



Who was Hōne Heke?

Hōne Heke Pokai, born around 1808, was a powerful Ngapuhi chief. He was known for his abilities as a warrior, as well as caring greatly for his people's interests. Hōne Heke was an influential northern Māori voice in favour of the Treaty of Waitangi. However, he later became a leading opponent of British rule in New Zealand.

As a teenager, Heke attended the Kerikeri Mission School and was baptised a Christian in 1835. This led to a name change, with Heke taking the name Hōne, which translates to John. He had a close relationship with missionary Henry Williams, and at the signing of the Treaty in 1840, he believed Williams' assurances that the authority of Māori chiefs would be protected. He was the first Māori chief to sign the Treaty of Waitangi.

While at first optimistic about the positives of signing the treaty, over the coming years, Heke became discouraged and disillusioned by both the failure of colonisation to bring major benefits to his people, and the increasing control of the British government over the Māori people.

This frustration reached breaking point in 1844 when Heke wrote to the Governor, demanding that the British authority over Māori affairs be removed. He also had the flagstaff that flew the British flag in Kororarereka (Russell) cut down. Over the next year, he organised for the flagstaff to be cut down a further two more times. The Northern Wars, of 1845, began when the flagstaff was cut down for the fourth time. This was part of the New Zealand Land Wars.

Peace was made in 1846, and for the rest of Heke's life, he continued to promote Māori self-rule in meetings and letters to the government.

Hōne Heke died of tuberculosis in 1850. He is still regarded as a great leader and a hero by the Ngapuhi tribe and the Māori people. To this day, Hōne Heke's burial place remains a secret, known only to a few people.

WORD STUDY

Here are some words from the story. Find them. Highlight them. Please explain what they mean in the story.

Abilities

Assurances

Authority

Colonisation

Discouraged

Disillusioned

Frustration

Influential

Opponent

Optimistic

Promote

Russell

Tuberculosis



SHOW ON THIS MAP WHERE HONE HEKE LIVED

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

What tribe is associated with these towns

<p>Taupo</p>
<p>Rotorua</p>
<p>Ngaruawahia</p>
<p>Wairoa</p>