



Captain Charles Heaphy, VC.



Major John Carstairs McNeill, VC.

FOR VALOUR IN THE WAIPĀ

Two men were awarded the Victoria Cross for “conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy” while serving in the Waipā during the Waikato War.

Captain Charles Heaphy of the Auckland Rifle Volunteers, a staff surveyor, was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery during the engagement at Waiari, a scrub-covered old pā site situated above the Mangapiko River, on 11 February 1864.

The engagement started when a bathing party of the 40th Regiment visited a swimming hole on the Mangapiko River on a hot summer's day. When they entered the water they were fired on by a force of Māori hidden in the scrub on the opposite bank. After the bathers were reinforced by a detachment of soldiers running from a nearby camp, which

included Heaphy, the Māori retreated back to Waiari where they made a stand.

In the ensuing engagement two British soldiers were killed trying to rescue a wounded corporal. Heaphy then went forward to dress the corporal's wounds, when Māori fired a volley at him from a distance of just a few feet. Five balls pierced his clothing and cap, wounding him in three places.

After dragging the corporal to safety with the help of another, Heaphy then directed soldiers to where the Māori were and, despite his wounds, continued to attend to the injured for the remainder of the day.

Heaphy's Victoria Cross was the only one awarded to a colonial soldier during the New Zealand Wars.

The following month on 30 March 1864, while the battle at Orakau raged near Kihikihi, Troopers Vosper and Gibson of the Colonial Defence Force were escorting Major John Carstairs McNeill, Aide-de-Camp to Cameron, through

Ōhaupo en route from Te Awamutu to Pukerimu. Just outside Ōhaupo, about where the Ōhaupo School is today, they observed a Māori lying prone on the track in front.

Sensing a trap, McNeill sent Gibson back to Ōhaupo to bring up infantry. McNeill and Vosper then slowly went forward to observe the Māori from the top of the rise, but were immediately fired on by about 50 Māori concealed in bracken fern.

When they attempted to gallop from the scene, Vosper's horse bolted, throwing him to the ground. McNeill at once galloped after the horse, caught it and brought it back under heavy fire. After helping Vosper into the saddle they both galloped to safety.

Vosper later stated, “I owe my life entirely to McNeill's assistance. I could not have caught my horse alone, and in a few minutes would have been killed.” For his gallantry McNeill was awarded the Victoria Cross.



During the Waikato War, General Cameron developed a distaste for fighting the Māori.

THE AFTERMATH OF WAR

From the Māori perspective, Orakau was a terrible defeat. Historians, when looking back, behold the Māori's bravery and stubbornness against the might and far superior numbers of the Imperial and colonial soldiers present. The Māori's scornful defiance was further accentuated by the devotion of the women who remained to share the ordeal with their husbands and brothers.

Generally speaking, the Imperial soldiers regretted having to fight such a courageous and dedicated foe desperately defending their homelands, holding much respect for them. It was the colonial soldier who wanted the enemy vanquished so they could get at the "booty" – the fertile land round Te Awamutu and Rangiaowhia promised to them in the terms of their enlistment.

General Cameron developed a distaste for fighting the Māori, seeing the only benefit was to provide land for the colonial "settler" soldiers. He displayed his distaste at Rangiaowhia, where he ordered the immediate release of Māori captives held in the Catholic church.

There is a lament of the Ngāti Maniapoto for their dead in Taranaki battles of 1860, that they also applied to the battle at Orakau:

"The land is swept and desolate; Mournfully rolls the tide of Puniu; The waters sob as they flow."

James Edward Fitzgerald, one of the founders of the Canterbury settlement, wrote an editorial article in the *Christchurch Press* on 16 April 1864: "No human situation can be conceived more desperate or more hopeless – their lands gone, their race melting away like snow before the sun, and their own turn come at last, with the enemy surrounding them on all sides, and nothing but certain death staring them in the face... They will say it was not a war for safety or for law, or for truth or liberty, but it was a war dictated by avarice and prosecuted by spoliation. It was war to remove a neighbour's landmark, to destroy a race that we might dwell in their tents... But if there be anything in the whole miserable story to excite the admiration of a generous mind, it is this sad spectacle of those grim and tawny figures, gaunt with the watching and weariness, the wounds and nakedness of a long campaign in the bush, staring over their ragged palisades on the hosts of the conquerors from whom escape was impossible and wailing out their last chant of death and defiance 'Ake! Ake! Ake! – for ever! for ever! for ever!'"

The Waikato campaign came to an end with the taking of the two Māori pā at the foot of the Pukekura hills, the lower and stronger being Te Tiki o te Ihingārangi pā. On the morning of 5 April 1864, a British force marched from the Pukerimu camp, south along the east bank of the Waikato River. As they approached the pā in skirmishing order, they soon observed both positions become abandoned and immediately occupied them without casualties. It is believed the Māori only had about 400 men to defend the two positions so they decided to fall back to Porewa pā, near Horahora, at the foot of Maungatautari mountain.

With the Waikato campaign at an end, General Cameron pondered on its success. Throughout the campaign

Cameron, as General commanding the Imperial Army, represented the British attitude to New Zealand's wars and to the rights of the Māori. Governor Grey on the other hand, as head of the Colonial Government represented, through the pressure of his Ministers, the interests of the settlers and their impatience to get possession of Māori land.

Through witnessing Māori chivalry, Cameron learned to admire the Māori, and incidents during the campaign only served to strengthen his distaste for the war in which he believed the Colonial Government was using the Imperial Army merely to obtain land for settlers.

He strongly believed that the settler soldiers, the Waikato Militia for example, were seldom willing to fight. He once wrote to Grey that the settler soldiers were "expecting to have nothing to do but enrich themselves by the presence of the [Imperial] troops without any trouble or inconvenience to themselves".

Later, after the first battle at Kākāramea in the Wanganui district in 1865, Cameron asked a wounded Māori, "Why did you resist our advance? Could you not see we were an overwhelming force?"

The Māori's reply was, "What would you have us do? This is our village; these are our plantations. Men are not fit to live if they are not brave enough to defend their own homes."

Cameron later wrote, "I shall be required to carry on this miserable war for the profit and gratification of the Colony."

A total of 1,217,437 acres was confiscated from Māori in the Waikato. Of this, 224,080 acres was designated native reserves (obviously non-arable land), and 50,000 acres was returned to tribes. The rest stayed in the Colonial Government's control. About 150,000 acres were used for military settlements. The largest block of 446,978 acres was put up for sale. The Government's intention was to sell the land to cover the cost of the campaign but revenue fell well short of their target. Later, a further 214,000 acres were confiscated at Tauranga.



THE GREAT WARRIOR CHIEF – REWI MANIAPOTO

Manga, later known as Rewi Maniapoto, was born in the Waipā about 1810. His father was Te Ngohi, also known as Kāwhia, of Ngāti Maniapoto, and his mother was Te Kore, also of Ngāti Maniapoto.

Rewi belonged to Ngāti Paretekawa, a hapū of Ngāti Maniapoto. He was educated at Wesleyan mission station, Te Kopua. In 1831 Te Ngohi was a member of Potatau Te Wherowhero's war party which captured Pukerangiora in Taranaki from Te Ati Awa. Rewi accompanied his father on this expedition.

Rewi became well known by both Māori and Pākehā for his oratory, political debate and leadership, knowledge of traditional customs and practices, and military skills. His moko was that of a rangatira.

In the 1850s Rewi began to emerge as a prominent supporter of the King movement. He raised the King's flag at Ngāruawahia in 1858 when Te Wherowhero was installed as king. With permission from the Māori king,

Rewi led a Ngāti Maniapoto war party to Taranaki in 1860 in support of Te Rangitake.

Rewi returned from Taranaki convinced that the Government intended to undermine Māori authority (te tino rangatiratanga) over their nationality and their land, and mobilised support for his point of view amongst Ngāti Maniapoto and Waikato Māori.

In March 1863 he organised a party which sacked John Gorst's office at Ōtāwhao, and ousted the Government magistrate from the Waikato. Gorst's expulsion marked Rewi's control over King movement politics and showed he was determined to act while others procrastinated.

When General Cameron's forces invaded the Waikato, Rewi and Ngāti Maniapoto responded. Although he advised against making a stand at Orakau, he was still determined to lead his people. When Cameron called on the defenders to surrender, Rewi is said to have replied: "Ka whawhai tonu matou, Ake! Ake! Ake!" – "We will fight on for ever and ever!" Although he may not have spoken these exact words at Orakau, his attitude to the British invasion was well known.

