

## Removal of Natives from Hutt Cultivations February 1846

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Police Office, Wellington 02 Feb 1846 Henry St Hill, Police Magistrate to the Superintendent

Sir, I do myself the honour to report that I have received information of a body of Natives to the number of three hundred and upwards of the Ngatihina Tribe – a sub Division or Hapu of the Ngatimaniapoto Tribe – have been invited by the Chief Rangihaeta and are shortly expected to take up their abode at Porirua, or its immediate neighbourhood, for the purpose of strengthening the numerical force of that Chief.

A body of the Ngatikahunu Tribe from Hawkes Bay are also shortly expected to locate themselves in the same District with the like object.

Annotation written by Matthew Richmond, Superintendent

I have made particular inquiry as to the probability of a force collecting at Porirua under Rangihaeta, and do not believe that at present there exists any intention of such purpose on the part of the Natives – some of the Ngatitiana Tribe have lately been in the habit of going backwards and forwards from Kawia to Porirua and residing a short time at each place. From what I can learn it is expected the next arrivals at Porirua will include more than heretofore, and I believe in case of need Rangihaeata would be joined by the number stated by the Police Magistrate – the worst feature connected with the Report is the union of Rangihaeata's niece with the son of one of the principal Chiefs of the Ngatikahune – this will cement two Tribes which have long been at variance, and add greatly to Rangihaeata's influence and strength.

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Matthew Richmond – February 1846

The natives under Teringa Kuri and the Wanganui natives under Tapoto amount to about 100 men. The natives under Kaparatahane amount to one hundred and twenty men. The total amount of remuneration to be given for the crops is three hundred and seventy one pounds six shillings. Of which one hundred and twenty pounds is to be given to Teringakure and eighty pounds in goods – and seventy pounds is to be reserved in case of their wanting food.

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27 Feb 1846

The Queen having heard of the difficulties prevailing in New Zealand has sent the Governor out for the express purpose of enquiring into and ... these difficulties. The Governor is determined to maintain both Europeans & Natives in the possession of their respective properties of every kind. He therefore insists upon the natives surrendering to the Europeans those lands upon the Hutt which have been fairly purchased. The Governor ... to which those natives who in spite of repeated warnings to the contrary have planted crops in these lands, will be ... in abandoning them – but although this loss is in a great degree to be attributed to their own obstinacy the Governor will when the land has been ... alleviate as far as lies in his power the losses they have sustained, by granting upon behalf of Her Majesty true remuneration for these crops.

The Governor ... it may be distinctly understood that if any particular Natives endeavour to ... Europeans of their property, or take up arms against the Queen, he will most certainly punish such natives severely. He will not in any future purchases of land from the natives recognise the right of such persons to any compensation whatever.

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Wellington 27 Feb 1846 Police Magistrate Henry St Hill to the Governor

Sir, In accordance with instructions received from Your Excellency I have the honour to report that I have made a computation of the whole of the land at present under Crop in the Valley of the Hutt – including that on the Waiwetu River – by the Natives of the Ngatirangatahi (“Kaporatehau”) and Ngatitama (“TaRingakuri”) Tribes, and have estimated, as far as practicable, the value of such Crops in the Market at Port Nicholson.

In consequence of some of the most extensive Clearings being only partially under Crop, I was necessitated to perambulate the all, in order to ascertain the numerous isolated plots that are now under Cultivation – and which are spread in every direction over these clearings – so as to enable and to calculate the extent of each.

It seems that in some instances the first Crop has already been partially removed by the Natives, in others the plants have just appeared above ground, while in others the clearings have been made by Europeans, but forcibly taken possession of by the Natives; - so that I have experienced difficulty in arriving at a fair estimate of the value of the Crops.

I have, however, averaged the produce over the whole of these Cultivations at about two tons per acre; and have calculated the value per Ton at thirty shillings in Wellington.

Nevertheless, I am of opinion that ten shillings per Ton should be deducted from this amount as the cost of digging up and carrying the produce to market.

I have the honour to be Sir, Your Excellency’s most obedient servant, Henry St Hill, P.M.

“Ngatirangatahi”	Potatoes 61¾ acres at £2 per acre	£123 10s
	Corn &c 1¾ acres at £4 per acre	£7
	<u>Potatoes 21½ acres at £2 per acre (above the camp)</u>	<u>£43</u>
	Total	£173 10s
“Ngatitama”	Potatoes 17 acres at £2 per acre	£34
Total Value		£207 10s

Annotation dated 27 Feb 1846

I saw many patches of Pumpkins, and Indian corn and one or two patches of Taro.

