

MS96/39

Rangi Mawhete, 1880 - 1961

PAPERS

Rangi Mawhete, the son of William Moffatt (1838?-1880) and his second wife, Eruiri Manako (sic), was baptised William Arthur Moffatt. Mawhete was closely related to Wanganui, Muaupoko, Ngati-Apa, Upokoiri, and Hamua tribes through his mother. He was active in the Labour Party for many years and contested the Western Maori seat in 1922 and 1925. He became a member of the Legislative Council from 1936-1950. Mawhete married Kathleen McGlone and of their three sons, William (1918-), served with the King's Squadron as a Lancaster bomber pilot, Joseph (1920-1945) was a Spitfire pilot who was killed in action, and Alan (1924-) served with the 28th Maori Battalion.

William Moffatt snr had come to New Zealand as a young man and after trying his luck unsuccessfully on the Thames goldfields, he had made his way to upper Wanganui, living among the Maori, and helping them to build several flour mills. After the wars of the 1860's, the King country was closed to Pakeha but Moffatt, despite being warned, returned and was killed near Taumarunui. Moffatt's life and death was used by C R Browne in his novel, *Maori Witchery* published in 1929.

Eruiri Manako was the daughter of Te Aweawe, a Rangitane chief. Her uncle, Peete Te Aweawe, whose monument is in the Square in Palmerston North, had welcomed the Pakeha, and was presented with a sword of honour and a flag in recognition of his loyalty during the land wars of the 1860's.

Except for one folder of papers relating to his father, William Moffatt and Moffatt Family history, and another folder relating to his son, Joseph Raymond Moffatt, these papers relate to Rangi Mawhete's involvement in the Labour Party and his work as a Member of the Legislative Council.

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Rangi Mawhete, 1880-1961

Papers

Folders

- 1 Bible Extracts - notes and translations
- 2 Correspondence
- 3 God's Law, man's law. (Maori history to 1926?)
- 4 Jerusalem Pa housing scheme
- 5 Labour Party and electoral matters
- 6 Land. Moffat family
- 7 Land. Privy council case between Hoani Te Heuheu Tukino (Ngatituwharetoa) and the Aotea District Maori Land Board. 1940
- 8 Land. Wanganui River claims
- 9 Land. Various claims
- 10 Maori in war and war memorial
- 11 Minutes of Hui at Bulls. 1925. Local committee to discuss submissions to committee set up by Labour Party to investigate poverty
- 12 Minutes of Maori Labour conference. Wellington. 1932
- 13 The Punaluan Family. Article
- 14 Speech by Tupu regarding wars of 1860's with references to Potatau, Wiremu Tamahana, Haumene, Tawhiao and Te Whiti

Folders

15 6 letters from Te Puea. 26 October 1941; 16 December 1941;
9 January 1942; 25 January 1942; 27 February 1942; 28 February 1942

1 letter in reply to Te Puea. 8 July 1941

16 Treaty of Waitangi and Maori equality

17 Whakapapa (Taranaki, particularly Rangitane)

18 William Moffatt 1838? - 1880 and Moffatt Family history

19 Joseph Raymond Moffatt

20 Newspaper clippings

21 Whakapapa scroll

22 Alan Moffatt talking to Peter Hughes, 20 March 1996.
Audio cassette tape