

Daddy thinks the pass leads to Wilken River

p. 6 Sketch Wilken Pass from Aorangi R. bed.

p. 8 Sketches Aorangi Pass from saddle head of the Turewhaiti

Rabbit Pass (cont)

The name "Rabbit" was given because the rabbits had taken their last from the East Coast. When at the head of the Waitoto in 1850, the open Downs was swarming with rabbits, but 2 years afterwards they had almost vanished. No doubt they had bred in places in the Waitoto, then as population increased & feed ran out, they passed over this pass & down on the mountains East Coast.

The pass is between 5000 & 6000 ft high & is very dry on the Waitoto side but on the range it is not so dry as a few small glaciers have been avoided.

What sort of rock it is I do not know, but the Maori name is "Te Kaitiaki" & the pass does not go up to head where I reached at the head of the river if it is the river.

Wilken Pass

This pass will be valuable some day either for road or railway. It is situated at the head of the Aorangi a branch of the Waitoto & leads into the Wilken River, a feeder of the Waiau Lake. The top of the pass itself is a long flat ridge is just at the head line 3200 ft. & the road down the Wilken is open & can be run by 8 or 10 mules.

I got to the top of the pass in 1850 but no further being caught in a snow storm & I have since heard that anyone has come over the pass either from the East or West side which is strange as the top of the mountain can be plainly seen from both Wellington & Cambridge. As to the distance from Jackson Bay to the Lake Waiau

(9) via the Waitoto-Aorangi & Wilken River is only about 5-3 miles (??) a full account of the route will be given under the name Waitoto River

Aorangi Pass

From the head of the Aorangi river a branch of the Okara & the Yungy River which flows into Lake Waiau, height about 4000 ft. In some years other than this it is seldom more snowed on it. The general configuration of the peaks on the divide of this plain being no doubt the cause.

From accounts I heard in the Waiau, this pass is well known & is said to be taken by within 2 miles of the top from the East side, but no one to my knowledge has ever reached the top till I ascended it in 1850. The fall from the pass into the lake is almost perpendicular & it took me 1 1/2 days