Before the war came to the heart of the Waikato, Rewi was recorded as saying to a gathering at Ngāruawahia, "Kaore ahau e whakaae kia mutu te whawhai, ko taku tohe ano tenei ake! ake! tonu atu!" – "I will not agree that the fighting shall cease, I will maintain this for ever and ever."

During the Waikato campaign, supporting Māori had enormous respect for Rewi's military prowess. He advocated defensive preparations, and showed a deeper understanding of British military strategy than any other Māori leader. In combat he was in undisputed command and welded

the defenders of Orakau into a fighting team, which denied the British the quick victory they sought. When the sun went down on Orakau, about 160 Māori lay dead on the battlefield and on their line of flight to the Puniu River.

There is a lament of Ngāti Maniapoto for their dead in Taranaki that also applies to Orakau: "The land is swept and desolate, Mournfully rolls the tide of Puniu, The waters sob as they flow."

After the Waikato War, Rewi realised that Māori mana was not to be gained or restored solely through military means. Being a political realist, he began to seek the next best alternative, a negotiated peace settlement which would ensure the inalienable retention of Māori lands in Māori hands. In November 1869 he met Donald McLean, the Native Minister, at Pahiko, near Te Kuiti, to discuss the issues. It was at this meeting that Rewi declared that he would cease fighting.

Over the following decades Rewi was involved in Māori politics, the issue of land sales and the King's movement. He and Te Wahanui permitted the main trunk railway to enter the King Country. In later life his influence declined – Te Wahanui became increasingly recognised as the spokesman for Ngāti Maniapoto. The Government built Rewi a house on a one-acre section at Kihikihi in 1881, in return for his giving up claims to a Crown grant, and waiving his pension.

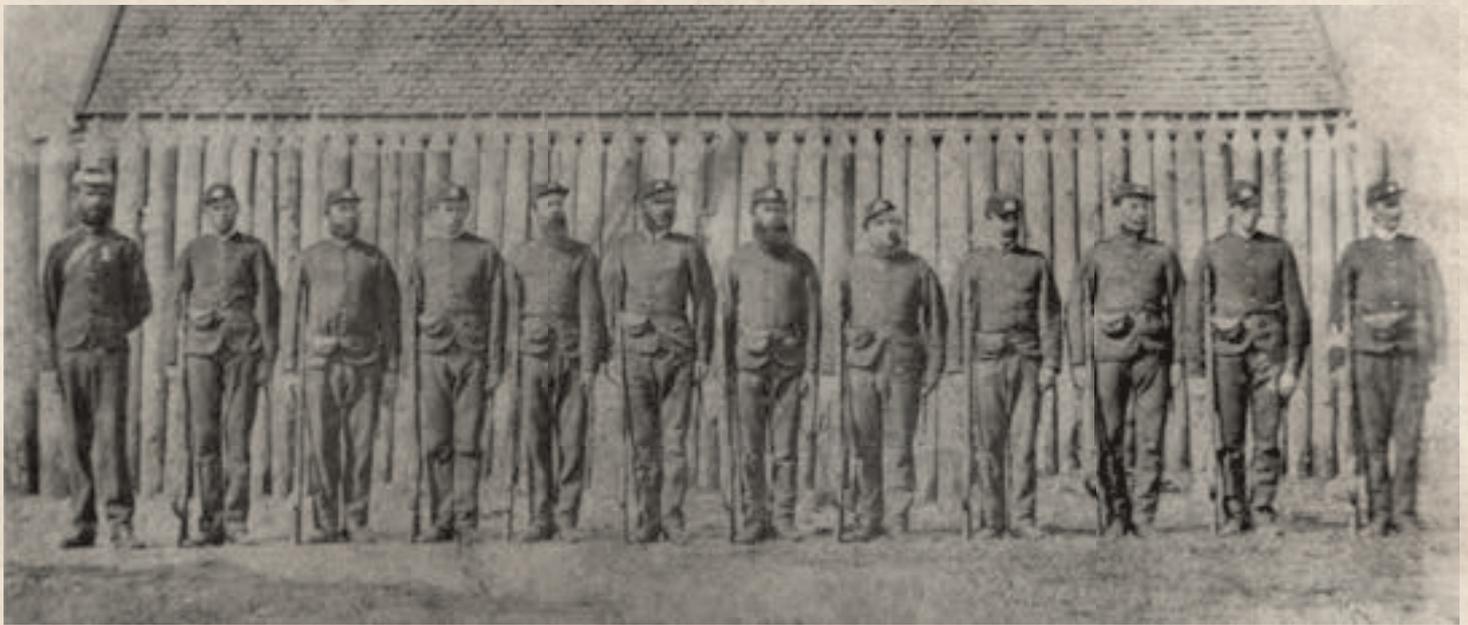
James Cowan, who had met Rewi, wrote, "Rewi Maniapoto, as I remember him, was a man of rather small, compact build, quick-moving, keen-eyed, an active man even in his old age."

A monument honouring Rewi (donated by his former adversary, Sir George Grey) was constructed on the corner of Lyon and Whitmore Streets, Kihikihi, under the watchful eye of Rewi who lived nearby, and was unveiled in 24 April 1894. Rewi died two months later on 21 June. A great tangi was held, and on 29 June he was buried at the foot of his memorial.

Rewi Manga Maniapoto was inducted into the Te Awamutu Walk of Fame in 2005.



Left: The unveiling of the monument to Rewi Maniapoto, 24 April 1894.



Armed Constabulary constables outside the Star Redoubt in Cambridge. Sergeant Charles Chitty is at left.

FRONTIER TOWNS

On 3 March 1864, the riverboat *Koheroa* undertook an exploratory trip up the Horotiu (Waikato) River, passing Kirikiriroa (Hamilton) and an advanced military camp on the west bank at Pukerimu, about opposite where St Peter's School is today, finally halting near the present site of Cambridge. From an advantage point on the river bank, soldiers sighted the Ngāti Hau positions on the Pukekura hills.

Some weeks later, after the final stages of the Waikato campaign, General Cameron decided to establish a frontier town in the area. Pukekura was originally considered as the site before the present site of Cambridge was selected. Cameron had already established his field headquarters at Te Awamutu but needed to protect his eastern flank against Māori invasion from the Bay of Plenty, Rotorua, and Thames. Redoubts in the Cambridge area gave him that protection. Initially, an outpost redoubt was built on the Te Tiki o te Ihingārangi pā site on the eastern end of the Pukekura hills, known as the "Crow's Nest," overlooking the present-day Karāpiro dam. At the time, Cameron

had at his disposal about 3,000 regular troops and 2,000 Waikato Militiamen. Later, further redoubts and stockades were built at Orakau, Pirongia and other strategic positions along the new confiscation line (aukati).

The present Cambridge site was chosen because rapids began to appear in the river further to the south making it unnavigable by larger craft, and the junction of the Waikato River and Karāpiro Stream provided a wide expanse of water suitable for turning riverboats around. Other reasons for selection were sufficient nearby land suitable for farming, and being the closest point to the confiscation line that was accessible by river transport. Camp Cambridge, under the command of Colonel William Lyon of the 3rd Waikato Militia, was established on the terraces above the river, and with the Star Redoubt built on land today enclosed by Fort, Duke and Victoria Streets, overlooking the river and facing the Pukekura hills and Maungatautari.

The name Cambridge came from the Duke of Cambridge, Commander in Chief of the British Army in 1864. At the time there were three flour mills operating in the area – two near the Waikato River at Maungatautari and one at Maungakawa, situated on the Matamata side of the Te Miro hills, on the upper reaches of the Piako River. Flour from the Maungatautari mills was transported downstream on the Waikato River by canoe.

Confiscated lands in the Waipa district were allocated to the soldier-settlers – the 2nd Waikato Militia around Te Awamutu, including Alexandra (Pirongia) and Kihikihi, and the 3rd Waikato Militia around Cambridge – with privates receiving a 50-acre farm lot as well as a town acre, with officers receiving more.

The soldier-settlers were provided timber for construction. Once in possession of their land, they received rations for a further 12 months, but their pay ceased. They were also promised a public works programme for continued income, but the Government reneged on the deal.

Life for the pioneers was tough. Home often was a small raupō or wooden hut with an earth floor, or sometimes just a tent. Much of the farm land was undesirable with swamp and peat, some of it inaccessible. Further, the small 50-acre farms were proving to be not economically viable. Threatened with a meagre existence and starvation, the soldier-settlers petitioned the Government for help, which failed to respond satisfactorily.

