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Submission for the Wai 2500 claim

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I'm not understanding how families can be written out of history, when they were well known, and the first settlers in the valleys of Mokauiti and Waimiha. This is how our documents and our research have led us to discover and uncover the unjust that took place towards my family.

Hugh and Fanny McNeight, were one of the first settlers in the Mokauiti Valley, in the King Country of New Zealand. With their two children, William George and Marjorie Spence, spent most of their teenage years and young adult hood, in what we would call, the out backs of the King Country. They were well established farmers, they welcomed new comers into the district. In having been involved in helping build other new arrivals, their accommodation, and settling them into the region. Have heard of the kindness the McNeight's gave out to the community. Hugh with a very strong Irish accent, of great height and build, he was not a young man, and of need for his only son William to help run the family dairy farm. The locals would hear audible voices as they did there daily tasks. They played instruments and sang in the local band and played through their district with the Peterson family. Their daughter Marjorie delivered the mail on horse for the local community, between Mokauiti and Waimiha with the government's Pony Express. Year's later dad remembers a presentation that was given to Marjorie, dad's mum, on services that were rendered from the government department with thanks. A

great big green cake, iced with bullocks pulling one big milled tree, that was presented.

They were all farmers in that Valley, everyone knew everyone.

Peterson and McNeight seem to be written out of history. Even the history books that have been written in the regions where they lived for years, don't seem to know them. Funny that.

Henry and Ruth Peterson were also well establish farmers in Mokauiti, but arrived years later than the McNeight's, around 1910. That's how my dad's parents meet, William Peterson and Marjorie McNeight, in the Mokauiti Valley, they were natives of the region.

W.W.1 had been declared. The McNeight's only son William George, was wounded in France, then sent back out, then died two month later in France, on the 1/10/1918. Found in a shallow grave.

Hugh and Fanny McNeight could not work their land since their only son's death, they then decided to lease the farm out for a long period of time.

William Peterson and Marjorie McNeight got married out of the Mokauiti valley, after William returning from Gallipoli in 1917.

They had one son, naming my dad, Noel William George, after William George McNeight, who died in France three months before dad was born on that Christmas day of 1918.

Soldiers Ballot land was allocated to William and Marjorie Peterson, my dads mum and dad, my grandparents in 1920. My dad of 97 years of age on this Christmas Day 2015, still remembers the names of their neighbour's and the things that one learns in the

early years of life in the out backs of Waimiha. These were real Pioneer people settling amongst virgin native forest. Its not that they were not use to it, cause they were, as for my family they were tree huggers and knew or thought they did, that if they wouldn't sign a declaration for the removal of the virgin native trees. The trees would be kept safe and standing today, as they had all ready cleared the land that they needed, all they wanted was grass seed and fencing.

While the government proceeded not to assist my family financially, my family were bound to fail. This took place between 1920-1930's.

That's how the government acquired Discharged Soldiers ballot land, by hiding it into the Native Land Act 1909.

William and Marjorie separated, after years of family memories the hardship and suffering of their loved ones, laughter that would have come about with music when played with their mates in the valley. I also have heard from dad of many great stories that happened through the Valley of his child hood over the years .

The government took their family roots away from them. Marjorie, and her two children with her parents Hugh and Fanny McNeight went to live in Te Kuiti.

While William was serving for the N.Z Military Police in Samoa, The government bankrupted him, then subdivided his farm while under the Native Lands Act, until they sold it on to a non soldier for 405 pounds, when William purchased the land for 1,420 pounds 26 years before the government sold it on.(K15922).

Father in law, Hugh, died in Te Kuiti one year later, a broken man

after leaving the area that he helped to develop as a settlement.

The land was left to their only living sibling, my dad's mum. Which they merged the farms together, then leased them out.

Marjorie and her two children stayed in Te Kuiti with her mother as to continue to look after her till she died in 1948.

They never spoke much of their hurts in their day. Since my researcher and I have been working on this for over 7 years, we have uncovered the corruption that had taken place behind closed doors in parliament.

His Dad recalls the time his father found him in Fiji during W.W.11 they were both in service, his father in the navy and dad in the army. Dad hasn't seen his father from that day they left Waimiha and went to live in Te Kuiti with his mum and grandparents back in 1927 till the Second World War.

