

Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.

Attachment and Belonging

Nineteenth Century Whananaki

A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in
History

Massey University
New Zealand

Rowan Tautari

2009

ABSTRACT

Attachment and belonging to place can be expressed in a myriad of ways. At its core is the need to legitimise presence. Historically, several strategies have been employed by different individuals or groups to establish their claim to Whananaki. This thesis explores attachment and belonging from several perspectives – from that of hapu who competed amongst each other for resources, a settler who affected to legalize a pre-Treaty of Waitangi transaction, government officials securing Crown ownership culminating in a sale in 1864, Maori drawn to the developing village settlement who married into local families, and finally the village settlers who attempted to transform the land into a familiar countryside.

The paradox of belonging but not quite belonging was played out in many contexts at Whananaki, including through landmarks and their associated narratives. Landmarks can be sites asserting ancient beginnings, carefully crafted props validating legal title, symbols of progress and development, memorials denoting loss and abandonment, or neutral ground. In looking at the narratives that affix landmarks to place, we can arrive at a closer understanding of how residents of nineteenth-century Whananaki viewed and defined their environment.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to my supervisor, Michael Belgrave, for encouraging me to engage creatively with my topic. I would like to acknowledge Alfreda Berryman, Neville Edge, Arthur McInnes, David Peters, Joan Merle Peters, Marie Tautari and Verdon Symmons who participated in informal discussions and interviews with me. I would like to thank Garth Macken who provided invaluable information on several of Whananaki's settler families.

I wish to thank Mrs Rangi Parker of the Kia Ngawari Trust, Templeview, for allowing me access to her collection of nineteenth-century Mormon missionary journals and photographs. The online digital database Papers Past also deserves acknowledgement as an essential aid in my research. The Whangarei Public Library supplied copies of the Northern Luminary (on microfilm) and the Whananaki Community Library provided backdated copies of an exceptionally helpful newsletter called The Bridge.

I am especially grateful to family and friends for their support, in particular my uncle, David Peters for the use of his house at Whananaki. Finally, I would like to acknowledge my grandfather Kihirini (Len) Peters whose childhood stories about Whananaki inspired my choice of topic.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Table of Contents	iii
List of Figures.....	vi
Map of Northland Locating Whananaki	vii
Map of Whananaki	viii
INTRODUCTION: TE WAHA O TE PARATA.....	1
CHAPTER 1: WHANANAKI BLOCK - THE NORTH SIDE	13
Differing Views of the Village Centre Over Time	13
Maori Occupation.....	15
War Expeditions and Alliances	16
Waikato Decides to Sell.....	20
Identifying the ‘Kawakawa natives’	21
Dispute at Waitangi	22
Waikato’s Sale Proceeds	25
Defining the Boundaries of Salmon’s Claim	26
Tupai’s Objection to Salmon’s Claim	27
Land Claims Commission	28
CHAPTER 2: FISHING RESERVE	31
Williams Investigates Salmon’s Claim, 1850.....	32
Two Letters from Maori Residents	32
Maori Gathering at Ahi Koroamo.....	34
Payment Suggested for Whananaki Block	35
Reappearance of Kawakawa Natives	36
Tipene Hari Agrees to Sell	36
The Second Sale of Whananaki Block.....	37
Maori Settlement of 1863.....	39

Purchase Deed, 1864.....	40
Opposing Views from Barstow and Clarke.....	41
Application for a Fishing Reserve	42
Maori and the First Store	44
Hirini Tamihana Seeks Return of Land.....	46
From Fishing Reserve to Cattle Run	46
From Cattle Run to Village Settlement, 1886.....	47
CHAPTER 3: ORIWA - THE SOUTH SIDE	50
Two Wahi Tapu	50
‘New’ Influences	53
‘Old’ Influences.....	54
The Court Decides Ownership.....	55
Kinaki and Whenua.....	57
Arama Karaka and Patuwhitu	60
Runanga at Whangaruru.....	65
Petitions and Partitions.....	66
Locating Te Ruaki.....	66
European Settlement and Impact.....	69
Eruana Maki	70
Pitokuku and Rangitoto.....	73
CHAPTER 4: VILLAGE SETTLEMENT	77
Misplaced Perceptions	77
Settler Geography	78
Land Settlement Scheme	79
Mobility.....	81
Settler Attitudes Toward Maori	83
People	86
The ‘History of Whananaki School and Districts’	91
Six Assertions Concerning Whananaki’s Past	92
CHAPTER 5: SETTLER LANDMARKS	100
The Recreation Reserve.....	100

The Cemetery	102
The Wharf.....	105
Faulkner’s Landing.....	107
The First Saw Mill	111
The School.....	115
Attendance by Maori Children.....	118
Morris’ Store	119
The Public Hall	123
CONCLUSION: SHIFTING SANDS	125
Glossary.....	132
Abbreviations	134
Bibliography.....	135

LIST OF FIGURES

<i>Number</i>	<i>Page</i>
1. Map of Northland locating Whananaki	vii
2. Map of Whananaki	viii
3. ‘Seagull’ rock seen through pohutukawa branches at low tide	1
4. Map of Salmon’s claim, 1841 and Whananaki deed, 1864	12
5. Village centre overlooking the school at Whananaki north	13
6. Boat ramp at fishing reserve, Whananaki north	31
7. Map of Ruatahi, Wairahi, Oriwa land blocks	49
8. Mouth of estuary overlooking sand spit and Oriwa block at Whananaki south ocean beach	50
9. Rangitoto Pa at Huikau, Whananaki south	51
10. Pitokuku wahi tapu, Whananaki south	52
11. Whakapapa for Pita Tunua, Tamihana Te Puai and Hirini Tamihana	58
12. Whakapapa for Kinaki, Waikato and Karena Puhi	59
13. Village centre overlooking houses and baches, Whananaki north	77
14. Wedding of Ellen Nankivell to Thomas Freer, 6 June 1904	85
15. Sand spit, Whananaki south	100
16. Settler cemetery, sand spit, Whananaki south	102
17. Family Tree for Garth Macken	105
18. Oriwa river mouth above Faulkner’s Landing with footbridge in the distance	109
19. Baches near the estuary entrance, Whananaki north	105

Map of Northland



Map of Whananaki

