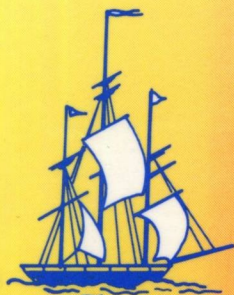


Manssen Family

in New Zealand



St Pauli

Henry James Manssen · Emma Manssen

Lynly Yates

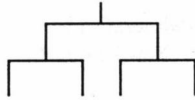
The Manssen Family
in
New Zealand

*Dedicated to our family
past - present - future*

Mrs Lynly Yates, 79 Gibbons Street, Upper Hutt, New Zealand

Edna Robertson

The Manssen Family in New Zealand

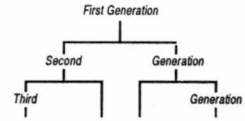


Lynly Yates



The Dunmore Press

Preface



As my father is growing older I wanted to give him something special. He has always talked about his father's ancestors, but has told me little about his mother's ancestors. His mother passed away when he was only seven years old and he remembered very little about her family. This was the start of my research. It is lovely to share the results with my father, but the more I found out, the more I wanted to share my new found knowledge with others. I decided the only way to reach everyone was to write this book. It has been a labour of love. The most precious thing you can give your family is time. I have spent time researching, writing letters, and recording details. Now the results of this time are preserved in a book for my descendants and yours.

Many of you have contributed significantly to this book, with the family details you sent, the stories you told, and the photos you so generously lent. My thanks to you all for your help. We will all learn about our ancestors and the generations that follow will know about us – the Manssen family.

I have found the Manssen family name spelled in various ways. In the early days clerks recorded all the details on documents. The names were recorded as they heard them and how they thought they should be spelled, and our ancestors had strong German accents which would have been difficult to understand. The variation in spelling made research into the family more difficult at times. You can come to your own conclusions as to how the name should be spelled; it is most often "Manssen", and this is the way it has been handed down from father to son for many generations.

I have researched the Manssen family in New Zealand only and have not included any German records (hence the title of the book).

Every effort has been made to ensure that details in the family trees are correct and complete. Although I have sighted many R.G.O. registrations for the first three generations, I have had to rely on senior family members to supply much additional information. I apologise for any errors or omissions.

I gratefully acknowledge the many people who assisted my research at the following repositories: Nelson Provincial Museum, National Library, Alexander Turnbull Library, Upper Hutt Public Library, National Archives, Registrar of Elector's Office, Registrar General's Office, Defence Department, The New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc. I also thank Diana Orr and Deborah Shuker for proofreading my material and making valuable suggestions. Lastly I thank my husband, father, sister and my daughters for their help and encouragement.

There is a saying, "You can be rich in pocket and poor in family and friends". We are all millionaires in family.

*Lynly Yates
April, 1993*

John Harold (Jack) Manssen

and Malvina Louisa Gibson

John Harold Manssen was born on the 11th July 1876 at Stoke. His father, Charles Frederick Manssen, Labourer of Stoke, registered his birth on 15th August. His mother was aged 23 years and his father 29 years at the time of his birth. John was known to his family as Jack. This was most confusing when I began my research until I connected the two names as the same person. I have continued to call him John throughout the book. John first went to Hampden Street School where he passed standard I in 1884. He then attended Stoke School and passed standards II and III between 1886 and 1888.

I have a photocopy of his New Zealand Education Department Standard Certificate, lent to me by his granddaughter, Melva Lyes. John, along with his younger brother Norman, belonged to the Nelson Rifle Club. They were both part of the team that won the Irvine Shield, on 30th January 1915. John's total of 98 was the highest score for the day. The Wairau Electoral Rolls of 1899 and 1902 had John living at North Bank, Wairau, with occupation as Farmer. Apparently, after the death of his older brother Carl, John went to live in the Blenheim area.

