



Tūrake Manuirirangi, and below at right with whānau members (from left): Tongawhitiwaro (Bob) Manuirirangi, Shirley (Solomon) Manuirirangi and Doris (Tenwolde) Manuirirangi, with two unidentified men.

He Manu-Iri-i-te-Rangi – Bird of the Heavens

Tūrake Manuirirangi 1896–1969

Hōri Manuirirangi Jnr

Rā te tai uru, ka koto ki Waimate
Ko Te Rere o Kapuni e heke nei i te maunga
e tārai nei i te whenua, i ngā pārae o te iwi
I ehuehungia koe ki ōna wai tapu
whāngaia ana ki te Rongopai
Ko ōna tikanga he mea tuari e koe
Te manu-iri-i-te-rangi

Westerly tides murmur near Waimate
Te Rere o Kapuni descends the mountain
forming its path through the land, across the tribal plains
You were blessed in its sacred waters
nourished with the Gospel
Its values you imparted
Bird of the heavens [1]

TŪRAKE MANUIRIRANGI WAS AN INFLUENTIAL TUPUNA of the Manuirirangi whānau. He was a devoted member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and was instrumental in its establishment in the South Taranaki region. This chapter looks at his beliefs and leadership qualities within the Church, and within his hapū of Ngāti Tū, of Ngā Ruahine Iwi. The main focus here is to report on information collated from interviews, church records and Mormon missionary diaries.

Taranaki

On the southern slopes of Mount Taranaki, between the Ōtakeho and Kāpuni streams, lie the contiguous ancestral lands of Ngāti Tū. The full name of the hapū comes from the ancestor Tūhaereao, father of Tūmahuki Rongonui.[2] Ngāti Tū is one of many subtribes in the collective that form the principal tribe