

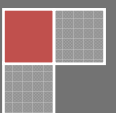
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The Australian Connection in the Development of Freemasonry in New Zealand

The following is part of the lecture notes prepared by VWBro Colin Heyward as an appendix to his Kellerman Lecture, "The Australian Connection in the Development of Freemasonry in New Zealand", given at the ANZMRC Conference 2008 in Queanbeyan, NSW in October. He hopes that some of the items and people mentioned may whet the appetite of a reader to carry out his own research to gain further depth to the brief pen picture described. He would welcome any feedback on any aspect of the contents. The full text of his Kellerman lecture is available (or soon will be) on the Hawke's Bay Research Lodge's web site www.mastermason.com/hbresearch/ or through your local Research Lodge who have a copy of the Proceedings of Conference 2008.

APPENDIX A

Personalities (in Alphabetical Order):

Henry deBurgh Adams, Provincial Grand Master for New Zealand (IC) 1864/1868, was initiated in Dublin in 1851. He served as a purveyor (procurer of supplies) with the British Army in the Crimea campaign before shifting to New Zealand in 1857 as the 'Chief Purveyor to the Army' and promptly joined Ara Lodge No 348, becoming their Master in 1861. During his eleven years in New Zealand he was instrumental in founding seven lodges under the Irish Constitution in Hawke's Bay, Auckland, Waikato, Taranaki and Otago. When the regiment was recalled to England in 1868, deBurgh Adams went with it, but sadly, in London the following year, he died at the age of thirty-nine years from complications caused by a ruptured stomach ulcer, leaving a widow and six children.

George Bridges Bellasis, involved with the meeting when Anthony Fenn Kemp was 'raised' by the French in Sydney in 1802 and a signatory on the certificate issued by the French, was a Lieutenant in the employ of the East India Company's security force, who, after killing a fellow officer in a duel over an insult offered to a young lady who lived under his protection (Henley), was found guilty of murder and sentenced to fourteen years transportation. Within days of his arrival in Port Jackson, Governor King pardoned him and appointed him as his artillery officer in charge of the munitions in the New South Wales Corps. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and died in India in 1825.

Captain George Thomas Clayton, who led the procession to the laying of the

Foundation Stone at St Paul's church, was a Master Mariner and storeowner in Kororareka, arriving from Sydney in 1829. He is reputedly the son of Bro Samuel Clayton (Australian Social Lodge No 260). His brother William was the first Postmaster in Kororareka and both were in Auckland for the foundation stone procession but it is not certain whether they were residents there. George Clayton's Bay of Islands store was sacked and razed to the ground in a protest by Maori dissidents in 1844 and at that date he returned to a seafaring career captaining many ships on the UK-Australasia run. He was the Captain of the Elizabeth when it was shipwrecked off the Tasmanian coast in 1847. The records of both the 48th Foot and its Military Lodge list a William Clayton – was he the same man as George Clayton's brother and were they the sons of Samuel Clayton?

Sir Henry Browne Hayes, the convict who arranged for the letter to be written by British naval officers to Governor King in 1803 requesting permission to hold a lodge meeting in Port Jackson. A request that was declined. Sir Henry Browne Hayes was born in 1762, and served as one of the Sheriffs of the City of Cork in the year 1790, when he was knighted. He desired to marry a Miss Mary Pike, a considerable heiress, but instead of paying his court in the normal way, he enticed her from her home by a bogus message, and forcibly conveyed her to his house, where a man dressed as a priest was to conduct a marriage service. Miss Pike refused to be married by this or any other means, and was eventually released. For this, Sir Henry was declared an outlaw, and forced to flee with a reward of one thousand pounds offered for his apprehension. He remained at liberty for more than two years – living in public in Cork for most of the time – but on 13th April, 1801, he gave himself up, was placed on trial, found guilty and sentenced to death, even though there was a recommendation to mercy with the guilty verdict. He was a member of Lodge 71, Cork, and, on 9th July, 1801, the Lodge adopted a resolution, authorising the Master and Wardens to act for the Lodge in signing a Memorial (or Petition) addressed to the Provincial Grand Master of Munster, or to the Earl of Donoughmore, Grand Master of Ireland, in favour of our esteemed but unfortunate Brother, Sir Henry Browne Hayes (Lepper & Crossle). The sentence was commuted to transportation for life, and Sir Henry sent to Botany Bay. After some time he openly fraternised with officers of the two British

ships in harbour (the Glutton and the Buffalo) and managed to get them to write the letter to Governor King. The request was refused mainly because Governor King was fearful of Hayes' fraternisation, not with the naval officers, but with Maurice Margarot, a Scots convict transported for sedition against the Crown. King suspected that he might have an insurrection on his hands when the 'Scottish Martyr' and the 'incendiary' (as King had referred to Margarot and Hayes in his despatches to the Colonial Office) got together and had ordered that they both be carefully watched. Hayes' case was not helped with his personality dispute with the Corps surgeon, Thomas Jamison, with whom he had clashed whilst both were sailing to Port Jackson, Hayes as a prisoner and Jamison as a passenger returning from leave in England. It was Jamison who reported to the Governor about Hayes. Notwithstanding the refusal, it is reputed that Sir Henry did hold a meeting, at which he presided. He was arrested and ordered to Van Diemen's Land. In 1805, Captain William Bligh (of Bounty fame) was appointed Governor of New South Wales; Sir Henry and he became great friends, and finally, through the Governor's good offices, he was pardoned (later rescinded by Bligh's successor). Upon his eventual release, Hayes purchased land, which happened to be infested with snakes but, like a true son of St. Patrick, he imported five hundred bags of turf from Ireland (Lepper & Crossle). Needless to say, the snakes reputedly vanished. He left Sydney in December 1812, his ship was wrecked in the Falkland Islands, and he finally reached Dublin in July 1814. He died in Cork in May 1832, aged 70 years, and his remains lie in the family vault in the Crypt of Christ Church, Cork, but a few yards from the Masonic Hall.