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Wellington 27 Feb 1846 T. H. Fitzgerald, Assistant Surveyor to the Governor

Sir, I have the honour to report to you that in compliance with instructions received I proceeded yesterday in conjunction with Mr St Hill to view the different pieces of ground at present under crop by the Natives southward of Mason's Section in the Valley of the Hutt. We estimated the quantity of land under Potatoes belonging to E. Kuri's tribe to be 17 acres and that belonging to the Ngatirangata tribe at 61¾ acres with about 1¾ acres of Indian corn and pumpkins – but not being able to agree with respect to the amount of Produce or value – I will state what my opinions are on those subjects and the reason of my differing from Mr St Hill. He estimates the crop at only 2 tons per acre and the value at 30s per ton in Wellington – whereas I am certain that no land that we saw yesterday would yield less than three tons of good marketable potatoes to the acre besides about a ton of smaller potatoes fit for feeding pigs, upon, and which ought to pay the expense of getting the others out of the ground.

I have known a very indifferent crop of potatoes grown upon the tenth of an acre of land infinitely inferior to the Hutt to yield 5cwt or at the rate of 2½ tons to the acre and upon enquiring today of an old Hutt Settler one of the Principal Land Agents here (Mr Alzdorf) what quantity he thought the Natives on the Hutt produced per acre – he stated that considering their inferior mode of cultivation – he did not think they averaged more than 4 or 5 tons of good Potatoes per acre. The White Settlers, get frequently on similar land from 8 to 10 tons to the acre. With respect to their value Potatoes have certainly been as low as 30s per ton in Wellington for a short period last year when a number of natives that were going to Wanganui brought in more at a time than there was a regular demand for – but for the greater part of the year the natives sold them at the rate of £2 per ton whilst at the same time the European Farmers charged from £2 10s to £3.

This year from various causes it is well known that Potatoes will bring a very high price – I should say at no time less than £3 per ton. They are selling at present from £3 10s to £4 per ton so that taking everything into consideration I am of opinion that 35s per ton would be but a fair price for them at the Hutt. The Maize and Pumpkins would be worth about £4 per acre.

I have the honour to be Your Excellency's most obedient servant, T. H. Fitzgerald, Assistant Surveyor.

Estimates of the value of the Crops left in the ground by the Natives lately residing in the Valley of the Hutt.

E. Kuri's Tribe	17 acres of Potatoes or 51 tons at 35s per ton	£89 5s
Ngatirangata Tribe	61¾ acres of Potatoes or 185¼ tons at 35s per ton 1¾ acres Maize and Pumpkins at £4 per ton	£324 3s 9d £7
Total		£420 8s 9d

Annotation dated 27 Feb 1846 written by Matthew Richmond

On reading both Estimates that of Mr Fitzgerald's appears to be the most equitable. Mr St Hill returned with his Report when Mr Fitzgerald was in the Office and both say the 1¾ acres includes Taro, Pumpkin & Indian corn. Nearly the whole of the latter being where the Camp now is, and the two former consisting of very small patches.

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List of Men, Women & Children of the Hutt and Porirua Districts to whom Rations have been, or is about to be, distributed, to this date – in the proportions of 1lb of Pork and 1lb of Flour to each man, & half that quantity to each Woman; 3 children under 7 years of age and 2 between 7 and 14 equal to one adult. ¼lb of Tea and 1lb of Sugar to each Sick or nursing mother. The Women & Children from the Porirua Road have received Rations for a few days merely in consequence of a representation to them of the necessity of leaving their homes with all expedition. Henry St Hill, Wellington 05 Mar 1846.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>
<i>Upper Hutt</i>		
Charles Collis and wife	2	2
Robert Fairweather and wife	2	5
Thomas Hughes and wife	2	4
Samuel Burnet and wife and brother	3	5
John Sutherland and wife	2	3
Thomas Reid and wife	2	1
Total	13	20
<i>Waiwatu</i>		
Francis Whiteman	1	3
John Russel and wife	2	1
James Swan and brother	2	
William Leckie and William Parker	2	1
John Downie and wife	2	4
William Ebden, mother, brother, servant (Hunt)	4	3
John Jackson and wife	2	
James Holmes and wife	2	5
William Thomas and wife	2	5
James McEwen and wife	2	3
David Galloway and wife	2	3
David McEwen and wife	2	3
William Tannahill and wife	2	3
Arthur Haywood and wife	2	2
John Hogg and wife	2	2
John Cole and wife	2	
William Knight and wife	2	8
George Copeland and wife	2	3
Total	37	49
<i>The Porirua Road</i>		
Mrs Branks (2) & Mrs Mexted (5)	2	7
Mrs Hobbs	1	3
Mrs Mann (2) & Mrs Hallett (3)	2	5
Mrs Borrow	1	6
Mrs Kibblewhite	1	3
Mrs Monk	1	8
Mrs Booth & Mrs Bartlett (5)	2	5
Mrs Prouse & daughter	2	5
Mrs Anott	1	2
Mrs Harris	1	4
Mrs Taylor & daughter	2	3
Mrs C. Harris	1	7
Mrs Petherick	1	7
Mrs Bell	1	3
Total	19	68

