

Newsletter
of the
LOWER HUTT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
Preserve the past, Challenge the future
September 2019.

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Next meeting.

Friday the 13th of September 2019

7.30 p.m.

St Mark's Church, Woburn Road.

Speaker: Alf King.

"The Ford Assembly Plant"

**Alf King is the former Production
Director of the Ford Assembly Plant.**

A Heritage Month event.

All welcome.

Gold coin admission.

LHHS ENQUIRIES:

Graeme Ross (President):

92 Park Road, Belmont.

Ph: 565-1992 (home) or ross.family@xtra.co.nz

Newsletter: Gerald Davidson. Ph: 938-3723 or

gerald davidson84@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

A reminder that subscriptions for 2019-20 are now due.
Memberships are \$15 (\$20 family). Payments can be forwarded to:
The Treasurer, LHHS, P.O. Box 30-014, Lower Hutt.
Our bank account for online payments is:
03 0531 0664877 00
Please include your name as a reference.
Gerald Davidson (Treasurer).

President's corner.

Hilda McDonnell, the society's secretary for 6 years, didn't seek re-election to the committee.

Many thanks Hilda for your very good work as Secretary and as a Guest Speaker at some of our meetings.

Thanks for being willing to continue arranging the supper light refreshments.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, are the names of the 2019/2020 committee.

Welcome to the new committee member - Evelyn Richter.

This month, we have the opportunity to celebrate the history/heritage of this City of Lower Hutt.

With this newsletter, is the brochure which gives details of the various activities.

Hope you will be able to attend at least some of the events, including this society's meeting on Friday night.

Our guest speaker, Alf King, a resident of our city, worked for the Ford Motor Company for 39 years.

On Saturday, 28 September, Alf will be one of our guides for the tour of the former Ford Building. (Details in brochure).

It's marvellous that the facade of this iconic building has been saved and continues to look **GREAT!!**

I'm sure that the tour on the 28th will bring back many nostalgic/pleasant memories to Alf and other visitors.

Look forward to seeing **YOU** on Friday and on the 28th. Graeme Ross

Committee members for 2019-2020.

Graeme Ross, President.
Neil Coup, Vice-President.
Derek Townsend, Secretary.
Gerald Davidson, Treasurer.
Gary Stratton.
Evelyn Richter.



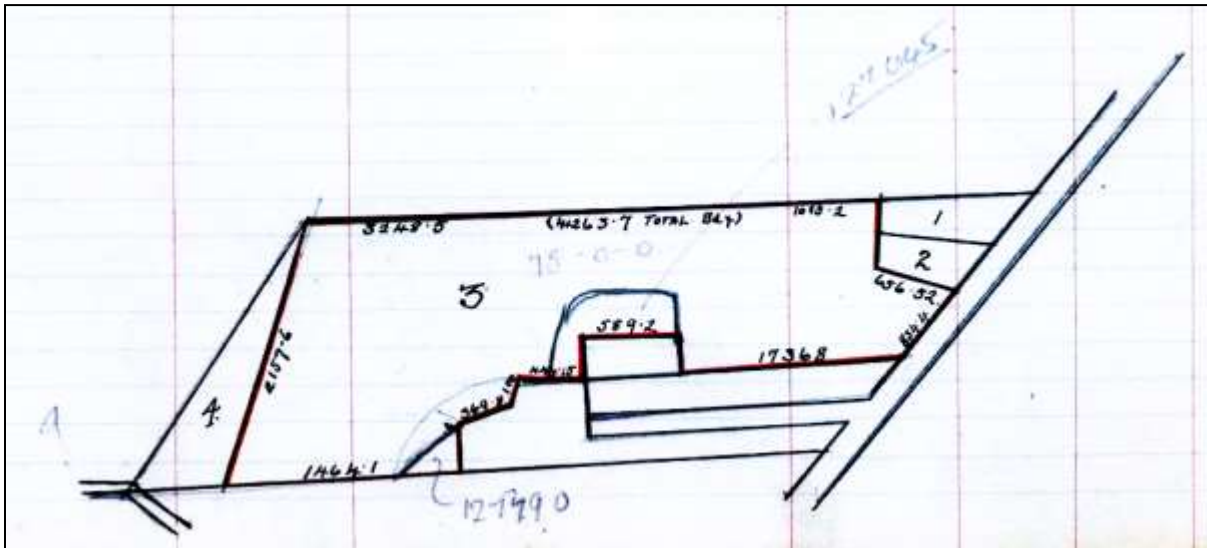
Pomaceae: [The Apple Tribe.](#)

Source: *Illustrations of the Natural Orders of plants with Groups and Descriptions*
by Elizabeth Twining, 1868.

