

# The Prince of Wales Lodge 1338 EC

Under the United Grand Lodge of England



## Allan Joseph Blackmore

Seventy Five Years Freemasonry  
An Outstanding Life of Service



# Allan Joseph Blackmore

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Allan Joseph Blackmore was born in Geraldine, South Canterbury, on Tuesday 23 January 1906. His mother was Linda Dale and his father was Ernest Blackmore. At the time he was born the family were living in the then rented home at 8 McDonald Street, Geraldine, and that was where Allan and his brother Bert were born. Allan's parents purchased the house in 1910.

The family moved to Temuka in 1914 when Ernest Blackmore bought out Tom Edwards's drapery business at 141 King Street. (now renumbered to 97 King Street) Presumably they rented out the house in Geraldine until it was sold in 1919. In Temuka, they first lived in Wood Street and a short time later purchased the property known as "St Leonard's" in St Leonard's Road at the North end of the town.

Allan was a boy scout and he joined up in Temuka and enjoyed the camaraderie. When the flue epidemic struck in 1918 everyone was called on to assist and Allan volunteered to help. The boys worked long hours during the epidemic working with Army Doctors, taking temperatures and helping in the three hospitals. They chopped wood, stoked the fires (coppers in those days) and dug deep holes in the ground to bury the hospital rubbish.

The boys' duties also included assisting removing bodies to the mortuary, and attending to those who survived. One hospital was located in the hall (Sunday School) adjacent to the Anglican Church in King Street. That was the Maori Hospital. Apparently the Pakeha Hospital was set up in the Presbyterian Church Hall in Railway Terrace.

Allan hated school and always said so. He left school at the earliest opportunity at 13 years of age, and at first went to work on a farm owned by his uncle Joe Blackmore located somewhere near Fairlie. He didn't like the work and found it too heavy for him so wrote to his father and asked if he could work for him in his shop in Temuka. Allan started to work for his father about 1921.

To gain experience his father sent him to work in the North Island for short periods of time, and he worked at both Kirkcaldy's & Stains in Wellington and Westerman's in Hastings. Mr Westerman was a friend of Allan's father. They had worked together for Tommy Thompson in Timaru. After both Ernest Blackmore and Mr Westerman went into business they co-operated by sending stock between both shops. And after World War 1 when goods were in short supply they purchased a substantial amount of stock from a large shop in England, transported it to New Zealand and sold it at "sales" in both Temuka and Hastings. Allan recalls people coming from all over South Canterbury, mainly in train-loads, to attend the sales.

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During the years of the 1920's Allan recalls his father employing a salesman to go selling Blackmore's clothing and linen into the back country of South Canterbury, using a horse drawn cart. That salesman was Joe Charteris and the horse was called "Prince". When Allan and his brother Bert took over the business in 1945, they arranged for motorised vehicles to replace the horse drawn cart, and expanded the area into the McKenzie Country.

Allan often met Richard Pearse who was a customer at the shop.

Allan also saw Ernest Shackleton who was visiting Temuka on publicity and fund raising tour. Shackleton gave a speech from the steps of the Temuka Post Office about his proposed trip to Antarctica in 1914.

As the depression started to bite Allan left his employment at Blackmore's in Temuka, The firm could not afford wages for both Allan and his brother Bert who had recently joined the firm. Allan was appointed as manager in the Menswear Department of the Canterbury Farmers Cooperative Association in Waimate. He remained there for six years. His next appointment was in Dunedin where he worked at Millers. Other work places were Rangiora for about a month then into Christchurch where he worked at the Farmers Store for a few weeks only. He was appointed as manager of the Hallenstein Bros Store in Blenheim in late 1934. A position he held until taking over his fathers shop in 1945.

Allan was a member of the Home Guard in Blenheim. It was compulsory for every medically fit man not in the services, and he was issued with a uniform and a rifle. The Blenheim Home Guard was very well equipped compared to most other units in the country, very few of which had uniforms or rifles. He never went overseas, a fact which at the time, he regretted. Many of friends had been called-up, but his employers appealed against him going, He certainly offered to go, but when the President of the Court that heard his case and was informed that Allan had four children he immediately terminated the hearing stating that "it would be too expensive for the Army to keep the family and that Allan "would have to be paid the equivalent of a Major's wages if he joined up". However his evenings and weekends were taken up with his Home-Guard activities.

