

5. His military records disclose that he was, at attestation in 1914, a butcher by occupation and that he had last worked for the public works department at Kaeaea (Aria district, southern King Country) in the district to which he returned following his medical discharge in 1915 and where his future wife's family farmed, and where he already possessed a Crown leasehold section.
6. He was considered by the Military to be of good character and he later received World War I service medals. The Petition sets out his subsequent military service in Samoa and during World War II.
7. William Magnus Peterson married Majorie S McNeight on 7 June 1917 at the bride's parents' residence at Mokauiti. (*Auckland Star*, 7 June 1917, Paperspast Website, National Library.) The bride's only brother, William George McNeight, had volunteered for service in 1916. He served on the Western Front and was killed in action at the end of October 1918 just before the war finished. (His Military Service Record – Archives New Zealand Archway electronic access service.)
8. The Mokauiti area, which the Crown had acquired as late as 1902 from its Maori owners, was only recently settled in the pre-war period discounting that an earlier generation of Petersons lived in the immediate area. It should be observed by the Committee that the Crown leasehold section at the heart of the matter, sec 2, Blk V Hurikia SD, was not at Mokauiti in the Taranaki Land District but, instead, was located some forty kilometres east in the South Auckland Land District and would best be described as located near Piropiro or Waimiha, not Mokauiti. Peterson and officials referenced that section being located near Waimiha. In 1930 it was recorded that the section was ten miles from Waimiha.

Peterson's Soldier Settlement Property

9. **Sec 2, Block V, Hurakia SD, (495 acres) was part of some 15,960 acres of Crown land advertised for sale or lease on Monday 23 August 1920 under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act, 1915. The land was formally known as the Ongarue Loan Block – West Taupo County and was described in the formal documentation as second class land. (ACGT 18190, LS1/1899, 26/19615, Archives New Zealand.) Areas of land in the district had clearly been taken up earlier than 1920 and it appears that what was being offered were some of the less attractive and heavily timbered blocks. The *New Zealand Herald* reported upon the ballot noting that there were 29 applicants for the 25 sections on offer and recorded on the sale plan. 17 sections were successfully balloted for and the remainder passed in. (*New Zealand Herald*, 26 August 1920, Paperspast website, National Library.) Peterson was allotted Section 2.**
10. The section was to be held on a special tenures lease, perpetually for successive terms of 66 years commencing on 1 January 1921. The capital value of Crown-owned section 2 was described for annual rental determination purposes to be £1420:0:00. (Petition Papers.) It was probable that rental reviews would occur when the lease was renewed. The Petitioner has mistaken this figure for a sum which she believes her Grandfather paid for the land either for cash or by way of a mortgage.