launched in the waters of the Manakau harbour, although some accounts declare that the Aotea rounded the North Cape. From Manakau, the Aotea proceeded southward along the coast until she arrived at Aotea harbour, where her voyage ended.

The last stage of Turi's journey was made by land, the chief naming many places as he proceeded. Among these place names, according to information received by Sir George Grey, were Kaupokonui (the head of Turi), Kapuni (the encampment of Turi), and Waingongoro (the place where Turi snored); Turi also gave the name “Taranaki” to Mt. Egmont. An incident on the journey from Kawhia to Patea gave Manawapou its name. Amongst those who transhipped to the Aotea canoe at Rangi-tahua was Pou-poto, who stole a valuable ornament from one of the chiefs of the Kura-haupo. Pou-poto came south with Turi, and in due course came the chief whose property was stolen, his intention being to recover the stolen ornament. One morning he found Pou-poto asleep on the banks of a river some 10 miles north of Patea. He slew Pou-poto and set his heart on a pole, thus giving the Manawapou River its name, “the heart of Pou-poto,” the word “manawa” meaning “heart.”

At length Turi and his party arrived at Patea, and immediately tested the soil by smelling it. He found it, as earlier visitors had done, para umu, a rich, black, sweet-scented soil, and very suitable. Hence the land became known as “Te whenui i hongia e Turi,” “the land that Turi smelled.”

The south side of the river was selected for settlement, and a fortified pa was built on the headland by

the mouth of the river. To this fortress was given the name Rangi-tawhi. Thus Turi and his people settled in the new land, which proved so different from the tropical islands to which they had been accustomed. In this country continued effort was necessary to provide food and the rich abundance of the tropics became but a memory.

An old paddle is said to have been in existence at Patea in the year 1891. This paddle is described as being different in shape from all more modern paddles, and it was claimed to have been one of the actual paddles used on the Aotea canoe during the historic voyage. If that claim should happen to be correct, said Mr. John Houston, then the wooden paddle must have been treated with most reverent care by its custodians during the long centuries from the date of the heke of 1350. Such a sacred relic may have been carried from Aotea harbour to Patea by one of Turi's party, although they appear to have been heavily laden. Some of the Wanganui Maoris say that the ancestral canoe did not end its voyage at Aotea harbour, but that the Aotea canoe came as far as Patea, or the mouth of the Whenuakura, a little further south. However, Mr. Houston declares the weight of recorded statements to be undoubtedly in favour of the other version.

In Patea Turi spent the rest of his days and died at a great age, leaving behind him a people who were to become the ancestors of a magnificent race of people. Five hundred years after the arrival of Turi the tribes of Taranaki rose up in rebellion when their lands were taken by the pakeha, and then began a war which was to last until 1881, when the last of the so-called "rebels," Te Whiti and Tohu, were arrested at Parihaka. Actually, hostilities ceased in 1869, but during the period between that year and the incident of Parihaka there was a more or less passive resistance to the pakeha. This resistance, however, was confined more to the territory north of the Tangahoe River, for the Maoris had not returned in large numbers to the Patea district at that particular time. They had been ruthlessly pursued by Colonel Whitmore and his troops and had finally taken refuge beyond Waitara in the one direction, and south of Nukumaru in the other. From those localities they drifted back in later years to occupy the reserves set apart for their habitation. There they established their hapus and lived at peace with the pakeha whom they had been fighting a few years previously.

## Chapter II.

### General Cameron's Campaign

**I**N 1854, the Taranaki natives formed a kind of land league with the object of withholding the possession of land by the pakeha, and a great meeting was held at Taiporohenui in the largest wharepuni ever erected by the Maoris. Matene te Whiwhi, the organiser of the King movement in the Waikato, addressed the large assemblage of over 1000 delegates from all the coastal tribes. The meeting came to the decision that no land whatever should be sold to Europeans except with the direct consent of the Maori Council, that European laws should not operate within native boundaries, and that no pakeha should be allowed to settle on the coast. The prospects of a settlement at Hawera were thus temporarily nipped in the bud. In North Taranaki, the Land League party, headed by Wiremu Kingi, actively opposed the sale of land at Waitara, and after turning off a survey party, the trouble developed until martial law was proclaimed on February 22, 1860, and the following month the first clash of arms took place between the two races there, and continued intermittently for some ten years. The local natives sympathised with Kingi's party, and sent a detachment to one of the first engagements.

The war centred in North Taranaki, but a further proof that Ngati Ruanui were fully in sympathy with the Ngatiawa was evidenced when Bishop Selwyn, who endeavoured to reach Ohangai in 1861, was stopped at the Tawhiti stream, and ordered back with insulting epithets, notwithstanding that he was a strong Philo-Maori. This incident shows the bad feeling that was evidenced in the local tribes, for hospitality has always been a strong virtue among the Maori people.

Patea, then called Carlyle, had by this time become quite a thriving little township, and some bold settlers had come up as far as Kakaramea and Manuthi, but the Hawera site was still in its pristine state of fern, scrub and flax, and gave as yet no indication of its future residential importance. The hostility of the Maoris had been lately increased by the spread among them of the Hauhau religion, and Christianity was now practically abandoned in favour of the wild creed of the Oaonui prophet, Te Ua.

In November, 1864, General Cameron, commander of the Imperial troops in New Zealand, advanced up the coast with a considerable force and attacked the enemy at Kakaramea, carrying their pa there after a sharp fight. He then proceeded as far as Ohawe, building blockhouses en route at Manutahi, Manawapou, Hawera, and Waihi. Supply steamers brought stores to the troops at Manawapou by means of surf boats, a dangerous method on this open and boulder-strewn coast. On one occasion seven lives were lost through the overturning of a cargo boat and their remains were interred at a point where the Manawapou bends sharply on its final run to the sea. A few men were also ambushed by the natives about this time, one, Trooper Smith, being tomahawked on the Manawapou Hill, and his four companions had great difficulty in reaching the shelter of the Hawera block-house.

As the South Taranaki natives still refused to listen to pacific proposals, confiscation of their lands was decided on by the Government. On January 30, 1865, Governor Grey proclaimed that all the coastal land south of the Waingongoro was forfeited to the Crown, and would be open for settlement under the military-settler system, whereby outposts were to be established along the coast and lands allotted to settlers, who would be obliged to serve under arms if required. Town sites were surveyed off at Kakaramea, Mokoia, and Ohawe, but, as might be inferred, there was no great rush to establish these newly-founded "cities."

Not long after the commencement of the campaign General Cameron had a difference of opinion with Sir George Grey, and following a series of bitter discussions the General withdrew from the field and was succeeded by the Colonial Forces under Major-General Chute, who was to achieve fame as a bush fighter. General Cameron's grievance was that he objected to what he defined as "land plunder" and he disliked fighting against the Maoris on that account.

In January, 1865, General Cameron started his campaign at Nukumaru, where he was attacked in broad daylight by the Hauhaus, and suffered numerous casualties. Following this incident he marched his men to Patea and formed a redoubt, provided a depot for provisions and erected huts for 600 men. The headquarters of the Hauhaus at this time were at Weraroa Pa, and General Cameron informed Sir George Grey, then

Governor of the colony, that he considered his force insufficient to attack the stronghold. This was one of the factors that ultimately led to the split and General Cameron's withdrawal. Later the Governor agreed to the request of the friendly natives at Wanganui to attack Weraroa Pa and he actually took command of the forces himself.

The Hauhaus declared that they would never surrender their forces at Weraroa Pa, and as events turned out, this proved to be the case for at the conclusion of a night attack on the pa it was found that the place was deserted, the inmates having crossed the Waitotara River in the dead of night while the Colonial Forces were engaged on the other side of the pa effecting an entry.

Much of the work carried out up the coast was done by the 57th Regiment, from which unit Kimble Bent deserted at the Manawapou after a flogging for insubordination.

### Chapter III.

## General Chute Takes Over

GENERAL CAMERON was succeeded by Major-General Trevor Chute, whose method was to seek the Maori in his strongholds in the bush.

He was also destined to march his force through the bush to New Plymouth, using the route now followed in some respects by portion of the Mountain Road, and giving the route the name of "Chute's track." He commenced his campaign in December, 1865, and the forces he commanded included a company of Forest Rangers under Major von Tempsky. Major (later Colonel) McDonnell was also an officer in his forces.

Chute put considerable vigour into his operations, engaging the enemy with success at Okutuku (in the Waverley district), and a few days later at Putahi, on the Whenuakura River. He then advanced on Kete-marae, an old and populous kainga a mile north of the present township of Normanby, but discovered that the bulk of the warriors had gone to garrison Otapawa, a newly-erected stronghold two miles eastward of Taiporohenui. Here, on the 13th January, 1866, he attacked them in force with several guns, carrying their elaborately constructed redoubt after a sharp and desperate struggle, in which Colonel Hassard and a dozen men were shot down by the deadly volley fire of the Hauhaus. Volley-firing, as evidenced at Ohaeawai, Rangiriri, Gate Pa, Puketakuere, Moturoa and Te Ngutu-o-te-Manu seems to have been a strong point with the belligerent Maoris throughout the New Zealand wars, and its wonderful accuracy compares painfully with the wild salvos of our troops, which were usually only destructive to a few passing sparrows. Titokowaru's men in particular seem to have had a remarkable facility in taking "every man a man," and thus causing terrible execution, particularly in frontal attacks.