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To George Grey Esquire, Captain in the Army, Lieutenant Governor of New Zealand &c

The Memorial of Thomas Shirley, Agriculturalist, residing on the Hutt River sheweth that he was directed by Mr St Hill, Police Magistrate, to take possession of some land rented by your Memorialist and that on his arrival there at about ten o'clock this morning he saw several Maoris one of whom walked up to him and warned him to leave the land pushing and brandishing his Tomahawk at your memorialist who being so threatened was obliged to leave the place. That your memorialist informed Mr St Hill of what had passed who with him to return to the land and again try to get possession. That your memorialist did so and from there five Maoris who told him that he should not have the land, that they had received a message from Rangihaeta yesterday telling them that they were not to leave the ground. That thereupon they forced your Memorialist to go through the River and leave the place. That the Constable Stratford was a witness to the whole of this transaction. That your Memorialist heard the voices of a great many Maoris concealed in the bush not far off and that he believed from various circumstances that the Natives will resist to the uttermost and attempt to turn them off the land and that they are provided with arms for so doing. And your Memorialist will ever pray

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11 Mar 1847

Turinga Kuri – We will not be able to plant potatoes until May or June and in the meantime they will suffer a great deal from hunger. Some of them will go to Ohariu – the natives of which place have a few potatoes but not many. He does not know what they will do for food.

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Ngatirangata under Paratehau  
Ngatitama under Turinga Kuri

The Ngatirangata had under crop 85 acres of land the probable value of these standing crops was about £451 – they had also a considerable quantity of cleared land not under crop – good native houses these house gardens containing pumpkins & maize &c all of which were ... many of their pigs & a large quantity of poultry – many of their pigs which they could not ... with them were also hurriedly sold at an almost nominal value – their personal property they ... with them but they were compelled with their wives and children to abandon houses gardens cultivations and the whole of their means of subsistence.

The Ngatitama had under crop 17 acres of land the probable value of the standing crops was about £89. They had a large additional quantity of land cleared – good native houses, store houses, a chapel, gardens containing pumpkins &c all of which together with their poultry and some of their pigs they were compelled with their wives and children to abandon.

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On Her Majesty's Service

Captain Charles Graham

H. M. Ship 'Castor'

Senior Officer on the Coast of New Zealand

"Racehorse"

Chiefs of Natives in this part of New Zealand

Before I proceed to any further measures, I make known to you why I visit this place with so large a force. I have already made known to you that I can come among you, as representative of the Queen, to uphold the Law, which is established by treaty for Native Subjects as well as European and fairly to insist upon justice in that we may all live amicably together.

I find on my arrival (as you well know) that sundry lots of land lawfully belonging to European Settlers at the Hutt district, have been occupied by Natives, refusing to give them up to their lawful owners. Upon my arrival I once more pointed out to these illegal occupiers of the land (Natives) how wrong they were acting and desired them to quit quietly otherwise I should be compelled to eject them by force. Many vacated peaceably, which on the part of the Queen I shall remember favourably. One party however – and his followers promised to go; but they broke their word, and having returned I was sorry to be obliged to occupy the land by soldiers by force and turn them off the land, in doing which, of course they brought upon themselves much distress. They then went about as vagabonds plundering European houses and produce in a most ... and savage manner, then it was necessary to try and capture them.

These bad men have flown away to the Bush, and I have been informed that they are protected and received with their plunder in this vicinity. It is not proper for me to receive you on a visit till this is put right, because if the Natives do not act justly how can I expect the Europeans to be just.

Therefore I demand of the Chiefs here to give me up these people, and their stolen property and cause them to return to their own part of the Island. When this is done all will go well; and I hope to see the country prosper peaceably, equally beneficial to Europeans and Natives.

When this is properly settled, and it must be done immediately, I shall be glad to meet the Chiefs. If the contrary, I must punish the wrong doers.

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