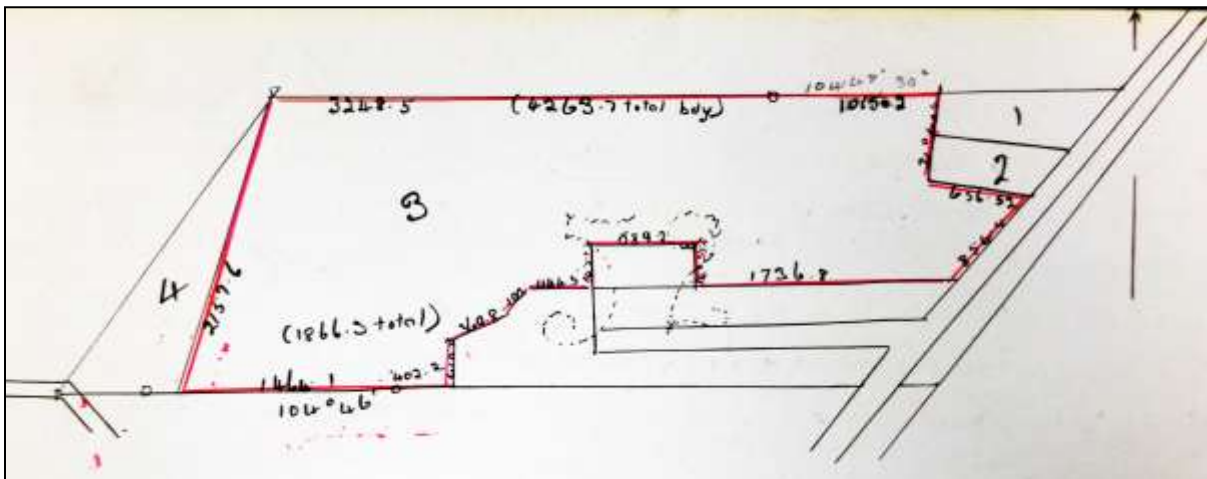
ALFRED COOPER, AND MASON'S GARDENS.

Clark Stiles, during his talk about Mason's Gardens, [at the last meeting of the LHHS] asked the question: Who was Alfred Cooper who carried out arrangements for subdividing the land? [1] Pursuant to a Writ for Sale issued by the Supreme Court against A. Cooper of Devonport, Auckland Mason's Gardens were auctioned on 21 November 1921 by Messrs Erick Johnston and Co. in Wellington.

The land for sale was described as 75 acres being the whole of Allotment No.3 on Deed Plan 380 excepting two parcels – one of three acres (Instrument No.127645) and the other of 3 roods and 8 perches (Instrument No.127790). Both of these were under sale and purchase agreements subject to mortgages. [2] Attendance at the auction was not very large, and failing to reach the reserve, the property was passed in. [3]



Deeds Index Volume 3 Folio 210 Part Section 52 Lot 3 DP 380
Archives NZ Reference AFIH 22394 W5691/43 (R20163321) – available online



Deeds Register Volume 226 Folio 570 Part Section 52 Lot 3 DP 380
Archives NZ Reference AFIH 22395 W5691 325 (R20163255)

The sequence of owners of Allotment No.3, titled "Mason's Gardens Estate" was as follows:

16 Jul 1919 Richard Keene sells to Harry Dunstan Matthews and Clive Matthews [4]
16 Mar 1920 The Matthews brothers, both of Hamilton, sell to James Stellin [5]
Dec 1920 Stellin sells to Reginald Noel Heppell then Heppell sells to Alfred Cooper [5]