At the close of General Chute's campaign there was a temporary cessation of active military operations and the settlement of the confiscated lands was begun. Many of the military settlers took up the land to which they were entitled, but the majority sold their grants and left the district.

When the Government in 1866 came to the decision to occupy the confiscated lands between the Waingongoro and the Waitotara Rivers the West Coast portion of the Expeditionary Force at Opotiki was recalled and in June of that year went into camp at Patea. This body consisted of the Patea and Wanganui Rangers, two companies of the Taranaki Military Settlers and the Wanganui Yeomanry Cavalry, Major McDonnell being appointed to command the force. From then on until what became known as "Titokomaru's war" broke out, little occurred as far as fighting in the Patea district was concerned. Numerous references to Major McDonnell's activities are contained elsewhere in this book, among them being his dealings with the Maoris who were endeavouring to stop the survey work in the central portion of the Patea county. We now come to the last phases of the Taranaki campaign—the coming of "Tito."

## Chapter IV.

### "Titokowaru's War"

JULY, 1867, saw the last of the Imperial forces leave the colony, and the New Zealand Government was obliged to fall back on a self-reliant policy for offensive and defensive purposes. An Armed Constabulary Corps was raised in the beginning of 1868, and the celebrated Major von Tempsky arrived in Patea to take a local command.

Settlement then began in portions of the present country districts, but the murder of Cahill, Squires and Clarke near Normanby on June 10th proved a temporary deterrent to further settlement, and manifested the undiminished hostility of the local Hauhaus, who were now organised by the redoubtable Chief Titokowaru, who had his headquarters in the deep forest inland of Matapu. This warrior soon took the offensive against the hated pakeha, and on the 12th July, 1868, sent an armed band to attack the newly-erected redoubt at Turuturu-Mokai, garrisoned by some twenty men under the command of Captain Frederick Ross. In the bloody engagement that followed a dozen of the defenders were slain, and the fort was held only by the gallantry of four of the survivors, who defended an angle with fine heroism until the arrival of help from Waihi fort. Next month Colonel McDonnell retaliated by taking Titokowaru's stronghold at Ruaruru, catching the enemy by surprise, and inflicting severe loss upon him. Unfortunately four of the Colonel's force were killed in the action, and a considerable number wounded.

Titokowaru collected his scattered warriors again, this time at Te Ngutu-o-te-Manu, and McDonnell moved against him once more on September 7th, 1868, under the impression that the outlaw chief was still at Ruaruru. A terrible disaster to the A.C. Forces resulted in eighteen being killed, together with the gallant Major von Tempsky, and the attack broke up in disorder, the force having the greatest difficulty in extricating itself from the bush.

Colonel McDonnell lost a good deal of prestige by being defeated at Te Ngutu-o-te-Manu and what with a certain of dissatisfaction among the men and the

difficulty to replace them, he ultimately resigned and was succeeded by Colonel George Whitmore. Before he resigned, however, he withdrew the whole of the force from the vicinity of his latest reverse and returned to Patea, not, however, without some skirmishing with the Maoris. The Hauhaus were now spread all over the country and were a menace to the stragglers, and the cause of the evacuation of the camps at Waihi and Manawapou and the redoubt at Kakaramea.

An incident during the withdrawal to Patea which became complicated by two Government detachments firing on each other, was described as follows by Mr. William Wallace, then an A.C. Sergeant in Patea. The Maoris fell back from the crest of Turangarere (near Manutahi) as we advanced and while they did so and we were ascending the gentle slope of the hill the Manawapou convoy was approaching from the other side. Our advance parties suddenly sighted each other and opened fire, and we were also under the fire of the Maoris. Our leading man was Smith, one of von Tempsky's veterans, and as soon as he reached the brow of the hill he was shot in mistake. Each force of troops thought the other was a Maori war party. As for the Hauhaus, they were on our right front, and we gradually drove them back and went through to Manawapou."

At Kakaramea the Hauhaus came down and attacked the redoubt built there, firing heavily into the place at night. The flashes of the guns were seen at the Patea camp, and rockets were sent up—a prearranged signal—asking whether the Kakaramea garrison was in need of help. The reply was that no assistance was required. When the post was abandoned the Kakaramea Hotel was burned.

When it became necessary for the outlying military settlers to go into Patea, the abandoned huts of the pioneers, like some of the redoubts, were speedily burned by the Hauhaus. One man was cut off, this being Alexander McCulloch, who was mate with another military settler, R. B. Hamilton, of Manutahi. When Hamilton, Wallace and other settlers abandoned their farms in October, 1868, and the troops left the district, McCulloch did not come in and long afterwards the story of his death was learned from the Maoris. He was chased and hid in a raupo swamp where he was killed by a volley. His body was never found.

On assuming command at Patea, Colonel Whitmore pursued a policy of reorganising the small force at his disposal. Titokowaru had abandoned Te Ngutu-o-te-Manu and marched south, gathering in the Pakakohi and Ngati-hine tribes as he went, and after a stay at Otoia established himself across the Patea River in a camp which soon became the objective of Colonel Whitmore's attack. Colonel Whitmore got rid of all the irregular troops, resolving to work with only enlisted men, and he urged the Government that in future all recruits should be enrolled in the Armed Constabulary and not as temporary volunteers.

At the beginning of November, 1868, Colonel Whitmore transferred his headquarters to Wairoa with the object of preventing Titokowaru from making raids in the district south of the Waitotara River, and immediately decided to attack the stronghold at Moturoa. This battle, however, proved another disaster for the pakeha troops, the Maoris inflicting a most decisive defeat. (Note: Details of this battle were supplied to the author by Mrs Peter Elmslie, whose husband was one of the guides to the Colonial Forces. The incident is described later in the book.)

Titokowaru, after an inspection of the pa at Moturoa, ordered its fortification, and the Maoris felled and split timber, dug trenches, and made earthworks. These fortifications, however, were incomplete when the Maoris were attacked. Their sentries, however, caught sight of the approaching troops, and warned their comrades, who were ready and waiting for the soldiers to charge. Noticing an entire absence of dogs' barking and no sign of women moving about, Colonel Whitmore and his officers surmised that the Maoris had been warned of their approach. The assault, however, proceeded, and still the Maoris waited. When 10 or 12 yards from the stockade that had been erected the troops were fired on, and the whole front of the pa blazed. Many fell before the fire of the Hauhaus, among them being Major Hunter, whose body was rescued from the tomahawk by a very gallant deed.

Colonel Whitmore soon reached the conclusion that the pa could not be taken and he ordered a retirement, this being carried out with splendid judgment. The Maoris left the shelter of the palisades and charged out to skirmish with their foes in the open, one Hauhau being shot down—the Maoris declared he was the only one of

the defenders who was killed in the engagement. The Maoris kept up the chase and a good deal of skirmishing in the bush followed before the troops reached Wairoa.

The battle of Moturoa was described as Colonel Whitmore's one great mistake, one officer remarking that he did not know why the position was left so soon. His opinion was that the troops should have surrounded the position and stayed there, irrespective of the losses in the first assault.

Following Moturoa, Colonel Whitmore fell behind the Waitotara River in order to place his force between Titokowaru and the Wanganui out-settlements. He established a camp at Nukumaru, but was suddenly ordered to fall back with his troops to the south of the Kai Iwi River, being informed of Te Kooti's massacre of the inhabitants in Poverty Bay. This left the defence of the West Coast to the local forces, together with some Armed Constabulary. For the patrol of the Wanganui frontier line Colonel Whitmore placed his chief reliance on the two local cavalry volunteer corps. These cavalry bodies scouted the border, occasionally skirmished with Titokowaru's raiders and prevented many homesteads from being looted and burned. An incident that occurred near Mr. John Handley's wool-shed at Nukumaru is worthy of recall. Here some youths of the pa, out foraging, were engaged in killing geese, when a party of the Kai Iwi Cavalry, under Sergeant-Major Maxwell came down on them and sabred or shot six. A few weeks later Maxwell himself was mortally wounded under the palisades of Tauranga-ika.

Titokowaru, during Colonel Whitmore's absence on the East Coast, had devoted his energies to the strengthening of his position at Tauranga-ika, and Whitmore's first act on his return in January, 1869, was to prepare for an advance on this stronghold. However, after much preparation and reconnoitring on the part of Colonel Whitmore's Corps of Guides, the troops arrived at the pa to find it deserted, Titokowaru having abandoned it.

