



# 1814 HANSEN FAMILY

Hello again. Its not much more than a year now until the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Reverend Samuel Marsden on the Brig Active to establish a mission station in New Zealand. The Brig's captain was Captain Thomas Hansen and he had with him his wife Hannah and son Thomas. His daughter Hannah was married to one of the missionaries, John King, so she too was onboard.

This is the beginning of the Hansens and Kings story as the first settlers of New Zealand, a story that has continued through many generations to today. Their descendants today are fortunate that family historians such as Karl Hansen, Ron Martin, Kath Hansen and her son Eric, and others, have researched and recorded family information over the years on our behalf. Together they have built the knowledge base that is available to us in various books, publications, our website, newsletters, articles, etc.

Please enjoy this issue of the 1814 Hansen Family newsletter and take advantage of our website to keep in touch with information from your own branches of the family.

## SAVE THE DATE

**1814 Hansen Family  
Bicentenary Reunion**  
**Vodafone Events Centre,  
Manukau, Auckland, NZ**  
**16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

We expect to call for registrations next year, starting at our AGM (27 April 2014). In the meantime, plan ahead with your family members near and far to join us for our remarkable bicentenary and reunion – an event to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our forebears arriving to settle in New Zealand.

You can look forward to a range of activities and information including family tree displays, family group photos, historic Hansen family and Hohi site information and briefings, children's entertainment and a celebration dinner. We are also looking forward to a special service at Holy Trinity Cathedral or St Mary's in Parnell as our final gathering for the weekend.

Let us know about any suggestions you have for our historic family weekend.

## DO YOU REMEMBER

Did you attend the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1990? Memories and photos from this remarkable occasion are now available on our website ([click here to view](#)). Here is an excerpt from the recollections of Alex MacClure, sent to the committee after the event.

*The evening function was held in the newly finished Ellerslie racecourse lounge and reception building. There were a couple of wedding receptions being held in the building at the same time as our get-together, and we had to brush past a wedding be-ribboned Rolls Royce as we entered the building. Again the large hall was absolutely full of happy people, milling around and looking for relations. All the seating was occupied and even standing room was at a premium. Once again the atmosphere was one of excitement and anticipation. In the centre of the room was a large ice model of the brig "Active" illuminated by bright lights, which made it really glisten and stand out as a most attractive feature. As the band struck up and a plentiful supply of food and drinks were distributed, the tempo and the magic of the evening intensified and time seemed to be completely forgotten.*

## Contents

- Bicentenary 2014/15
- Memories of 175th
- Join the society
- In the Field
- Oihi / Hohi development
- Fact or Fiction
- Family tree update
- Volunteers wanted
- Historic headstones (photo competition)



**Remember the ice ship?**

## PLEASE JOIN UP TODAY

Planning for our reunion celebration is going well but we could use some financial help. We've paid a deposit on our reunion venue with further progress payments due soon. We also have a number of other activities and projects such as finding and tidying up family headstones, our website, newsletters and other communications, publicity, etc that all need funding. If you haven't already:

### PLEASE JOIN US TODAY

**It costs just \$40 to become a member of the 1814 Hansen Family Society Incorporated. This will cover membership right up to the bicentenary.**

We really appreciate those who have paid to become members of our society but if you haven't yet

it will help us heaps if you could join up financially. We have opened an Australian bank account to make it easier for those in Australia to join.

As time goes on we intend to fundraise to make the bicentenary as affordable for as many people as possible, but in the meantime, we seek your financial support.

