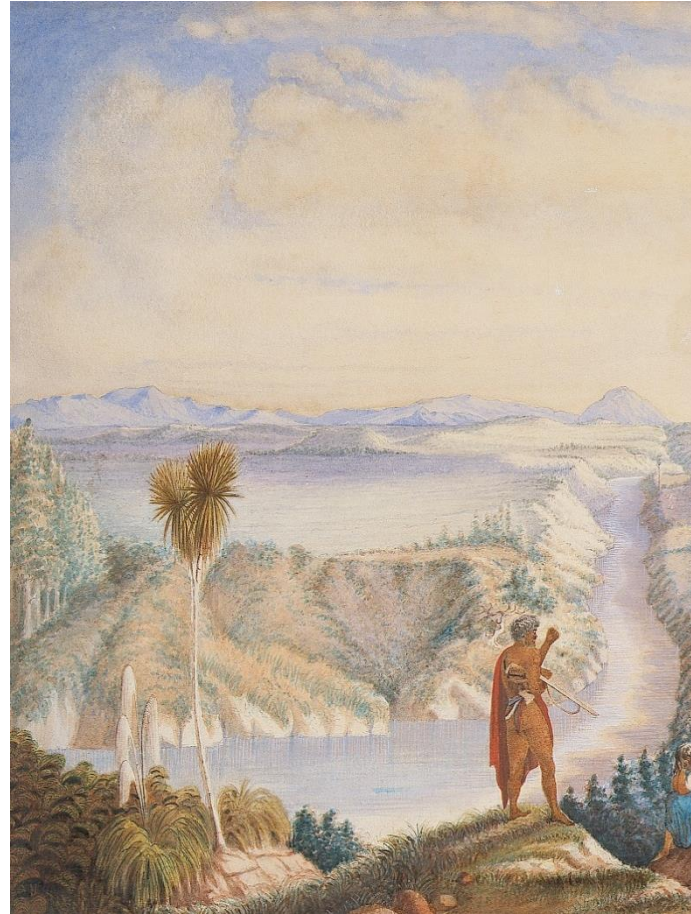


The landscape

During these times Cambridge looked very different from today. Swamps covered much of the landscape, and fern, scrub, harakeke (flax), raupō (bull rush) and trees like kahikatea and rimu were rampant.

Land ownership

Māori land was owned collectively and could not be sold without the consent of the entire hapū or iwi. It was possible for different groups to have different resource rights on the same land, and although it could be gifted, the original owner still held mana (authority) over it. To Māori land is a part of their tribal identity with whom they have a sacred relationship. Generally land is not viewed as an item for trade but is more akin to a whānau (family) member.



Before the Pākehā



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Gustavus von Tempsky
The junction of the Karapiro Stream and Waikato River, circa 1864
watercolour; 338mm x 488mm; New Zealand
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
Purchased 1977 with Ellen Eames Collection funds and assistance from Special Government Grant
Registration: 1977-0003-1

Waikato Māori

Waikato is the ancestral region of the Waikato-Tainui iwi (tribe) and its hapū (sub-tribes). Waikato-Tainui Māori descend from those who came to Aotearoa (New Zealand) during the 1300s on the Tainui waka (canoe) captained by Hoturoa. After exploring both coasts of the central north island the Tainui waka made its final landfall in Kāwhia, and it is here that the Tainui people first settled.

Generations later the Tainui people began to migrate inland. When they arrived in the Waipā district they discovered the first inhabitants of the area - Ngāti Kahupungapunga.

A long series of battles ensued resulting in the eventual displacement and conquest of the Kahupungapunga people at the hands of the Tainui migrants.

The arrival of the Pākehā

Māori from this area would have seen few, if any, Pākehā (Europeans) until the 1830s. After muskets arrived in the area local Māori leaders realised they needed them – it was a matter of life or death. They brought in traders, who gave them muskets in exchange for flax. The flax was used to make rope and other items.

Cambridge Māori

Cambridge (known as Horotiu) and surrounding districts has been home to a number of Waikato-Tainui hapū/iwi since this time including: Ngāti Raukawa; Ngāti Kauwhata; Ngāti Mahuta; Ngāti Wairere; Ngāti Mahanga; Ngāti Maniapoto; Ngāti Ruru; Ngāti Werohiko Ngāti Hauā; Ngāti Koroki; Ngāti Kahukura; Ngāti Marūtuahu.

Ngāti Koroki Kahukura mihi

Ko Maungatautari to Matou maunga
Ko Waikato to matou awa tupuna
Ko Maungatautari, Ko Pohara o matou marae
Ko Ngāti Koroki Kahukura matou

Our mountain is Maungatautari
Our ancestral river is Waikato
Our marae are Maungatautari and Pohara
We are Ngāti Koroki Kahukura

Ngāti Hauā mihi

Ko Maungatautari te maunga
Ko Waikato te awa
Ko Tainui te waka
Ko Ngāti Hauā te iwi

Maungatautari is the mountain
Waikato is the river
Tainui is the waka
Ngāti Hauā are the people