Long after the war Kimble Bent gave James Cowan the explanation for the sudden decision. Titokowaru, said Bent, had entered into a liaison with the wife of another rangatira of the pa, and this intrigue, soon detected, was considered fatal to his prestige, both spiritual and temporal. He had trampled on his "mana tapu" and was no longer the invincible war-priest and war-captain of his people. At a council of the chiefs it was resolved that the garrison should abandon the pa as it

would be courting disaster to remain. No doubt the spectacle of Whitmore's army entrenched in front and the arrival of the first of the shells from his Armstrong guns helped to hasten the decision. However, the people in silence took to the bush, Titokowaru covering their retreat with 40 men.

Whitmore ordered an immediate pursuit and pushed his Volunteer Cavalry on to Weraroa by the track across the open country and sent his bush corps and Major Kepa's Wanganui men to follow the retreating enemy's trail. After one skirmish between Kepa and the rear-guard, nothing definite was known of Titokowaru and his band until February 18 when the Peach Grove massacre took place. (This incident is described elsewhere). Colonel Whitmore continued the pursuit more relentlessly than ever following this incident, and after one battle at Otautu, chased the Maoris to Whakamara. The Hauhaus relinquished the fight at Otautu only when their supply of ammunition ran out. At Whakamara Titokowaru's followers, who were half-starved, found pigs and other food supplies, but they were not long left in peace, and were chased through Taiporohenui to Ngaere. At Ngaere the fugitives were almost surrounded, but managed to escape the enveloping movement by taking to the extensive morasses in this district, where the troops could not safely follow them, and finally reached the shelter of the broken country in the wild remote district of the Upper Waitara.

Actual fighting in the Patea district had now ceased and the only incident that remains to be told is the capture of the Pakakohi tribe who had sought safety up the reaches of the Patea River. An expedition was led by Major Noake in canoes up the river and gradually the natives were rounded up and sent to Dunedin, where they underwent a term of imprisonment.

Describing the incident, Mr. R. B. Hamilton, who was one of the party, said that when he and Tom Adamson reached the Maori encampment they learned that the Maoris wanted a korero with the pakehas and were willing to make peace. They returned and told Major Noake and the outcome was the surrender of 128 members of the Pakakohi tribe.

Thus was brought to a close the war in Taranaki. For a number of years there were various "incidents," mainly the result of passive resistance on the part of the natives, but there was no further active outbreak of hostilities. All through the campaign many of the

Maoris remained loyal to the pakeha cause and many gave their lives fighting on the side of the Colonial troops. Among these were a company of Kaupapas (Government troops) under the command of Major Kepa (Kemp), and their invaluable assistance was recognised on all sides. Many of the deeds of gallantry by the pakeha under fire were emulated by the loyal Maori troops under similar conditions.

With the close of the war many of the vacant sections in South Taranaki were taken up and thereafter settlement began in earnest. A few of the military grants were never taken up, and these ultimately became the property of occupants who had paid the rates on them for a certain number of years. Practically all the open country between the Patea and Waingongoro Rivers was soon occupied by European selectors, but none had the hardihood to settle across the Waingongoro, where, in fact, native guards, in the employment of the Government were stationed to warn off trespassers.

The cause of peace was immensely strengthened at this time by the good offices of the pacific chief, Hone Pihamo. Seeing far into the future, and feeling that the Europeans must ultimately predominate, he convened a meeting of the still fractious of his brethren at Manawapou, and counselled them, in the interests of the preservation of their race, to accept and pursue peace.

## Chapter V.

### The Settlement of Patea

ALTHOUGH the town of Patea, or Carlyle as it was known in the early days, was not formed until 1869 it had been the site of European settlement for some years prior to that time, although these residents were in the main military units. The first inroad of settlers might be said to have occurred in 1863, when Mr. and Mrs. Mark Locker arrived with their family, Mr. Locker opening a store in that year. There were two officers' wives in the military depot at that time, but otherwise Mrs. Locker was the only white woman in the district. The land from Kakaramea to the Manawapou was purchased about this time from the Maoris by the Government and was cut up into blocks of 50 and 60 acres and given over to military settlers. The Maoris in the various hapus in the Patea district were not hostile at this period, although in 1867 they joined hands with Titokowaru and the rebels in their protest concerning the confiscation of lands. This move was responsible for driving all the settlers of the Kakaramea district into Patea, where there was nothing for them to do but join some military corps or other. The disturbing factor on the coast was Titokowaru, and when the Forest Rangers who came from the Waikato under Major von Tempsky, were defeated at Te Ngutu-o-te-Manu the whole of the country was given over to the Maoris. The residents left Patea and went to seek refuge in Wanganui and Nelson, remaining in these localities until the cessation of hostilities. It was in 1869 that the majority of the refugees returned and their first action was to form the township of Carlyle.

The cause of the trouble was fairly simple to trace. All the land in the district had been taken from the Maoris under the "Confiscation of Lands" Act, this being part of the punishment meted out to the natives for having fought against the Queen. In order to prepare this land for settlement survey parties were sent out, and considering this an act of trespass, the Maoris offered both active and passive resistance. One party sent out to survey a portion of the Whenuakura block had an experience which was typical of many. The

incident was described in a report to Parliament made by Sir William (then Mr.) Fox on July 16, 1867, which read as follows:—

"Immediately on receipt of the information that the surveyors had been turned back by the natives, Lieutenant-Colonel T. McDonnell, officer commanding the Colonial Forces of the Patea district, proceeded to Oika (where the Wybourne estate now is) and asked Mr. Sergeant to endeavour to get 40 volunteers from the local militia to hold the camp and protect the stores in his absence. He put Captain Ross in charge of the militia and at 8.30 p.m. crossed the Patea River and marched to the Whenuakura, putting a light boat on the cart for the purpose of facilitating the crossing of the river. He there met Mr. C. A. Wray and his surveyors and put the survey implements on the cart, at the same time directing Mr. Wray and his assistants to accompany the force back to Oika. After disposing of the force so as to completely command the village, Lieut.-Colonel McDonnell, accompanied by Mr. Booth, resident magistrate, Captain Cumming, and a mounted orderly, went to the village, leading their horses and leaving Captain Newland in charge of the men with instructions that in the event of McDonnell giving a signal, he would go to their assistance. The natives were all asleep when the party arrived at the village, so they knocked up the principal ones and asked for their reasons for sending the surveyors back. The reply of the natives was that no surveys would be permitted by them from the south bank of the Patea River to the Waitotara. Colonel McDonnell repeated the question and received the same answer. After telling them that the surveyors would begin work in the morning, Colonel McDonnell crossed the Whenuakura River with Captain Cumming to see Titokowaru, leaving Mr. Booth to talk to the natives and keep them engaged during his absence. Colonel McDonnell had a long conversation with Titokowaru and two or three other chiefs, and told them he was vexed at the conduct of the Pakakohi in sending the surveyors back and that he had returned with them, accompanied by 100 men to enforce the work if required.

"Titokowaru asked Colonel McDonnell if he had seen the Pakakohi, and McDonnell replied that Mr. Booth was with them waiting for his return and that they knew nothing of the men being so close.

"Titokowaru replied: I have advised them to allow the survey to proceed without hindrance, but they would not listen to me. However, as you return, do not forget they sent the surveyors back in the daylight and did not hurt anyone or seize anything.

Colonel McDonnell said that was in their favour and he promised to think of it as he went back.

"Colonel McDonnell, on his arrival back at the tent where he had left Mr. Booth, was told that the natives were firm in their purpose of opposing the survey, but that they had not the slightest suspicion of any force near the place. Colonel McDonnell tried to convince them of their folly, but to no purpose, so he told the natives that he had brought the surveyors back and they would start work in the morning.

"Rurangi (principal) said he would return to Patea with McDonnell, but the latter said he was not going to Patea but on to the hill to sleep until daylight. Rurangi said: 'We will go together,' and they went. 'Captain Cummings had a five-minute start,' wrote Colonel McDonnell, 'and upon arriving at the summit of the hill our force started up to receive us. As the moon was shining brightly, the sudden appearance of so many armed men had a most startling effect on Rurangi. I led him through the men and he sat down, evidently assuming as much composure as possible, and after a five-minute silence said, 'I for one, give up. I have finished. I oppose the survey no longer. I see it is useless.'

"The next morning the Pakakohi said, 'Do not ask us to give our consent to the surveys as we protested against them. On that point we are silent, but we promise not to interfere with or further molest the work.'

"That was all that was required of the natives, so Colonel McDonnell ordered the force to march home and the natives at once offered to sell provisions and invited the surveyors to camp in the village."

A detailed description of the district is conveyed in a further report to Parliament by Sir William Fox on November 1, 1869. This report read as follows:—

"The Waitotara district on the south side of the river was formerly purchased from the resident tribes by Governor Browne and Mr. McLean, very ample reserves being made for the natives. This purchase did not include the densely wooded and somewhat rugged

inland country through which the course of the Waitotara River runs before it meets the open and level land approaching the sea which formed the principal subject of the purchase.

