



WBro. William Bartlett

The Prince Of Wales Lodge No.1338 EC



William came from a family with strong masonic connections. His father was a member of St Andrew Lodge No. 418 S.C.

William was initiated into the Prince of Wales lodge in 1897, rising to become Master in 1902.

William Henry Bartlett was born in Auckland in 1870. His father, Robert Henry Bartlett was a photographer with a shop in Queen Street.

His father was a strong supporter of the Auckland Society of Arts gained some distinction in the field of photography, winning gold medals at exhibitions in Sydney (1879), Melbourne (1880) and London (1887) and was official photographer for the Duke of Edinburgh in 1880.

In 1887, the business was taken over by William's mother Priscilla, with another Auckland photographer, F W Edwards in charge of the studio. That arrangement lasted only three years with F W Edwards leaving to open his own studio in 1890 and William taking over the studio. His father, shortly thereafter, had a studio in Reefton.

The main business of the studio was portraits and many of William's portraits were used by the Illustrated New Zealand News. He also won a gold medal at the Auckland and Industrial Mining Exhibition in 1898.

It is possibly by his association with A H Whitehouse that he is best known in photographic circles. A H Whitehouse opened his kinetoscope exhibition on 29 November 1895 at Bartlett's Studio in Queen Street, Auckland, where he had four machines on show. For the admission price of 1s. (children 6d.) patrons could view four scenes: 'The barber's shop', 'The fire rescue scene', 'The Chinese laundry' and 'Annabelle's graceful butterfly dance'. The kinetoscope was an early form of movie, but only able to be viewed by one person at a time.

On 1 December 1898, Whitehouse and Bartlett filmed the opening of the Auckland Industrial and Mining Exhibition. The film was screened at Bartlett's studio on Christmas Eve – the first ever public screening of a New Zealand film.

Two days later Bartlett filmed the Auckland Cup race at Ellerslie, and this film was shown at his studio on 30 December 1898.

William Bartlett continued as a photographer with a shop in Queen Street until the 1920s. The studio continued its connection with royalty, being patronised by a succession of Governor's General.

William Bartlett may have been one of the first franchise operators in New Zealand, with a succession of shops being opened in Wellington, New Plymouth, Napier, Wanganui and Thames. The shop in Wanganui was managed by his younger brother and the shop in Thames by his mother.



He was appointed DGPurs in 1907, DJGW in 1915 and DGTreas in 1921.

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 married Elizabeth Alice Court in 1904. They had three children, a daughter and two sons.

He died in Auckland in 1943 at the age of 73.

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Sources:

Contemporary newspaper reports



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