

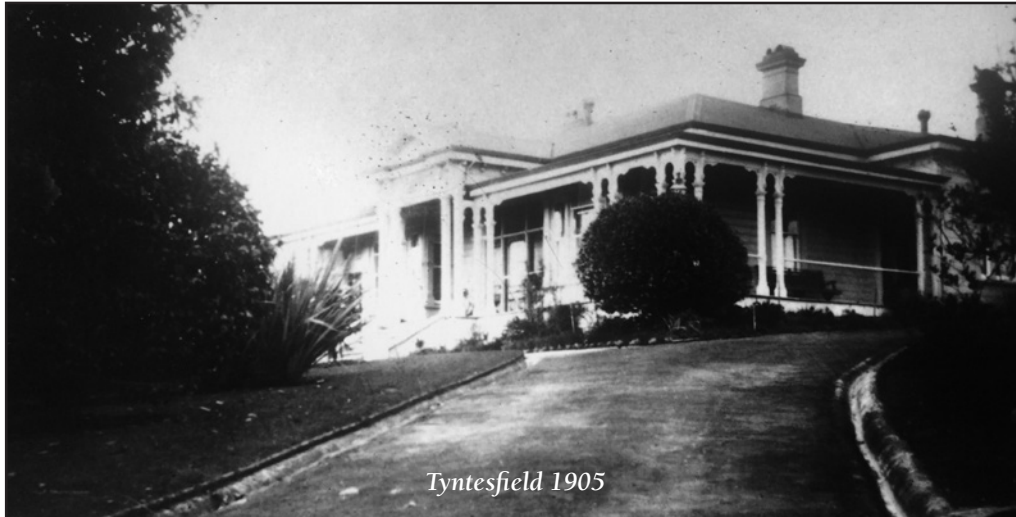


MOUNT ALBERT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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“Tyntesfield” Allendale Road, Mt Albert



Tyntesfield 1905

William Winstone arrived in Auckland on the “Spray of the Ocean” in September 1859 as a 16 year old with 30 shillings in his pocket. He arrived alone and although so young had left behind his wife Ellen who was expecting their first child. Ellen was twelve years older than William. Born at Hodder’s farm in Barron Guerny, Somerset, William was the son of a farmer whose family had farmed for generations. William worked on farms in New Zealand to build up his capital and wanted a trade that would enable him to use his knowledge and love of horses to the best advantage. During the Waikato Maori Wars (1862) there was a call up of all able bodied men between 16 – 60. William was deemed more valuable to transport supplies under convoy from Auckland to Mercer, a very hazardous journey, 17 hours from Auckland to Drury alone. (It was during this time that Ellen arrived with their young daughter Eliza Annie). As soon as the war ended in 1864 William was plying for trade on the streets of Auckland as a coal merchant and carrier. He soon became no longer a young

farm lad taking jobs where he could find them but a young married man on the threshold of a prosperous business career. In 1869 his brother George (another extraordinary Winstone, as he left the family home in Somerset at 13 to migrate to Queensland where he stayed for 8 years) joined his brother and the partnership formed by the two brothers in 1869 became the foundation for the well known firm Winstone Ltd.¹

Within a few months of his brother George’s arrival, William almost lost his life. He was working at the Mt Eden quarry. To loosen the scoria for loading, explosives were used and it was because of this that William was nearly killed. When a detonation failed he went forward to examine the fuse which exploded just as he reached it, injuring him dreadfully. Ellen saved William’s life with the skills she had learnt but he lost the sight in one eye and had only half vision in the other for the rest of his life. It was two years before he was sufficiently recovered to return to work.² In 1874 William and George signed an 85 year lease for 2 sections in Customs Street East and built their first substantial building gradually expanding their business with the growth of the city.