"Before it was occupied by settlers the campaign under Generals Chute and Cameron occurred.

"The country north of the Waitotara River and as far as the Waingongoro River belonging to the natives who fought against the Queen in those campaigns, was at their termination confiscated, as well as some of the reserves on the south side of the Waitotara River. Nearly all the Government land in both districts was subsequently surveyed for free grants to military settlers, interspersed with native reserves. The former were for the most part distributed to members of the Colonial Forces. On the latter, rebel natives who had submitted were allowed to locate themselves, inter-mixed with the military allotments.

"Before the outbreak of June, 1868, a great part of the Waitotara block south of the river had been occupied by some settlers, some of whom had made very considerable investments and improvements. Messrs Moore and Currie had erected dwelling houses and other buildings worth £3000, while others had very substantial houses, and many had large numbers of cattle and sheep. Considerable cultivations had also been commenced.

"North of the Waitotara, the settlers, although numerous had made far less progress, but many of them had erected homesteads and made improvements. A considerable quantity of stock was owned by them and most of them risked all they possessed in the world. There were more than 100 homesteads altogether north of the Kai Iwi stream, the southern boundary of the Waitotara block.

"The township of Carlyle, or Patea, had been established at the mouth of the river and that of Wairoa (inland) between the Waitotara and the Patea Rivers.

"The Pakakohi, the Nga-rauru, and other hapus lived partly on the reserves which had been set apart for them within the limits of the confiscated and purchased blocks; partly beyond those limits, on the banks of the two rivers in what was considered an inaccessible and what certainly was an unknown country. The reserves were restored to them on the express pledge that they would remain loyal."

The condition of the district in October, 1869, was described as follows: "The whole block is without European inhabitants except at (1) Wairoa, where a few

families under shelter of a redoubt had held their own and protected much of their stock during the entire period of disturbances in 1868-69; (2) Patea, in which township about 100 inhabitants had remained during the same period; (3) Garrisons of volunteers of about 40 in each, on pay at Weraroa, Wairoa, Manawapou and Patea. The natives were entirely gone from the district. A considerable number had surrendered and had been placed in prison in Wellington, where they awaited trial. Others had been placed by the late Government under the nominal bail of Hone Pihama, near Opunake, and others had found refuge on the central Wanganui River.

"The pas and cultivations, with all the crops and live stock on the two rivers for 60 or 70 miles up, had been utterly destroyed by Major Noake and Captain Kells in the expeditions which they made up those rivers after Titokowaru had retreated from Taurangaika. Consequently, in November, 1869, there was not a native of the rebel tribes between Waingongoro and Wanganui.

"A deputation of dispossessed colonists waited on Sir William Fox at Patea in November, the settlers desiring to know what the Government would do to enable them to return to their farms with some feeling of security and a prospect of being able to remain there. In the course Sir William Fox adopted to meet the wishes of the settlers he was guided by the fact that the House of Representatives had voted £10,000 for the express purpose of assisting them to return to their homes. The settlers were ready to return on receiving encouragement from the Government and some assistance towards defending themselves. Understanding that the Government intended to locate a defensive force of East Coast natives (Ngatiporos) at Waihi, near the Waingongoro River, the settlers proposed that the Government should erect a blockhouse capable of protecting say 20 families at some spot not far from the native force and should allot to them some small holding, say 10 acres around each blockhouse. On this it was intended they should erect cottages and from which as headquarters they might work their farms further off, which they considered they could very well do.

"In discussing the matter with the settlers Sir William Fox found one condition absolutely necessary, namely that the Government should give an assurance of its determination not to allow the rebel natives to return to the district. He considered that the fact of their having been allowed to do so after General Chute's campaign was a fatal error, and when the outbreak of 1868

occurred it at once placed a formidable section of the enemy in the midst of the settled country and in the rear of the Colonial forces. It was not to be expected that the settlers would reoccupy the country from which they had been driven if this course were again to be adopted.

"At the township of Patea Sir William Fox found the population very hopeful and inclined to enterprise. The deputation asked him to grant a lease of a native reserve of 600 acres and a water power with a right of tramway between the two and a right to cut flax on the Government reserves on behalf of a projected flax company. Application was also made to have Patea made a port of entry. Sir William Fox concluded his memorandum to the Government by stating that the Patea and Waitotara settlers were a fine body of colonists and should they be encouraged and supported by the Government, as they deserved to be, they could hardly fail to regain a position of prosperity and to prove a great addition to the strength of the West Coast by the reoccupation of the district in which they had cast their lot."

With a return to peace the township of Patea went ahead rapidly, and hotels and stores were erected. The port soon became a scene of activity with vessels going and coming at frequent intervals. Among these were the following schooners trading to Wanganui and Pelorus Sound, going to the latter locality for timber for building purposes: "Dart" (Captain Hodges), "Patea" (Captain Tilly), "Wild Duck," "Jane Elkin," and "Faleon." In 1868 the soldiers left the township and Mr. Booth was appointed the first Government official, carrying out the duties of magistrate, etc. The position came under review shortly afterwards, apparently on account of division of authority in the Taranaki province, Sir William Fox reporting to the Government in November, 1869, as follows: "One of the main causes of the late outbreak was the division of authority which existed in the district. The conflicting actions of a Commissioner (Mr. R. Parris) resident at New Plymouth, a military commandant resident at Patea, and a resident magistrate perambulating the district rendered it impossible that anything but confusion could exist."

On this recommendation both the Commissioner at New Plymouth and the resident magistrate were dispensed with and Major Noake was appointed magistrate, and Mr. C. A. Wray Commissioner of the Peace.

Before leaving this portion of the county history a number of stirring incidents that occurred just prior to this time are worthy of recording. These incidents were recounted to the author by pioneer residents from personal recollections, and are equally as authentic as official records. One such incident concerns the arrest of a Maori chief named Tauroa, who was arrested as a spy for the Hauhaus, then a potent force in Taranaki as elsewhere. Tauroa came down the river with potatoes and peaches for sale, and was promptly arrested, but after being kept in custody for a time was released.

Another incident concerns the ambush by Maoris of an escort with provisions for the troops at Wairoa. A man named Harry Autridge was driving sheep for the troops, and after a considerable amount of trouble getting the animals over the river in a punt, he and the escort were attacked from ambush by a party of Maoris. Autridge ran for his life, chased by a Maori with a tomahawk, finally getting into a safe sanctuary. (This incident is further referred to in another chapter). One pioneer describes the last stand of the Maoris in the Taranaki war as having occurred at Otautu in March, 1869. On this occasion the Maoris were routed and they all made for the bush up the Patea River. Major Noake took an expedition and followed them, bringing the leaders back and putting them under lock and key in the Patea redoubt, there to await transportation to Wellington by steamer. In Wellington they were tried and sentenced to terms of imprisonment in the Dunedin gaol. The natives were under the impression that if they gave up their guns they would be allowed to go back and live on their land, but on arrival at Patea they discovered their mistake.

Wrecks were not infrequent occurrences on the Taranaki coast, one vessel meeting such a fate during these years being the "Gundagai," the deck-house of which formed the residence of the Southby's on top of the hill near Patea for several years.

The means of crossing the rivers between Patea and Wanganui was by ferry, these being established at Patea, Whenuakura, and Waitotara. George Kennedy was in charge of the ferry at Patea, this being situated near the mouth of the river at first, and later near to where the present bridge stands. It remained in the latter position until the bridge was erected, this being in 1894, the total cost of the bridge being £6038. Thomas Wright was in charge of the ferry at Whenuakura. He

was known to everyone in the district as "Ginger." The ferry at Waitotara was controlled by Captain Kells, and at one time during its existence by George F. Sherwood, who became the first chairman of the Patea County Council.

The fees for the use of the ferry at Patea were gazetted on December 23, 1870, being as follows: Each passenger, 3d; horses and neat cattle, 3d; calves, carried 3d; sheep, not exceeding four (the lot) 2d; sheep over four and not exceeding 100, each  $\frac{1}{2}$ d; sheep, over 100, each  $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

One of those who played an important part in the development of Patea in the early days was James Hirst, who erected what was probably the first wharf at the port. He received his authority from the Colonial Secretary, Mr. W. Gisborne, this being gazetted on October 3, 1872, as follows: "Notice is hereby given that Mr. James Hirst, of Carlyle, West Coast District, having erected a wharf abutting on Block 30, Patea River Reserve, part of which is let to him under Clause 27 of the 'Confiscated' Land Regulation on certain conditions is in pursuance of the same entitled to charge for the use of the wharf in accordance with the schedule contained in the deed of lease." Prior to this authority being granted Mr. Hirst had erected a house on top of the cliff near the Patea railway station. A Maori swam the river and set fire to this building and it was completely destroyed. Mr. Hirst rebuilt the house and then set about the establishment of the wharf.

