



WBro. William Kissling

The Prince Of Wales Lodge No.1338 EC



William was born in 1848 and was one of the sons of Archdeacon G A Kissling, a missionary who came to New Zealand after serving in West Africa and who, after a period on the East Cape, settled in Parnell and worked at St Mary's Church there.

Archdeacon Kissling was one of those responsible for translating the Bible into Maori and founded the St Stephen's School for Girls in Parnell.

William joined the Waitemata Lodge No. 689 and was a founding member of the Prince of Wales Lodge. From the history of the Lodge, it seems he did not hold office in Waitemata Lodge but, after the first candidate was found not to be qualified, was appointed as the Lodge's first Senior Warden.

William served as Master in 1872 and 1873 at which time he was still in his twenties.

In 1877, on the formation of the District Grand Lodge of Auckland, he was appointed DGRG.

William started work as an Articled Clerk and became a Solicitor in 1869. From contemporary newspaper reports, it appears he was heavily involved in bankruptcy cases.

In addition to being a strong supporter of Freemasonry, William was also very active in the Community. Contemporary newspapers report:

- In 1868 he signed a petition for a public meeting to express outrage over attempted assassination of Duke of Edinburgh
- In 1868 he was Chairman, Church of England Sunday School Union, and a member of the Committee of the Auckland Land Society.
- In 1869 he signed a petition to elect Hugh H Lusk to the Provincial Council
- He was a member of the Auckland Institute which was part of the Royal Society of NZ. It is noted two of his brothers were also members.
- In 1870 he was appointed Minister's Warden at St Mary's Church and was a member of the Diocesan Synod
- In 1871 he was a member of the Committee which organised fund raising concerts for the Auckland Home for Women and the Home for Destitute Children. In addition he was a member of the Committee which organised a bazaar to assist in paying off the debts of All Saints Church,
- In 1872 he was Chairman of Parnell Highway District Board, a member of the Domain Board and joined the Auckland Harbour Board on which he served from 1872 to 1874 and again from 1876 to 1878. He was one of the community who petitioned for the installation of gas street lighting in Parnell.
- In 1873 he was Chair of the Parnell School Committee.

He was a Committee member of the Auckland Poultry Association and entered in the "Silver-spangled Hamburgs", "White Bantams" and "Indian Ducks" classes in their 1875 show.

Regrettably, William died from typhoid at the age of 31 and was buried with Masonic honours on 6 January 1879.

Sources:

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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.

