

1814 HANSEN FAMILY

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 1814 Hansen Family Society Inc. The bicentenary of the arrival of the Hansen Family in New Zealand is upon us. That means it is time to plan a celebration and to discover, update and present the history of the Hansen Family for family members and all of New Zealand.

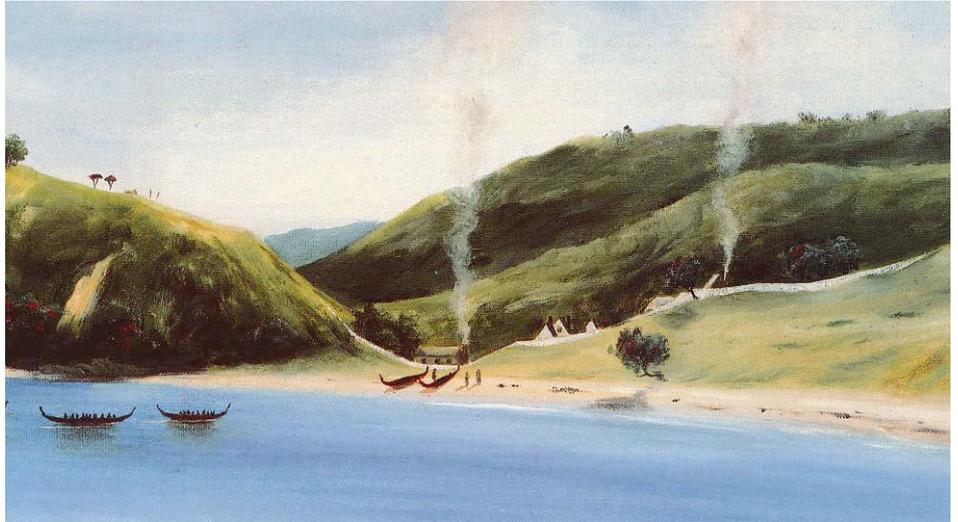
Many of you will have attended the wonderful reunion held in 1990 to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Hansen Family's arrival and settlement in New Zealand. Since then, family members (most notably Stan and Kath Hansen) have continued to unveil the history of the Hansen Family in New Zealand and to look ahead to the next major

milestone anniversary, 200 years since settlement.

This first newsletter gives an update on activities underway, introduces the newly established

Hansen Family society and describes what is being planned in the lead up to the bicentenary.

Join us as we work toward this important commemorative event.



Rangihoua Bay (painting by R Horner, 1989)

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The 1814 Hansen Family Society

An organisation has been established to support the planning of the bicentenary, the 1814 Hansen Family Society Incorporated. The aims of the society are to:

1. Raise awareness of the history of the Hansen Family settlement at Oihi in 1814
2. Organize and manage Hansen Family events such as the bicentenary reunion
3. Protect and promote any Hansen Family artifacts, such as the model of the brig Active recently lent to the Waitangi National Trust.

You can become a member of the 1814 Hansen Family society if you are a descendant of Captain Thomas and Hannah Hansen and you pay the membership fee. The fees will be set at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and are

proposed to be \$20 for 1 year, or \$50 to cover the full three years until the bicentenary reunion. You can also become a foundation member for \$100 (later in this newsletter).

Until officers are elected at the first AGM, the committee members are Ted Hansen, Kath and Stan Hansen, Kerry Butler, Rosalie Maihi, John Carroll, Eric Hansen, Denise Poole and Roger Chambers.

The AGM will be held early next year – 2pm 25 March 2012 at the Papakura Netball Centre with the date and venue to be confirmed early next year.

Family members are encouraged to attend or if you can't attend, make contact with the secretary or other current committee member to register your interest in any AGM matters.

Hansen Family 2014 Bicentenary

On 22 December 1814 the brig Active anchored in Rangihoua Bay in the Bay of Islands. The brig, under the command of Captain Thomas Hansen, carried Reverend Samuel Marsden and his chosen missionaries to New Zealand to establish a Christian mission here. Four families, including our Hansen Family ancestors, went ashore and established New Zealand's first permanent European settlement.

December 2014 will mark the 200th anniversary of this historical event and the 1814 Hansen Family society is planning a bicentenary reunion. The actual anniversary falls just a few days before Christmas - the Reverend Samuel Marsden preached his first sermon in New Zealand to Maori and the small group of settlers on Christmas Day 1814. The Church Missionary Society is planning major celebrations of the landing and the first Christian service at Oihi over Christmas week 2014 and we will keep you posted as we find out the details. We have decided not to divert attention from those celebrations by organizing a Hansen event at this time, so our celebrations will be held the weekend of

16th to 18th January 2015

The Telstra Clear Pacific Events Centre in Manukau is tentatively booked for the occasion. It is a great, modern venue that is well located and large enough to cater for the large numbers expected.

More information about the plans for the bicentennial celebration will be provided in future newsletters. All you need to do just now is to...

Note the date of New Zealand's most historical family reunion!

Communications

To stay in touch with our vast whanau we are planning a programme of communications, including email, newsletters, a website (www.the1814hansenfamilysocietyinc.org), Facebook ([Hansen Family 1814 in New Zealand](#)), letters, person to person, even through media such as radio and newspaper. To help us stay in touch with you, please let us know your contact details. We would like to be able to update as many people as possible by email but we also need your postal address for family tree updating.

If you would like to receive our communications, please send your contact details to Kerry Butler or other member of the committee.



WE NEED YOU!

We urgently need help from someone who can manage our Hansen Family website. We want to make information about the family, our history and the bicentenary celebrations available to family and, where appropriate, the public.

Please contact Kerry Butler if you think you can help.