Most of the Imperial troops stationed in Te Awamutu left in 1865, and by the end of the following year only a few remained. Their departure brought about the collapse of the Te Awamutu market for meat, vegetables and different grain so, like Cambridge, local farmers looked to distant Auckland to sell their produce. But even then, the river freight charges proved prohibitive.

Feeling insecure against possible Kingite attack, lacking in produce markets, more often than not in debt, bereft of government help and sometimes unable even to reach their allotted land, the soldier-settlers gave up their struggle and departed in droves, selling their land cheaply. Some simply abandoned their land. By 1867 Waipā's population fell drastically.

Of the 2,056 military settlers granted land in the Waipā, 71.8 per cent had sold their farm lots by 1870, increasing to 89.6 per cent by 1880. Town section sales had reached 36 per cent by 1870, increasing to 71.8 per cent by 1880. The reason for the lower percentage of sales in the towns is simple: few people wished to buy town lots in abandoned Te Awamutu, Cambridge, Kihikihi and Alexandra!

The 'carpetbaggers'

Not all who bought the cheap and often abandoned Waipā land in the late 1860s intended to become farmers. It is hardly surprising that Auckland speculators, some of them the same businessmen who had promoted the land wars to their own advantage, began to buy Waipā land in ever-increasing acreages.

These speculators were the so-called "carpetbaggers" – lawyers, land agents,

bankers and politicians with an eye to profit. A couple of names to come to the fore were Thomas Russell, the founding father of the Bank of New Zealand, and the Hon. James Williamson, who owned over 15,000 acres of Waipā land. Major William Jackson, former commander of the Forest Rangers and member of the House of Representatives, acted as an agent for Russell in the Waipā.

Another venture capitalist was the Auckland land agent, William Aitken, who acquired nearly 15,000 acres of Waipā land before the mid-1880s. His largest estate was in Tuhikaramea where he purchased 14,152 acres, mainly swamp land. He owned an additional 660 rural acres in the Mangapiko district, 29 town sections in Alexandra East, 15 in Alexandra West, 12 in Ngāroto, 10 in Cambridge and 8 elsewhere in Waipā.

The 50-acre farm lots were grouped together to make them economically viable. In the 1878 county returns, of the 367 holdings within the district, nine were between 1,000 to 5,000 acres, four between 5,000 and 10,000 acres, and two between 10,000 and 20,000 acres.

Williamson and Aitken took the lion's share of the cheap Waipā land. The defeated soldier-settlers sold it for a song on their way to the goldfields, or returning to Australia or Britain.

But the era of the carpetbaggers is but an interlude in the story of Waipā. They were merely the buyers and sellers of titles and mortgages, who came and went with a quick profit.

For those few hundred pioneering farmers who stuck it out around Te Awamutu and Cambridge, they came to be known as the founding names of the communities, the true creators of the Waipa district.

The Armed Constabulary arrive

In October 1867, the Armed Constabulary was formed, effectively replacing the Waikato Militia and the smaller Forest Rangers unit in the Waipā. During the troubled times over the

following decade, the frontier redoubts were manned by the blue-uniformed constables. The Government was quick to utilise this conveniently cheap force, by adding to their normal peace-keeping role: police and patrol duties, road building, bridge-building and repairing, carting timber and erecting telegraph lines. First, a road between Cambridge and Hamilton was completed, then a party of Cambridge constables helped construct the Cambridge-Taupo road. As the road neared the confiscation line a warning was issued by a group of Kingites that work was to cease. In response the work party armed itself and the road proceeded without further interruption.

Also, a road was built across the Moanatuatua swamp, connecting Te Awamutu with Cambridge. Their efforts didn't go unnoticed. The *Waikato Times* reported, "These men are worth double their number of infantry. They are the bone and sinew and pluck of the district."

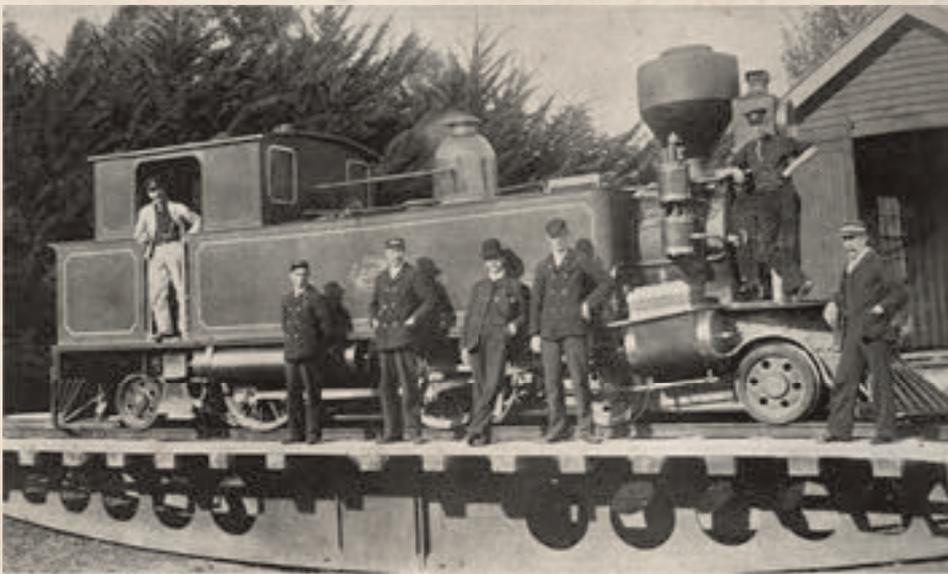
A rail connection with Cambridge

In October 1884 a railway link finally reached Cambridge. There was great excitement for the locals. To celebrate, a special train was run from Cambridge to Hamilton leaving at 9.30am on 6 October. About 100 people made the one-hour, ten-minute journey to Hamilton where a holiday was observed. The train then continued through to Huntly, coming back in the early afternoon. At Hamilton a large crowd joined the train for a holiday afternoon at Cambridge, and other people joined at stations along the line.

Cambridge's Lake Street railway crossing was decorated with an arch inscribed, "Success to the Cambridge Railway." The passengers were greeted with cheers from a number of people assembled at the entrance to the station and local schoolchildren were waiting on the platform. They were then treated to a train ride to Matangi, where they ate and drank their fill of milk and buns before returning home.



Major William Jackson, former commander of the Forest Rangers and MP, acted as an agent for Thomas Russell in the Waipā.



Above: Cambridge railway workers, 1907.

Lines of bunting stretched across Duke Street, and the National Hotel was decorated with Chinese lanterns which were lit in the evening. Entertainment included boating on Te Koutu Lake, a cricket match, a fireworks display and a grand ball that carried on into the early hours of the morning.

After decades of heavy rail patronage, motor vehicles eventually took over the route between Cambridge and Hamilton. The last time-tabled passenger train left Cambridge for Hamilton, without ceremony, in September 1946.

In 1999 the Hautapu dairy factory became the major user of the rail link, resulting in the Hautapu-Cambridge section being ripped up.

CHRISTMAS OF 1865

After the Waikato Militia soldier-settlers had been in the Waipā for just one year, one can imagine that Christmas celebrations would be rudimentary and attended mostly by men. Many of the militia were struck off pay a few months before Christmas and given possession of their land allotments, but with no further employment as earlier promised by the Government. So the struck-off men were in a lethargic mood over the festive season.

Alexandra

The *Southern Cross* reported that in Alexandra (Pirongia) the “festivities passed off with great success. The spirited landlord of the Alexandra Hotel provided a public dinner, which was served in first-class style to all comers. Our respected storekeepers Scheiff and Co. giving a cask of beer for the occasion.”

Christmas was followed by a sports day on Boxing Day, organised by the hotel. “The weather on Christmas Day was anything but inviting; heavy clouds and frequent showers continuing up until the afternoon. There was a muster of about 80 to partake of the good cheer provided. On Boxing Day the weather was more propitious, and the sports came off well.”

On New Year’s Day the militia held their first parade day under the new Militia Act. The attendance was very good, numbering about 600.

Cambridge

There was an element of apathy in Cambridge, with some of the militia maintaining Government employment while their mates were struck off pay. According to the *Southern Cross*, “Merry old Christmas, with his dear time-honoured observances and associations, was observed here with all due respect.

On the morning of that venerated day, the sergeants of the regiment who are now on pay gave a dinner in the Star Redoubt, to which were invited a great number of friends, principally brother sergeants who have been struck off pay and located on their land, and a most harmonious evening was spent.”