William and Ellen had only the one child, Eliza Annie. William adopted Frederick Brock Winstone, his nephew, as a son. Frederick Brock was born in Somerset in 1801, and came to Auckland by the ship Caduceus when ten years of age. Frederick entered the firm after he left school but sadly he predeceased his adoptive father, dying of a heart attack in 1919.³ When William semiretired in 1896 he engineered another pioneering feat by having the two parts of his Symonds Street home Failand, unscrewed, placed on bullock drays and transported to a new section in Mt Albert The house we know today as ‘Belmont’ on the corner



William Winstone



Ellen Winstone

¹ Centenary review of Winstone Ltd by Frank Simpson

² Pioneer families – the settlers of 19th century NZ by Angela Caughey

³ Auckland Herald April 26, 1919

⁴ Auckland Star, Volume LVI, Issue 77, 1 April 1925, Page 8

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of Summit and Stilwell.) Later he installed his recently married daughter Eliza Annie (now Mrs B Butterworth) in it and built another home Tyntesfield close by. And it was there that Ellen his much valued companion and partner died in 1904 aged 73. William of course was only 61. He remained alone at Tyntesfield until, to the families surprise in 1916, he married Jane Robinson, 34 years his junior. Jane maintained a warm home for William and he lived out his life surrounded by his productive garden. He was for some years from 1898, a member of the Mt Albert Road Board and was a member of the Methodist church. He presided

at the Diamond Jubilee of Winstone Ltd on March 11 1924 and died six weeks later aged 81. Jane lived until 1943 and was buried in the same plot as William at Waikumete Cemetery, with Ellen next to them. His brother George died in 1932. Between them they had literally changed the face of Auckland.

The Winstone Estate in Mt Albert (which Tyntesfield was part of) was sold in 1925. The estate was offered in 29 sections. The residence was also sold, falling to Mr George Guy at £410.⁴

An interview with John Hames, current owner of Tyntesfield

When John and Christine Hames bought Tyntesfield in 2002 all they knew about the house was that it had been moved from its original position on its site to enable the property to be divided into eight building sites and had been owned by an old man. John is a descendant of Charles and Mary Hanes, who were one of the pioneer Albertland settlers in Helensville. ¹ He is also a history buff and wanted to know more.

Council records showed him that it was a welfare home for girls. He checked out Mt Albert library, then Lands and Survey Department, the Auckland War Memorial Museum and Fletcher Challenge Archives and so built up a history of the house. The photos from the previous page come from Fletcher Challenge Archives.

William Winstone bought all the land in 1882 and sold it off as required, building Tyntesfield as his one level retirement home.

John loves the history of the house and thinks of William Winstone as a man of character.

Tyntesfield is well built and has a very safe feeling. The view from the roof is stunning. You can see as far as the Manukau Heads and the upper harbour right round to Rangitoto. Behind the house you have Mt Albert mountain.

John said "I would be perfectly happy having to die in this house and be carried out in a casket. Its just beautiful to me and every time I sweep up the drive in the car I never tire of looking at it. It's a beautiful house and I love the windows and the kauri floorboards. The corridors are wide and its very functional and stunningly beautiful. It's a home well lived in. It's not perfect, the doors are very solid but have dents in them over the years and I'm sorry that the

chimneys were removed prior to buying it". John removed front railings that were not original (half of them were nailed on upside down. Hardex covered the deck when they bought it, and the timber discovered underneath was rotten so they had to rebuild the deck. As John said "It's just what you do when you have a house like this and you do need a tongue and groove deck." The house was moved from its original position on the property in the mid 90's when the government shut down a lot of half way houses and sold the property to a developer in 1996 for \$640,000 who carved out eight sections which I believe sold for around \$300,000 each.

John tells the story of a lady who came knocking at the door. She lives in England now but had been resident there as a young girl. "It wasn't" she said " an evil place but bad things happened there." She said they were taken out the back, whipped and locked up. She pointed out that in the right hand corner of the property was the area where they hosed down the naughty girls.² *Editors Note: This probably referred to head lice which was treated with fumigation by cyanide.* Interestingly enough John Hames said that in that back right corner plants have never grown.

The family invited her in and felt it was very healing for her to see it now as a happy family home. Both John and his wife Christine would like to see the house heritage protected in memory of William Winstone. Our New Zealand history is not long and we don't have many heritage houses left in Mt Albert. In the on going and oft times unsuccessful battle to try and save our heritage in Auckland it is heart warming and joyful to know there is a younger couple who truly know and understand real values.



