

Frederick John Rose - Chronology

1831 Frederick John Rose was born on 21st September in Oxford, England, the second son of John (organ maker) and Elizabeth Rose (née French). Baptised on 12th November.

c 1835 At the age of four and a half years, Frederick became totally deaf from Scarlatina (Scarlet Fever).

1840 At a General Meeting of the Asylum for Deaf and Dumb, Old Kent Road, London on 13th July, he was elected for school admission with nineteen other children out of sixty-six candidates.

1852 Came to Australia with his younger brother, Francis, aged 17 years, arriving in Melbourne on the Gloriana in December.

Between **c 1853 & c 1858** Worked as a cabinet maker in Emerald Hill (now South Melbourne). Walked to the Forest River goldfields (near Bendigo) but met with no success finding gold. Worked as a carpenter in Sandhurst (now Bendigo).

1859 While in Sandhurst, he replied to letters published on the 14th & 16th February in the Melbourne newspaper The Argus inquiring whether any educational facilities for deaf children were available in Victoria. By inserting a letter in the Argus of 24th February, he offered to help. Afterwards, he placed advertisements (e.g. between 28th April & 7th June) in the Argus for a proposed school.

1860 Returned to England to marry Elizabeth Manning Telfer in Oxford on 27th June. Mrs Rose was reputed to be hard of hearing. They came back to Australia the same year, and on the 12th November, he opened the first school for deaf children in Victoria at his rented home, 3 Watford Terrace, Peel Street, Prahran.

1861 Moved to Henry Street, Windsor, one street south of Peel Street, due to overcrowding. Was introduced to Rev. William Moss, minister of the Prahran Independent Church, by Sarah Lewis, stepmother of Lucy, Frederick's first pupil. Provisional Committee formed on 6th May by Rev. Moss to further the work of Rose, being the forerunner of the Board of Management of the then Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution, subsequently the Victorian School for Deaf Children, and now VSDC - Services for Deaf Children.

1862 Moved again to Nelson Street, Windsor, three or four streets further south of Peel Street, due to further overcrowding. Public meeting on 28th August to inaugurate an institution for deaf children, to be known as The Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution.

1864 Third move to still larger premises at Leal House, Commercial Road, Prahran. First daughter, Emma Louisa born 22nd November in Prahran.

1866 Foundation Stone of the Victoria Deaf and Dumb Institution laid on the 6th March. Second daughter, Ellen Blanche born 24th August in Prahran. First part of the new building opened 31st October with Frederick John Rose as its first Superintendent and Headmaster.

1868 Simple two tiered marble fountain set up in a lily pond in front of the main entrance to the bluestone building, and bearing the inscription "Presented and erected by F.J. Rose 1868". Third child, and only son, Frederick William Moss Rose born on 12th October at the Institution.

1883-85 Together with William Moss founded the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission.

1886 Rose served on the Board of Management of the Deaf & Dumb Mission from 1886 to 1887, and again from 1889 to 1915

1889 Death of his brother, Francis William, in December, aged 54 years.

1890 Due to health problems, Rose proposed to retire but instead was appointed by the Board as non-resident Principal. His wife, Elizabeth, who was Matron, and daughter Emma, herself a teacher in the institution, resigned. The family moved out of the Institution, but the whereabouts of their subsequent residence until the building of the home in Malvern (c 1895?) has not yet been ascertained.

1891 Grievous loss for Rose on the 14th March due to the death of Rev. William Moss, Secretary to the Board of Management, whom Rose said was his 'very dear esteemed friend' and 'collaborator', 'a brother and acted as my spokesman'. On 6th April, the death of his mother Elizabeth, who some years earlier had immigrated to Australia and lived in 32 St Edmonds Road, Prahran, which was not far from her son's home.

1892 On 30th June, his non-resident Principal post terminated with six months leave of absence on full pay.

c 1893 Life savings of Rose were lost when Victorian Permanent Building Society suspended activities during the depression of the 1890's.

c 1895? Rose, who had previously acquired, through the Victorian Permanent Building Society, a plot of land in Jessie Street (now Forster Avenue), East Malvern, built a two storey 'gentleman's residence', which he called Oxonia.

1897 Appointed as Collector for Melbourne and Suburbs for the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution.

1901 Through the efforts of Rose, Ernest J. D. Abraham (whose father had been a school friend at the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, London), then Missioner to the Deaf and Dumb at Bolton, Lancashire, England, was brought to Australia to look after the needs of deaf adults in Melbourne. He commenced duties on 9th October.

1910 Golden Anniversary of wedding of F. J. and Elizabeth Rose celebrated at a large function organised by the Board of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Deaf and Dumb Association at its building in Flinders Street East, on the 30th June.

1913 Resigned as Collector for the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution. Rose's wife Elizabeth died at the Alfred Hospital on 24th September.

1914 Victorian Parliament, after years of agitation by wellwishers, voted £100 per annum as pension to F. J. Rose, with an additional £50 from each of the Deaf Society and the Institution.

1915 Rose resigned from Board of Management of the Deaf Society.

1920 Ellen Blanche, youngest and unmarried daughter, died 14th July in Ballarat.

1920 Rose died on 1st December at his home in Malvern, aged 89 years.

1927 His widowed sister, Emma Ann Duncan, who had married Gordon Duncan in 1898, died on 25th August in Malvern.

1929 His unmarried son, Frederick William Moss, died on the 21st July in Melbourne.

1949 His last surviving child, Emma Louise, also unmarried, died on 5th June in Melbourne.

1987 The first F.J. Rose Oration, set up by the Australian Association of Welfare Workers with the Deaf to commemorate the establishment by Rose of the first school for deaf children in Victoria, was delivered by Dr Pierre Gorman on the 3rd April during the annual National Deafness Conferences held in Hobart. The title of his oration was 'F. J. Rose in 1860 - What did he start?'

1988 A Memorial plaque to Rose was unveiled by Dr Pierre Gorman in the grounds of the Victorian School for Deaf Children on 28th April. The location of the Rose grave in the St Kilda Cemetery was rediscovered.

1990 A memorial plaque in memory of F.J. Rose, set in granite on the middle of the double plot which was occupied by members of his family in the St Kilda Cemetery, was publicly unveiled by a senior student from the Victorian School for Deaf Children, and dedicated by Fr Greg Bourke, on the 12th November, being the 130th anniversary of the opening of the first school. This memorial was financed through the efforts of the Australian Association of Welfare Workers with the Deaf and other organisations with the Deaf.