The tables were laden with delicious dishes, and after the meal there were the usual long-winded toasts and speeches, following by drinking and hearty all-male singing.

“Catching a greasy pig”

To round off Christmas festivities at Cambridge, the townsfolk held a sports day and picnic at Pukerimu Camp on New Year’s Day. Both Europeans and Māori attended and competed. There was rifle shooting, foot racing, “vaulting the pole,” a quoit match, hop, step and jump, “hunting the bell,” “riding the pole,” sack race, trousers race, horse race, and a women’s race.

The two stand-out events were “climbing a greasy pole”, won by Private Measor of the 1st Waikatos, and “catching a greasy pig,” won by Private Broadbent of the 3rd Waikatos, who, it is assumed, was allowed to keep the pig!

The *Southern Cross* reported that, although it was mostly men of the militia that attended, “There was also a sprinkling of the fair sex from Cambridge, together with the leading gentry from that settlement.” The women’s race, which was only competed for by Māori, proved a hit. “Great fun prevailed during the Māori female race, who displayed great speed and rare action, to the amusement of the assemblage.”

“The horse race was also very good, eight competing for the prizes... the horse which came in third was ridden by a youthful Scion [descendant] of the noble and distinguished family of the O’Tooles, of County Clare, Ireland.” There was also a trotting race which was won by Captain Hamlin’s horse, of the 3rd Waikato Regiment.



Non-commissioned officers of the 40th and 65th Regiments celebrate in Te Awamutu.

Kihikihi

The same apathetic mood existed in Kihikihi. The *Southern Cross* recounted, “Quite a furore has been occasioned amongst the men who were struck off pay several months ago... meetings are taking place in every one of the Waikato settlements for the purpose of taking steps to obtain the money which has hitherto been withheld from them through the crafty and underhand workings of the notorious Weld Government.”

Fortunately, some men gained temporary employment “gathering in the hay, and the animated appearance of the different fields reminds one of the harvest homes in the mother country. The weather has proved delightful, and there is every appearance of its continuance... The Christmas holidays were passed in a very quiet and harmonious manner; no sports of any description having taken place.”

Te Awamutu

The situation seemed worse in Te Awamutu. According to the *Southern Cross*, “Majors Hill and Jackson have had a great number of the militia employed [making hay], and have been very fortunate in having remarkably fine weather whilst so engaged. It is to be regretted that work has not been more plentiful; the men of the Waikato Militia are willing to work, and would be only too glad to have a chance of honestly earning money to supply their families with some degree of comfort, for since they have been struck off pay very many have found it hard to make ends meet.”

The paper gave no mention of how the settler-soldiers in Te Awamutu fared through Christmas.

FRONTIER MURDERS

Alarms and war-rumours were frequent in the Waipā during the early 1870s. The Kingites strictly enforced the aukati – forbidding Pākehā intrusion on the Māori side of the frontier (confiscation

line). But while white settlers on friendly terms with the Māori frequently crossed the Puniu in search of strayed stock, and to trade with the Māori for pigs and other produce, Government officials and land-seekers were adamantly discouraged.

On 28 November 1870, Richard Todd, a Government surveyor, was shot dead on the slopes of Mount Pirongia. At the time Todd and his surveying partner, Edward Frissell, were contracted to survey and cut boundary lines around 350 acres awarded to Hone Te One and Ngāti Hikairo by the Native Land Court. The land was inside but adjacent to the confiscation line.

According to other members of his survey party, Todd was warned to discontinue the survey by Kingites, but laughed off the threat stating that it was all nonsense. It was later suggested that the Kingitanga objection to the survey stemmed from the fact that the land was to be given to Hone Te One who had been ejected by the Kingitanga from the Aotea area of the King Country in 1867. Another contemporary explanation was that whilst surveying, Todd had crossed the confiscation line into Kingite territory.

However, on the fateful day, Todd and his workers were having breakfast near their tent when three armed Māori appeared from the bush firing several shots. Todd was killed instantly and a half-caste chainman named Nopera (Noble) was seriously wounded in an arm and thigh. The other members of the survey party scattered. Todd's theodolite and a leather bag containing papers were taken. Frissell's survey party, four miles away, remained unharmed.

The murder caused some alarm in Alexandra and elsewhere in the Waipā, as settlers feared an uprising by the Kingites, referred to at the time as Hauhau. Todd's body was recovered and brought into Alexandra. Dr Waddington, the district coroner, conducted an inquest which returned a verdict of "Wilful murder against [by] some natives unknown."

Todd was buried at Hamilton with military honours, having been an ensign in the Waikato Militia. Nopera recovered from his wounds in the Alexandra hospital.

Some decades later, James Cowan, who had interviewed people living in the Kāwhia region at the time of the murder, named Nukuwhenua as Todd's murderer. Apparently, the shooting party withdrew to the safety of densely-forested Hauturu south of Kāwhia where, protected by the refusal of the Kingitanga to cooperate with the Government until their confiscated lands were returned, he went free for the rest of his life.

A second frontier murder took place on 25 April 1873 near Roto-o-rangi, midway between Orakau and Cambridge. A farm labourer named Timothy Sullivan, employed by E.B. Walker of Cambridge, was clearing scrub near the confiscation line with two others, David Jones and Charles Rogers, when he was run down by a party of four Māori: Mohi Purukutu, Hori Te Tumu, Whina, and Herewini Ngamuku, and shot dead by Purukutu. Sullivan's final words to his comrades, when he became too exhausted to continue, were "Goodbye. Take care of yourselves." Jones and Rogers managed to escape. The attackers then decapitated Sullivan, cut out his heart and slashed open his torso.

Apparently, some of Walker's land was on the Māori side of the frontier, having been leased from Māori of the Ngāti-Raukawa tribe. Mohi Purukutu, one of the Māori owners, who had been absent when the leasing arrangement was made, objected to Walker's occupation of the land.

The attackers carried Sullivan's head to Wharepapā, a village three miles south of the Puniu, where it was left. The brutal murder shocked and alarmed Waikato settlers, and indeed, the whole colony. Immediately it was regarded as the inevitable prelude to another war.

On the day of the murder, Major William Clare gathered a few members of the Cambridge Cavalry Volunteers

and set out immediately to the scene of the murder, recovering Sullivan's remains. Mounted orderlies were sent in all directions to rally other members and, within three hours of the alarm being given, Captain James Runciman had another two detachments of cavalry ready.

The Government made immediate arrangements for the better defence of the south Waikato frontier by reinforcing the Armed Constabulary, strengthening the chain of border posts between Cambridge and the Puniu River, having blockhouses erected at Roto-o-rangi and Paekuku, and building a redoubt at the Kihikihi ford on the Puniu River.

The Cambridge and Te Awamutu Cavalry Volunteers became valuable deterrents to would-be warring Māori. Divided into small detachments, the cavalry patrolled the country immediately north of the confiscation line by night and day. A special track had recently been formed close to the section of confiscation line connecting Orakau to Te Tiki o Te Ihingārangi, on the Pukekura hills close to the Waikato River. It circled most of the great Moanatuatua swamp keeping to low hills. Patrols in each direction kept surveillance while the threat of attack was imminent.

The cavalry also kept a watch on river fords and tracks that crossed the confiscation line. The continual presence of troopers moving about the country both night and day, and the numerous Armed Constabulary posts proved a deterrent to any Hauhau plotting a foray or raid.

Sullivan was buried in the Hautapu Cemetery, although his grave cannot be located today. A short-bladed penknife attributed to the ownership of Sullivan is held in the Cambridge Museum collection. Purukutu was never brought before a European court. When he died in 1894 at Maungatautari it was said that he always had a great dread of the Pākehā and would never show himself when Europeans visited the settlement.



Left: A group of Cambridge Cavalry Volunteers. Back (l-r): Robert Fisher, Robert Kirkwood, George Hally, Jared Allwill. Front (l-r): James P Campbell, Sergeant-Major Fraser (sergeant-instructor, member of the Armed Constabulary), William Howie.

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FARMERS' CAVALRY

After hostilities ceased in the Waikato War, the New Zealand Government quickly formed a confiscation line, or aukati, which became recognised as the frontier line. It ran around the Waikato basin and to the south of Alexandra, Te Awamutu, Kihikihi and Cambridge. For some distance, the line followed the Puniu River from just south of Kihikihi to its junction with the Waipā River. This portion was considered the most threatening to settlers as it neighboured the Māori-populated King Country.