Tyntesfield today



John Hames outside the front door

¹ Pioneer families – the settlers of 19th century NZ by Angela Caughey

² Memo KJ FlintDCWO to Superintendent 27/4/64 Allendale Health31419

M.A.H.S Dates To Remember

August 29, 2015 (Saturday) 2pm. Ferndale House, New North Road, Mt Albert
MAHS Annual General Meeting. Our speaker will be Kerr Taylor descendant Vivienne Wilson, who will talk on her childhood experiences of visiting her Alberton relatives during school holidays.

September 30, 2015 (Wednesday) 10.30am.

Puketutu Island visit. Bus will leave from outside Senior Citizens Building. \$25 pp. inc light refreshments. We will visit the homestead and its beautiful gardens and learn about its history with a guided tour. The bus goes over a causeway to Puketutu so there will be no problems for those with mobility issues. RSVP to Brian ph 626 6664 or email him at bjstevens@value.net.nz

November 27, 2015 (Friday) 5 pm. Alberton House, 100 Mt Albert Road

A Mt Albert social occasion our annual Christmas gathering at Alberton House. Drinks and nibbles, carol singing and entertainment. We are pleased to announce that the wonderful violin and piano combination of Mr Reg Towers and Mr David Rawnsthorne who were so outstanding last year, have consented to return this year. A treat not to be missed! \$10 p.p. Members only.

News from the Past...

FORTUNATE WARDS.

Auckland Star, Volume LX, Issue 14, 17 January 1929, Page 8

BEAUTIFUL NEW HOME ON SLOPES OF MOUNT ALBERT

A beautiful home on the sunny slopes of Mount Albert awaits 15 fortunate wards of the State who have been selected on their personal merits to receive a free secondary education. The house, which contains 14 rooms, was purchased from Mr George Guy, of Auckland, by the Education Department, and has been handed over to the Y.M.C.A. in whose charge the 15 lads remain till they have completed the secondary school course.

For many years the home of the late Mr W Winstone the house "Tyntesfield" in Allendale Road, commands wide panoramic views of the upper reaches of the Waitemata, Avondale, New Lynn and the Waitakere Ranges. It is surrounded by gardens, the paved driveway is bordered by lemon trees, and on the southern side there is a small orchard. A tennis court, vinery, garage and large area suitable for recreation are among other desirable features of the property. Six large bedrooms, a spacious kitchen and a billiard room which is to be converted into a study for the use of the boys, make the residence eminently suitable for the purpose which it is to serve.

In 1923 an experiment was made in the establishment of a cottage home for State wards considered worthy of secondary school education. It was arranged that the Y.M.C.A. would have the supervision of the home and the social life of the boys, while the Child Welfare Department retained the guardianship. Lads from all parts of the Dominion were selected for admission to the home. Unfortunate parentage and undesirable homes were the reasons why most of the boys who were not orphans were in the care of the State. Needless to say, the

beautiful house at Mount Albert will seem like a mansion to its new occupants, who never have enjoyed the same comforts as their more favoured school companions. Those selected for secondary school education came from orphanages and "boarding out" homes throughout New Zealand. Good conduct, personality and aptitude for study were the essential qualifications.

Of last year's boys, three were at the Technical College, and the remainder attended the Grammar School at Mount Albert. Mr J. W. Park, headmaster of the Technical College, and Mr F. W. Gamble, headmaster of the Grammar School at Mount Albert, have been most helpful in making the system a success, since they take a special interest in the boys, and submit annual reports as to their progress and prospects. It goes without saying that lads who do not prove worthy of the advantages offered by the system are withdrawn to make room for more deserving boys. Some of these boys have sad histories, but in their highly favoured home at Mount Albert they will have every opportunity to prosper, physically and mentally, if they "have it in them to equip themselves for high positions in the world of commerce and the professions."



