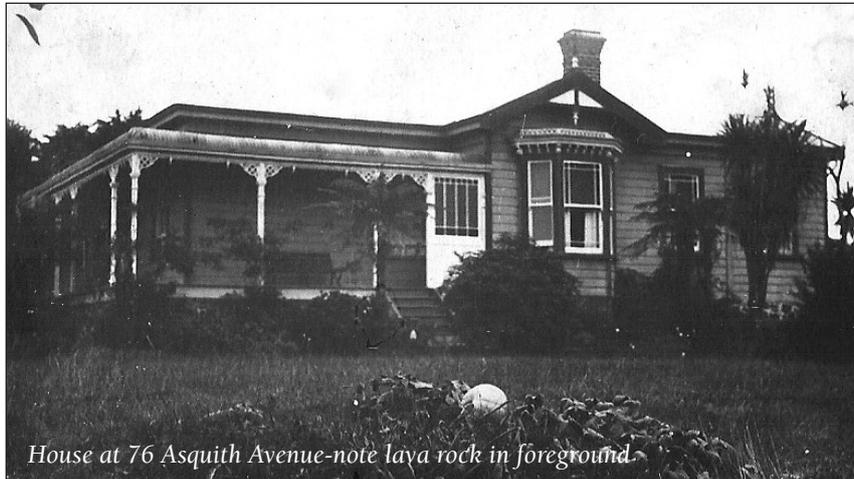




MOUNT ALBERT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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PO BOX 77-002 MT ALBERT AUCKLAND 1350 • PH: 09 626 6664 • WWW.MTALBERTHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG.NZ



House at 76 Asquith Avenue-note lava rock in foreground.

This article came into being as a result of Jimmy Stewart purchasing our Mt Albert Then and Now book and being delighted to see Annie Barnes his great grandmother name, recorded in the First Women Voters in Mt Albert.

I have to thank Jimmy and his sister Pauline for the time, tea and cookies we shared in the telling of this tale. The social fabric of society is made up of the stories of ordinary folk's lives too, not only those higher in society.

We need your story too! Please phone Mary on 846 4509.

Spence / Barnes Family

James Barnes was born in Cumberland, England in 1853. He arrived in Auckland on the ship "Pooparell" in 1874 (aged 21). Annie Frances Spence was born in Belfast Ireland in 1857. She arrived in Auckland on the "Carisbrook Castle" in September 1875 (aged 17).

James and Annie Barnes were married on the 3rd June 1878. His occupation is listed as shepherd, hers as servant. James and Annie's children in order of birth were:

- George b. 1880
- Alice b. 1882 married a Mr Foley. She was an artist and they purchased the very cute villa that still stands on the corner of Asquith Avenue and Rossgrove Terrace making a triangle of land bordered by the railway.
- Spencer b. 1883
- Bertha b. 1886 (married John Jamieson in 1909)
- Dinah b. 1888 (married Arthur Pryde in 1908)
- Henry b. 1890 (known as Jack)
- **Lucy b. 1892 (married Andrew Risk Stewart in 1911)** grand parents of interviewees Jimmy and Pauline.
- Jessie (married John Murphy in 1919)
- Edward (Ted) b. 1898
- Mona (married William Whiteford in 1923).

Annie Barnes is in the Mt Albert book as one of the first women voters from Mt Albert. James and Annie clearly worked hard to improve their social and financial status, as by 1911 James Barnes had progressed from being a shepherd to being foreman of works of the First Mt Albert

Borough Council. (His photo is in "In Old Mt Albert" with others of the first Mt Albert Borough Council).

James Barnes was Jimmy and Pauline's great grandfather. James died in Auckland in 1927. He is buried along with his children Alice and Spencer and Spencer's son Bernard in the churchyard at St Lukes, Mt Albert.

In 1897 James and Annie purchased 3820 sq m. of land on the corner of what is now Asquith Avenue and Rossmay Terrace and extended up to and included Baldwin Avenue. Baldwin Avenue was formed from dedicated land gifted to Mt Albert Borough Council for a public road. Sections were sold off along Baldwin and Asquith. The paddocks behind these sections were later leased out to Mr Paul who raised young horses there until the 1960's when the paddocks were sold and flats built.

