

P.S.—Pray, whatever you do in the new scheme, do not allow an individual to sell his share, nor for any less than the majority. The intrusion of the European (private or Government) into a title by the purchase of two or three shares has operated most cruelly.

DEAR MR. REES,—

Crosland, Kaipara, 1st May, 1891.

You asked me in a private note to give you a hint how the practice of issuing titles to less than the whole of the persons interested arose. I send you a copy of the Court minutes of the first case of the sort that occurred, from which you can form your own opinion.

I am, &c.,  
F. D. FENTON.

At a Native Land Court held in the Courthouse at Tukupoto, Kaipara, on the 27th day of June, 1865, before John Rogan, Esq., Judge; Henry Monro, Esq., Judge; Winniata Tomairiangi, and Wiremu Tipene Hawati, Assessors.—Paparoa Block, 4,540 acres. Survey produced. Te Keene's claim to Paparoa Block read in Court.

TE KEENE states: This is the plan of Paparoa. It was surveyed by Mr. Percy Smith. The claimants' names are—Te Keene Tongaroa, Te Huia Kohirangatira, Apihai te Wharepouri, and nineteen others (named). These are all the claimants. Paraone Ngaweke will inform you how these claimants derived their title to this land.

Paraone Ngaweke states: Pokopihowhititua was the ancestor of all the Ngatiwhatua. He was the owner of the land now under investigation. His children were Koieie, Te Wairoa, Tira, and Ruarangi. The claimants named by Te Keene are all descended from these four ancestors.

Te Huia Kohirangatira: I have a claim upon this land, being a descendant from Ruarangi, one of the ancestors named by Paraone.

Apihai Te Wharepouri, Tairua Patiti, Te Wiremu Rewheti, and Te Rewheti Tamahiki (the same).

Patoromu states: I claim this land, being a descendant from Tira and Ruarangi. I have a separate claim within this block, which I derived from Kirau, one of my ancestors.

Karauria states: I have a claim, being a descendant from Ruarangi and Tira.

Paraone Ngaweke states that Kataraina is descended from Koieie.

Te Manihera Katikati states: I am descended from the same ancestor as Te Wiremu Rewheti, and have also a claim to this land.

Tawaewae states: I am descended from Ruarangi.

Te Rira Makaiti: I am descended from Ruarangi, and have a claim to this land.

Takerei states: I am descended from Ruarangi, and claim this land.

Te Kira Makatiti states: Te Whatikina is a descendant of Ruarangi.

Paraone Ngaweke states: I am descended from Ruarangi and Tira.

Pakihi Taraia states: I have a claim upon this land, being a descendant of Tarationga, Koieie's fourth son.

Te Para states: I am descended from Te Wairoa. I have a piece of land which has been included in this block. I wish the boundary to be rectified—each man to have his own.

Te Wiremu Rewheti states: To Kepa te Aho has a claim upon this land, but Te Keene is the principal claimant.

Wiremu Pungaro states: I wish the survey-line to remain as it is, because we all have a claim to each side of the line. Let it be as the surveyor laid it out.

Paraone Ngaweke states: I considered that the boundary was wrong originally, and had a dispute with Te Keene about it; but, as it has been laid down, let it remain as it is.

Te Para states: The disputes of relatives are soon made up. We have had our dispute about this boundary, and I now agree to let it remain as it is.

Patoromu states: I still consider that I should have my piece, or let my name be inserted in the certificate.

Te Keene states: I wish to have my name alone in the certificate, as it can be subdivided hereafter, when each claimant can pay for the plan and deed.

After some little discussion Patoromu agreed that the boundary should remain as it is.

Manukau states: I have a claim to this land, and agree with Te Keene's statement.

By the Court: Are you all agreed that Te Keene's name alone should be in the certificate of title?—We are all agreed.

Boundaries described by Tawaewae and Te Rira Makatiti: Commencing, &c.

Certificate ordered to Te Keene Tangaroa.

SIRS,—

Kaipara, 13th April, 1891.

I have now the honour to forward to you a copy of the returns of receipts and expenditure —purchase of Native lands for the years 1870-79, of which I spoke in my evidence.

I have, &c.,  
F. D. FENTON.

The Land Commissioners.

P.S.—I think that this return was produced or quoted by Mr. Bryce in his speech developing Native policy.