I would hope not to think the government of today is trying to make excuses and to justify the departments of that day, who took advantage of our returned veterans, and our families for fighting for our Empire.

I believe this is my customary rights as a daughter from a soldier's family.

Trying to re-adjust back into the community, with the loss of a family member not coming home, the effects of post-war stress, along with the hardship that took place. I certainly would not help the government by signing anything to do with the timber rights which they needed my family to sign.

Dad remembers his father saying we are going to starve if we stay

here any longer. There little cheese factory that was operating for some years, just could not support or try to sub stain an income for there family.

When they asked for financial assistance, for grass seed and fencing, the government declined them. The government didn't fulfill the 1915 contract, which was set aside for the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act of 1915, under advancements in section 6. The Government even went against the Minister of Lands, D.H. Guthrie on the 13/2/1921 where they were exempt from payment of rent and financial assistance was needed.

William and Marjorie were declined on both accounts on 31/12/1921 then again 31/8/23. All neighbouring farms were assisted.

This is not justice. The government tried to get rid of my family off their land, as their farm was covered in native trees that was very heavily dense, had a great deal of value. Like we have uncovered what it's worth today.

My family could have bought a hundred farms for what the millers paid for the trees this was a percentage of the land that government had acquired.

Government should be a shame to challenge my family grievance, but to challenge a soldier that had risk his live for you to have what you have got today. Remember this.

William Peterson received the Ballot land under a contract from King George V, under The Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act of 1915, STL.

This is when the trouble started with government and my family.

Government did not fulfill the contract that King George had set out for his soldiers to be settled on the land. This is how the King could protect and reward his soldiers, was through his contract. Government over thrown the King.

The land had great value with a forest of virgin native trees, and the rivers that ran through, their land was easy to erect a mill and worker mans cottages. Easy money for government and their timber merchant friends standing by.

The loss of the McNeight's son William , left Hugh and fanny little choice but to follow their only child Marjorie and her husband William into the Waimiha Valley, where they were to start their new life on soldier's ballot land. In having to do this, they needed to merged there Mokauiti farms together, and leasing them out on a long term lease from 1923 to 1950. This gave them an opportunity to start a new life while recovering from the loss of their son William George and the stress that they would have endured on giving up there home and adapting back into a new erea after the Great War. The government weaken the family unit, by not supporting them, and putting my family into a separating situation. In 1927, by first forfeiting their land, then the government saying they had abandon there farm, then they bankrupted my family in the year 1929, while William was serving with the Military Police in Samoa. This was all pending from the Official Assignee decision. The Official Assignee stating monies paid in full, asking for the bankruptcy to be released. The government still went a head. Is there a pattern here, that one can see. Disgrace on govt.

They must have no respect for people, to be able to take their lives from ones family, just makes me speechless to say the lest. How

they used and abused my family while they were trying to support and work the land, till they couldn't any more, without the grass seed, their stock and themselves would starve.

Once the government got my family off their land, the tram tracks were assembled, which ran all up the Ongarue River, with veins of tramlines came running from it, ready to rape the native trees that had been standing for hundreds of years. This was then milled, all there trees were taken, not one standing, except for the old oak trees that my grand parents planted, back about a hundred years ago. The govt. must not fail in getting there farms up to a working unit, till it can support the family with an income of about 500 pounds with in the 10 year period.

Govt. didn't abide the contract from King George V for his soldiers of New Zealand.

All this was done behind the scenes in government. They per meditated and planned the way to be able to mill the timber off the land, which took them many years to scheme and plot especially when the big timber merchants licence expired. They then needed the signature again from the owners, which would have been with great difficulty, as my family would not accommodate after the performance of the lack of the financial help from Govt. between 1921 -1923 for an example. The government received great benifits, on the expense from our family But to do this to a return soldier when he had fought to protect us and the empire.

I need this in, so my father can see that justice for our fallen soldiers from the W.W.1. has been served.Dad isn't getting any younger.

Tanya Peterson

My claim has all documentation to prove beyond a reasonable doubt, that the evidence that I hold, has merit. This claim needs to be addressed immediatly into The Treaty Of Waitangi under the wai 2500, usiing the First Schedule, Article The Third, signed by W. Hobson Lieutenant Governor.