



James joined the Prince of Wales lodge in 1900 and served as master in 1909.

WBro. J F P Howden

The Prince Of Wales Lodge No.1338



James Frank Percival Howden was born in Auckland in 1874, son of James Howden, a watchmaker, and Rhoda Sophia (nee Young) from Hobart, Tasmania, one of eight children.

James spent over forty years working as a warehouseman for the firm P Hayman and Company in Customs Street, and then for about the fifteen years was employed in the advertising department of New Zealand Herald.

James did not get married until he was aged 50. He married Lilian Tremain on 4 September 1925 at St David's Presbyterian Church, Khyber Pass, and they lived at 57 Great South Road, Newmarket until he died in 1944 at the age of 70.

Prior to being married he lived with his parents first in Hobson Street, then Mt Roskill Road and finally in Dominion Road. After his mother died in 1916, he continued to live in the family home with his father and a spinster sister. Interestingly, two of his sisters, Grace Emmeline and Rowena Olivette married brothers - George and Stanley Smerdon.

He was a life member and past-president of the Auckland Orphans Club and a member of the Auckland Choral Society. (The Orphans Club was a social club where the members entertained each other with music and song. The ideal of the club was recognizing not the wealth, religion, politics or private avocations of members, but merely the single qualification of personal (moral) worth).

He took an interest in yachting, and was at one time commodore of the power boat association. He was the owner and skipper of the then well known launch Roma. He was also a foundation member of the Commercial Travellers and Warehousemen's Association.

For many years he was with various volunteer army units. He started as a private in the Auckland Mounted Rifles in 1899 and was promoted first to Corporal and then Quartermaster Sergeant in 1902. In 1903 he was elected subaltern of the No.1 Company Garrison Artillery (Auckland Navals). He was one of many who resigned in 1905 when there were disputes with Defence Department. He was prevailed upon to take up his commission again in late 1905 and continued for a number of years. In 1907 he provided the prize at a shooting match and in 1909 inspected a parade of the Auckland Mounted Rifles in the Domain.

He joined the Prince of Wales' Lodge in June 1900 and rose to become master in 1909.

Sources:
Contemporary newspaper reports



The Prince of Wales Lodge

www.englishmasons1338.org.nz

The Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 1338, under the United Grand Lodge of England, was founded on the 18th day of December, 1869, and consecrated on Thursday, the 28th day of September, 1871, at the Masonic Hotel, Princes Street, Auckland, by Bro. J.J. Fitzgibbon, Past Master of the Waitemata Lodge, No. 689, E.C.



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