

Keaho=Ohia?

Cheer descendants propose the name Keaho for their Hawaiian ancestor although no Hawaiian by that name is known to have served the Hudsons Bay Company. An alternative spelling of his name could be Keea but that man only served at Fort Langley for five years (1852-1857) before disappearing from the records.

Sound-similarities with the name Cheer point to the possibility that Keaho was in fact a man called Ohia or Ohier. Ohia served or lived nearby Fort Langley from 1845 until at least 1860. Catholic church records show the baptism of two of his sons, Charles (1852) and Basile (1953). Their mother was an unknown Kwantlen woman. It is also thought that he had two children with a daughter of Peeohpeeoh, baptized by an Anglican cleric in 1858 at Kanaka Village.

The Canada Census of 1891 shows the household of the Cheers at the Whonnock reserve at Stave River. Included are Katherine (60), a widowed mother, and her three sons: Daniel (40), Joseph (33) and Thomas (29)—the three showing a father from the Sandwich Islands. No records have been found yet showing their father's name or where they were born.

Also listed is Catherine's youngest, a stepbrother of the three sons with the name George Beebee (16) showing a Hawaiian father as well. Church records show that he was baptized on 7 June 1875 as a 6-month infant. His father is shown as Pipi¹, Kanaka, and his mother as Tseléwoluote of Whonnock. This is the Native name of the woman called Catherine, the mother of the three Cheer sons.

That same Native name can be recognized in an earlier baptism record: 14 October 1866: Baptism at St. Mary: Anselme, age 3 months. Father: "Tia," Kanaka, living close to Fort Langley. Mother: Tseléroulote of Fort Langley. In all probability Catherine was also the mother in an earlier baptize record. 24 March 1864: Baptism at Fort Langley: Felicie, age 6 months. Father: Tia, Mother Chelerouet.

The name of the father of these two girls, Tia, is not a known name in the HBC records. It is thought that it might be Keea, but Keea was only known to be around in the late 1850s—too early to father these children. Was this "Tia" in fact Ohia?

Listing the known children of Catherine and the known children of Ohia—except Ohia's

¹ 21 January 1885: Baptism at Whonnock: Joseph Piepie, age 65 years, son of Aly and Peel, Sandwich Islands. Same date: Marriage at Whonnock: Joseph Piepie age 65 years and Catherine, age ca. 40 years. Catherine, mother of George, Joseph, Thomas would have been in her mid-fifties in 1885 rather than about 40 years. Would this be her marriage? Another "Cathrine" died in Whonnock in February 1888.

children with Peeohpeeoh's daughter and Catherine's son George Beebee—in chronological order shows that they could have born from the same parents.

Daniel	1851	Cheer	Catherine
Charles	1852	Ohia	unknown
Basile	1853	Ohia	unknown
Joseph	1858	Cheer	Catherine
Thomas	1863	Cheer	Catherine
Felice	1864	Tia	Catherine
Anselme	1866	Tia	Catherine

The break in time between Joseph (1858) and Thomas (1863) happens to be the time Ohia was living with Peeohpeeoh's daughter Algace Piawa and had children with her. Did Ohia than return to "Catherine" fathering Thomas, Felice and Anselme?

It seems that Ohia is a plausible alternative to the mythical Keaho as the progenitor of the Cheers.