On the 24th December 1902 John Harold Manssen, aged 26 years, occupation Labourer, married Malvina Louisa Gibson, aged 23 years, occupation Domestic Duties. They were married by Arch. Thomas S. Grace, an Anglican minister for Blenheim, at the residence of Mr A.W. Gibson of Kaituna. The Intention to Marry register stated that John had lived in Gibson Town for six years before his marriage and Malvina had lived there all of her life. The witnesses at the marriage were, Lewis Foster, Survey Hand, of Blenheim, Elizabeth Grace Gibson, of Kaituna and Arthur Gibson, Farmer of Kaituna. Malvina's sister, Elizabeth Grace Gibson, later married Lewis Foster. Arthur Gibson could have been a brother or relative of Malvina. I believe it was in his residence that they were married.

Malvina was born in Blenheim on 21st November 1879. Her parents were Thomas Lennox Gibson and Lizzy Gibson, née Weaver. I know nothing about Lizzy Weaver but the Gibson family were early settlers of the Blenheim area. Thomas Lennox Gibson's parents arrived in Nelson on the *Fyfeshire*.

The 1905 Wairau Electoral Roll had both John and Malvina living at North Bank, Wairau, with John's occupation



Bryan descendant

Wedding of John Harold Manssen to Malvina Louisa Gibson.

recorded as Farmer. They moved to Nelson and in 1908. John was a driver and lived at Parere Street, Nelson, while Malvina had her address as Hardy Street, Nelson. Both of their daughters were born in the Nelson area. In 1911 the family lived at 85 Hardy Street, then at 63 St Vincent Street, Nelson from 1914 to 1919. John became a Painter/Decorator on the Nelson Electoral Rolls of 1922, 1925, 1928, at which time the family lived at 67 Tasman Street, Nelson.

John decided to pack up his family and move to Hawke's Bay. The post office directories of 1931 and 1932 had the family living at 75 Carlyle Street, Napier. The Electoral Roll for 1931 had them living at Stanley Street, Hastings. That address was officially changed in 1935 to 500 Grove Street, Hastings. This was the house that John and Malvina would share for the rest of their married lives. Their older daughter, Esma, married and her family also lived with them at 500 Grove Street. The younger daughter, Rona, married and her family lived in Napier. John ran a painting firm in the Hawke's Bay, with his partner Jack Munroe.



Gordon Sutton

60th birthday of John Harold Manssen.

Left to right. Back row: Rona May (Manssen) Bryan, Nick Sutton, Alexander Edward Bryan, Les Sutton, Arthur James Leslie Sutton, Owen Sutton, Olive (Gibson) Sutton, Rimu Sutton, Esma Emma (Manssen) Sutton.

Middle row: Joyce Estelle (Bryan) Spargo, Les Sutton, John Harold Manssen with twin, Anne Patricia (Bryan) Elliot, Malvina Louisa Manssen with twin, Melva Edythe (Bryan) Lyes, Gordon Francis Sutton, Verona Beth Malvina (Bryan) McFaul.

Front row: Deidre (Sutton) Lee, Edna Adell (Bryan) Robertson, Norma Doris (Bryan) Danvers, Lenore Betty Sutton, John Clifton Sutton.

Malvina Louisa Manssen, aged 70 years, died on 6th October 1949 in Hastings and was buried on the 8th October at the Hastings Cemetery. Malvina and John had been married for 47 years. John continued living at 500 Grove Street Hastings along with his daughter Esma and her family.

On the 10th July 1959 John Harold Manssen, aged 82 years, died at his home. He was buried on the 13th next to his wife, Malvina, at the Hastings Cemetery. He left two daughters, Esma Emma (Sutton) and Rona May (Bryan) Manssen.

John Manssen's sporting spirit was passed down to many of his descendants. His grandson, Bill Sutton, played cricket and later in life became a National B Grade umpire. Bill's sons, Graeme and Dean, are well known on the speedway circuits around New Zealand for driving TQ's. They design, build, and race their own cars. Graeme Sutton won the inaugural World TQ quarter mile midget championship at Auckland's Western Springs on 26th January 1991.

