

respondingly the 1847 picture shows the stronger contrasting dark blues and greyish-blacks of his work of the early and mid 1840s. The same small boat and sail are included with the addition of a canoe while the foreground figures have been replaced by four cattle beasts being driven by two figures. Other detail corresponds except for minor changes in the angle of the pa and the appearance of the bush particularly at the water's edge on the further bank.

Before we speculate any further on the significance of the two sketches, the known information about the scene should be placed on record. The pa, the only known representation of which is Fox's sketch, was in active existence from 1846 to approximately 1850. It was situated on the true left bank of the Ruamahanga River on the Otaraia station then leased from the Maoris by Archibald Gillies at a point where the river bends to the southwest about half a mile from the present Eastern Lake Road. The site is on what is now the property of Mr Richard Martin, (Grid Reference 842232 NZMS, I, sheet 165). The pa is shown on two maps, one of 1855 and the other about the same year.² Although, according to documentary evidence the pa by then had been abandoned it is shown on the first, Captain Mein Smith's map, with scattered buildings to the north.

Today the slope which appears to have led to the pa on the rise above is hidden by a plantation. The elevation above the trees has a short hundred yard escarpment facing the river to the north of which is a valley and small stream with a burial ground by a stop bank. Beyond the burial ground, again, a further slope rises, known traditionally as 'Pa Hill'. This escarpment runs north for some distance and represents the river-eroded ends of the last slopes from the Aorangi Mountains. The name 'Pa Hill' in the absence of any clear archaeological evidence would seem to indicate this northern terrace as the probable site, were it not for the fact that the river at this point is some hundreds of yards to the west across ground which is unlikely to have been reclaimed from the river in European times. However a local authority on the river, Mr H. T. Parsons of Martinborough, thinks it probable that this reclamation and straightening had in fact been undertaken by the Martins in the past. The pa which would appear to have been only palisaded and without protecting trenches would therefore have been on the terrace shown in the accompanying photograph.

There is a record of a pa in the area in Rangitane times. When some fifteen generations ago, the Ngai-Tahu and Ngati-Kahungunu displaced the Rangitane from the Wairarapa and the slopes of Wellington Harbour, Best records that the latter occupied many pa the largest and most famous of which was the Potaka-kura-tawhiti Pa at Otaraia.³ The pa depicted by Fox had been erected only a year or two before his visit.

During the invasions from the north by Ngapuhi and Waikato in the early 1820s most of Ngati-Kahungunu in Hawke's Bay and Wairarapa