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WBro. J.S. Prince

The Prince Of Wales Lodge No.1338



James Samuel Prince was born in 1866 in Mt Eden, where he lived for all his life.

His father, after whom he was named, was a jeweller and watchmaker with a shop in South Street, Newton.

James joined the family business and eventually took over from his father. During this time, the shop was shifted to Victoria Street East.

Most unusually for the period, James gave a one year guarantee on all his work and, if found to be faulty, would repair it for free. He manufactured many past master's and other jewels for freemasons lodges in Auckland.

After the substantial fire at the D.F.C Building in 1898, the shop had to be re-located, first to a temporary shop also on Victoria Street and then to 126 Queen Street, opposite the then offices of the New Zealand Herald newspaper.

James married Emily Jane Kirkland in 1896 and they had three sons, Eric, Alan and Verner.

In 1903, on the occasion of the opening of the Veteran's Home by the then Governor General, Lord Ranfurly, James presented the Governor General with a "eight day" clock, encased in NZ woods and surmounted by the King's head".

James died suddenly at home of a heart attack in 1921, aged 54.

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In 1908, he presented the lodge with two Stewards' collars and jewels which, at the time, completed the set of lodge regalia. The jewels are still in use.

He was one of the first trustees of the lodge benevolent fund when it was formed in 1908.

In District he was appointed DSGD in 1907 and DJGW in 1919.

Sources:

Contemporary newspaper reports



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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.