John H. (Jack) Manssen

Some notes on his life by grandson Gordon Sutton

One might say my grandfather's life was one of a series of upheavals, for I can well remember him telling me, when I was in my late teens, how he and his family woke up in Nelson one morning to see the whole sky ablaze in a strange orange/red glow. Grandad was at that time just ten years old. The glow of course was the eruption of Mount Tarawera that was to go down in the history books of New Zealand as the most tragic upheaval since the arrival of the white man. At that time, he related, the family did not know for quite some time what the strange phenomenon was, as we must remember radio and telephone communications were almost non-existent in those days.

Upheaval number two was the sudden move to the Kaituna and Blenheim district on the death of his brother. How long he stayed there I do not know, but he was there at least nine or 10 years, working on threshing mills and farms. History books tell us jobs were scarce, and he worked in that area until he married and shifted in 1908.

Upheaval came again in his early married life when things went somewhat sour with his painting, paperhanging and decoration job with Messrs. Savidge & Sons in Nelson and he left their employment unexpectedly one morning just before lunch-time. The saying is "When one door closes another one opens". That proved to be correct in this case, for it was when on his way home from that unpleasant episode that he chanced to meet a prominent Nelson businessman. (Regrettably, although he told me who it was, I have never remembered the man's name.) The gentleman remarked, "You appear to be going home early today Jack, what is wrong?" "We have had a dust-up at Savidges", Granddad replied, "and so I have packed up my tools and called it a day." "What do you think you might do Jack?", the gentleman asked. "I don't know", Granddad said, "but I am very tempted to think about starting out on my own account". "Good", the other man said, "You can start on my house tomorrow morning." From what I can gather he was a self-employed painter, paperhanger and decorator for the rest of his working life.

He apparently progressed very well for a few years in Nelson and then came another unexpected upheaval in the form of the Murchison-Nelson earthquake on 17th June 1929. It was this event, I am told, that convinced my grandmother and her two daughters to leave Nelson promptly. The decision to move was very much against Granddad's wishes. Nelson had been his hometown for the greater part of

his life; he had a nice home in Tasman Street, a good one-man business and furthermore was a very successful and well respected member of the Nelson and Districts Rifle Club. This sport was only a hobby, one that he told me he never really had as much time or finance to give to as he would have liked, but the records of which nevertheless show us that he could more than hold his own with the best in the country.

How many times he attended the New Zealand Rifle Shooting Championships at Trentham, either as a competitor or supporter-come-spectator, we shall probably never know. I do know he qualified for the "Kings Fifty" top shooters of the country for the final shoot off many times. I do believe it could have been as many as eight occasions. No small effort for an amateur rifleman of very limited resources in those days of hard times in a crippling Depression.

Packing up an entire house lot and shifting from Nelson to Napier in the 1920s must have been difficult and not without a certain amount of expense. However, Grandad seemed to take that in his stride and set up home and worked there for a short time before buying a house and five acres of land in Hastings. The property in Stanley Street (or Grove Street as it became in the mid-1930s) was to be his final home.

At Stanley Street (Grove Road) in February 1931 another gigantic upheaval was the tragic Hawke's Bay earthquake. Grandad's house suffered a little damage in that the brick chimneys came down and the fireplace and some out-buildings were slightly damaged, but the scary nature of the climate at the time was enough to force the family out of the house (Grandfather, Grandmother, my parents and myself) to live in a lean-to garage and under canvas for some weeks after.

The following years may not have been as joyful for him as they could have been with the Great Depression in the 1930s, the big flood on Anzac Day 1938, which led to the whole sewerage system of his home having to be replaced, and the terrible war of 1939-45, during which time the Government commandeered all .303 rifles in the country. I can well remember Grandad being in tears when the authorities came to collect his two treasured competition rifles, with the promise of returning them at the conclusion of the War. Of course they were never returned. To part with the rifles that were his pride and had given him so much joy over many years, rifles with which he had competed with considerable distinction on more shooting ranges than we have fingers on our hands, must have made him swallow very hard, but then he had experienced so many set-backs and upheavals, he must have had the courage and strength to endure it all.

