



MOUNT ALBERT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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The Jerschke Family of 124 Taylors Road, Mt Albert



*Jerschke family members at 124 Taylors Road, Mt Albert
prior to the verandas being enclosed*

Five generations of the Jerschke family have lived at 124 Taylors Road, Mt Albert and Fred Jerschke (Junior) shares his memories of the family home with us.

In 1912 Robert Jerschke, his wife Olga and their two children, Fredrick Carl (12 years) and Olga (8 years) arrived from Hamburg Germany to start a new life in Mt Albert, Auckland. With tension building in Germany and World War 1 imminent, Robert had made the decision to move the family away. Robert was a talented cabinetmaker and it is understood that the family were financially secure. They moved to New Zealand with some of their household furniture including a beautiful handmade dresser crafted by Robert which is still in the family today, and initially purchased land and built a house in Mountain View Road, Western Springs. The Western Springs house was later owned by Olga Junior and her family.

Fredrick Carl grew up and worked for his father in the building trade and one day whilst building in the Lyon Ave area they went investigating and spotted the land in Taylors Road. In 1914 Robert purchased the land at 100 Taylors Road (*the properties in Taylors Road were renumbered around 1942 and today the property is known as 124 Taylors Road*) and together with Mr Ryman, another German friend, they built the substantial two

storied house as the family home. The house is located at the rear of the section and was built in 'a very German style with open veranda's for entertaining, accessed by french doors'. The veranda's were enclosed during the 1920's or 30's as it proved too cold to have them open. Originally the entertaining was done in the big room downstairs and the bedrooms were upstairs. To the left of the main entrance there is a large stained glass window with a ship on it and family folklore says this signifies the ship that Robert and family came out on. When extended family were staying for a visit after WW2 the original plaster ceiling in the lounge was painted in beautiful colours. Unfortunately some years later these ceilings were painted over. The grand staircase built by the Jerschkes inside the front entrance, leads up to the second floor. Fred Junior remembers it was one of his jobs to light the fire for the copper in the laundry outhouse.

The front of the section has a large dip where Robert created a fernery and built the summer house where he used to make his home brew. It was not uncommon for the local policeman to come round to join him for a tippie. This same policeman suggested to Robert that flying the German flag on the flag pole in the front garden during WW1 might not be the wisest choice.



◀ Robert Jerschke and his children Fredrick (Senior) and Olga (Junior) circa 1912



Fred Junior. ▶
A recent photo posed by the dresser made by his grandfather Robert c.1912

Olga Jerschke passed away in October 1931 and Robert died suddenly in June 1934 at the age of 61.

Son Fredrick married Myrtle Scrimgeour in 1932 and they had two children, Fredrick Carl (known as Junior) and a daughter Ann. Fred Senior and Myrtle continued the tradition of enjoying a sherry in the 'summer house' built by Robert in the front yard. During the early part of the Second World War the house was converted by Fredrick Senior to two flats and the family lived downstairs and rented out the upstairs level. Fredrick Junior attended Mt Albert Primary at the original School Road, Western Springs site and then when the school moved, at the Sainsbury Road site. From there he went to Kowhai School which at the time went through to 4th Form. Around this time, Fred Junior used to work for the local Four Square store owned by Bill and Jean Dicky, on the corner of Taylors Road and St Lukes Road, doing the home deliveries by bicycle. He went on to follow in his father and grandfather's footsteps and entered the building trade, doing his building apprenticeship for five years under Keith Hay at the then premises at 35 Leslie Avenue, Sandringham.

For many years Fred Junior has been an avid bee keeper and this is an interest that was obviously in the family as his grandfather Robert kept hives at 124 Taylors Road. Today Fred Junior continues to impart his knowledge and teaches people the art of beekeeping.

Fred Junior's only son Robert (named after his great grandfather) also went in to the building trade completing his apprenticeship with RH Page in Kingsland. Robert is still a builder today and lives in Mt Albert.

The house in Taylors Road continued to be home to various members of the extended Jerschke family and at times it was rented out, through to about 2012, when Fred Junior very reluctantly sold the property. Today 124 Taylors Road is owned by the Pool family who plan to renovate the property and restore it to its former glory and retain it as a family home.