Part of the schedule referred to in the authority provided for vessels under 50 tons at 5s per day, and increased to a maximum of 25s per day for a vessel of 400 tons. Wharf charges were as follows: Flour, grain, potatoes, 1s per ton; wool, 1s per bale; flax, 6d per bale; timber, per 1000 feet super, 1s; posts and rails, per 100, 1s; all other goods, 1s per ton; sheep and pigs, first 40 2d each, all over 40 1d each.

The first school in the township was opened in 1865 by a Corporal in the 18th Royal Irish, there being four pupils, including Harry Locker and his brother. This school did not last long and there was a break until 1867, when a Mrs. Morrison started as a teacher. By this time the number of children had increased considerably and the Government sent a man named Palmer as teacher. In 1867 the Patea Volunteer Corps was formed for the defence of the township, Mr. Palmer being placed in charge. This Corps was present at the

battle at Te Ngutu-o-te-Manu, and Mr. Palmer was the first man killed. The next teacher was an invalided soldier named Hannah, who started a private school in an iron hut, which did service until the Patea Education Board was formed and Mr. Weiss placed in charge as teacher.

One of most popular forms of public entertainment in these days was horse-racing, not the racing of highly-trained thoroughbreds once or twice round a well-formed track as is the case in the present day, but a race from Patea to the Waingongoro River and back. Adam Sergeant was a prominent figure in these events. Occasional sports meetings were held in a paddock cleared for the purpose, one of the featured events being climbing the greasy pole, at the top of which was the prize, usually a leg of mutton. The "prize" was not infrequently at the top of this pole for several hours on a hot summer afternoon, and its condition when the winner received it can best be imagined. The race for the greasy pig was also a feature of these gatherings, and one unrehearsed incident which occurred is worthy of recall. The pig when being prepared for the event was thoroughly greased, and one of the conditions attached was that the animal had to be captured and held by the tail. On this particular occasion the winner was a Maori, and while he was holding on to his prize apparently awaiting the decision of the judges, a pakeha cut off the animal's tail. While doing so he accidentally cut the Maori's finger, which was "utu" and meant fight as compensation had to be had. How the incident finished is lost in obscurity, but what is recounted here is sufficient to indicate the manner in which the pioneers took their pleasure.

The principal building in the town in the late 60's and the early 70's was the immigration barracks, situated where the Town Hall now stands. This building answered many purposes throughout the years of its existence, but it served as a temporary home for many who came to the district before they established homes for themselves on their holdings. The first cottages were erected round the police station and opposite to it, others being erected in 1869 at Kakaramea and Manutahi. After the Franco-German war of 1870 a number of Germans came to Patea in an emigrant ship, the men being employed to do whatever labour was offering, usually fencing, road-making, farm work, etc. Large areas of land were disposed of to military men, the amount varying according

to the rank of the recipient, the smallest, however, being 50 acres. Each of these sections carried with it a town section, the idea being that the country section could be worked from the town until the homestead was erected. It also provided for the lay-out of the township. Other land was sold to anyone who would buy it. Many tales are told as to how some of the military sections were disposed of by those who did not want them. They were sold for whatever they would fetch, one incident being recalled of how a section was at first offered for £5, then £2, then £1, and finally disposed of for a bottle of rum.

Attached to the grants of land to military settlers were certain conditions, paramount among them being one that the recipients had to bear arms. Sir George Grey had had a difference of opinion with General Cameron, the latter having refused to attack Weraroa Pa. General Cameron came on up the coast from Wanganui and erected redoubts at Wairoa, Patea, Manawapou and Waihi, the Maoris becoming bold because he had not attacked them. Sir George Grey became annoyed and General Cameron resigned. General Chute then took over and chased the Maoris until they finally took refuge in the bush. The outcome of this was the formation of the Colonial Force, its members being granted sections of land on the condition that they would take up arms when necessary.

The pioneer settlers of the district were well served with news of the outside world as far as standards went in those days. They received papers from Wanganui once a week, and letters about as often. The journey from Patea to Wanganui took two or three days, the route being round the coast line. Before a civilian could leave the township he had to obtain permission from the officer commanding the district. All parties left with an armed escort. Messrs Sheppard and Young conducted the first coach service to and from Wanganui, this firm agreeing to run twice weekly for £600 for the first year and £500 for each of the two succeeding years. They were also allowed to rent free a block containing 200 acres adjoining the ferry at Kaipo (Waitotara) with a purchasing clause at £2 per acre to be paid at the end of the term conditional on carrying out the mail contract satisfactorily.

Mails between Patea and New Plymouth were carried by Maoris, among the carriers being Breed, Hone Pihamo, and Ngahina, who used to run in relays.

The first post office was established by the military authorities in 1867, Captain Hirst being in charge. Captain Hirst was a captain in the Colonial Field Forces, and he it was who established the wharf in later years.

The first stores in the township were those established by Messrs Bull, Taplin and Muir and later, John Gibson. Mr. C. E. ("Ned") Gibson and his brothers were among the pioneers of the district, carrying out an expedition up the Patea River in 1869 looking for open country, their means of transport being a canoe. Mr. Felix McGuire, later Member of Parliament for the Patea district, was another pioneer storekeeper of the township, his store being burned down in 1876 and to which cause was attributed the birth of the Patea Fire Brigade.

Interesting statistics relating to the district were conveyed in a report to Parliament by Major Noake on June 18, 1870. The report read as follows:—

"Hawera, 25 settlers, 5 women, 8 children, 6 houses; 500 acres are in English grasses and there are 350 head of cattle.

"From Patea to Manutahi there are 30 settlers, and 600 to 700 cattle. Those not engaged on farms are employed in contract work on roads under the Public Road Engineer.

"Carlyle has improved rapidly and contains many substantial buildings. Its population is 150.

"Wairoa has a population of about 140 and contains 29 dwellings. There are 1100 acres in English grasses. Sawyers are in the bush cutting timber as fast as possible. A road has been opened and a coach service twice weekly has been established. The establishment of Sheppard's coach and a telegraph service have contributed to the progress of the district, but a railway is needed to open up its resources."

The recent negotiations regarding the development of the iron sand deposit at the Patea beach recalls a similar project in 1874 when Mr. F. A. Carrington reported as follows to the Taranaki Provincial Council:—"I am happy to inform you that a company has been formed in the Colony for the purpose of working the iron sand. The works are now in course of erection and in a few months' time will be completed. As soon as the building is sufficiently set and dry, the smelting will be commenced, which I trust will be successful in every respect."

## Chapter VI.

### Early Waverley Associations

THE settlement of the Waverley district had its beginnings about the same period as that of its neighbouring township, Patea, that is about the early '60's. Among the first settlers were the Dickies, among them being Mr. Alex. Dickie, who at the time of writing (1937) is the only surviving member of the Wairoa Rifles. Prior to the Okutuku war, there were only half a dozen settlers in the district, and following this outbreak erected in 1868 the Wairoa (as Waverley was then called) redoubt and formed the Wairoa Rifles. At about this period 200 Forest Rangers under Colonel Whitmore, were sent to Wairoa and these, together with a force of 50 of the Wairoa Rifles, formed the defensive force of the district.

An amusing incident is related concerning the building of the redoubt. At this time there was a Maori named Kereopa resident nearby, a man who was destined to play a large part in subsequent events. He watched the finishing touches being put to the redoubt, these including the digging of a moat completely round the blockhouse. Kereopa asked what the "ditch" was for, receiving the reply from Captain Hawes, who was in charge of the Rifles, that it was to keep the Maoris out.

"Py korry, te Maori he jump that ditch," replied Kereopa, who was, incidentally, a man of nearly 17 stone.

This annoyed Captain Hawes and he promised Kereopa a bottle of rum if he could jump it. Kereopa did not even take the trouble to run, he jumped across the moat from a standing position and collected the bottle of rum. The result of this incident was that the moat had to be dug three feet wider and deeper.

The battle at Okutuku proved to be a disastrous affair, for the pakehas lost 40 men and were compelled to retreat to within half a mile of the redoubt, while the Maori casualties numbered one killed.

The completion of the redoubt proved to be an encouragement for settlers to carry out building programmes, and the year 1868 saw the erection of the first hotel, this being known for many years as Palmer's. Within the precincts of the redoubt there were two iron shacks, one serving the dual purpose of general store and

post office and kept by A. C. Fookes. Another building was the commissariat building, and it was in this that Mr. Francis Symes and family lived until their home was erected on the farm they subsequently acquired near the present racecourse. A man named Smith, a cobbler, lived in a *toi* *toi* whare, while another of the same name, but carrying on the business of tailoring, lived in another two-roomed whare. Along the present Recreation Road were two shacks occupied by two old men, Joe Jordan and Bob Darling. As the settlement grew and more settlers came to take up land the residents clubbed together and built a Town Hall, this doing duty as a fire brigade station many years later. The centre of the town was Palmer's Hotel and there it was that people used to congregate to wait for news of the day and to gossip away many a spare hour.

