

# EDITORIAL FEATURE

# Taumarunui Borough

# Centenary

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

SHEPHERD

## Street names preserve history

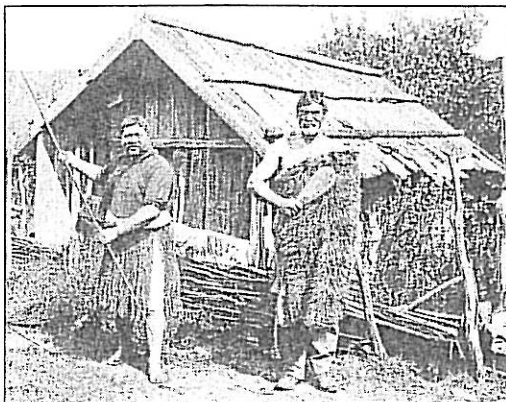
CELEBRATING the centenary of the Taumarunui Borough, this week we look at how prominent Maori families and people have left their mark on the township indefinitely with street names still in everyday use.

This information comes from a souvenir booklet printed in 1975 to commemorate the official opening of the carved meeting house of the Ngapuwa-iwaha Marae.

Hakiaha, Taumarunui's main street is named after one of the leading chiefs Hakiaha Tawhiao who served on the first native township council in Taumarunui in 1906. His fellow councillor and interpreter, the Rev J.E. Ward also had a street named after him.

Hakiaha was a church layman and built the first hall in Taumarunui. He belonged to the Ohura district and took a leading part in the affairs of his Whanganui tribe.

Manuaute St was named after Hakiaha's brother in law Manuaute. He took a great interest in education and was a committee member when the Taumarunui School was changed from a Maori to a Board School. He died in 1919. Eight streets are named after members of the Hekeawai family. Hikaia, Ngatai te Mamaku and Marae were all cousins, Hikaia, Porou and Ngatai grandsons of



**MAORI CHIEFS:** Manuaute (left) and his brother-in-law Hakiaha. Manuaute died in April 1915 and Hakiaha passed away in November 1926.

Photo: ROLL BACK THE YEARS

Hekeawai's were prominent land owners.

Ngatai the fighting chief of the hapu was a full descendant of a line of war chiefs.

Makere, a grand-daughter of Hekeawai was a prominent land owner and speaker at the Maori Courts. Para and Reu were sons of Hikaia. Para lived across the present main trunk railway line on the area of flat beyond the end of Para Street.

Katarina Street is named after Katarina Waehanea, daughter of Te

Awhitu, a chief of the Ngatiawa living at Taumarunui. She married Alexander Bell, the first Pakeha to settle permanently in Taumarunui in 1875. Bell Road is named after Bell, who was a very prominent personality.

Hekeawai was the brother of Topine Te Mamaku and Te Piki Hone, all of whom shared lands in the Maraekowhai, Retaruke and Tawhata areas.

Hakiaha married Miriama Kahu Karewao, (Miriama Street) sister of Turaki Makuku, her brother was Manuaute. Turaki street is named after Turaki Makuku. Turaki lived at the Purukituhua Pa near Victory Bridge along with Manuaute, Hakiaha and Taitua who owned the pa site land. Taitua (Taitua street) was known as a strong upholder of the rights of Maori people. He donated the land for the Taumarunui Primary School site. He died in 1902 and was buried in these grounds.

Morero Terrace is named after a taniwha who lived in the swamp between Hakiaha and Turaki streets below the police station. He is said to have followed the drain which flows around the Domain to the Whanganui River. There was a pa

above the swamp called Morero.

Maata Street is named after a woman who lived at the Morero Marae.

Huia Street is named after Te Huia Piki Kotuku, son of Puhuia te Rangiawahia, a prominent chief. Parone Street was named after a grandson of Poro, who owned a big block of land behind Sunshine.

Tuku Street is named after Tuku Teihu who owned Hikurangi Pa along Taupo Road. He lived on the site and was known for growing delicious fruit. He was a follower of the Maori King (Tawhiao) movement and donated much of his land to the movement. He burnt himself to death in a hut at the pa in protest at the Main Trunk railway coming through Taumarunui. He is buried at the pa.