FAMILY TREE

For the 1990 reunion, the massive task of documenting the Hansen family tree was undertaken with assistance from genealogical specialist, Evagean Publishing Ltd. This 175 year old tree of life required two separate 500 page volumes to record the whole family or as much as was known at the time. So it is with some trepidation that we now seek to update the entries and to bring the family tree into the electronic age.

Evagean Publishing (now owned and run by Alison Honeyfield) has again been engaged to translate the existing hard copy family tree record into an electronic format that can then be updated and made available to family members. Alison will work through family members to obtain information relating to births, deaths and marriages since 1990. She relies on contacting people by mail so it's very important that we obtain your postal address.

Please advise your postal address

to Kerry Butler and include your email for other communications.

It all started at Oihi

Oihi is the name of the place in Rangihoua Bay where Reverend Samuel Marsden established the Christian mission settlement that brought our Hansen family ancestors to New Zealand. 200 acres at Oihi was purchased by Marsden for the mission settlement from Ruatara the Chief of Ngati Rehia.

Today it is the site of the Marsden Cross Historic Reserve (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/historic/by-region/northland/bay-of-islands/marsden-cross-historic-reserve/>), a site maintained by the Department of Conservation (DOC). The Marsden Cross marks the site of the first sermon given by Reverend Marsden in New Zealand on Christmas Day 1814. Further up the slope there is also the King Memorial to the Rangihoua Mission and family members who are buried there.

DOC have recently upgraded the

track to the reserve, the Marsden Cross Track (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/northland/bay-of-islands/marsden-cross-track/>).

As part of our preparations for the bicentenary, the committee has commenced discussions with DOC to have the early history of the Hansen Family at Oihi described on information panels to be installed at the site. The committee has also been in discussion with DOC and the Auckland University to excavate the archaeological remains of what may have been the house of Thomas Hansen (son of Capt Hansen). Nearby are a lemon tree and a briar rose that may have originated from the time of the settlers.

We will provide more information on these projects in future newsletters.



*Marsden Cross at Marsden Cross Historic Reserve, Oihi
(Photo by Alison Mackrell)*

Did you know?



*The brig Active
(by R Horner)*

“The brig Active arrived in the Bay of Islands on December 22, 1814. On board was the Rev. Samuel Marsden who came on behalf of the Church Mission Society to establish the first mission in New Zealand at Oihi, under the protection of Ruatara and the Ngati Rehia.

The Active was commanded by Thomas Hansen. With him on this historic voyage was his wife Hannah, their son Thomas and their daughter Hannah, wife of John King the missionary. They were a London family which had already migrated to New South Wales in 1807 as free settlers.

Young Thomas was not a missionary but he settled permanently on land next to the mission, raised his family of 11 there

and worked for the mission for years. John and Hannah King spent the rest of their lives at Oihi working with and for the people there.

*The descendants of Thomas and Hanna[*h] Hansen were the first Europeans to settle permanently in New Zealand. Their [*grand] children were the first Europeans to be born and remain in New Zealand. The last of them was born in 1837, three years before the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. They lived in a community that was bilingual and bicultural.”*

Back cover of The First Family - Captain Thomas and Hannah Hansen and their children (1989) by Ron Martin.

[corrections]*

Fundraising

As you can imagine, the society will require some funds to support the planning required for the bicentenary. In particular, in the immediate future we need to lodge a considerable deposit for the hire of the venue, as well as some incidental costs such as those associated with our communications to you. As time goes by we will require funds to seed other fundraising activities.

We are very grateful to Kath Hansen for donating profits from the sale of her book 'Dear Mr Hansen' to the society. If you would like to contribute, you could become a member of the society (\$20 for 1 year, \$50 for 3 years or \$100 to become a foundation member).

We will advise you of fundraising activities as they arise. If you have any ideas or would like to make an online payment, please contact the Rosalie Maihi or any other committee member.

Foundation Members

Would you like to become a founding member of the 1814 Hansen Family society?

You will be noted in our membership record as a foundation member and receive a certificate noting your special membership. Each foundation member is asked to donate \$100 to the society and in return will receive their certificate, membership in the society until the bicentenary reunion (3yrs) and a \$50 discount on the cost of attending the bicentenary celebrations.

Funds raised from founding members will enable bicentenary plans and other activities to proceed.

Dear Mr Hansen

'Dear Mr Hansen' is a book recently written by Kath Hansen to recognize the work that Karl Hansen (3x great grandson of Capt. Hansen) did to start the



Karl Hansen and family (left to right: Karl, Eunice, Noelene, Lil, Val)

record of the Hansen Family tree. Karl began the project of investigating and recording the Hansen Family tree in preparation for New Zealand's 1940 centennial celebrations. The book covers Karl's family history investigations but also provides an insight into his family life as a young married schoolteacher in remote rural New Zealand.

Copies of 'Dear Mr Hansen' are available for just \$10 (\$12 including post in NZ) each by contacting Kath Hansen or other members of the committee. Kath is very generously donating all profits from the sale of 'Dear Mr Hansen' to the 1814 Hansen Family society.

Other Hansen Family publications will be described in future newsletters. Look out for **Kath's Korner** in the next newsletter.

What can you do?

We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter. Here is a reminder of what you can do to join in.

1. Register your interest with us so we can keep you informed. Send contact details to Kerry Butler or another committee member and please pass this newsletter on to others so we can expand our contacts list quickly.
2. Help with the family tree updates - provide your postal address to the committee so Alison can contact you.
3. Note the date of New Zealand's most historic family reunion - 16-18 January 2015.
4. We need a website developer urgently! Can you help?
5. If you would like to become a foundation member, please contact Kath Hansen or any other committee member.
6. Please note the tentative date of the annual general meeting (AGM) - 25 March 2012 (2pm).
7. If you have any feedback for the committee on the bicentenary plans or anything else in this newsletter please contact your committee.

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