Allendale Girls Home 1961 – 1988

Allendale District Girls' Home consisted of William Winstone's old home Tyntesfield, plus a staff house set in the spacious grounds. It was essentially a short to midterm open institution which had a capacity of 25 plus 3 secure beds set apart from the main accommodation. These secure rooms existed from the time Allendale was opened and were made of concrete with steel doors and an observation panel. They were used for temporarily intractable girls and girls who were at risk of absconding.¹

The age range of the girls was from 10 to 16, most were state wards and some were picked up by police as missing from home or found on the waterfront. All girls were tested for venereal disease on admission as in 1966 20-25% of girls at Allendale suffered from venereal disease² but the compulsory tests ended in 1978. Absconding was high in the early 1960s, around 150 per year, and the entire population of 30 girls absconded from Allendale in a single incident in 1978.³ In response to this night staff were appointed in December 1963 but this had only a small effect on the absconding rates.⁴

Allendale did not start out with a school on site, although by the mid 1960s the need for one was apparent.⁵ Without a school, girls were kept busy with domestic and household duties and it is possible some girls attended local schools though it is not recorded. A 1967 report noted that "there is a limit to the number of times that household duties can be carried out and there is certainly a limit to the interest and value of these tasks."⁶

In 1976 the principal noted that 50% of the girls were returned to Allendale from their placements and that poor placement and inadequate followup issues needed to be addressed.⁷

In 1987 the then Labour Government brought in a policy of community based schemes, closing to our great detriment places such as Carrington Hospital, in what most of the population considered more a financial motive than an improvement in quality of care. As such Allendale Home was one of the many Social Welfare institutions that were closed without input or a referendum from the voting public. Mt Albert Councillors spoke out against the closure and Mt Albert Deputy Mayor Alice Wylie in an article in the Central Leader said that the decision to close the home distressed her. "They are sending girls who have been abused by the community back to that community".⁸

Dr Niva Thakurdas⁹ was a gynaecologist who visited Allendale on a GP basis every two weeks from approximately the mid 70's to closure in 1988. She felt the girls were well fed, clothed and sheltered but that on the whole they were bored which was one of the reasons they tended to abscond and do silly things.

Michael Bassett reminiscences:

We moved into the adjoining property (17 Stilwell Rd) in the middle of 1975. We knew the Allendale Girls' Home, as we always called it, was there. Little did we know what to expect. I had noticed that the fence between us was just post and wire and could be easily surmounted. On our second evening while we were having dinner, several girls ran across the yard in front of the dining room, tearing off their smocks which identified where they came from and running down the very long drive shared by us and three neighbours. Under the bush at the bottom of the drive they had secreted some street clothes and several, + what turned out to be stolen, push bikes. A quick bit of clothing readjustment took place and they set off on the bikes for the waterfront where their favourite sailors had just come into port. The Police duly arrested the girls and returned them to the home. A few weeks later the same thing happened, but there were no bikes this time. I assume they got a lift somehow to the waterfront. On a third occasion they raced through our garage that was open, pinching a couple of dresses hanging on the clothes line belonging to my daughter. And on a further occasion, they shot through the garage taking my son's bicycle.

By this time I had had enough so I contacted the then Department of Social Welfare and asked them to build a wooden fence in place of the posts and wire. This was duly done and we had no more catwalks at dinner time.

The Department spent a lot of money on that land, trying to make the facilities more attractive/reformatory for the girls. A swimming pool was constructed after a report done for the Department by Archbishop Johnstone. The pool was used twice. Softball facilities were erected for girls on the adjoining section on our other boundary. But all the well-intentioned reform came to nothing. The Department closed the facility in 1989; the pool that had cost a mint was filled in; and the softball facilities that were used only once or twice were removed. In 1990 the land was sold, the old house moved back into a corner, and subdivision of the rest of the old Winstone property took place.¹⁰

¹ Letter EC Puddick, Director to Director General 18/5/73
Allendale Secure 31417

² Girls must sleep in corridors' Herald 30/9/66 Allendale Profile 31417

³ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002 185731

⁴ Memo Absconding record at Boys Home & Girls Home,
KJ Flint DCWO to Superintendent 16/5/66

⁵ Inspection Report 23/8/66

⁶ Inspection Report, Mr Hayes May/June 1967

⁷ Memo KJ Woods, Principal to Director 1/9/76
Allendale Reports 31417

⁸ Central Leader June 16, 1987

⁹ Obstetrician and Gynaecologist M.B.B.S., FR.C.O., FR.N.C.O.G.

¹⁰ Michael Bassett reminiscences