

APPENDIX A: Letter from Jane Luiten regarding sources

To Members of the Waitangi Tribunal and to Parties of Wai 1750.

Tēnā koutou.

In preparing for the upcoming hearing, further sources have come to my attention that may illuminate the sheep trespass dispute on Opape Native Reserve, which led to Ngāti Muriwai's 1883 subdivision Opape 3A. Namely the Opotiki District Court minute books of that time.

I regret these were overlooked in my research, and they do not appear to have been consulted by other historians working within this inquiry.

In particular, I identified the following:

R6659037 Opotiki minute book 1882-1885

R6659038 Opotiki minute book 1884-1893

On 8 August I was able to visit Archives NZ, Auckland to assess the relevance of these records to this inquiry. These are the minutes of Resident Magistrate Robert Bush's court at Opotiki. His decision about the sheep trespass dispute (see below) was on a loose sheet inside the cover of R6659037. I have deciphered his handwriting as best I can.

Resident Magistrate Bush's decision adds to the story of the Opape hapū subdivision. Of note, too, is his reference to trustees of the native reserve.

The decision is undated but likely relates to a case recorded in the minute book itself. Unfortunately, time constraints prevented me from undertaking a thorough study or even photograph of the remaining record. There does, however, seem to have been more than one trespass action taken on account of the sheep. I am unable to comment further without a closer look at the record.

Heoi anō, I bring this to your attention.

Jane Luiten
18 August 2025