While the troops were living in the Wairoa redoubt in 1869 and subsequent years their time, when not engaged in military duties, was spent in roadmaking. All of the streets of Waverley had been surveyed and formed by the men of the regiment stationed there during the war period. The streets of the town were named after officers of the regiment, among these being Hussey, Brassey, Chester, Bear, Smith, Gloag and Wilson. Swinbourne and Fookes streets were named after citizens of the town.

In order to supplement the defence force of the district the Wairoa Light Horse was formed in the early '70's, this making three units, the Wairoa Rifles, the Wairoa Light Horse and the Militia. A fine distinction was made between the forces—if a man was a volunteer he was given a uniform and posted to either the Rifles or the Light Horse. If not he was posted to the Militia, whose uniform not infrequently was top-hats and frock coats. Everyone had to be ready to serve under arms, the choice of regiment being left to the individual—or the authorities as the case may have been.

The original commander of the Wairoa Light Horse was John Old, he being followed by Major Walkinton, George Johnson, Major Lomax, Lieutenant G. Howie, and Colonel Davis, the latter holding office until the Territorial units were formed in 1911.

The first race meeting in Waverley, in 1873, is still recalled by early settlers, one who was present as a small boy, having vivid recollections of a free fight round the refreshment booth which marked the close of the day's proceedings. The meeting was held on the properties at

present farmed by Messrs T. Lupton and W. H. Watkins, one of the events being a race for women, who rode side-saddle. The race for the cup was won by Mr. W. Vincent's "Woman in White" and was worth £5 or £6 to the winner as far as the stake was concerned. In the following year the present course was cleared of fern and flax and racing has taken place there practically ever since.

In the early days the whole of the area from beyond the present town of Waverley to the sea coast was covered with flax and fern and the first settlers formed the impression that it would not run sheep. Cattle-grazing, therefore, formed the main industry for several years. Most of the settlers kept a few cows for milking purposes, the cream from this source being made into butter and sent in kegs to Wanganui for sale. Fences were unknown and six or seven settlers would graze their stock on common land to the sea coast. Later, when the land was properly cleared, sheep were imported and cattle were placed more or less into the background. It seems strange to-day to look back on these early opinions of the land as being unsuitable sheep country, for to-day it is acknowledged as being some of the best sheep land in New Zealand. The dairy industry came to the Waverley district much later, some time in the late 'nineties, this being brought about by the advent of the small holding.

With the increase in the population in the district, a number of people turned their attentions to industries, and flour-milling, coopering and flax-milling found a niche in the life of the community. The first flour mill was started in the early 'eighties by Mr. William Hone, who erected a mill himself and ran it with an overshot water-wheel. The practice of the settlers was to purchase half a dozen sacks of wheat from a farmer, take it to the mill and have it gristed. From this they obtained bran, sharps, and flour. Mr. Hone ultimately sold this mill to Mr. William Dickie, the business being carried on by his sons, Messrs William and Robert Dickie. The flour mill went out when the water-supply scheme was introduced to the township, this interfering with the water rights. Prior to this mill being started the settlers were compelled to transport their wheat to Paine's at Kakaramea for gristing, this plant having been in existence many years earlier.

A coopering plant was established in 1880 by Christian Koertz. He used to obtain his timber from Okutuku, where the tawa staves were split in the winter

and carted out on a home-made cart, this vehicle having wheels cut from the ends of a log. Mr. Koertz manufactured kegs and tallow casks, for which there was a strong local demand.

At Kohi about the same period a boiling-down works was established, and old residents can still remember that it was possible to purchase a leg of mutton there for ninepence.

Flax grew in profusion in all parts of the district and several flax mills were flourishing at one time in the early days. One of these was known as Vincent's, this being situated near what is at present Brewer's property. It was adjacent to the Waiau stream, in which the flax was washed after being stripped. This mill kept the district and Wanganui well supplied with rope for many years. Later other flax mills were established in the district, one of these being conducted by John Buckman, father of the famous prima donna, Madame Rosina Buckman. This one was situated on the beach near the mouth of the Waitotara River, and as a girl Rosina Buckman was a familiar figure in Waverley. Flax-milling continued in the district until the war and then ceased, and to date has not been revived.

Another important industry established in 1880 was a brewery, this being conducted where Bromiley's store now stands by Samuel Caldwell. The outlet for the people of the district in these days was Wanganui, the journey being made both ways by horse and trap, usually being a three days' affair—one day each way for the journey and one day for the transaction of any business that may have been the reason for the journey. All the rivers were forded or crossed by punt, these being established at localities mentioned earlier in this book. Before the war of 1868 the route to Wanganui was along the beach, but about four years later the present road line was surveyed, and this became the main thoroughfare very quickly.

It is worthy of recall that two men, Messrs Fookes and Wilson, lost their commissions in the Army because of statements made at a public meeting concerning the Maoris. At this time the Maoris had been banished from the district, and most of their land confiscated, but there was a fear in some quarters that the natives would return and endeavour to take the land again. This probably was the outcome of the ploughing incidents in South Taranaki and the "battle" of Hasties' farm. A

public meeting was called in Waverley and at this meeting Messrs Fookes and Wilson, both of whom held commissions in the Forces, said that if the Maoris came near the district again they would shoot them and they advised their fellow-settlers to do likewise. At the time the Government was very anxious not to do anything that would disturb the peace, and these war-like utterances brought forth the wrath of certain high officials, the result being that both these gentlemen lost their commissions.

The "Battle of Hastie's Farm" referred to was an incident in the passive resistance of the Maoris to the settlement of Taranaki by the pakehas. In 1886, when the incident occurred, Te Whiti, the Maori prophet was in his hey-day, and his orders to the Maoris were to "take possession of the land the pakeha is on, and he will be driven to the sea from whence he came." This was the manifesto issued by Te Whiti, who alleged that he had received Divine guidance for the utterance. Accordingly, on July 19, the Maoris descended on Hastie's farm with the intention of ploughing the land and thereby taking possession of it. The old military settlers, however, had other ideas, and headed by Messrs Dick Foreman, James Livingston and D. J. Hughes, senr., 700 men assembled at the Ihaha property to prevent the Maoris from carrying out their intentions. A good many had revolvers, but they did not allow these to be seen, relying rather on sticks, stock-whips, etc.

After a consultation, about 30 men were sworn in as special constables with the permanent police present. Orders were then given to clear the Maoris off the land on to the road and to arrest the ringleaders. This was done, and many were arrested and marched to Manaia and a guard placed over them as the gaol could not hold them all. The Maoris suffered their ejection quietly and silently in the main, true to their orders from Te Whiti.

As soon as the Maoris were all away orders were given to take all their horses to the Manaia pound and then the fun started. The settlers rounded up about 400 in the mob and let them out on to the road. Some of these horses hailed from Okaiawa, and others from Ohangai, Ketemarae and Hawera, some even from farther south than that. The animals went their way in spite of anything the settlers could do to prevent them, and all that could be got to the Manaia pound was 145, and all of these were released by the local Maoris within a few days.

## Chapter VII.

### Difficulties at Manutahi

THE settlement of the Manutahi district was fraught with more difficulties than most of the other parts of the Patea County and the settlers had to undergo many hardships before they brought the area to its present state. Not the least of the trials undergone by the pioneers were fear of attack from the Maoris, and in the early days of the settlement it was necessary for the settlers to mount guard each night at the block-house that had been erected. Among the first settlers to take up land in Manutahi were the Ginger Brothers and Messrs R. B. Hamilton, Henderson, Christie, Paterson and Peacock. The Ginger brothers had previously held land in the Kakaramea district, living there until driven off by the Maoris. In 1868 when Titokowaru was on the warpath with his roving band of Hauhaus, the Kakaramea settlement was in his path, and at first the settlers heeded the warnings given by sending the women and children to Patea. Among these refugees was Miss Sophia Ginger, at present living in Hawera, and she informed the author that the abode of herself and her sister-in-law in Patea was a baker's oven, there being such a demand on the available accommodation that this was all there was left on their arrival. Later, the men who had remained behind at Kakaramea were warned by friendly natives that they would be safe no longer, and the Ginger brothers, with the others left for Patea also. The Gingers had left only an hour or so when their house was burned down by the Maoris. In a very short time the fighting got closer to Patea, and then the women were moved to Wanganui, making the journey round the coast by steamer. It was two years before the majority of them returned.

At the close of Titokowaru's war in 1868 land in the Manutahi district was offered to settlers who would undertake the defence of the district, each settler being given a free grant of 10 acres in return for that service. The Gingers were among the first to accept that offer, and one of the first steps taken on arrival was the erection of a blockhouse. This was a building with iron walls, with what Miss Ginger described as portholes for windows. This building was used in later years as a

dance hall, and as the venue of public meetings. It was the duty of the settlers to do a turn on guard each night at this building, after working all day on their sections, this procedure following until a detachment of Armed Constabulary was appointed to take charge of the district.