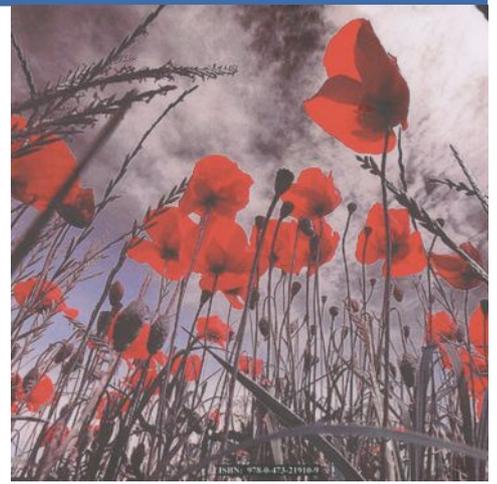
Please go to the contact page at [1814hansenfamily.org](http://1814hansenfamily.org) to contact us and we will provide instructions for joining. If you don't have access to a computer, send your cheque to Treasurer Rosalie Maihi, contact details on back page. You can also deposit funds directly into our accounts:

NZ: 12-3427-0268245-00

Australia: 062000-15074519

Just be sure to include your name as a reference.

**Thanks so much!**



## IN THE FIELD mud and blood on the Western Front

Our family historian, Kath Hansen, would like to see the stock of her latest book sold before her new book is published next year.

*IN THE FIELD - Mud and Blood on the Western Front* was published as a tribute to the 42 descendants of the Hansen and King families, who enlisted to fight in World War 1. They were the grandchildren of Jane Flowerday (3), William Hansen (7), Edward Hansen (6), Harriet Bowyer (10), Martha Reed (1), Dinah Poole (2), Amy Baker (4), John Hansen (4), and Philip Hansen King (5).

This hard cover book concludes with the incredible, true story of 22 year old QMS Bert Hansen who was captured in France in 1918. Incarcerated in six different prisons, including the infamous Black Hole of Lille, Bert Hansen escaped, not once, but twice from German captivity - a truly unique event in WWI.

The book costs \$50.00 posted anywhere within New Zealand.

Email Kath at [kathhansen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kathhansen@xtra.co.nz) to order.

With each order, Kath will include a free copy of the *Legacy of the Active* published in 2000 - a novel based on factual family history.

## HOHI SITE DEVELOPMENT

DOC is making good progress on development of the Hohi Landing site. The earthworks for a new bigger carpark are complete and the gateway structure at the top of the hill is well underway. A new wide sealed footpath from the gateway to the beach will zigzag down the hill with a 10 degrees maximum slope that will allow pushchair access.

The interpretation storyboards

have largely been designed and written and we have been invited to write the "Hansen" board.

The style of the development will be very similar to the work DOC have done at Cape Reinga which is most impressive so if you haven't been to the site yet start planning a visit after 1st April 2014 when the work should be complete.



## FACT OR FICTION

### Was Hannah King Letheridge the first European female to be born in New Zealand?

No. For many years, there was speculation and confusion surrounding Hannah who was born 11th January 1817 at Hohi, the eldest child of Thomas Hansen



junior and his wife Elizabeth. The birth was recorded in the private diary of William Hall, one of the three original missionaries.

The first female birth was Dinah Carruthers Hall, at the Rangihoua mission station, the second child of William and Dinah Hall. As a seven year old, Dinah was sent back to New South Wales for her schooling and never returned. So, the slightly younger Hannah Hansen grew up in the settlement as the oldest female child and as the years passed and memories of Dinah faded, Hannah herself was probably led to believe that she was indeed the first white girl to be born in New Zealand.

Hannah married twice and died not far from her original birthplace at the grand old age of 90 years. She was buried in the Russell cemetery and the headstone contains the mistaken reference to her being the 'first white woman born in New Zealand'. It also states that she was born in January 1816 and that she was 91 years of age.

[1814 Hansen Family website](http://1814HansenFamily.com)

## MARTHA WHITE

Pictured is the gravestone of Martha White, the seventh child of Thomas and Elizabeth Hansen's 11 children.

She was born at Hohi in 1826 and was married in 1845 to Robert



Reed. Both she and Robert made their mark in the register and they had Martha's father, Thomas, and uncle, John King, as their witnesses.

After Robert's death, she went on to marry 3 more times, firstly Charles Wood, then Jeremiah McGrath and finally, at the age of just 45, she married William White. She had 11 children and died in Auckland in 1902 aged 77.