With the disbandment of the Waikato Militia, a colonial armed force was needed to protect the new frontier settlements. For this purpose the Armed Constabulary was formed on 1 November 1867, the same day the militia were disbanded. Armed Constabulary posts were established at Cambridge, Pukekura, Roto-orangi, Paekuku, Orakau, Kihikihi, Te Awamutu, Alexandra and Harapepe.

The first contingent of Armed Constabulary in Cambridge consisted of two officers, six non-commissioned officers, and 36 foot and mounted constables. As there was no campaigning for them in the Waipā at the time, they became actively involved in peacetime duties including the construction of roads, telegraph lines, bridges and fences. The road across Moanatuatua swamp linking Cambridge with Te Awamutu was constructed by constables.

Local fears of Māori invasion escalated when Te Kooti campaigned throughout the central North Island. The scattered farms along the frontier were vulnerable to attack, compelling women and children to be gathered in local settlements and redoubts for protection. Then word came that Te Kooti was at Tapapa between Tirau and Rotorua, and that Cambridge could easily be his

next target. It wasn't until the Armed Constabulary mounted an expedition resulting in an engagement against Te Kooti at Tapapa in January 1870, that fears of attack on Cambridge were allayed.

Realising the vulnerability of the outer farms to attack and the need for an effective and mobile armed unit, the Cambridge Cavalry Volunteers, made up mostly of settler farmers, was formed in late 1870, commanded by Captain James Runciman. Other officers were Lieutenants Richard Parker and John Fisher. Non-commissioned officers were Troop Sergeant-Major Robert Kirkwood, Sergeants George Hally and William Clare, and Corporals James Campbell, Robert Fisher and Jared Allwill.

The Te Awamutu Cavalry Volunteers, which mustered in Kihikihi, was formed early in 1871. Major William Jackson, former Commanding Officer of the Forest Rangers, was in command. His lieutenants were Andrew Kay and William A Cowan.

The cavalrymen were armed with breech-loading Snider carbines, swords and some revolvers. Their uniform was blue tunic, cord breeches, leggings and forage cap. Each supplied his own horse, saddle and bridle, and fines were inflicted if horses and equipment were not kept up to standard. No horses under 14.3 hands were allowed in the ranks. Each unit had its own set of "colours" with mottos of "Our hearths and homes" for Cambridge

and "Defence and not Defiance" for Te Awamutu. The two units were required to drill twice yearly for a period of six days on each occasion.

After the murder of Timothy Sullivan in April 1873, the cavalry patrolled the country immediately north of the aukati by night and day. A special track had recently been formed close to the line between Orakau and Te Tiki o Te Ihingārangi at Karāpiro, circling most of the great Moanatuatua swamp keeping to low hills. The continual presence of troopers moving about the country proved a deterrent to any Hauhau raiding parties.

One of the night-patrol routes passed Pukerimu, where Margaret Fisher, sister of Robert, John and James, would leave a lighted lamp in the window of her Pukerimu home signalling night patrols that there was a cup of tea and fresh scones awaiting them.

The combined Cambridge and Te Awamutu cavalry was reviewed at Cambridge in November 1875 on William Reynolds' farm on the Hamilton side of Cambridge. The *Waikato Times* reported, "Up to 300 members of the public attended, including a large proportion of ladies on horseback and in carriages."

After the combined force deployed past dignitaries, they were put through sword exercises and a succession of charges "performed with precision." After



Right: Members of the Te Awamutu Cavalry Volunteers, 1870s.

the review, many retired to the farm homestead and barn for refreshments and to feed their horses.

Then about mid-afternoon the event shifted to the race paddock for a full programme of horse racing. The four main races were a flat race, trotting race, a race exclusive to cavalry horses and a hurdle race. These races were won by Mr Allwill's Clipper, Mr Taylor's Kate, Mr Taylor's Warwick and Mr Kirkwood's Middy Ashore. A dance was held in Reynolds' barn during the evening.

By 1878 the Cambridge, Te Awamutu and Hamilton cavalry troops collectively became known as the Waikato Cavalry Volunteers. They continued to patrol the frontier until the final assurance of peace for Waikato settlers came on 11 July 1881 when Tawhiao, escorted by up to 600 men, peacefully entered Alexandra. The Armed Constabulary was disbanded in 1885, the same year that saw the end of the occupation of redoubts along the Waikato frontier.



Above: Te Awamutu Cavalry Volunteers' helmet plate. This example is held in the Te Awamutu Museum collection.



Above: Colours of the Cambridge Cavalry Volunteers, on display in the Cambridge Museum.

Right: The dancing continued into the small hours.

THE GREAT WAIPĀ BALL

A Masonic ball was held in the new Alexandra Public Hall on the evening of 10 August 1876. It proved a grand occasion, even with the predicted lack of women attending. A *Waikato Times* special correspondent, a guest on the night, stated, "I feared that the attendance of the fair sex, upon whose presence depends entirely the enjoyment of the evening, would be extremely limited. However, I am glad to say, I was agreeably disappointed."

Forty invitations were distributed, with over 100 guests attending, 40 of them women. Masonic dignitaries hailed from "Ngāruawahia, Cambridge, Te Awamutu, Kihikihi, Hamilton East and West, Harapepe, Ōhaupo, and all the settlements around Alexandra." The ball was hosted by local committeemen and stewards: Dr Waddington, Messrs Aubin, Speirs-Dick, Roberts, Kirk and Bertram.

The hall had been tastefully decorated with "festoons of evergreens, crossing one another in every direction. Suspended from the centre, the flags of St Andrew's Cross, and the red, white and blue drooped gracefully over the heads of the dancers." The greenery was mostly giant ponga and nikau fronds. At one end was a large Union Jack, and at the other the British Ensign, reminding the reporter "that though amusing ourselves many thousands of miles from home, we yet had a share and an interest in the dear old country of Mother Britain." Beside

the ballroom were a supper room, card room and dressing rooms.

The guests started to arrive in the town late afternoon, and filed into the hall after 7pm. Seats were placed around walls and the floor "had been well waxed".

The first dance was a quadrille performed by "no less than 40 couples" in rectangular formations. A printed programme set out the evening's 24 dances, with a mixture of quadrille, polka, waltz, lancer, cotillion, la varsovianna, galop, Caledonian, mazurka, Schottische and Highland Schottische dances, ending with a "Sir Roger de Coverley".

The small orchestra consisted of a corneopean (type of cornet), ophicleide (predecessor of the tuba), piccolo, clarinet, and piano. The men wore mostly dark suits while the ladies wore long full dresses in "pale pink, salmon, light blue, maize and apple green".

Halfway through the dance programme there was a rush for the supper room. "For some time your voice was useless, as the clatter of knives and forks, the rushing to and fro of the attendants, the rapid disappearance of viands and liquids of every description, and the confused murmurs of the orthodox supper flirtations were all that could be seen or heard."

The splendid supper was provided by Mr Finch of the Alexandra Hotel, and the wines and spirits were supplied by Mr Wilson of the Exchange Hotel which must have been of a high standard as "the universal satisfaction and hilarity that pervaded the banqueters spoke volumes for their quality".



After a half-an-hour of refreshments, Dr Waddington proposed a toast to the Queen. Then followed toasts to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Sir Donald McLean, the Army and Navy, and the good health of Colonel Lyon, followed by three cheers, to which Lyon replied. Then came toasts to the good health of “the ladies”, to the members of the Masonic lodge, and to “the Press”, directed at the *Times* reporter present on the night. The repleted guests then returned to the ballroom where dancing resumed and continued into the small hours.

“Daylight was stealing in through the window when the last dance was concluded and the whole party broke up thoroughly well-satisfied with the entertainment afforded them by the Alexandra Masons.”

A GESTURE OF EVERLASTING PEACE

A final assurance of peace in the Waipā came in a dramatic manner on 11 July 1881. Tawhiao, escorted by up to 600 followers, including the chiefs Wahanui and Manuhiri, walked into Alexandra from his hill settlement of Hikurangi on the southern shoulder of the Pirongia Range, in a gesture of everlasting peace. They were greeted by the townsfolk and a brass band playing *For he's a jolly good fellow*.

Outside the Alexandra Hotel Tawhiao laid his “tupara” double-barrelled gun on the road in front of Major William Mair, the Government Native Officer in the Upper Waikato, accompanied by Major William Jackson. This act was followed by a further 76 guns and revolvers being brought forward by Māori and laid side by side.

At the time, Tawhiao was suffering from bronchitis, so Wahanui stepped forward and spoke on his behalf. “Do you know what this means, Major Mair? This is the

result of what Tawhiao said to you, that there would be no more trouble. This means peace.”

