

He gives us one vivid and unusual detail. He was asked 'Are you not hungry?'. When he had agreed he was, he was 'surprised & pleased' to see the Maoris 'collect about a bushel of sand on the bank of the river & spreading it over the bottom of the canoe light a fire & set on the pot while we were progressing'.¹⁶ After journeying up the Waipa river to Whakawhaka they finally arrived at the settlement Ashworth describes as 'Whanakay'. His interview with Hamilton yielded no more than a promissory note made out to Hamilton's brother in England and Ashworth returned up the sea coast from Raglan to the Manukau making drawings of his resting places.

From the Hamlin's Mission Station at Orua he travelled by canoe. His companions 'hoisted 2 or 3 blankets as sails having a small mast with green flax shrouds and a sprit to spread the blanket...' The whole journey took twenty-four days: the final difficult days he describes graphically.

Evening closed in & no sort of settlement or shelter was visible: the waves of the flood tide were rapidly advancing to the steep bank which marked, "Hitherto shall thou come & no further & here shall thy proud waves be staid," so as it was dark, I crawled up the steep & got into a thicket of bushes, supped upon some cold potatoes, got into my blanket in the closest cover & had some disturbed sleep. The noise of the sea influenced my dreams which pictured a number of natives beckoning me on to a village, then I woke & though I knew myself safe from all intrusion of pigs reptiles or human beings, I could not divest myself of a feeling of horror inspired perhaps by the thundering of the sea close by me, I rose about 6 next morning, Sunday, & resumed my barefoot march, my bundle galled my shoulders to which it was corded & my legs were aching. After walking above an hour I saw that the coast tended inland forming to all appearance a narrow bay, & that my route onwards must here be circuitous, though hitherto it had been nearly straight. Moreover the waves of the flood tide were rapidly advancing & threatening to drive me for refuge to the bare loose sand cliffs that backed the beach, where I must wait for the ebb several hours.¹⁷

Once back in Auckland Ashworth finished the paling fence and advertised his 'Household furniture & the house itself on its allotment of land with garden fenced in', his drawing table, instruments, carpenter's and joiner's tools, views, maps and drawings.¹⁸ The land had cost him £40 and the house £50 without labour. He received for the lot £74 0s. 11d.¹⁹

Ashworth left Auckland on the schooner *Thomas Lord*, 29 January 1844, which called at Whangarei harbour and the Bay of Islands where Ashworth made his last New Zealand drawings.

As the brown forbidding shores grew more & more indistinct I endeavoured to get a last fond look at the Farms where 2 or 3 real friends were daily endeavouring to reclaim the apparently worthless soil from the weeds & wildness that overspread it, I pictured one in particular resting from his hard hopeless unremunerating toil of 6 days & recalled the particulars of my last visit when I with a friend found him