The first work that had to be undertaken was the clearing of the land which was covered with fern and tutu, and this being accomplished, cropping was commenced. Sheep and cattle were then introduced and much of the land was used for grazing purposes, the wool being carted to Patea by dray, and thence shipped to Wanganui and Wellington for sale. Miss Ginger remarked that the price received for the wool was very little, being something under one shilling per pound, and after all the expenses were paid there was not much left for the grower.

The Ginger brothers still retained their land at Kakaramea, and in addition to attending to their property at Manutahi they also worked on the land from which they had been driven by Titokowaru. Their property was situated at the top of the Manutahi Gorge near where the factory now stands.

Stores were obtained from Patea and Wanganui, and it not infrequently happened that a vessel could not cross the bar at the river-mouth, and in that case the settlers had to go short of food until it could. The route to Patea followed much the same as the main road does to-day, the difference in 1869 and 1870 being that it was only a mud track. Vehicles as a means of transport were comparatively rare, and goods or passengers were taken to and from Patea on horseback. In later years the road was metalled with stone obtained from the beach near the mouth of the Manawapou River, while some metal was also obtained from Mt. Egmont, but this was of inferior quality. The first houses were erected with pit-sawn timber, and much of this had to be carted for some distance owing to the absence of suitable timber on the flat land near the site of the settlement. In other places timber for building purposes was brought from Pelorus Sound in scows and schooners, the first homestead of Mr. Pearce at Kakaramea being erected of this particular class of timber. The timber was usually hauled from Patea through the scrub on sledges.

It is of interest to recall the items on the family menu in the early days of Manutahi, and when compared with the present day it will be realised to some extent that the pioneers find much to wonder at. The chief items of food were mutton, potatoes and flour, the latter being used in a multitude of cases. At rare intervals beef would be available, but in most cases this was "wild." Miss Ginger recalled one instance of how her brothers chased one wild cow from Manutahi to Patea before killing it, the animal being despatched at the back of the Patea Courthouse. These wild cattle were the offspring of the domestic animals that had been chased from the farms in the earlier days by the Maoris. For many months the animals had been running wild in the high country, and they formed the centre of many a day's sport for the young men of the district.

Flour could be bought for £1 per 100lbs., while sugar was 8d per lb., and butter 6d per lb., there being not much of a market for the latter, however, at that price. The womenfolk made their own cheese and butter, as well as their vinegar, bread and treacle, the latter being used as a substitute for jam which was then almost unknown. They also had to make their own yeast. A very popular dish in the early days was "thunder and lightning," this being made from clotted cream and treacle, and described as delicious by those who have tasted it. Every farmer grew his own vegetables and potatoes, these articles not being for sale in the shops. Clothing was purchased in Patea or in Wanganui as the occasion arose.

In common with most districts in the early days of the colony, dancing formed the main item of amusement for the settlers, and dances in the Manutahi Hall proved the centre of attraction for people from as far away as Manaia. Features of these dances were the suppers, soup forming the basis of the menu. Dancing usually continued until daylight, the music being supplied by Hugh McCarty, who played a concertina.

It was at first thought that Manutahi would be a railway terminus, and perhaps some of the early settlers had visions of the locality being a flourishing centre in later years, but all this was changed with the laying of the railway line at some considerable distance from where the first settlement was located. Manutahi was the junction of the railway from the south until the

line was completed to Hawera in 1885, passengers being conveyed to and from the latter town by coach, but although the present township of Manutahi had been a busy centre while this work was in progress, it dropped into more or less obscurity with the completion of the railway.

Some years after the close of the Maori war Kimble Bent was a not infrequent visitor to Manutahi, and he was well known to some of the early settlers. Perhaps the district had a fascination for him. Who knows? It was on the banks of the Manawapou River, just below the present bridge that the camp from which he deserted was situated, while in after years he travelled through the district with Titokowaru when the latter was carrying out his raids. It may have been that these early associations proved a magnet to draw him back to the locality which was so full of memories for him.

## Chapter VIII.

### The Story of Waitotara

**B**Y no means the least colourful story of the settlement of the Patea County is the story of the settlement of Waitotara, or Kaipo, as it was first known. The settlement grew up as the half-way house between Wanganui and Patea, and was probably as advanced 60 years ago as it is to-day, but in spite of that the township is rich in the history of the pakeha settlement, and alive with the tradition of the Maori people. From the township to-day it is possible to see the actual site of the Peach Grove massacre, and one of the two redoubts constructed in that locality, the second one being near the railway station.

Among those associated with the settlement of Waitotara were William Hurley, Alex Strachan, and the Rev. Dierck. The Rev. Dierck was a member of the Lutheran Church, who was sent from Germany to establish a Maori mission. The missions were established at Nelson (Ranzau) and at Halcombe in the early '70's, the reasons being in all probability in connection with Bismarck's scheme of colonisation following the Franco-Prussian war, for it was after this war had closed that there was a migration of Germans to New Zealand. Some of these people, as mentioned elsewhere in this book, came to the Patea district and became engaged in roadmaking and farm work. Others settled in and round the Inglewood district.

The Rev. Dierck, in his scheme to establish a mission station at the Waitotara settlement, first became friendly with four Maori boys with the object of learning the language. Having erected a house he took these boys into his home, and, probably with their assistance, set about building the first church. His next plan was to open a school, and he quickly had 30 or 40 boys as pupils, both pakeha and Maori, who received a liberal teaching in the three R's as well as a good grounding in religion. Some of these boys in after life became leaders in the church, not only in New Zealand, but also in America.

Even before the Rev. Dierck had finished building his house the mission station became the centre of attraction for Maoris from over a wide area; among these

visitors being Kereopa and Te Whitipou, leader of the friendly natives during the war. These two natives used to attend church service fairly regularly, although Kereopa's motive was not considered to be very sincere. Te Whitipou, however, was a good friend to the German minister, and in fact to all the pakeha people settled in the district.

A curious incident occurred in connection with the land on which the mission station was erected. The land was given to the Rev. Dierck by a Maori belonging to a tribe near Opunake, and it was accepted in all good faith. However, it was later discovered that this particular Maori had no land to give, although the complications which naturally ensued were soon overcome.

The Rev. Dierck was faced with a great many difficulties in his early campaign, not the least among these being the trouble he had to keep the Maoris away from intoxicating liquor, hotels being so close to the station. He found, however, that he was able to help considerably in other directions, particularly in medicine, and both Maori and pakeha used to look to him to cure their physical as well as their temporal ills. He found a ready assistance in his early labours from the Rev. Thomas Hammond, a well-known pioneer Methodist minister of the same period.

After serving the needs of the district for a great many years, the church erected by the Rev. Dierck was dismantled and some portions of it taken to Wanganui. A branch of the missions was also established in Maxwell, but this was abandoned with the Waitotara station in after years.

Mrs. Dierck, relict of the German missionary, who now lives in retirement in Waitotara with her daughter, told the author that this mission station was to-day considered of considerable importance by the headquarters of the movement which were now domiciled in America, but unfortunately, many of the old records cannot be traced.

William Hurley, one of the other pioneers of the Waitotara district, was one of the first pakehas to settle in the present township, and it is of interest to recall that his son is now engaged in the carrying business started by the father over 60 years ago. William Hurley was first engaged to transport food and stores from Wanganui to Waitotara when the troops were stationed there,

and he later carried on when the railway was constructed, by transporting goods from the railway station to the township.

One incident which occurred during the course of a journey from Wanganui with stores is worthy of recall, giving as it does an example of the ingenuity of the pioneers in escaping from a serious predicament. While resting near Nukumaru, Mr. Hurley was surprised by a Maori marauding party, and being at the time away from his gun he had to think quickly. The only help he could obtain at the time was from one of his bullocks, and he seized that animal by the tail and called upon it to show some speed. This the bullock did and it made off pulling its owner behind it. The Maori, with an axe in his hand, was in close pursuit for a time, but he finally had to give up the unequal struggle, and Hurley escaped with his life.

Another incident occurred near the same locality which is worthy of mention, although it does not concern William Hurley. Colonel Whitmore was being pursued by the Hauhaus, and when near Nukumaru one of his troops was wounded, which necessitated the use of a stretcher. The party were making as fast time as possible, but the Maoris began to gain steadily until they got too close for comfort. This called for stringent measures on the part of Colonel Whitmore and his men, and the man on the stretcher, realising this, got off, and ran for his life, reaching a place of safety long before any of his comrades.

William Hurley, when the war clouds passed over and peace was once more over the land, started in business as a baker, this being conducted in conjunction with his carrying business. On one occasion he was visited by the notorious Kereopa, who with another native demanded bread in the middle of the night, this incident being described elsewhere.

Another incident with which Mr Hurley was familiar was in connection with the reward offered for the capture of Titokowaru. Shortly after the Peach Grove massacre a reward of £500 was offered for the head of Titokowaru, and one Irish trooper, anxious to earn it, sought assiduously for the one-eyed chief. He never found him, but his ingenuity found a way by which he thought he could earn the reward. He sought a Maori whose face was tattooed and quickly despatched him,

subsequently removing his head. This Maori, however, had two eyes, but the trooper, not to be overdone by such a mere detail, pushed one of the eyes out with a stick and made off to headquarters with his prize to claim the reward. When he got there he was told everything was all right except for the fact that he had poked out the wrong eye!