Grandmother was stricken with an illness very early in the war years that left her unable to walk for the last nine years of her life. It was another burden Grandad had to shoulder, but never once did anyone hear him complain.

1946 saw Grandad bereaved by the passing of a granddaughter who had lived with him for all of her 12 years. One would have had to have been there to know his feelings in seeing one of his own family, a generation down, granted, but still a family member, suffer the tragic effects of cancer.

Just over three years later, bereavement struck again with the passing on of his wife, my grandmother, after 57 years of marriage and companionship. About this time another upheaval was taking shape in the form of the Education Board taking Grandad's land under the Public Works Act for a school. Mayfair School now stands on the major part of what was his property.

Retirement for him probably never brought the comforts that he deserved. He had been a widower for ten years. Through an accident with a horse as a young man he had a severe hearing disability, which meant he could never listen to a radio or gramophone, nor talk to anyone on a telephone. He never had the finances,

or the company of anyone to travel with, to any great degree, but he tried to enjoy the simple life that was his lot. He enjoyed a football match, a day at the races, a game of cards, particularly crib and 500, and was a keen spectator at the North Island Rifle Shooters Annual Meeting at Roy's Hill, near Hastings every Easter right up until the time of his passing.

I know we all have regrets in our lives and one of mine is that I did not or was not able to do more for my grandfather than I did during the time I lived with him. My wife and I are comforted however, in the memories we have of some of the trips we took him on, some of the little things we were able to do for him, some of the things he showed and taught us. One everlasting memory was the day when four of us went out into the country to test out a rifle that was for sale, we took Grandad for the ride. We had fired a few shots and offered it to Grandad to "Have a try". He couldn't get onto the ground and the rifle to his shoulder quick enough, at nearly 81 years of age!

John H. MANSSEN Family Tree

John Harold MANSSEN: Born 11 July 1876 Stoke – Died 10 July 1959 Hastings
 Married 24 December 1902 Kaituna
 Malvina Louisa GIBSON - Born 21 November 1879 Blenheim
 Died 06 October 1949 Hastings

- * * [1] Esmá Emma MANSSEN: Born 05 October 1906 Nelson
 - * Died 17 May 1987 Hastings
 - * Married 21 April 1930 Napier
 - * Arthur James Leslie SUTTON - Born 14 September 1900 Picton
 - * Died 29 September 1979 Hastings

- * * * [1] Gordon Francis SUTTON: Born 15 December 1930 Hastings
 - * Married 22 June 1957 Hastings
 - * Valerie Edith May BURKE - Born 03 May 1938 Levin

- * * * * [1] Carey Elizabeth SUTTON: Born 24 June 1958 Hastings
 - * Married 23 January 1988 Hastings
 - * Dereck Anthony McCARTHY - Born 28 February 1959 Hastings

- * * * * [2] Peter Francis SUTTON: Born 05 May 1961 Hastings
 - * Died 06 May 1961 Hastings

- * * * * [3] Lynda Marion SUTTON: Born 27 June 1962 Hastings

- * * * * [4] Donald Gordon SUTTON: Born 29 December 1964 Hastings

- * * * * [5] Mark Fraser SUTTON: Born 20 May 1966 Hastings

- * * * * [6] Wendy Pamela SUTTON: Born 30 July 1969 Hastings
 - * Married 30 March 1991 Hastings
 - * Andrew John BATEMAN

