

Te Onewa Taitemaha Taiaroa



It is believed he was born about 1800 at Rongomai... little is known about him but there is said to be a portrait of him in a gold frame at Otukou Marae (see picture p42 Otukou 1883-1993 by Deidre Gardner). According to this account he was the brother of Te Marangataua from Moawhango. He married Roka Kowhai.

Patu Onewa which belonged to Te Onewa was given to the Wanganui Museum by S. Woon of Whangaehu and at that time it was recorded as being Patu, Taiaroa. It is made from basalt and measures 415mm in length, 108mm in width by 42.5mm in depth (see Blue Book p 6). It remains at the Museum and can be viewed by special arrangement.

Te Onewa was the father of Hoani Tokorangi Te Onewa Taiaroa (aka Hoani I) who was born in 1837 in Ngati Hikairo, Otukou Marae which is situated beside Lake Rotoaira near Mt Ruapehu. Te Waati was the second oldest child of Hoani I. and was born about 1875? Te Waati's second son was named Te Onewa Te Waati Taiaroa (aka Uncle Nev).

(see Life and times of Hoani II for further comments on Hoani I)