



Hoani Tokorangi Te Onewa Taiaroa (aka Hoani I)

Hoani I (our great grandfather) was born in 1837, at Otukou Marae into the Ngati Hikairo hapu. And he married Te Kiri Tinimare Nga Winika (maiden name Rennie) probably some time in 1860's or '70's. He lived for some time on a farm at Papatupu (near Pipiriki) and later was involved with a Volunteer Native Contingent attached to the British Army Regiment stationed in the Whanganui area and fought with the British against the Hauhau's at Otapawa Pa in South Taranaki in January 1866.

Hoani I received service medals and 100 acres of land from the Government for his services. After this he returned to the Papatupu area to continue farming at a farm called "Waimarino".

Hoani later moved to Whangaehu where he farmed, growing oats, wheat, onions and other vegetables for sale.

Hoani earlier had embraced the Roman Catholic faith and built a small whanau church near his homestead in Beach Road which they called "Rakautaua". The building was financed with assistance from his family and was regularly used by several families in the area. All his children, seven brothers and three sisters, were baptized in this church.

*Presumably, therefore, Te Waati, at least in his early years, was a Roman Catholic.*

Hoani died 25 November, 1913 and was interred in front of the family church. The church sadly burnt down that same year. However, the area (accessible from Beach Road, Whangaehu) is still set aside as a Taiaroa Urupa—and Te Kiri is said to be buried there as are their daughters Ruuma and Whakairi. But sadly not Te Waati...

(see p5/6 Blue Book; articles 5 and 10 in this series)