

MR THOMPSON & MRS HANSEN

In 1908 Jessie Thompson, daughter of Mr Harry Thompson and Mrs Amy Thompson (nee Turner) was sent out to domestic service with a Mrs Hansen in the area. This was against the wishes of Mr and Mrs Thompson.

On 22 December 1908, the Chief Protector sent a letter to Mr Morrison who was then the superintendent stating that Mrs Hansen had reported that Mr Thompson had called at her residence and demanded that she should allow Jessie to come home for Christmas. Mr Thompson was said to have abused and insulted Mrs Hansen in the presence of her neighbours and frightened her into giving a promise that Jessie would be allowed home for the Christmas period. Thompson then called the Chief Protector and told him about Mrs Hansen's promise, but did not tell him about any insults or abuse.

The Chief Protector decided to allow the girl some time with her family over Christmas. He stated that although her conduct did not deserve such a favour and Jessie's mistress was allowing her to have the holiday, Mr Thompson should understand that the girl was to return to her employment at the time stated and complete her agreement. Otherwise her employer at the Protector's suggestion would summons her and have her brought back by the police.

As at 1908 there were only 86 residents at Deebing Creek including 30 enrolled at the school, 13 of whom were under the industrial school legislation and housed in the dormitory.

These children were usually billeted with other families at the home and there was some resentment at the fact these children were now being housed separately. Children over 12 years of age and not in outside employment were required to work a minimum of 4 hours per day on the mission to qualify for rations.



Harry Thompson