

## A rich and diverse history and heritage

Maori settlement of the fertile Pokeno valley floor dates back to the earliest settlement of Aotearoa.

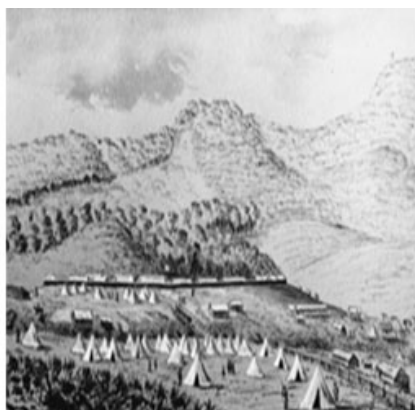
The town's name derives from the Ngati Tamaho village of Pokino thought to be located north east of the present town centre.

The early 1820s saw the area repeatedly swept by Nga Puhi war parties under Hongi Hika, the first of several forces to move through the area during the inter-tribal wars of the 1820s and 1830s.

It is likely the hapu of Pokeno joined Ngati Tamaoho war parties that travelled north to attack Nga Puhi and other tribes.

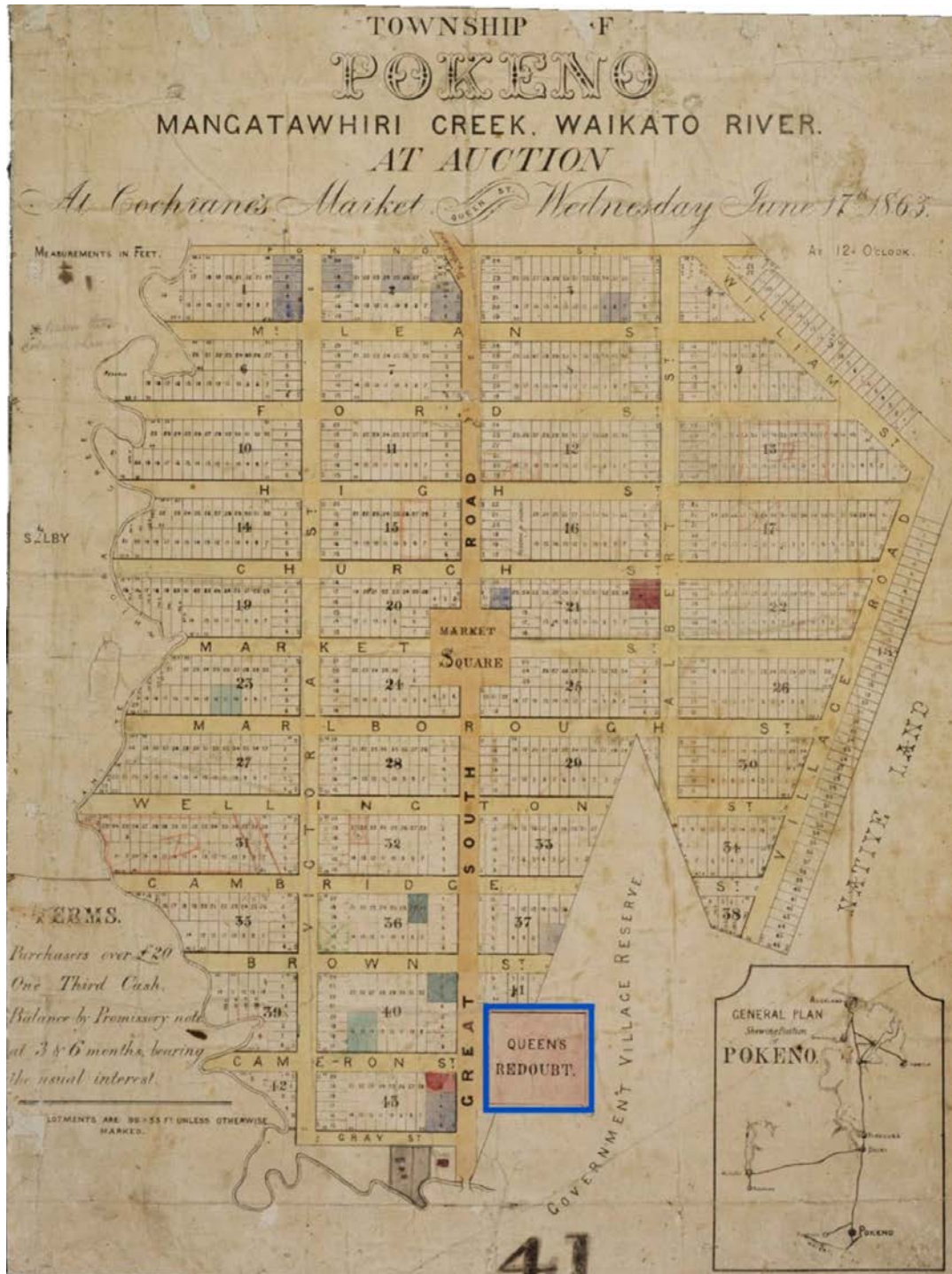
Pokino ceased to exist on the eve of General Cameron's invasion of the Waikato in July 1863.

By 1930 Pokeno boasted postal, telegraph, savings bank and telephone services along with a butcher, a draper, a postman, a greengrocer, a boarding house, station master and postmaster, along with a local bakery and general store.



<b>European settlement timeline</b>	1846	Government purchase of Ramarama block
	1853	Great South Road begun – Hayr's Line surveyed and cut
	1856	Hayr's Line widened
	1857-8	8 land sales in Pokeno
	1861	Great South Road metalled at Governor Grey's request
	1862	Road surveyed to redoubt, Queen's Redoubt established
	1863	Town laid out and auctioned, military rout of Pokino (11 July), first Anglican Church erected
	1864	<i>Helenslee</i> settlers arrive in Auckland (December)
	1867	Auction of redoubt buildings
	1875	Pokeno Railway Station, Post and Telegraph Office
	1898	Pokeno Town Hall
	1899	At Mary's Anglican Church
	1900	Creamery in existence by this date
	1909	Helenslee colonists' reunion held in Pokeno
	1920	Pokeno Hall
	1933	Women's Division of NZ Federated Farmers established in Pokeno
	1941-3	Japanese women and children interned in Pokeno
	1961	Present Pokeno School opened, also 1866-1991 Jubilee Reunion (21-23

	April)
1962	Soldier's Cemetery cleared and regressed by Franklin District Council
1966	Pokeno District School and Helenslee Descendants Celebration (26-27 March)
1991	Pokeno Schools and Districts 125 <sup>th</sup> Reunion (26-27 October)
1994-9	State Highway 1 bypass
2000	St Mary on the Hill, Pokeno Centennial Service (26 March)



Source: Pokeno Heritage Assessment by Dr Ann McEwan, Heritage Consultancy Services, Hamilton. 14 April 2008