- * * * [2] Lenore Betty SUTTON: Born 01 August 1934 Hastings
* Died 25 August 1946 Hastings
- * * * [3] John Clifton (Bill) SUTTON: Born 20 July 1935 Hastings
* Married 05 December 1959 Hastings
* Annabelle Joan LINES - Born 23 January 1938 Hastings
- * * * * [1] Graeme John Leslie SUTTON: Born 07 May 1963 Hastings
- * * * * [2] Dean Hamilton SUTTON: Born 15 May 1965 Hastings
- * * * [4] Janet Patricia SUTTON: (adopted) Born 23 June 1948
* Married September 1970
* Ivan John RULE
- * * * * [1] Helena Patricia RULE: Born October 1967 Hastings
* Died 03 November 1967 Hastings
- * * * * [2] Brent Matthew Philip RULE: Born 03 September 1971
- * * * * [3] Campbell Neil Stuart RULE: Born 30 March 1974
- * * * * [4] Quentin Blair James RULE: Born 05 April 1977
- * * [2] Rona May MANSSSEN: Born 29 March 1909 Nelson – Died 02 August 1980 Napier
* Married 05 August 1930 Hastings
* Alexander Edward BRYAN - Born 24 May 1903 – Died 22 January 1988 Napier
- * * * [1] Joyce Estelle BRYAN: Born 20 June 1931 Napier
* Married 04 August 1956 Napier
* John William SPARGO - Born 15 December 1934 Waipawa
- * * * * [1] Rosemary Anne SPARGO: Born 03 July 1957 Napier
- * * * * * [1] Nicole Joyce SPARGO: Born 18 March 1980 Napier
- * * * * * [2] Belinda Rose SPARGO: Born 08 January 1987 Napier
- * * * * [2] Anthony John SPARGO: Born 04 November 1958 Napier
- * * * * [3] Judith Melva SPARGO: Born 11 August 1960 Napier
* Married Napier
* Bruce MILLER
- * * * * * [1] Benjiman Alexander William MILLER:
* Born 09 August 1978 Napier
- * * * * * [2] Rachel Michelle MILLER: Born 29 October 1980 Napier
- * * * * * [3] Daniel Shane MILLER: Born 02 March 1984 Napier
- * * * * * [4] Kane Darien MILLER: Born 19 March 1986 Napier

- * * * * [4] Gail Marie SPARGO: Born 24 April 1962 Napier
- * * * * [2] Verona Beth Malvina BRYAN: Born 13 February 1933 Hawke's Bay
 - * Died 19 July 1974 Hastings
 - * Married 14 February 1953 Napier
 - * Neil William McFAULL - Born 01 March 1931 Hawke's Bay
- * * * * [1] Jennie Lynette McFAULL: Born 29 April 1954 Hastings
 - * Married 18 May 1973 Hastings
 - * Alastar Kenneth CAMPBELL - Born 18 July 1951 Auckland
- * * * * [1] Brendan Neil CAMPBELL: Born 27 April 1977 Hastings
- * * * * [2] Virginia Margaret CAMPBELL: Born 18 June 1979 Hastings
- * * * * [2] Rodney David McFAULL: Born 16 July 1956 Hastings
 - * Married 24 March 1979 Wellington
 - * Alicia Ann WHEELER - Born 21 May 1956 Wellington
- * * * * [1] Joseph James McFAULL: Born 10 July 1985 Wellington
- * * * * [3] Edna Adell BRYAN: Born 24 June 1934 Hastings
 - * Married 10 October 1953 Napier
 - * Norman Ray ROBERTSON - Born 31 October 1931 Christchurch
- * * * * [1] Larry Ray ROBERTSON: Born 16 September 1954 Napier
 - * Married 10 January 1975
 - * Maureen McGREGOR (second name) CHRISTIAN ROBERTSON (was her swer name)
- * * * * [1] Luke Ian ROBERTSON: Born 13 July 1980
- * * * * [2] Alex Ray ROBERTSON: Born 26 December 1982
- * * * * [3] Wendy Julia Edna ROBERTSON: Born 05 May 1989
- * * * * [2] Ian Norman ROBERTSON: Born 14 May 1959 Napier
 - * Died 05 August 1979
- * * * * [3] Dianne Edna ROBERTSON: Born 10 April 1965
 - * Married 30 November 1985
 - * Paul REYNOLDS
- * * * * [4] Norma Doris BRYAN: Born 13 February 1936 Hastings
 - * Married 16 April 1955 Napier
 - * Henry DANVERS - Born 13 June 1931 Taradale
- * * * * [1] Brian Alexander DANVERS: Born 25 September 1956 Napier
 - * Married 20 October 1979 Napier
 - * Donna GODFREY - Born 17 June 1960 Kaitaia
- * * * * [1] Emily Rachael DANVERS: Born 23 September 1983 Napier
- * * * * [2] Adam Robert DANVERS: Born 26 September 1985 Napier