Mair replied, “It is clear. I call to mind the words that Tawhiao uttered at Tomotomo-waka [Te Kopua], that there should be no more fighting. This is the day that we have all been waiting for. We know now that there will not be any more trouble. It has all passed away, and good days are in store for us.”

Thereafter, Māori and local settlers fraternised. Tawhiao and his followers then made a royal tour throughout the Waikato, attending a dinner in Te Awamutu, and visiting Kihikihi, Roto-orangi, Cambridge, Tamahere, Hamilton where the townspeople turned out en masse and formed a procession into the town, and Ngāruawahia where they gathered at the grave of Potatau, the first Māori King. Tawhiao’s retinue then travelled to Auckland by train as guests of the Government. During their return to Ngāruawahia a young Māori, Te Oti, was killed at Taupiri when jumping from the train before it became stationary, and was later buried at Ngāruawahia.

On Tawhiao’s return to Alexandra, Major Mair, with the Native Minister’s approval, handed back to him all the surrendered firearms except the one given personally by Tawhiao, and for this he gave his own gun in exchange. But the Kingite chiefs, desiring to assure the Government of their sincerity to make peace, declined to take back their guns. “No,” said Wahanui, “we have given them up. You must keep them. But we will accept your gun in token of the peace between us.”

Although peace was formally made between Tawhiao and the Government, in 1883 there arose a dispute concerning the opening-up of Kāwhia Harbour to colonial shipping and traders. Kāwhia had been closed to colonial enterprise since 1863. Newly placed harbour beacons and channel markers were destroyed by Māori, as well as the removal of surveyor pegs at Pouwewe, the present township of Kāwhia. In response, the Native Minister, John Bryce, immediately had Kāwhia garrisoned with Armed Constabulary. The *Hinemoa* landed 114 constables

at Pouwewe under Major Tuke. This proved to be the last defensive post established against Māori.

While the tour party visited Cambridge, they were treated to a banquet by the townspeople. The exotic menu, which was an ambitious undertaking for 1881 on the Waipā frontier, was reported in the *Waikato Times*: “Oysters au naturelle. Soups: Julienne, oyster. Fish: boiled snapper, sauce hollandaise. Entrees: jugged hare, stewed oysters, French cutlets and mashed potatoes, stewed oysters, fillet of beef with sauce. Meats: roast sirloin beef, roast goose with apple sauce, roast saddle mutton and jelly, boiled chicken with oyster sauce, roast sucking pig, boiled York ham. Game: roast pheasant with bread and port wine sauce, roast hare with game sauce. Desserts: cabinet pudding, tarts meringue, jelly a la champagne, macedoine of apricots, trifle, jelly au cognac, plum pudding, tipsy cake, custard and glass, cream a la vanilla, wine jelly, macaroni cheese, dessert in season [fruit].”

To accompany the menu there was an equally grand wine list. “Sherry: pale, brown. Port: dark, pale. Champagne: Louis Roederer carte blanche, Sillery Mousseaux carte blanche. Grenache: dark, light. Mataro: dark, light. Cognac: Hennessy’s, Boiteau, Meukam and Co. Beer: Griffin’s Pale, dark, Bull Dog.”



Above: Tawhiao, leader of the Waikato tribes, second Māori King and a religious visionary.

ARRIVAL OF TAWHIAO AND 600 FOLLOWERS AT ALEXANDRA.

Above: A newspaper headline announcing Tawhiao's visit to Alexandra.



Above: Wiremu Te Wheoro.

A STALWART OF PEACE

Wiremu Te Wheoro was a chief of the Ngāti Naho, a Waikato hapu located south of Mercer, and closely associated with Ngāti Mahuta. At a great hui in 1857, which proposed Potatau Te Wherowhero as Māori King, Te Wheoro argued against the proposal because, as described in one of his obituaries, “he foresaw the disastrous consequences of an armed struggle with the Pākehā”.

In 1862 Te Wheoro became an “assessor” working with John Gorst, a European magistrate, in resolving disputes amongst Māori. They were based at a

rūnanga at Te Kohekohe, on the west bank of the Waikato River, south of Meremere. While there Te Wheoro requested that a wooden courthouse be built and suggested that Māori youths be drilled to keep order. However, he was warned by Tawhiao (Māori King after Te Wherowhero's death in June 1860) that there would be trouble if buildings were erected, and when carpenters arrived from Auckland in March 1863 to begin building a fortified constabulary station, Kingitanga (Māori King movement) supporters threw the timber into the Waikato River.

At the commencement of the Waikato War, Te Wheoro and many of his tribe aligned with the Government, resulting in General Cameron appointing him a captain in the colonial militia. For a time he acted as a guide to British forces in north Waikato and, with the help of Ngāti Naho, collected supplies from steamers at the Waikato River mouth and paddled them upstream to Camerontown.

Following the battle at Rangiriri, Cameron used Te Wheoro as an intermediary between the Government and the Kingitanga. He went to Ngāruawahia, under Governor Grey's authorisation, to negotiate peace with Wiremu Tamihana Tarapipipi and Ngāti Maniapoto, and in the post-war years worked to reconcile the relationship between the King movement and the Government. However, the latter's confiscation of Waikato lands remained an obstacle in discussions while the King and his supporters were forced to live on Ngāti Maniapoto lands south of the aukati in the King Country.

An earthen redoubt was built at Rangiriri by Te Wheoro and his Ngāti Naho. The site had been previously fortified by Māori in the defence of Rangiriri against Cameron's forces, and can be visited today in Talbot Street, Rangiriri. The redoubt was named after Te Wheoro, who occupied it on behalf of the Government during the Te Kooti campaigns of 1868-69.

Te Wheoro acted as an assessor to the Native Land Court between 1865 and 1872, but became increasingly disaffected with the work of the court

which he came to regard as corrupt because he considered that it conferred land titles on those most likely to sell. He eventually resigned in 1873 and was promoted to major in the colonial forces.

Major Te Wheoro was based at Alexandra between 1873 and 1879, and acting as a Native Commissioner, mediated a harmonious and lasting relationship between the Kingitanga and the Government, which helped to bring about Tawhiao's declaration of peace in 1881. Much of his work was in tandem with Major William Gilbert Mair, the resident magistrate at Alexandra. Te Wheoro understood the predicament of the Kingitanga only too well, as his tribe lost most of its land to confiscation despite it remaining loyal to the Government.

Te Wheoro resigned as Native Commissioner in 1879, feeling that he was not listened to, and that his people were being treated unfairly. He was elected to Parliament later that year as MP for Western Māori on the nomination of Rewi Maniapoto, and continued to campaign against the Government attitudes towards Māori. He also campaigned tirelessly but unsuccessfully for the return of confiscated land to his hapu.

In 1884 he accompanied King Tawhiao to England where they unsuccessfully attempted to appeal directly to Queen Victoria for the redress of grievances, including the confiscation of land. He lost his seat in Parliament in the 1884 election while still overseas, returning home in poor health.

Te Wheoro continued to lobby the Government until his death in 1895 at his home at Te Arai, near Churchill, west of Rangiriri. He was buried at Taupiri.

Over the decades before his death, Te Wheoro became one of the Government's fiercest critics, accusing it of land-grabbing and racial hypocrisy, becoming a thorn in its side until the end. Before he died, Te Wheoro told his people to remain firm, as governments must change, and the next one might be more responsive to their pleas.

An old map shows that Te Wheoro was allocated several town sections in Alexandra, which were marked "Te Wheoro to occupy" in the block bounded by McClure, Bellot, Collinson and Baffin Streets. Newspaper reports claim he built and extended a house during his time in Alexandra.

THE BEGINNINGS OF A DAIRY GIANT

Pioneering families in the Te Awamutu and Cambridge districts were mainly engaged in growing beef for the expanding Auckland produce market. Any dairying was purely the business of the farmer's wife who would make surplus cream into butter and sell it to the local storekeeper for 4d to 6d (pence) a pound, which was usually taken out in goods. The storekeeper, faced with the task of disposing of dozens of small amounts of butter, mixed or blended them together, added excessive amounts of salt and packed it into casks, much of it being exported to Sydney from Auckland. During the 1870s, the advent of refrigeration meant that butter could be only lightly salted and exported to England.

From about 1883, skimming stations were established and small dairy factories commenced operations in rural districts. But the effects of an economic slump at the time resulted in the price of milk at Cambridge Skimming Station dropping to 2½d a gallon. Payments on a butterfat basis was just 5.625d per pound.