The photo on the left shows Fred Jnr somersaulting over a parked car with his coach Dan Hyde by the car. During the 1950's and 1960's Fred Junior was an active member of the Mt Albert Gymnasium Club which was based at King George Hall and was a member for 33 years. Fred is a life member of the club.

(visit <http://www.mtalberthistoricalsociety.org.nz> and view newsletter issue 18 April 2012 for a full story on Mt Albert Gymnasium Club).

M.A.H.S Dates To Remember

November 20, 2016 (Sunday) 2.30pm-4.30pm. Ferndale House 830 New North Road, Mt Albert. **An afternoon tea party** with the delightful tea music by our talented musician Reg Towers on the piano. An opportunity to socially mix and mingle with other members.

Open to members only. \$15 per member. Bookings are now open but because of limited numbers payment is to be made when confirming booking. Payment can be by cheque made out to Mt Albert Historical Society and posted to P.O. Box 77-002 Mt Albert Auckland 1350 or by internet banking to 12-3029-0402365-00 (please put your name and tea party as the reference)

March 04, 2017 (Sunday) 2pm. Alice Wylie Reserve, New North Road, Mt Albert.

The weather should be great for a **BYO picnic for members** at Alice Wylie Reserve. Alice Wylie and others will talk about the reserve and its history and there will be the opportunity for you to reminisce as well. Members only.

Mt Albert Then and Now

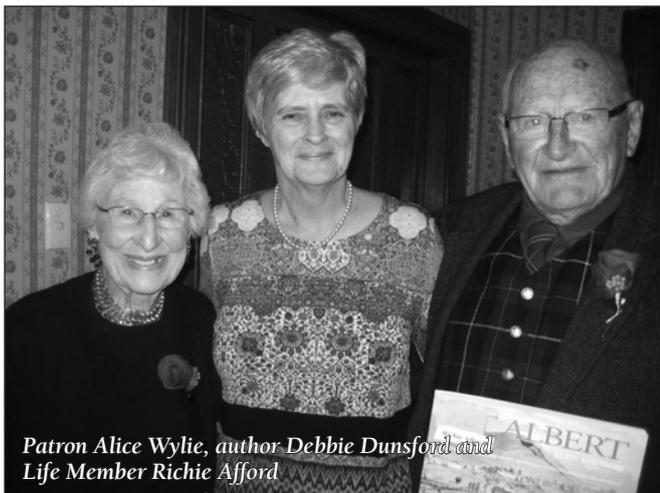
On Tuesday 6 September 2016 a long awaited day of celebration finally arrived – **the launch of our book on the history of Mt Albert.** It really started in early 2010. First step was a scoping exercise carried out by Mary Inomata and Carron Boswell. This was presented to the members who voted that we endeavour to publish a book on the history of Mt Albert. We are grateful to Alice Wylie, Richie Afford, Michael Bassett and Brian Corban for the “seeding of the book”. Finance continued to be a problem so in 2012 we were delighted when Michael Bassett came on board and spearheaded the book committee. Michael helped us in getting funding and recommended our author Debbie Dunsford to write the book. So Michael please take a bow, we owe you a debt of gratitude for all that you did. The launch was held at Ferndale House commencing at 3pm. On arrival our platinum sponsors had a red rose buttonhole pinned to their lapel and were escorted to their seats.

Albert Eden Local Board members, representatives from Sir John Logan Campbell Residuary Trust Board, Foundation North, Kerr Taylor Foundation, The Trust Community Foundation Auckland and Councillor Christine Fletcher and MP Melissa Lee and were present as well as our own members.

MAHS Chair John Childs welcomed everyone to the launch. Michael Bassett then spoke on the journey we had taken to get to this day and finally Debbie Dunsford our author gave us her thoughts and thanks on the writing of the book.

Upon presentation of a bouquet of flowers to Debbie we asked our Patron Alice Wylie and our Life Member Richie Afford to cut the cake commemorating the launch of “Mt Albert Then and Now.”

THANK YOU - Many thanks to the Albert-Eden Local Board for a grant towards the cost of the book launch at Ferndale House.



