Betsy: Where do you start from?

Mackinaw: "Ermineskin", you start with what they did.

Betsy: What they did. John McDougall came and asked for that land. That land was leased out to them. This was the arrogation, it was not sold. The purpose was for soldiers to settle there. That's why that portion was given - bought for them and after the agreement was finished and signed. It was called the payment was going to be issued, all the people were called. Everybody received $12.00. And all these old people, our old folks like your father, my father, mother, sister, and your mother. They received extra whatever the money was left. That's that I could not tell much more.

Mackinaw: My grandfather right along like you said. John McDougall what was he?

Betsy: He was a white man. He was asking for the soldiers. They only took a portion, that was all ours. It belong to us.
At least some one should be there, even though your brother is still there. But he always liked to be selfish. But he shouldn't be doing this. He can't be the only claimant. There are still some people alive who are the descendants from there who could benefit, like this one. An old person now. (It sounds like someone else was there as old as she was.) All the old people got benefits from that.

Mackinaw: Was there any obligations made by the department? Like money or any for the future?

Betsy: They were told if they were ever in need of anything, to tell right away, they would be given that money.

Mackinaw: If they strongly need of help. They would be helped.

Betsy: Yes, something, try and be smart. We can't always be available to stand up for you. We're getting weak and slow. Even when we get outside we get pretty wobbly.

Mackinaw: This is all we wanted to know is about my grandfather and all those names are on there. And also about this late Joe Samson, was he entitled with that land?

Betsy: I don't think so. Only your grandfather was entitled to that land for the fact he stayed there after everybody had moved away.

Mackinaw: Where and who leased this land? Bobtail's Reserve? The government?

Betsy: It was the government. You will find it on the document.

Mackinaw: It's all there. He has it all here, but would you tell the facts?

Betsy: There isn't very much I could tell. Even the babies in cradle received $12.00 each, all the babies. You and your cousin weren't very big at the time.

Mackinaw: It's all on that paper. Even since 1909. That's the time my grandfather made the dealings, all the names ------ who was that, that if it's a male or female which was called Ke ayk Kay poo.

Betsy: She was an old lady.

Mackinaw: (Oh) she's listed on that document. It is true then my grandfather was the only one that was dealt with?

Betsy: Yes, also your father. He interpreted for your grandfather.

Mackinaw: There's not otherwise, people made the deal and where did they make deals as such?
Betsy: As sak kunek it is known as Ponoka. They had all the papers there in the office.

Mackinaw: Who was the Indian agent?

Betsy: He used to be a big man. I don't remember his name.

Mackinaw: Was it Joe Butler or was there another? (No) another one.

Betsy: No, he was the last one. I think it was Grant.

Mackinaw: The Indian agent (here someone mentioned Mann in the background) George Mann was his name (I) we found documents now pertaining about this land. It is him who found them. (He is referring to that someone in the background that is with him.) He went to Ottawa. He is trying to help us.

Betsy: We are thankful for doing this for us, specially if we could be compensated. It would be of a problem.

Mackinaw: It is true then my grandfather Mackinaw and my father and two others, one was named in Cree (e ayk kay poo) Sit Permanently. But it is not known if it's a man or woman.

Betsy: She's an old lady.

Mackinaw: Oh, it's a fact then they made the deals at Ponoka?

Betsy: Yes.

Mackinaw: I guess we can't go no further. And all those signatures that marked this way. They all seem the same. Who wrote those?

Betsy: I couldn't tell anything on that. We never participate us women, only the men were involved with the deal. But when the payments were made, all the women went along.

Mackinaw: And after, about two years later when grandfather was dealt with Joe Samson and Na choo wais and others also made similar surrender. He have all these all, his possession. (Again he is referring the man in the background) Is that true?

Betsy: I can't say for sure, but it was your grandfather who was made responsible to act as headman on that reserve. No one else and your father, them two. I assume they were only jealous to try and cause problems over this. There was a lot of this feeling from there.

Mackinaw: That's all, I ask her about --------- did they sold anything what's under? (Minerals)

Betsy: Nothing, just enough for them to make a living on (like
farming I'd presume) meaning soldiers. That was all, nothing else.

Mackinaw: That's what the document contains. The preceding was Betsy Cutarm concerning land deals between federal government and Bobtail Band in 1909.

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