Skimming stations were operated by horsepower – a harnessed horse attached to an overhead pole walked in a circle, which drove a system of reducing gears which in turn drove the separator.

Around Cambridge

In 1885 the Fencourt Land Company, owners of a large estate, built a butter factory at Hautapu. However, this was not a success and was taken over by Messrs Watt and Hally in 1889. The factory had a refrigeration plant and two large-capacity Alfa Laval separators. Watt and Hally made butter and cheese as well as operated a bacon factory.

Cambridge Co-operative Dairy Company was formed in 1901, purchasing the Hautapu factory back from Watt and Hally for £2068. At the time there was only one milking machine in the district, which was a Laurence Kennedy machine installed on W.N. Sturges' farm at Pukerimu.

A good hand-milker did around eight cows an hour, and many did 28-30 cows each milking. It was not unusual for a dairy farmer to spend five hours a day in the cow shed. By 1907, milking machines were coming into general use.

In its first year of operation, the company manufactured 83 tons of butter and made a payout to its suppliers of 8.895d per pound of butterfat. The company expanded, opening skimming plants at Roto-o-rangi in 1903 and Tamahere in 1904. Over the following years creameries were erected at Monavale, Pukeroro and Victoria Road. From about 1900, when home separators became available, farmers separated cream from skim milk on the farm. This meant farmers had to transport only about one-tenth the previous volume to the butter factory.

In 1914 the company switched to cheese production. A central curing room was established at Hautapu and creameries were converted to cheese factories in 1915 at Fencourt, Victoria Road, Tamahere, Pukeroro, Leamington, Monavale, Roto-o-rangi and Hautapu. In 1918 the company became interested in dried milk powder. After a few disastrous attempts it finally produced powder in 1921, only to stop production almost immediately as it proved unprofitable.

The Second World War brought considerable demand for butter and

cheese. By 1951, after operating for 50 years, butter production increased to 2,044 tons per year, as well as 2,170 tons of cheese.

In 1886, Henry Reynolds established a butter factory at Pukekura. Using an improved method of production the factory started the Anchor brand a year later, and won a gold medal at the Melbourne exhibition in 1888. Apparently Reynolds chose an anchor symbol after noticing a tattoo on the arm of an ex-seaman who worked for Mr Rogers, a local supplier. Reynolds built eight new creameries and exported to England, before he was bought out by the New Zealand Dairy Association headed by Wesley Spragg.

William Goodfellow set up the Waikato Valley Co-operative Dairy Company which later merged with the Thames Valley Co-operative Dairy Company and the New Zealand Dairy Association in 1919 to form the New Zealand Co-operative Dairy Company, the country's largest co-operative.

Pukekura changed to manufacturing casein, then in 1940 changed to cheese, followed by rindless cheese in 1959.

Bruntwood Co-operative Dairy Company kicked off in 1914 with a new factory at Bruntwood. The company was renowned for its high-quality cheese, winning numerous awards. The factory was gutted by fire in 1961 which stopped production for about 12 months.

The number of dairy factories throughout New Zealand fell from 564 in 1918 to just 43 in 1990, but total output increased. Dairy factories began to pick up milk from farms, carting the milk in cream cans. From the early 1950s milk tankers were used, which collected whole milk, not just cream, resulting in multi-plant and multi-product dairy factories.

Around Te Awamutu

In 1882 a co-operative cheese and bacon factory, reputed to be first in the North Island, opened in Te Awamutu at the junction of Arawata Street and Rangiaowhia and Ōhaupo Roads. On the

first day of processing the factory received 184 gallons of milk, manufacturing seven cheeses from 180 pounds of curd. The factory also purchased 37 pigs, which were kept in sties 200 yards from the factory, and fed on whey conveyed along a wooden spout.

The venture was considered too optimistic, as it relied on about 500 cows in close proximity of the factory to be viable, operators were inexperienced, operating costs too high, and expected returns too ambitious. The factory was forced to close by the end of 1883.



Above: Local dairy farmers gather outside the Harapepe dairy factory which opened in 1897.

Following Henry Reynold's butter factory opening in Frankton in 1886, a skimming station and creamery were located at the failed factory's site. Farmers brought their whole milk to the station, and the separated cream was sent to Frankton by train to make into butter. By 1900, two companies operated skimming stations, both supplying Frankton with cream.

In 1919, the newly formed New Zealand Co-operative Dairy Company founded a factory on its present site in Alexandra Street. The new factory was at first operated by a subsidiary, Zealandia Milk Products, specialising in milk powder, anhydrous milk fat and butter.



Above: A new factory at Hautapu opened on 3 September 1908.

Just across the road, the newly-formed Te Awamutu Co-operative Dairy Company



Above: The beginnings of a dairy giant – a small dairy factory outside Cambridge, possibly at Monavale.

opened their butter factory in 1925. It operated under the yellow flower Lotus brand. The two companies competed for the district's milk supply until the 1930s with the Te Awamutu Co-operative Dairy Company finally outpacing its rival, extending its collection area to Pirongia and Otorohanga.

In 1981 the Te Awamutu Co-operative Dairy Company and the Cambridge Co-operative Dairy Company merged to form the Waikato Dairy Co-operative, which further enlarged when the Sunny Park-Hinuera Co-operative Dairy Company and the Bruntwood Dairy Company joined over the following two years.

By 1983 there were over 30 co-operatives in existence throughout New Zealand. Over the following years the New Zealand Co-operative Dairy Company completed a series of mergers and acquisitions, re-branded as the New Zealand Dairy Group, then merged with Kiwi Co-operative Dairies and the New Zealand Dairy Board in 2001 to form today's dairy giant, Fonterra Co-operative Group.

Below: Management and directors of the Cambridge Co-operative Dairy Company, 1908. Back (l-r): A. Benge (manager), J. Hooker, R. Swayne, M. Butler (secretary). Front: E. Allen, J. Fisher, J. Taylor (chairman), C. Day, J.M. Hall.





Above: A typical Waipā dairy farm of 1908.

In 2011, John and Margaret Fisher of Parrallel Road, Ōhaupo, became the first Waipā dairy farmers to have a robotic milking system installed on their farm. They installed a DeLaval Voluntary Milking System to milk their 320-cow herd.



Above: A cream waggon arriving at a testing and grading station at Te Awamutu, July 1922.

ARRIVING BY RIVER

The Waikato and Waipā Rivers were the original routes into the heart of the Waipa district. General Cameron used the routes in his bid to outflank and bypass fortified pā, where Māori were expected to resist the European invasion.

With the establishment of military outposts at Cambridge and Alexandra, the river naturally became the chief

route for supplies, soldiers' families and settlers. Within a short period of time the two rivers became scenes of heightened activity with as many as four boats a day plying the rivers from Ngāruawahia to Cambridge and Alexandra.

The main company operating river traffic in the early days was the Waikato Steam Navigation Company, which built a large wharf and storage shed in Cambridge at the junction of the Waikato River and Karāpiro Stream. The company posted G.J. Neal as their first resident agent in Cambridge. The larger riverboats operating on the two rivers were the *Bluenose*, *Waipā*, *Rangiriri*, *Waikato* and *Delta*. The *Rangiriri* was sold out of Government service in early 1868.

But using river transport wasn't cheap. In 1876, Waikato Steam Navigation advertised freight from Auckland to Cambridge and Alexandra as: "Up river 45/- [45 shillings, or £2 5s] a ton; Down river 35/- a ton; Timber 3/- a 100 ft; Cabin passenger 5/-; Deck passenger 3/6 [3 shillings 6 pence]; Horse 5/-; Buggy 5/-."

One boat, the *Quick Step*, travelled at night, making a great sight as she hurried along at high speed with braziers suspended from her sides to light up the banks for steering. Josiah Firth of the Matamata Estate, in his book *Nation Making*, described the river voyage up river to Cambridge ferrying 18 fallow deer as deck cargo. The deer had travelled all the way from Burghley Park, England. "The flooded state of the Waikato River made our progress slow, and steady rain all day, did not render it

quite a pleasure trip. About midnight we entered the Narrows [at Rukuhia]. The thick darkness and the rapid current of the flooded river, made the navigation of the Narrows no easy matter.

"Captain Spargo, whose coolness and skill I could not but admire, now lit his lamps, in the shape of two large iron braziers, one on each side of the deck, forward of the paddle-boxes. Just before entering the Narrows the fires in the braziers were in full blaze; two sailors constantly feeding them with wood and coal-tar. By this means, notwithstanding the thick darkness and surging current, the steamer was kept in mid-stream; and slowly forged ahead, like some grim monster with fiery eyes, fighting against the black rushing river.

