



WBro. J W Shackelford

The Prince Of Wales Lodge No.1338 EC



He was initiated in the Prince of Wales Lodge in 1889, becoming the Master in 1895.

John Wisdom Shackelford was born in Hastings, England in 1857.

In Auckland he was a prominent draper, specializing in supplying men's clothing and hats.

His first shop was at 210 Queen Street, opposite McArthur's Warehouse. In 1886 he opened a second shop in Puchas's Building on Karangahape Road but that was closed in late 1887. In 1892 the shop was moved to 194 Queen Street. In 1898 he relocated again to 264 Queen Street, next to the Auckland Savings Bank. The business must have been doing well as in 1901 he expanded into 262 Queen Street.

From 1890 onwards he was Secretary of Retail Drapers Association.

In 1907 he sold the business and went back to England on holiday. On his return he set up as a Manufacturers Representative in the Strand Arcade but his premises there were completely destroyed by the fire in 1909.

J W Shackelford was very active in the Methodist Church and a member of the Pitt Street Wesleyan Church. In 1903 there was a special presentation to he and his wife for 23 years service to that church.

He represented the church at national and local conferences on many occasions from 1894 through to 1913, was Chairman of the Pitt Street Wesleyan Literary Society, on occasions presided at City Hall Sunday Services and was a committee member of the Auckland Methodist Local Preachers Association. He was also on the committee of the Scripture Gift Association (distributed free tracts etc).

He was among those who expressed grave reservations and protested when it was planned to run a tram service on Sundays as the tram staff would not be able to attend services.

For many years he and his family lived at 27 Crummer Road, Grey Lynn.

In 1891 he was appointed to the Newton Licensing Association and 1893 was elected to the Newton Borough Council. He was Mayor of Newton Borough from 1894 to 1899 and then Mayor of the renamed Grey Lynn Borough from 1899 to 1905. In 1904 he took the initiative and proposed a poll to merge Grey Lynn Borough with the City of Auckland but this did not proceed.

As mayor, he was very involved in community events. He organised the annual concert to raise funds for the Grey Lynn Fire Brigade, collected for the War Relief Fund (to give relief to families of soldiers killed in the Boer War), helped organise the farewell for the contingents of soldiers leaving from Auckland for the Boer War and actively encouraged the formation of the Newton Rifle Volunteers.



He was appointed to District office as DGSew in 1897 and rose to the rank of PDSGW

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.





He was also on the executive committee of the YMCA, one of the patrons of the Newton Canary & Pigeon Club and its successor, the Auckland and Sub-urban Poultry, Pigeon & Canary Assn.

In addition he contributed to the City Schools Swimming carnival, was a committee member of the Auckland Bowling Club, was Chairman of the Cycle Path league, was a founding member and committee member of Grey Lynn Lacrosse Association, on the committee of the Auckland Public Schools Amateur Athletics Association and was Secretary of the Baden-Powell presentation committee. This last group felt General Baden-Powell's exploits at Mafeking deserved recognition and they collected donations to send the General a casket and escritoire.

In 1903, as Mayor, he acted as the Chairman of a public enquiry into the running of the Public Hospital when there were major concerns regarding how the hospital funds had been used.

On his return to Auckland in 1907, he moved to "Winchelsea" in Marsden Avenue, Mt. Eden.

In 1908 he contested the Mt Eden parliamentary seat unsuccessfully but shortly thereafter was elected to the Mt Eden Borough Council. In 1918, he was a member of the Citizens Committee for Mt Eden during the influenza epidemic.

From 1920 to 1923 he was Mayor of Mt Eden Borough.

At that time he was approached by Ernest Davies who wanted to put a ceramic observation table on the top of One tree hill. He declined as he was concerned it would be vandalized. His successor approved the table which was duly installed (although at least one of the indicators was incorrect as true North had been confused with magnetic North). It was duly vandalized but not until 1964, some forty years later.

John Shackelford married twice. His first marriage was to Edith Annie Shepherd in 1894 and, following her early death, to Irene Effie Bolland in 1911.

John Shackelford died in 1948 at the age of 91.

He was initiated into the Prince of Wales' Lodge in 1889 and rose to become Master in 1895. In 1898 he was among those members of the lodge who vigorously opposed the proposal to join the newly formed Grand Lodge of New Zealand. In June 1942 he was made an honorary member of the lodge.

He was appointed to District office as DGStew in 1897 and rose to the rank of PDSGW.

Sources

Contemporary Newspapers



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