For many years Allan was the Commissioner for the Boy of Scouts for the South Canterbury area. He was a foundation member of the Rotary Club of Temuka and maintained an interest in Club activities until he left Temuka to live in Auckland. He was responsible for the clubs McKenzie Trust activities and was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship for his efforts in that regard.

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Allan was also a Justice of the Peace for many years.

Allan retired in 1972 and moved to Auckland to be closer to family in 1990 where he resided until his death at the age of 103 in 2009.

Allan first joined Freemasonry in 1930 when he joined St Augustine No 99 at Waimate.

Allan joined The Marlborough Lodge Of Unanimity 106 in Blenheim in 1936, becoming master in 1944 and was a member of Wairau Lodge Of Instruction for eleven years.

He joined The St George Lodge No 29 of Temuka in 1946 and served as Secretary and Almoner for some years. He was responsible for the formation of the Midland Masonic District formed in the South Canterbury area and a founding member of its Board. He was also an Associate Member of "The Masters and Past Masters" Research Lodge of Christchurch.

NZ Grand Lodge awarded the rank of Past Grand Bible Bearer in 1982.

Allan joined the Temuka Royal Arch Chapter No 83 in 1948, becoming Wor Mark Master in 1955 and First Principal in 1956. He took the Royal Ark Mariners Degree in Temuka in 1954 and was awarded the rank of Past Grand Sword Bearer by the Temuka Royal Arch Chapter in 1989.

He joined the Royal Canterbury Christchurch Preceptory Knights Templars about 1958 and, in order to be able to help establish "Aurora" Knight Templars St Andrews he joined the new Knight Templars "Aurora" at St Andrews in 1959, becoming the Preceptor in 1962 and Prior in the same year.

He was awarded the rank of "Past Grand Standard Bearer Knight Templar" in 1985

He joined the Order Of The Secret Monitor Hahakire in Methven in 1963, the Council Of Knights Of The East And The West in Temuka in 1975 and the Red Cross Council in 1976

He joined The Prince Of Wales Lodge No 1338 EC Auckland in 1990, joining his son-in-law Henry Grocock in the lodge.

Annette Tremayne

# Allan Joseph Blackmore

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## Quote:

"From my reading of early history of Freemasonry, Brethren are not to aspire to higher office for their own desires and importance. I have never looked for higher office, but have accepted every office offered to me."

At the time of his death in 2009 at the age of 103, Alan was due to receive a very rare award for seventy five years continuous service as a mason. Unfortunately Alan's death prevented him receiving the award in person. The award was presented to his daughter Annette by the *District Grand Master V. W. Bro Peter Gudsell*.

## Allan Joseph Blackmore Poem

by Annette Tremayne

Our father is a mason  
That's Masonic tried and true  
He wears a funny collar  
And an apron coloured blue

He takes his bag of secret stuff  
And once a month he goes  
To meet his fellow masons  
And to "ride the goat", you know

He knows to bow to East and West  
He's learnt the Sacred Law  
He knows to turn toward the South  
How to walk the chequered floor

He's done degrees one, two and three  
As Master been installed  
Now, 103 years later  
The Great Architect has called

He knows he will stand in the darkness of death  
(Or so he said to me)  
Its really very easy  
I just follow the third degree

And so his journey here on earth  
Has come now to an end  
And with the friendly goat to guide him  
To the realms he will ascend

A tiny shaft of light will show  
Glowing brighter every minute  
Dad and friendly goat will stand  
From Death, to life within it

And when he gets to Heaven  
He will climb that sunny stair  
In front of him he'll see the seven pillars  
Of the Golden Temple, on the Square

St Peter, Outer Guard of course  
Will challenge him and say  
Whose your Mother? How old is she?  
Our Dad will call out proudly  
St Augustine she's 99, South Canterbury, Waimate

St Pete will rap upon the door  
They will do the secret shake  
Welcome Brother Blackmore  
And he'll open up the gate

Henry will be waiting there  
To show him all around  
Pin strip trousers, waistcoat  
And a halo, I'll be bound

There he'll stand so tall and straight  
Holy light round his handsome head  
And Dad will say  
"Goodness Henry, you look so well  
Are you sure that we're both dead!"

So, as in turn, each draws last breath  
God's truth reveals there is no death