On 03 May 1922 a meeting of creditors in the bankrupt estate of Alfred Cooper, carpenter, Devonport, was held in Auckland. [6] The outcome was that Mason's Gardens Estate was sold by the Supreme Court to James Stellin on 26 June 1922. [5]

The 1923 Wises Post Office Directory lists an Alfred Cooper, carpenter, residing at 5 Vauxhall Terrace, Devonport. Five years later he is living with his wife Elizabeth, son Gordon and daughter Winifred Elizabeth at 27 Church Street, Devonport. [7]

On 20 September 1931 Elizabeth, dearly-loved wife of Alfred Cooper, died at her late residence, 9 Araua Avenue, Devonport and was buried at O'Neill's Point Cemetery. [8] Besides her husband she left three sons, Roy, Don and Max, all of Auckland and three daughters, Mrs J. A. Russell of Gillespie's Line, Palmerston North; Miss Winifred Cooper, Auckland and Mrs Basil King of New Plymouth. [9]

Alfred was also buried at O'Neill's Point Cemetery. He died on 27 February 1940 aged 74 years [10] and this was enough information to find him in the FamilySearch Family Tree. This revealed that he was fourth son and fifth child of William Cooper and Eliza *nee* Russell and that he was born in Wellington. He married Elizabeth Patching at Nelson in 1889. [11] He then farmed at Makara before moving to Adelaide Road in Berhampore and bringing up his family. [12]

His father, William Cooper, arrived in New Zealand in 1856 from St Helena, where he was one of Napoleon's guards. [13] He was also an old Crimean veteran and served in the 65th Regiment and Irish Rifles and "was all through the Maori wars." He was colour-sergeant in the Makara-Karori volunteers from 1868 to 1884 and both his sons and grandsons were members of the Eketahuna Mounted Rifles. He died at Nireaha on 21 February 1908 aged 83 years. [14]

His mother, Eliza, who died six years previously at Nireaha, was born on the Island of St Helena c1829. [15]

[1] Evening Post 26 Feb 1921 Mason's Gardens – Bought for Subdivision

[2] Evening Post 19 Nov 1921 Mason's Gardens – Supreme Court Writ for Sale

[3] Evening Post 21 Nov 1921 Mason's Gardens – Put up for Auction

[4] Deeds Register Volume 226 Folio 570 Archives NZ Reference AFIH 22395 W5691 325

[5] Deeds Index Volume 3 Folio 210 Archives NZ Reference AFIH 22394 W5691/43

[6] New Zealand Herald 04 May 1922 Meeting of Creditors

[7] 1928 Waitemata Electoral Roll

[8] New Zealand Herald 21 Sep 1931 Death

[9] Manawatu Standard 23 Sep 1931 Women's World

[10] Auckland Council Cemetery Search

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/cemeteries/Pages/find-burial-cremation.aspx>

[11] FamilySearch Tree for Alfred Cooper <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/K4XK-L36>

[12] Electoral Rolls: Hutt (1890), Wellington (1896), Newtown (1905-06)

[13] Manawatu Standard 25 Aug 1942 Obituary for John Cooper, brother of Alfred

[14] Wairarapa Daily Times 25 Feb 1908 Eketahuna News

[15] New Zealand Mail 12 Mar 1902 Eketahuna

Written by Dawn Chambers. 2019. A special thanks to Dawn for this contribution. G.D.



[Thomas Mason's gardens at Taita, Hutt Valley, Wellington](#) By John Atherton Horsfall. c.1870.
Ministry for Culture and Heritage



[The Mason House, Taita, Lower Hutt](#) c.1890. *Alexander Turnbull Library*



[Mason's Gardens estate, Lower Hutt / \[surveyed by\] Beere & Seddon.](#) 1921.
National Library of New Zealand

Images sourced from *Mason's Gardens, Lower Hutt: A DigitalNZ Story* by Dawn Chambers
<https://digitalnz.org/stories/5d53e0cf8a86ae001022b9c5>



Seaview. Ford Motors Plant, fuel storage tanks and industrial buildings, Whites Aviation Ltd Photographs. Ref WA-41268-F. 21.3.56 Original image black and white. Colourisation by GD through colorize-it.com.

Prepared by G.D. 8.9.2019.