- * * * * [2] David Henry DANVERS: Born 26 October 1958 Napier
* Married 14 January 1984 Wellington
* Linda Louise GORELY - Born 09 December 1960 Napier
- * * * * [1] Michael Henry DANVERS: Born 20 May 1987 Napier
- * * * * [2] James Daniel DANVERS: Born 16 June 1989 Napier
- * * * * [3] Jessica Louise DANVERS: Born 03 February 1992 Napier
- * * * * [3] Clarke Culworth DANVERS: Born 31 January 1962 Napier
* Married 04 October 1986 Napier
* Christine Mary PARKER - Born 19 May 1965 Napier
- * * * * [1] Zandra Jayne DANVERS: Born 18 December 1991 Napier
- * * * [5] Melva Edythe BRYAN: (Twin) Born 03 April 1937 Napier
* Married 23 April 1960 Napier
* Percy John LYES - Born 08 August 1922 Hokitika
- * * * * [1] Carolyn Patricia LYES: Born 21 June 1961 Blenheim
* Married 01 June 1985 Taradale
* Kevin STEPHENSON - Born 21 April 1963 Napier
- * * * * [1] Melissa Rose STEPHENSON: Born 03 November 1988 Napier
- * * * * [2] Phillip Kevin STEPHENSON: Born 23 1990 Napier
- * * * * [2] David John LYES: Born 25 May 1962 Blenheim
* Married 03 March 1984 Taradale
* Michelle MARAS - Born 02 November 1964 Hastings
- * * * * [1] Carla Irene LYES: Born 02 April 1989 Hastings
- * * * * [2] Jeanette Amy LYES: Born 04 October 1991 Hastings
- * * * * [3] Gregory Thomas LYES: Born 01 January 1966 Waipawa
- * * * [6] Anne Patricia BRYAN: (Twin) Born 03 April 1937 Napier
* Married 08 October 1960 Napier
* Murray Charles ELLIOT - Born 01 November 1929 Auckland
- * * * * [1] Douglas Murray ELLIOT: Born 14 October 1962 Napier
- * * * * [2] Joanne Patricia ELLIOT: Born 07 January 1965 Napier
* Married 01 February 1986 Taradale
* M. PRITCHARD - Born Hastings
- * * * * [1] Daniel Paul PRITCHARD: Born 11 July 1987 Hastings
- * * * * [2] Essie Anne PRITCHARD: Born 03 May 1989 Hastings
- * * * * [3] Carl Michael PRITCHARD: Born 13 February 1991 Hastings

* * * [7] Rosemary Jennifer BRYAN: Born 20 October 1944 Napier
* Died 07 November 1944 Napier


* * * [8] Alexander Ray BRYAN: Born 22 July 1946 Napier
* Married 06 November 1971 Napier
* Maree Francis DORAN - Born 19 July 1952 Napier

* * * * [1] Clinton Ray BRYAN: Born 08 August 1973 Napier

* * * * [2] Kylee Maree BRYAN: Born 21 October 1975 Napier

* * * * *

1 2 3 4 5 Generations of MANSSEN



Cover design by:
Mrs Herbert Neal (Elizabeth Voeroes)