

Anaru Eketone - *Wiremu Patene and the Peace Movement at Karakariki*

Wiremu Patene was a 19th Century Waikato rangatira who converted to Christianity after being impressed by a British missionary who stood in between his Iwi and another on the brink of battle. Patene later trained at the Wesleyan Native Institution, became a Native Assistant Missionary and was posted back to his tribal area on the banks of the Waipa River. His transition from an active warrior to a peacemaker led him to also stand between warring Maori factions in 1860 and he was a strong advocate for peace during the British invasions of Taranaki and Waikato. In the Waikato invasion his village of Karakariki became a sanctuary for those in the region who did not want to participate in the hostilities. Reports of the time referred to him and his people as “friendly Maoris” or “loyalists”. However it would be more accurate to describe them as neutral, wanting to prevent fighting and seeking to act as ‘go-betweens’ between the warring Crown and Kingitanga movement. Wiremu Patene and Karakariki can be considered an early example of indigenous New Zealand pacifism that may have influenced the pacifist principles later adopted by the Kingitanga movement.