

Nonoi's house in the dark. The only occasion of my taking a trip with Mr. Sutton, to the best of my recollection, was once going with him from Napier to Patangata, and returning from there and calling in at the pa near Mr. Coleman's—not Te Awa-o-te-Atua—the Willow pa, I think, about half a mile from Coleman's. I cannot say whether that was on the 29th of August or not. I believe that I left Napier with Mr. Sutton about four o'clock in the morning, and breakfasted, if my memory serves me correctly, at Douglas's. Then we went on to Patangata, for the purpose of seeing Nguha. We found when we got there that he had died. We left, and came back to Douglas's. We stayed there some time, and then the three of us rode from Douglas's house. We crossed the swamp in the night time. It was quite dark when we got there. We then rode on to this pa beyond Coleman's. When there we found that Paora Nonoi was not at the place. It was not his pa; but some other Natives, whose residence was on the coast at a place on Colonel Russell's run, we saw there. We saw him on some business, and got a deed signed. What it was I do not remember. It was not Paora Nonoi we saw. We then rode on over to Havelock, and we took a trap and rode back into town. That is the history of that journey.

Mr. Worgan.  
20th Nov., 1879.

642. Have you any further remarks to make?—I have only got to clause 5 in the petition. I cannot state positively, but my belief is—mind, I might say this, that I have documents in existence belonging to me which would show exactly the date when Paora Nonoi's conveyance to Mr. Sutton took place, and also who were present at the time. I am speaking now purely from recollection—this conveyance from Paora Nonoi to Sutton was signed at his own pa at the bridge. He was ill at the time he signed it, and had been ailing for some time. I know that he was urged by other Natives interested to do so, which I believe was the reason of his signing at all. This about the spirits, it is just possible that I or Mr. Sutton on going to this pa might have had some spirits. It is very likely we had, for I rarely travelled at night without some. I do not remember anything about giving money. I remember nothing about this: "In consideration of Paora Nonoi having executed a conveyance of Awa-te-Atua Block, I agree to a reserve of 350 acres being made.—F. SUTTON. 31st August, 1870.—GEO. DAVIE."\* I know nothing about this. If it is in existence it would have my signature. I have no recollection whatever of any promise of the kind. If Mr. Sutton made it he made it without my knowledge. I suppose that Paora Nonoi is Paora Poneke. Without the deed I cannot say. I do not know who Nikerā is. I cannot mention the grantees purely from recollection. That is pretty well all I remember about it. There is nothing else that I can answer in the petition.

643. Are the Committee to understand from you, Worgan, that you never proceeded with Mr. Sutton to the pa of Paora Nonoi for the purpose of obtaining his signature to the deed of the Awa-o-te-Atua Block?—I do not say so. I do not remember. Not at night-time.

644. Then why do you say that the signature was obtained in the pa to the deed of sale?—Because I have a sort of dim recollection on my brain now—I can almost remember the pa and the surrounding circumstances attending the signature to the deed. According to my recollection, it would have been in the afternoon when this was done, and not on this trip.

645. Do you remember having travelled in company with Mr. Sutton to Paora's place, and then having proceeded on to a Native Land Court that was being held at Waipawa?—I do not remember. If I had my diary I would know.

646. We have had it in evidence that Mr. Sutton on a certain occasion visited Paora's pa with you, and that you then proceeded on to the Native Land Court that was being held at Waipawa?—It might be so. I cannot say whether it was so or not.

647. Do you remember on any occasion visiting Paora's pa when you suppose this signature was obtained to the deed. Do you remember how many were there?—Yes; I think there were several.

648. Do you remember whether Paora could write his name?—Yes; he wrote a very good signature.

649. Do you remember who witnessed the signature to the deed?—I do not.

650. Did you interpret that deed to Paora before his signing it?—Yes.

651. But you have no recollection of your visit to the pa for this purpose?—I have not a very distinct recollection of it. My memory is hazy on the subject.

652. Did other persons than yourself witness this signature of Paora's?—Yes; it is very probable; I do not remember whether a European or a Native now.

653. Do you remember how you travelled to get to Paora Nonoi's pa on that occasion?—It is probable that I went in the ordinary way.

654. I do not mean what route you took; I mean the mode of conveyance. Did you ride or drive?—I rode, I think.

655. Did Mr. Sutton accompany you on that occasion?—I cannot say that he did. He might have accompanied me.

656. *Sir G. Grey.*] Did you see Paora sign the deed?—Yes.

657. Did any other person sign, not as witnesses, but as principals?—I really cannot say positively, but I have an idea that someone else did sign it, perhaps just previously. I cannot charge my memory absolutely with the fact.

658. Was it day-time?—Yes. My impression is that it was some time in the afternoon. I have said already that I kept a diary in those days, and if I had access to it I would probably be able to tell you the exact date the matter occurred.

659. Is your diary in existence still?—I left it in charge of Mr. Josiah Hamlin, who was partner with me in Napier, as a guide to him in taking up my business.

660. You think Mr. Sutton was not with you when you obtained Paora's signature?—My impression is that he was not with me.

661. Do you remember any other European having been with you?—That I am not certain about. I could not speak with any degree of certainty as to who might have been there.

662. But you are perfectly certain that it was not in the night?—Yes; that I am perfectly certain about. Paora Nonoi's pa was out of the way, rather, of the main road, and any one going there would have to go there specially, and go out of the ordinary track.

\* The words "Geo. Davie" were written across the document.