

James McKenzie and his brother (or brothers) emigrated to NZ from Nova Scotia in the later part of the 1800's. They settled originally in the Waipū Area. James was involved possibly as a surveyor in Roading and arrived with his work at Okaihau. He was very impressed with the view from the top of the Okaihau Hill into the Waikou Valley, so much so that he negotiated the purchase of 206 acres on the eastern side of the road from the Maori Chief in the area. James moved his family to a dwelling he built at the Southern, Okaihau end of his block in Old Valley Rd. Subsequently a brother built another dwelling at the northern end of the property accessed by a track now known as James McKenzie Way. (1895) Unfortunately the brother was killed in a logging accident before he was able to move into the house.

James moved his family into this house as it was a Superior Structure to that in Old Valley Rd. The McKenzies purchased an adjoining Block of 500 Acres and farmed occupying the land until 2003.

The Approved Plan shows James McKenzie Way leading into ROW Marked A. As J M'K Way is formed only to the start of A it seems only sensible to call this section the James M'K Way extension which leads into F, being the access to the LOT on the eastern side of the Whakanekeke River. The local Magon Family have an agreement to purchase this land on completion of this subdivision so it seems sensible to call this ROW F Magon's Access Way or Road.

It is only in the last 10 years or so that the legal Road now named James McKenzie Way had a title after I made a request to Council having first obtained approval from the McKenzie Family.