Patron Alice Wylie, author Debbie Dunsford and Life Member Richie Afford



Peter Singh from the Kerr Taylor Foundation, Christine Fletcher Auckland Councillor and MAHS Patron Alice Wylie

Want to buy a copy of “Mt Albert Then and Now”?
\$25 per copy
Phone Mary on 8464509 or
email info@mtalberthistoricalociety.org.nz

Thanks to Jason of Storage King St Lukes for his generosity in providing storage for our supply of Mt Albert Then and Now books.

Lizzie Frost Rattray • Sophia Kerr Taylor • Annie Jane Schnackenberg

Who could be called “indomitable” more than these Mt Albert women who fought, facing ridicule and pressure, for us to gain universal franchise rights.

We owe much to these women. They had much in common. All had been married and had children. All were very active in their church lives and all had a strong belief in the concept of equality for women. This is not surprising as many Mt Albert women had worked with their men establishing homes, farms and a livelihood. We owe much to these women for the quality of womens lives today!



Lizzie Frost Rattray (nee Fenton) was one of the earliest women journalists in New Zealand, acting as co-editor of the New Zealand Graphic from 1892 for many years. Lizzie and her husband William Rattray lived in Mount Albert where she was a prominent member of St Lukes Anglican Church.

In 1892 Lizzie was elected to the committee of the Auckland branch of the Women's Franchise League. She spoke publicly on women's employment, education and the justice of the franchise cause. In countering arguments against the entry of women in to politics she contended that “Woman as she is may not be physically or morally capable of filling office... but neither would it be expected that a man just released from long imprisonment would find the same facility in running a mile as the trained athlete.” In the course of a busy life Lizzie Rattray fought hard for the equality of the sexes and it would appear that her intelligence and ability, displayed in writing and administrative work alike, pleaded her cause even more eloquently than her words.¹

◀ teara.govt.nz/en/photograph/2491/lizzie-frost-rattray



Sophia Louisa Davis was born in Kaitaia, New Zealand, on 2 July 1847. On 6 June 1865, Sophia married a widower, Allan Kerr Taylor of Alberton, Mount Albert. The family was very active in the local St Lukes Anglican Church. Sophia taught in the Sunday school for 46 years, and she and her daughters sang in the choir. In 1892 Sophia Taylor became a member of the first committee of the Auckland branch of the Women's Franchise League. She moved resolutions and made forceful and witty speeches in favour of the franchise. She was also associated with the Auckland branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, although she apparently opposed prohibition and may well have joined the union to take part in its franchise department. She supported the franchise movement for the practical reasons that women had to obey laws and pay taxes just as men did. Strikingly attractive, energetic, intelligent and forthright, Sophia Taylor continued to speak and write on a variety of topics after women's suffrage had been achieved.²

◀ *Alberton Collection*



Annie Jane Allen and her parents arrived in New Zealand in 1861 and settled in Mount Albert. Annie married Cort Henry Schnackenberg, a Wesleyan minister from Hanover in Germany. The couple had three daughters and two sons.

In 1880 Cort Schnackenberg died and Annie returned with their children to her parents' house in Mount Albert. She divided her time between church and Sunday school work at the Mount Albert Methodist Church and became involved with Christian women's organisations.

Annie Schnackenberg was a founder member of the New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) established in 1885. The WCTU was at the forefront of the agitation for women's suffrage in New Zealand, and it was during Schnackenberg's time as national president that women in this country were granted the vote. Schnackenberg thought that this achievement was just as important as the temperance aspect of the WCTU's work.

In 1893 she publicly thanked God for the enfranchisement of women and suggested that members should try to influence other women to make the best use of the rights they had gained. In her opinion the vote was ‘a sacred trust to be used for the advancement of every righteous cause.’

She was remembered for her ‘warm-hearted sincerity, unflinching good nature’ and ‘remarkable gift of common sense.’³

▲ teara.govt.nz/en/photograph/2492/annie-jane-schnackenberg

¹ Theresa B. Graham. 'Rattray, Lizzie Frost'; ² Jan Harris. 'Taylor, Sophia Louisa'; ³ Megan Hutching. 'Schnackenberg, Annie Jane', from the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand