

**Doncaster & Templestowe Heritage Study**  
**Additional Historical Research. 88**

After Hastings death, another miner, Carl Schultz, was registered as his executor.<sup>586</sup> A surveyor's plan dated October 1892 shows a house on the property. It has no verandah, faces the Main Road, and has a garden.

The cottage remained in the hands of the Hastings family over a long period. By the First World War, it was the home of Elizabeth Duter, daughter of William and Mary Hastings. She was there still in the 1930s.<sup>587</sup> A descendant, Peter Mann, and his wife, Joan, moved into the house in 1974.<sup>588</sup>

*Of regional historical significance* as the home of an early district miner, William Hastings, and as an early and largely intact timber dwelling in an area where few such buildings remain due to the impact of bushfires. It has *local significance* for its long and continuing association with the same family.

### **House**

#### **52-54 Serpells Road, Templestowe.**

Friedrich (Fred) Conrad Schukraft, orchardist, was the first owner of the Italianate house with its polychromatic brick work and slate roof at 52-54 Serpells Road. It was built for him by in 1885<sup>589</sup> by his brother, George.<sup>590</sup> The site was owned in 1881 by their father, Godfried Friedrich Schukraft. Before that it was part of an allotment in the Carlton Estate purchased in 1863 by John Blair Ferguson.<sup>591</sup>

Fred (1861-1931) moved into his new house (now known as 52-54 Serpells Road) after his marriage on 6 August 1885 to Minna Christiane Dehnert (1864-1948) in the Waldau Lutheran Church at Doncaster. Minna's mother was a member of the Aumann family of successful district orchardists. A daughter, Flora Alvina, was born in 1886, the first of six children born while the Schukrafts lived in Templestowe. A son, Herbert, was born in 1888 and christened in the Doncaster Lutheran Church where his parents had been married.<sup>592</sup>

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<sup>586</sup> Plan of Township Allotment. Warrandyte. Department of Lands and Survey 8 Oct. 1892; Parish Plan.

<sup>587</sup> Shire of Templestowe RB 1914-15 Warrandyte Riding No.62; Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe RB 11933-34 Warrandyte Riding No.158(NAV 12 pounds).

<sup>588</sup> Context Pty Ltd.,p.57; National Trust File No.3852.

<sup>589</sup> Shire of Bulleen RB 1885 Templestowe Riding No.88.

<sup>590</sup> Uebergang, p.372.

<sup>591</sup> RGO Search 28089 (G.F.Schukraft).

<sup>592</sup> Uebergang,pp.371-372.

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In the same year, 1888, Fred became the registered owner of the Serpells Road property after the payment of 330 pounds to his father.<sup>593</sup> The family lived on the property until 1905, when they moved to another orchard property on the corner of Yarra and Whitehorse Roads, Croydon. Here they lived for some years, helping to establish the Croydon Presbyterian Church in 1907.

The family later moved to Sandringham, apart for two years in South Africa. Fred died at Sandringham in December 1931, and was buried in the Old Cheltenham Cemetery. Minna, who died on 11 June 1948, was buried in the same cemetery.<sup>594</sup>

Templestowe Riding rate records confirmed that another orcharding family, the Rasmussens, was associated with the former Schukraft home in Serpells Road at least from 1910.<sup>595</sup> By 1919, Neils Rasmussen was working the Serpells Road orchard still but leasing the house.<sup>596</sup> Later, in 1922, the property was transferred to Neils' son, Charles Henry William Rasmussen. Born in 1891, Charles moved into the house after his marriage in November 1922 to Alfriede Emma Aumann ( a relative of the first owners) in the Doncaster Lutheran Church. Charles was reputedly " a good orchardist and was assisted by his wife." They had one child, a daughter, Mavis Annie.

After Charles and Friede Rasmussen sold their Serpells Road house and orchard property, they moved to Dimboola. Friede died in 1970 and Charles in 1980. Both are buried in the Dimboola Cemetery.<sup>597</sup>

Additions, including the verandah and a kitchen and bathroom at the rear, are said to have been made by Rasmussen in 1923.<sup>598</sup> No confirmation has been found for this in rate records. There is no increase in valuation at this time. However, an MMBW drainage plan dated 3 December 1973 shows a verandah and "proposed kitchen and bathroom" at the rear. The owner at this time was D.Hadaway.<sup>599</sup> Whether this was a replacement of earlier additions, or further additions is unclear but could probably be determined by an expert examination of the fabric. There is no indication on this plan of the prefabricated school building, said to have been relocated onto this site and used as a shed.

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<sup>593</sup> RGO Search 28089.

<sup>594</sup> Uebergang, pp.372-373.

<sup>595</sup> Shire of Templestowe RB 1910-11 Templestowe Riding No.159.

<sup>596</sup> Shire of Doncaster RB 1919-20 Templestowe Riding Nos. 424,449.

<sup>597</sup> Uebergang, p.314 (Marriage photograph and photo with daughter, Mavis).

<sup>598</sup> Context Pty Ltd., p.76.

<sup>599</sup> MMBW Drainage and Sewerage Plan No.525767 (52 Serpells Road).

A recently published Aumann family history confirms that the home built “on a primed position in the Serpells Road” for Fred Schukraft “still stands with the original portion intact with a verandah and added rooms.” A recent photograph in this publication shows the home with a “new wing” at “the back on the right.”<sup>600</sup>

Of *local historical significance* as a large Italianate farm house associated from the 1880s with the Schukraft and then the Rasmussen orcharding families.

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<sup>600</sup> Uebergang, pp. 314, 375 (photograph of the house).