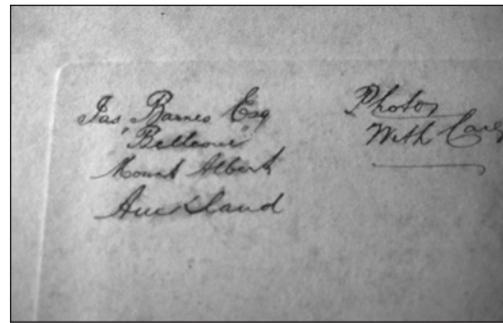
James and Annie built the house in 1898. The house was known as and mail addressed to Bellevue, Mt Albert as Asquith Avenue only came into existence in 1912. Prior to this it had been known as Old Whau Road, then Old North Road and Avondale Road which probably accounts for the mail simply being addressed to the family and house name only. The house was likely given this name as the family could see the sea around Pt Chevalier even as late as the 1970's. Annie lived in the house her whole married life. She died in 1939 and the house was inherited by her daughter Lucy who lived there until she died in 1972 at which time her only son Thomas inherited and he, Joyce and family moved back in. Members of the family still live there today being Annie and James great grandchildren.



James Barnes Foreman of Works of MABC 1911



Annie Frances Barnes in her garden at 76 Asquith Avenue



Addressed to J Barnes

The next generation Barnes / Stewart family



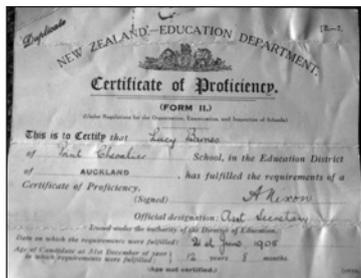
Captain Andrew Risk Stewart

Lucy, daughter of James and Annie Barnes married Andrew Risk Stewart in 1911. Lucy was 18 and Andrew was 28 when they married. Born in Levern House in Barrhead, Glasgow to mother Elizabeth Pamela Risk and father Matthew Stewart, Andrew was a seaman cadet apprentice in 1899. After completing his apprenticeship in 1903, he came to New Zealand and took a job with the Union Steamship Company. (The Auckland Maritime Museum covert his apprentice paper but the family wish to keep it.) Their only child, son Thomas Andrew Risk Stewart, was born 1917. When Thomas was born Lucy was very ill and grandmother Annie who was looking after Thomas as his father Andrew, a master mariner was away, registered his name as Kester Willie Stewart. His father legally changed his name four years later in 1919. Lucy had attended Gladstone School (then known as Point Chevalier School) in 1905 and her son Thomas attended the renamed Gladstone School in 1924 both acquiring Certificates of Proficiency 19 years apart.



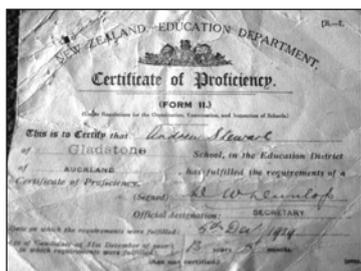
L to R Lucy Stewart, Annie Barnes and Thomas Andrew Risk Stewart.

Captain Stewart commanded three boats in New Zealand. The Rosamond, the Kowhai and the Kini. In 1914 Captain Stewart was in command of the Kini which ran aground when it was on its way to the west coast to collect coal. The tail shaft snapped so they had no rudder. They were five miles from land near Blackhead and a sea anchor was constructed and thrown overboard but the boat drifted for four days. The Tiriwhiti was commissioned to go search for it and all vessels on the coast were asked to look out for it. The Kiri was drifting a further 105 miles off the land when it was finally found by the Kittawa and taken in tow. In the absence of radio, the news of her discovery had to be communicated by pigeon carrier.



Lucy Barnes Certificate of Proficiency, Point Chevalier School 1905

Sadly Andrew committed suicide on July 8 1933 whilst in Sydney. He had been “beached” by the Union Steamship Company as he had become colour blind.



TARS Thomas Andrew Risk Stewart's Certificate of Proficiency 1924

Every couple of years during the war Lucy sold sections off her land to the Housing Corporation one by one to enable her to pay her rates as her son Thomas was in Crete fighting. She worked as postmistress at Grey Lynn and received the telegram saying Thomas was injured having been shot in the ankle trying to rescue a mate and was a POW in Crete Stalag 8B in Lansdorf – (then considered by the Germans since 1747 to be to be in Germany, however from 1945 it was definitely in Poland and renamed Lambinowice). It was a large POW camp for Allied servicemen and held more than 100,000 prisoners from Britain and the Commonwealth countries. There was a New Zealand mothers club of the prisoners in Stalag 8B that met regularly and to which Lucy belonged.

At the end of the war only child Thomas returned safely and met Joyce Webb of Astley Ave, New Lynn through both working at Crown Lynn Potteries where he was an art potter and she put handles on the cups. Joyce was known in later years for checking the handles of the cups she was drinking whether at home or out. They married in St Lukes Church Mt Albert in 1948 and went on to have 11 children (of whom two were Jimmy and Pauline).

M.A.H.S Dates To Remember

May 03, 2017 (Wednesday) 10.30am Ferndale House, 840 New North Road, Mt Albert. Ted Dickens retired Farmers Trading Company employee of 30 years, gives us an account of his life at Farmers working his way up through all the departments. \$2 entry. Open to all. Refreshments.