"... At length we reached the jaws of the Narrows under a full head of steam. The boat ground on her way through the seething waters; thud, thud, went the engines; louder and louder roared the steam, driving from the funnel, a fiery fountain of glowing sparks; whilst sheets of flame danced from the braziers, threatening every moment to set fire to the paddle-boxes.

"... At last we emerged from the Narrows, and though the sensation was new and the surroundings weird and grand, we were not sorry to get into the less turbulent waters. At three o'clock next morning we arrived at the Cambridge wharf, and tumbling into bed at our hotel."

The deer were eventually released in the vicinity of Maungakawa Hill, where small herds still roam today.

In 1881 a new wharf was built below the west end of Duke Street, more or less below today's Cambridge Primary School. The goods were hauled up the steep bank by a two-way trolley system powered by a stationary engine. Most of the cargo that came ashore was coal, timber and general building materials.

At this time a floating boom was placed across the Waikato River, just upriver of Karāpiro Stream, in place to intercept posts and logs floated down river from Waotu, near Putaruru.

The *Waikato Times* reported in February

1881 that river traffic to Cambridge “was very brisk. Besides boatloads of general merchandise brought up daily by the *Delta*, she invariably brought up into a loaded barge. The traffic in sawn timber with the mills at the mouth of the [Waikato] river was very considerable.” At the time there were three large timber barges based at Ngāruawahia.

Picnickers and revellers were conveyed down both rivers on the *Delta* and *Rangiriri*, and later on the *Freetrader* and *Pioneer*, to Ngāruawahia on Boxing Days and New Year’s Days, to attend horse and foot races. Usually the local brass band was on board, and there was dancing on the deck.

By the 1920s, river transport was still popular and economically viable. By then the Roose Shipping Company dominated trade on the Waikato and Waipā Rivers. The *Waikato Times* reported, “The *Manuwai* had recently arrived [at Cambridge] with a cargo of benzine [petrol], coal, timber and ale, 40 tons in weight from Auckland. The old *Freetrader*, converted into a barge, arrived towed by the powerful little tug *Tere*, bringing 50 tons of coal for the local gasworks.”

However, the river trade could not compete with the railway, and road transport on sealed roads. The regular service provided by river transport soon declined and eventually discontinued.



Above: *The Bluenose makes a stop along the upper Waikato in 1873.*



Above: *A small riverboat operating on the Waipā River, circa 1910.*



Above: *After a picnic at Ngāruawahia, 1921.*

DAM THE WAIKATO

Horahora

Completed in 1913, Horahora was the first hydro-electric scheme to be built on the Waikato River, as well as being the largest generating plant in the country. It was privately constructed to supply electricity to the stamping batteries of the Waihi Gold Mining Company at Waikino and Waihi, over 80 kilometres away.

At the Horahora site, the river’s course flowed over beds of rock in two rapids and through a narrow gorge. This was known as the Āniwaniwa crossing and used by pre-European Māori. The river was originally spanned by a single tree; subsequently a bridge was erected in 1880.

Mr H.P. Barry, a skilled English engineer, saw the potential of the Horahora rapids as a source of power generation while trout fishing on the river. Taking three years to construct, the new power station had a capacity of 6.4 megawatts and paid the Government an annual rental of £1,200 for water rights.

With production of the gold mines on the decline by the end of the First World War, the power station was sold to the Government for £212,500 in 1919, when it began supplying electricity to Cambridge, Hamilton and the surrounding rural districts. By 1925 more than 1,000 farm dairies and six dairy factories were being supplied. A year later, the power station was upgraded, increasing its capacity to 10.3 megawatts. This allowed the supply of electricity to be extended to the Bay of Plenty and Auckland.

In April 1947 Lake Karāpiro was finally formed behind the Karāpiro power station dam, submerging Horahora. It kept generating until the last possible day due to power shortages, with the turbines and generator units being left in place. To the amusement of onlookers, two generators continued to rotate and thrash the rising waters, even after the water had almost covered them. Today, the top of the dam is still visible below the surface of Lake Karāpiro.

Arapuni

Commissioned in 1929, Arapuni was the first Government-built hydro-electric scheme on the Waikato River. In 1923, worldwide tenders were called for, with the contract being placed with the British firm of Armstrong Whitworth in September 1924.

The diversion tunnel was completed in

July 1926, and the site de-watered soon after. Good progress was made with the head works, but at the powerhouse site there was disagreement between the contractor and the Public Works Department over the suitability of the foundations. The impasse was broken by the Public Works Department taking over the works in December 1927.

The construction progressed in the face of difficulties, not the least of which was severe flooding. The first 15-megawatt turbine was put into service in June 1929, and within 12 months three turbines were in service, with work well advanced on the fourth.

Then a crack developed between the end of the spillway and the adjoining structure. There was a small but definite movement of the whole country above the powerhouse – a movement which partly reverted when the spillway water level was drawn down to empty the head race. The station was then shut down and not reopened until April 1932.

Two Swedish experts, Professor Hornell and Mr Werner, supported by New Zealand geological experts, were engaged, and various remedial measures were recommended and carried out, including an impervious lining to the head race.

A powerhouse extension, doubling its original size, was built between 1934 and 1937, and two more turbines installed by February 1938. The final two turbines were delayed by wartime disruptions, but were eventually commissioned in 1946. This brought the station to a total capacity of 162 megawatts from eight turbines, by far the largest at the time in New Zealand.

The dam, which was built across the Arapuni Gorge to divert the river, is 64 metres high. It raises the water 43 metres above its old level. The water then flows about 1.2 kilometres in an open head race, and then through penstocks to the powerhouse at the base of the gorge.

After about 50 years of service, the head race lining showed signs of deterioration and needed to be replaced. As this involved a complete station shutdown, it afforded an ideal opportunity to

complete a \$50 million upgrade and refurbishment. Arapuni returned to service in 1990, and is expected to provide at least another 50 years of reliable power generation.

Camouflage

When Japan entered the Second World War and threatened to invade New Zealand, major developments, such as the Arapuni hydro-electric scheme, needed protection from possible destruction. In 1942 the Public Works Department undertook some urgent measures to help camouflage the scheme from aerial detection, using nets, dummy trees, sods, paint and screens.

However, the work wasn't very convincing, as reported by the Royal New Zealand Air Force which photographed the area from the air: "Trees and shrubs have been planted on roof of powerhouse but outline is still clearly visible. It also appears that broad stripes have been dazzle-painted on front of building to coincide with similar markings on cliff face above. There is a similar effect visible on the face of the dam... As the area under review is presumably situated in open country, the roads, waterways, buildings, and generally the plentiful evidences of activity, plus the fact that it is located at the end of a long lake, would make recognition from the air easy. Streams of water being discharged into the river from the powerhouse are also clearly visible."

Karapiro

The proposal to build the Karapiro hydro-electric scheme was approved by the Government in 1940 and construction began within months. While initial machinery included 295 tractors, 171 graders, 73 excavators, 147 compressors and 52 locomotives, the project had less than half the manpower it needed, due to conscription during the Second World War.

However, between 1943 and 1945 the workforce was able to be increased from 200 to 1,000. By early 1945 excavations were complete and the powerhouse

and dam were under construction. The workforce peaked at 1,136 in 1946 when the dam and powerhouse were completed.

In the neighbouring workers' camp there was a YMCA with billiards, a canteen, table tennis and movies. There was also a post office, library, dances nearly every week and church services fortnightly. A primary school catered for over 200 pupils. Rugby and cricket clubs were formed, there was a Plunket group, and later an RSA branch with about 500 members. Nurse Walker, a district nurse, was responsible for the health of the whole camp, including the school. Police Constable Pearce was responsible for law and order. A bus service to and from Cambridge was laid on which alleviated much of the boredom.

Once the dam was completed, the lake was slowly filled, eventually inundating the Horahora power station, a long section of highway which followed the river's eastern bank, a bridge across the river, and the large workers' camp. The power station was eventually commissioned early 1947. The powerhouse contains three turbines, each generating 32 megawatts of electricity. Today, the output is controlled remotely by Mighty River Power in Hamilton.

Picturesque man-made Lake Karapiro is an internationally recognised venue for rowing, water-skiing, powerboating and other aquatic sports. International rowing events held at the venue were the Empire Games in 1950, and the World Rowing Championships in 1978 and 2010.



Above: Horahora hydro-electric scheme's generators, 1918.