Until the road was constructed to Patea and further northwards, the settlement of Waitotara grew steadily, but when that was completed, together with the railway, any great progress was doomed to failure, and to-day it stands basking in the reflected glory of its former greatness. When looking at the township to-day it is indeed difficult to realise that at one time some of the most stirring events of the Maori wars took place within a mile or so of the centre of its present business activities.

An incident which occurred during "Titokowaru's war" concerning which there has been considerable interest was the "Peach Grove Massacre," which occurred close to the township. The incident is described by James Cowan in his book "The Adventures of Kimble Bent." Titokowaru and his people were in flight being pursued by Major Kepa and the Government troops. The troops overtook the Hauhaus' rearguard at Te Karaka flat on the descent to the Waitotara River. At Te Karaka Major Kepa, the fighting chief of the Wanganuis, was leading the advance guard of the pursuing force, when he was hotly attacked by the Hauhaus who had planted an ambush in the bush. Kepa was closely pressed. Captain T. Porter, who commanded No. 8 Division of the Armed Constabulary—consisting of Arawa and Ngapuhi Maoris, with a few good European bushmen—was close up when Kepa was fired upon and he promptly extended the supports across the flat. Kepa, after a sharp hand-to-hand fight with the enemy, burst through them and fell back on Captain Porter. The Kaupapas (Government troops) and their white comrades fought the Hauhaus until dark, and had to leave their dead and wounded on the field. Next morning they found the mutilated bodies minus hearts and livers, which the cannibal enemy had cut out and taken away. The Hauhaus had also beheaded one of the slain, a Wanganui soldier named Hori Raukawa.

The grief of the friendly Maoris at this mutilation of their dead was intense, and was given vent to in weeping and furious threats. Kepa was in a terrible rage,

and determined on retaliation in kind. This feeling was intensified a few days later when a strong force of Hauhaus ambuscaded and slaughtered seven out of a party of ten white Constabulary men at the Papatupu peach-grove on the banks of the Waitotara River. The Constabulary detachment was in charge of Sergeant Menzies of No. 2 Division. The men, who belonged to Colonel McDonnell's force at Te Karaka, had obtained leave to forage for peaches in a grove at Papatupu on the opposite bank of the river and crossed the river in a canoe. They were gathering the fruit when a volley was suddenly poured into them by a large body of Hauhaus, who were lying close by waiting for pakeha game. They at once seized their arms and rushed for their canoe, pursued by two or three score of Maoris, led by Big Kereopa. One of the Hauhaus in the ambush was Tutange Waionui, of Patea, and in his account of the fight he said that some of the Constabulary had got into their canoe and would have escaped, but the others held on to it in an attempt to board it, so seven were caught and killed.

The next day Colonel Whitmore sent the Kaupapas across the river in pursuit of the enemy, and Colonel McDonnell's division of Constabulary followed them in support. It was then that Colonel Whitmore agreed to a request made by Kepa and offered rewards for Hauhaus' heads. He said he would give £5 a head for ordinary men and £10 for chiefs killed. This gave a fillip to the bush-whacking chase, into which the Government Maoris entered with ferocious zest.

## Chapter IX.

### Broughton and Collins -- and Others

NOT all the members of the Colonial Forces who lost their lives during the wars with the Maoris were killed in organised battles. There are on record the cases of several who were killed while on solitary expeditions or scouting carrying despatches or doing other things in the course of their duty. Among these individual cases are those of Trooper Charles Broughton and Trooper Collins.

Charles Broughton was interpreter to the forces in the Wanganui district, and he met his death in a singularly treacherous manner. He was sent by the officer commanding the forces in Patea as an emissary to the Hauhaus, who were then encamped on the bank of the Patea River at Otoia. Previously, he had always been more or less welcome in the Maori pas, but on this occasion he was met on arrival with a stony silence. He was taken before the chief, but before he could deliver his message he was tomahawked from behind. His body was thrown into the Patea River, by which means it was returned to the settlement of Carlyle. The settlers recovered the body and Charles Broughton was duly buried with full honours to a brave man. Many years later (1937) his bones were exhumed and removed to the Patea cemetery. It was stated in some quarters that Broughton was carrying money to the Maoris to pay them for land purchased by the Government, while others state that his mission was one in connection with peaceful overtures; whatever it was, the reason is now too far away to be worth while. Sufficient it is to say that with the death of Charles Broughton, New Zealand lost a brave man.

Concerning the death of Trooper Collins there is little to record. He was engaged in carrying despatches from Patea to Wairoa when he was waylaid and killed, the location of his death being on the property owned by William Wilson, at Whenuakura. His horse was first shot from under him, and it was later ascertained that the animal pinned him underneath as it fell, which made killing him an easy task for the native responsible.

Life in the military settlement in the days when the Imperial Forces were stationed at Patea became something of a problem for those in charge, and not the least

among them was the manner in which the men could be kept occupied in their spare time. Boxing and wrestling matches were organised and these provided the necessary diversion as far as the men were concerned. Then, when the "Gundagai" was wrecked on the coast near the mouth of the river, another means of amusement was discovered. A mast was removed from the vessel and carried ashore where it was firmly fixed in the ground. On top of this mast was placed a sovereign (donated by one of the officers), the mast being then well greased. The inference from this description is quite obvious—the man who could climb to the top got the sovereign. It was soon noticed that one man, Harry Autridge, was invariably the winner, and the others began to wonder why. Finally they made an examination, and found that he had filled his jersey and trousers with sand before making the ascent.

The officers found amusement in another direction—horse racing. This was a race from the Patea River to the Waingongoro River and back, a distance of approximately 50 miles. This was an event for officers only, these gentlemen finding both the horses and the riders. Only recently the author was fortunate enough to come across a record of the first of these races, in which there were five competitors. The entries were: Captain Fortesque's "Old Jack," Captain Kendrick's "Creamy," Dyson Holland's "Gammy Legs," Captain Page's "Darkie," and Captain O'Halloran's "Tinker" (rider, Crighton).

The starters were sent off on their long journey by Dr. Walker, surgeon to the troops at Patea. Their instructions were brief; all they had to do was to ford all rivers (an unnecessary instruction) and take the beach road to the Waingongoro and back. Within a mile of the finishing post Captain O'Halloran was leading by half an hour, but at that point "Tinker" dropped dead. The next horse was Captain Fortesque's "Old Jack," and he kept on to win. The second horse was Captain Kendrick's, and then came Dyson Holland. Captain Page pulled up at Kakaramea, his mount being lame.

One of the well-known figures of the early settlement of Patea was the Rev. Father Rowland, who was attached to the 18th Royal Irish Regiment. The regulations laid down prohibited anyone from going more than half a mile outside the settlement, but this did not prevent the good priest from taking his exercise. He used to ride round in a circle within the precincts of

the old township, mounted on a chestnut horse, and he always found time to talk to the boys playing on the sandhills. Father Rowland later sold his horse to Mr. Sergeant, and the animal was familiarly known as "The Priest" for many years.

The regulations restricting persons from going more than half a mile beyond the township were not always observed, and in one instance they were attended with dire penalty, fortunately not as severe as the penalty might have been. Four youths, Harry Jenkins, Jim Connolly, Will Sergeant and Adam Sergeant, decided to make an excursion to Taumaha (near Manutahi), for the purpose of gathering peaches which grew in profusion in that locality. This expedition was made right at the height of the Hauhau war, and was fraught with more than the usual amount of danger. Mounted on horses, they set out for their destination, and ultimately arrived safely at the "orchard," where they climbed a tree and commenced a feast before starting on the return journey. They were each settled in a tree and thoroughly enjoying themselves, when a voice came from nearby "Kai te pakeha!" The boys stood not on the order of their going, but made for their horses as quickly as possible, the two Sergeants arriving in Patea with the tale that Jenkins and Connolly had been captured by the Hauhaus and murdered. An expedition was quickly arranged with the object of reprisal, but before it could start the two missing boys turned up. It was subsequently learned that the voice which hailed the boys in the orchard was owned by Bob Bruce, one of the soldiers from the blockhouse at Manutahi.

Then came the aftermath. All four boys received such a "leathering" from their respective fathers that they remembered it all their lives. They also willingly swore they would never disobey the regulations again.

It is a strange thing, but although peach trees were to be found in many parts of the Patea County, no one seems to know where they came from. Explorers in the early days found small groups of peach trees in most unlikely spots; in many cases where white man had never before set foot. The fruit, too, was worthy of comment, for the trees were invariably laden heavily with peaches similar to those that now fetch a high price on the market. The peach tree is associated with at least one stirring event in the history of the Patea County, this being the Peach Grove massacre which is described elsewhere in this book.