August 26, 2017 (Saturday) 2pm Baptist Church Hall, New North Road, Mt Albert. Annual General Meeting of Mt Albert Historical Society We are delighted to announce the speaker at our AGM this year is David Veart author of "First Catch Your Weka (A story of NZ Cooking)" and "Digging up the Past (Archaeology for the young and curious)" David is also well known for his public guided walks of various landmarks of archaeological significance in Auckland. Open to all. Refreshments.

Alice Wylie Reserve Picnic

A BYO picnic was held in Alice Wylie Reserve on Saturday 4th March. A beautiful day under the trees was enjoyed by 30 attendees. Brian Murphy Archivist at Mt Albert Grammar took us through the reserves history from early days to becoming School House for Boarders. Ross Kerr Taylor entertained us with his memories of being in school house and Alice Wylie talked of the development of the site into the reserve it is today.



Brian Murphy



Alice Wylie talks to group

Don't forget to spread the word – Mt Albert – Then and Now

A fabulous gift for those distant relatives or visiting friends. PLUS complementary MAHS membership to June 2017. Available for \$25 (local pick up) or \$33 posted. Contact Mary 846 4509.

Many thanks to Bayleys Mt Albert. Our historical society continues to appreciate the continuing support of Bayleys Real Estate Mt Albert, including providing storage for our publication "Mt Albert - Then and Now".

News from the Past...

TV 1 News July 10, 1964

THE HALF MILLION MARK

Through the half million mark New Zealand's largest city expects to be home to a million people in 22 years. With Auckland City, Takapuna City and 20 satellite boroughs, Aucklanders can proudly say we are the greatest. In both suburbs and city the expansion is rapid and is accelerating. The half million celebrations are underway. The pioneering spirit is remembered and the new pioneering age with motorways and town planning is about to begin. The wind is cold and the weather patchy but greater Aucklands hundred square miles provides plenty of onlookers. Night time and the sparkling spectacle of a £1000 firework display. Flares and flourishes, bomb bursts and squigglers symbolize Auckland's rocketing expansion.

Editors note: Auckland didn't grow as quickly as expected. The population of Auckland in 1986 was 881,081.



Auckland Half Million Parade as it passes along New North Road past the ASB bank



Float of the newly constructed Mt Albert War Memorial Hall at Auckland Half million Parade

Mt Albert Croquet Club 1913-2017

Croquet came to New Zealand with the early settlers. In Mt Albert, Alberton owned by the Kerr Taylors and Greystone Knowles owned by Sir George Fowlds both had private croquet lawns on their properties. A croquet lawn was laid out for the ladies on the Garlick family property as ladies were not permitted to play bowls with the men.

The bowling club moved to their present site in Allendale Road in 1908 and by 1911, Mr McIntosh, the green keeper “undertook to level the ground for a croquet lawn” on what is now the upper level of the bowling club lawn. The area was larger than at first thought and made “filling to level” more expensive than anticipated. Mr McIntosh decided to put down potatoes for a year while the club recovered from the cost. A sub-committee was then formed to oversee the putting in of the lawn and its maintenance.¹



And so Mt Albert Croquet Club came to be at a meeting on Saturday 22nd November 1913 chaired by Mr Page who became the first President. (Mr Page was the only male club member for a very long time – Mr Alan Firth’s application was next approved in January 1969).

However ten years later in October 1923 the bowling club formally gave one year’s notice to vacate the top lawns due to the rapid growth of Mt Albert. An offer of land from the Garlick family estate was concluded with a memorandum of agreement between the club and Annie Garlick to purchase land sufficient for four “half “lawns for £465.

The state of the lawns is critical to the game of croquet. The playing surface needs to be flat and even with good drainage and requires ongoing care and maintenance. Anyone living in Mt Albert knows that when you put a fork in the ground you are likely to hit volcanic rock. So making new lawns is never a cheap exercise.

In the meantime the bowling club agreed to the croquet club continuing to use their top lawns until June 1925. The new croquet lawns were officially opened for play on the 28 November 1925.

And there it has been ever since. It is an attractive location. The long pathway from the entrance in Lloyd Avenue opens out into the playing lawns with a wonderful vista to the west.

I knew nothing about croquet when I joined except for the recollections of the red queen from Alice in Wonderland. But I soon discovered it is a game of strategy, learnt skills and ruthlessness, but also of friendly experienced members willing to share their knowledge with you. To say nothing of the scones, tea and conversation at breaks.

MACC holds open days the first Sunday afternoon of every month where you can come and have a go to see if this is a game you would enjoy. You just may become addicted!

For any further information please don’t hesitate to call Helen at 846 2872 or Amanda at 620 4836 Mary Inomata.



President’s Day 1926

¹ Mt Albert Croquet Club the first 100 years