

March 18, 2006

Governor Brian A. Schweitzer
Office of the Governor
Montana State Capitol Bldg.
P.O.Box 200801
Helena, MT. 59620-0801

23 MAR 2006 RCVD

To the Honorable Governor Schweitzer,

It is our understanding that Pardon petitions will soon be submitted to you by the Montana Sedition Project.

As descendants and relatives of one of the persons convicted and imprisoned for Sedition in Montana in 1918, we are requesting a pardon for him and all of the 77 others that were convicted of Sedition in Montana in 1918-1919.

We are speaking of our Grandfather; Fay Rumsey!

Our Grandparents, Fay and Sarah Rumsey, were married in Michigan in 1901, moved to the state of Montana, Rosebud County, and became Homesteaders in an area along or around Sarpey Creek! From our understanding, in 1918, Sarpey Creek was a rough area to live in; a lot of cattle rustlers, horse theives, etc!

In 1918 Fay and Sarah would have been married 17 years and had 11 or 12 children. When Fay was sent to prison, Sarah tried to hold onto the Homestead; but a woman alone with all those children?

Eventually the Homestead was lost; most of the children went to orphanages or were "Let Out" to other people! One of the children even died while in the orphanage!

Our generation grew up never knowing our Grandfather; he was ill when imprisoned and died approximately 1½ years after his release! Perhaps the stress of the charges, loss of his home, and loss of his children, aided in a premature death? We never knew a lot of our Aunts, Uncles, cousins, or their where-about!

There was probably a lot of stigma attached to Fay's children for a lifetime! Fay's children never wanted to talk about it, so except for rumors, we, the grandchildren, had no idea why our Grandfather had been in prison; until 1998, when some of us went to the Courthouse in Forsyth, MT. to find out why!

Our Aunt Ethel, Fay's oldest child, probably about 15 or 16 years old in 1918, related to a neice; Barbara (Dalton) Luke; that she remembered standing on the train platform watching her father leave and everyone was crying. Fay said to Ethel, " sorry, you won't be going to college."

We do know from the court records, what Grandpa's statement supposedly was! And wonder, if indeed, he said this; was it due to anger at neighborhood ruffians??

Our mother, Marvel Rumsey, was Fay's 2nd child; she's expired now but we know it would mean a lot to her, as it does to us, to see her fathers name cleared. Please grant these Pardons! Thank you!

Sincerely,

The Grandchildren of Fay Rumsey; one of the prosecuted; and children of Marvel (Rumsey) Dalton

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