



Annie Jane Schnackenberg

1835-1905

Suffrage stories

Daughter of founding Mt Albert citizens Edward and Elizabeth Allen, Annie came to New Zealand with her parents in 1861. Soon after her arrival Annie agreed to teach at a remote Waikato mission school with the Schnackenberg missionary family.

In 1864, Annie married Cort Schnackenberg after the death of his wife. There was some disapproval of the marriage; she was 28 years old, he was 52. As part of mission life Annie preached, corresponded with the government, grew crops and kept accounts. She was fluent in Māori.

Following Cort's death in 1880, Annie returned to her parents' Mt Albert farm with her children. Her mission experiences had convinced her of alcohol's damaging influence on Māori communities, so she eagerly joined the new Auckland branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) in 1885. She served as the WCTU's national president from 1891-1901.

Annie was a strong supporter of women's suffrage. She attended large Auckland meetings to agitate for the cause. In 1893, she publically thanked God for the enfranchisement of women. The vote was 'a sacred trust' to be used for good. Annie was typical of many women who were involved in the suffrage campaign: respectable and religious, believing that women's influence would purify rather than radicalise politics.



■ Annie Schnackenberg with a baby, possibly a grandchild. *Credit: Private collection of Mary Astley-Ford.*



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