We're interested to find out who placed this gravestone – sometime in the last 20 years. If you know, contact [Kath Hansen](mailto:Kath.Hansen@1814HansenFamily.com).



## FAMILY TREE UPDATE

Alison Honeyfield of Evagean Publishing is making good progress on the family tree and is now up to **9963** names descending from Thomas Hansen (son of Capt Hansen) and his wife Elizabeth Tollis.

Alison is now ready to receive any old photos and stories that can go in the first chapter of each branch of the family tree books (first and second generations of the family in NZ). **CAN YOU HELP?**

Please contact committee president, [Ted Hansen](mailto:Ted.Hansen@1814HansenFamily.com) and let him know what you've got. We'll then liaise with



Alison to coordinate what she'll use in the book.

If you have not yet been contacted by Alison asking for details of your family's births, deaths, marriages and brief biography, please contact us via our website [contact page](http://www.1814HansenFamily.com) or send your name, contact details and address to Kerry Butler.

Check out our website

[1814HansenFamily.com](http://1814HansenFamily.com)

Like us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/1814-Hansen-Family-in-New-Zealand/137760712942270>

Follow us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/1814HansenFam>

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The committee has established a number of subcommittees to help focus on specific areas of planning for the bicentenary. These specific areas, and the volunteers responsible for them are:

**Publicity (external):**

Eric Hansen and Kim Chambers

**Publicity (internal):**

Kerry Butler

**Displays:**

Paul Hansen, Denise Hansen

**Entertainment:**

Lyn Lander

**Registrations:**

Paul Hansen

**Event management, catering and hospitality:**

Shelley Woodney

**Security health and safety:**

Kerry Butler

**Budget and fundraising:**

Rosalie Maihi

**Merchandise and sales:**

Sally Hoani

**Photography:**

Eric Hansen

There is a lot of work to plan and do so if you would like to lend a hand – whether because you have some experience in any of these areas or because you just want to join the team, have fun and help out, please let us know. Contact any of the committee, or any of the people listed if you already know them.

We'd love it if you joined us.

## COMMITTEE

**Ted Hansen (Chairperson)**

[ted.hansen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ted.hansen@xtra.co.nz), 07 542 3814  
14 Motiti Rd, Papamoa 3118

**Kath and Stan Hansen**

[kathhansen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kathhansen@xtra.co.nz), 09 849 7091  
655/48 Hamariri St, Pt Chevalier, Auckland 1022

**Kerry Butler (Secretary)**

[kerryleebutler@gmail.com](mailto:kerryleebutler@gmail.com)  
021 681 044, 3F 38 James Cook Cr, Remuera, Auckland 1050

**Rosalie Maihi (Treasurer)**

[rosalie.maihi@nettel.net.nz](mailto:rosalie.maihi@nettel.net.nz)  
09 2989633, 027 415 2944  
6 Butterworth Ave, Opaheke, Papakura 2113

**Eric Hansen**

[elise.eric@xtra.co.nz](mailto:elise.eric@xtra.co.nz)

**Roger Chambers**

[roger.chambers@xtra.co.nz](mailto:roger.chambers@xtra.co.nz)

## HEADSTONE HUNTING HERO PHOTO COMPETITION

Halloween is over for this year but don't let that stop you visiting your local cemetery for a photo opportunity with your favourite ancestor...???

In conjunction with our project to find and improve the condition of the headstones of the first and second generations of Hansen settlers, we want to get you out to the cemeteries where your ancestors are resting in peace, to

make a connection with the past and get the photo that will nab you the Hansen Headstone Hunter Hero award. Most imaginative, youngest and oldest descendants, most interesting story, most descendants... the options are unlimited – that means we'll be making up the rules as we go.

You can submit your photos for the competition to us in two

ways. You can post it on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/page/s/1814-Hansen-Family-in-New-Zealand/137760712942270>, or you can send it by email to [photos@the1814hansenfamilysocietyinc.org](mailto:photos@the1814hansenfamilysocietyinc.org). Please note that by submitting a photo into the competition you give the 1814 Hansen Family Society the rights to use the photo.

