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WBro. William Collins

The Prince Of Wales Lodge No.1338 EC



William Samuel Collins was born in England in 1848, one of a family of eight (five brothers and two sisters).

His family emigrated to New Zealand in 1860 on the sailing ship "African".

His father, S Y Collins, became well know for his work in the electoral and assessment courts. His parents celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1894 at their home "Trevisby", in Manukau Road, Parnell.

William served in Taranaki during the NZ Land Wars, as a private in the Auckland Volunteer Rifles, No. 5 Company, before becoming a grocer.

In 1878, he was running the Family Grocer, in Manukau Road, Parnell. By 1881, that had become the Parnell Tea and Coffee Warehouse which, in 1882 was offering a free book with every 3lbs of tea purchased. In 1884, he had moved to the corner of Queen and Grey Streets where he was a Tea Dealer and Grocer and agent for for Li-Quor Tea.

That business was sold and for many years he was a commercial traveler for Heather Robertson Ltd.

In 1877, he married Bessie Sawkins and they had four children; William Henry born 1878, Jane Elsie born 1880, Maud Sydney born 1886 and Rupert Yeoman born 1892. Rupert served with the Field Artillery in World War One.

For some time he lived in College Hill before moving to 56 Vermont Street in Ponsonby where he lived until his death in 1915 at the age of 67.

In 1909 there was quite a scandal following the death of his mother. It seems there was some doubt if the grandchildren should receive the share of the estate which had been bequeathed to their parent, if that parent had already died. A well publicised court case followed which established the grandchildren were entitle to receive their parent's share of the estate.

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In District he was appointed DGStwd in 1882 and DAGPurs in 1883.

Sources:

Contemporary newspaper reports



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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.