John Hislop, a schoolteacher and the first Provincial Grand Master for New Zealand South (SC) in 1877, had never served as Master of a lodge when he was chosen to succeed Vincent Pyke as ProvGM for New Zealand in 1874 but was 'instructed' in the ceremony of an Installed Master in the manner as was the custom in Scottish lodges prior to the Grand Lodge of Scotland adopting the degree of Installed Master.

William Leech, named as Master Elect in the petition to Australian Social Lodge No 260 for a Dispensation to form a lodge in Auckland, was a member of the 48th Foot Regiment in India and NSW. He was

initiated in the Military Lodge No 218 in India, joined Australian Social Lodge No 260 in 1820 and was still a member when the petition from Auckland was signed. It is not known how and why he came to Auckland but he was the brother who carried the trowel in the procession to the stone laying ceremony for St Paul's church. Soon after he had finally been installed as Master of Ara Lodge No 348 (IC) in 1849 he moved to New Plymouth as the Collector of Customs, the Harbour Master and the Deputy Postmaster and was named in the petition for an Irish lodge in that town in 1854. When the Charter arrived from the United Grand Lodge of England (instead of the Irish), Bro Leech was appointed to install the first Master. He died in New Plymouth in 1860 aged sixty-two years.

William Mason, co-petitioner for the first lodge in New Zealand, was an architect who migrated to Sydney from England in 1838 to take up an architectural position for the Government from where Governor Hobson appointed him to sail with him as the Superintendent of Works in the Bay of Islands. William Mason was born in Ipswich, Suffolk in 1810 and studied under the renowned architect, Edward Blore. He assisted Blore in the rebuilding of both Lambeth and Buckingham Palaces in 1831 and worked with him on the designs of several churches, among which was St Botolph's in Colchester. The foundation stone for this church was laid by local freemasons in May 1836 and within a month William Mason had been initiated in the British Union Lodge No 114 in Colchester. When Hobson shifted the capital from Kororareka to Auckland in 1841 Mason went with him. In Auckland he set up in partnership with Thomas Paton as Auctioneers, Architects and Shipping Agents (Wyatt) and was a founder and part owner of the New Zealand Herald and Auckland Gazette newspaper. It was in this paper that the advertisement calling for the Freemasons of Auckland to lay the foundation stone for St Paul's church appeared under his name. Mason had designed the church and was the architect who supervised its building. He also designed and built Government House in 1848 that is still standing in Auckland. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1861, shifted to Dunedin to supervise the building of the first Bank of New Zealand in 1862 and remained there for the rest of his life, building several iconic Otago buildings. He was elected as the first Mayor of Dunedin in 1865. He died in 1897.

John Oxley was the Surveyor General in New South Wales in 1823 when he was sent by Governor Brisbane to explore the

North East coast to find a suitable site for convicts which led to his discovery and naming of the Brisbane River and its selection as a convict settlement. Bro Oxley was not a member of the Lodge of Social and Military Virtues No 227 but he did participate in the laying of the corner stone for Bro Piper's home in 1816.

Sir Frederick Whitaker, the first Master (albeit acting in the absence of the Charter Master) of Ara Lodge No 348 (IC) and the first Provincial Grand Master (NZ North) for the Scottish Constitution, was an initiate of Alfred Lodge in Oxford, England (23 July 1839), arrived in the Bay of Islands from England, via New South Wales, in 1840 where he set up practice as a lawyer and solicitor. He also became involved with a partner, John Kelly, in land purchases in Kororareka and, after shifting in 1841, in Auckland. He was elected a Member of the Legislative Council in 1845 and remained in politics for over forty-five years, retiring shortly before his death in 1891. During this time he spent seven terms as the country's Attorney General amongst many other posts, including a brief term as Premier of New Zealand in 1863/1864. In Auckland he set up a partnership with lawyer Thomas Russell and they were involved with legal administrative business regarding miners on the Thames goldfields. Sir Frederick Whitaker has been badly treated by modern "sociologically aware" historians. He undoubtedly made a lot of money from his (business) dealings, but when he died, he was found to be in very modest financial circumstances. He neither drank nor gambled – he had simply given his money away to deserving causes and nobody knew about it (Montgomery).

APPENDIX B

Fraternal Ties and Other Anecdotes (in Chronological Order):

1798 to 1814 – The Irish Rebellion was the excuse the British used to ban all unauthorised meetings in Ireland, but the Grand Master for Ireland successfully petitioned for Masonic meetings to be held as lawful assemblies. As a result the Irish dissidents formed many pseudo 'lodges' as cover, when they were known as 'hedge masons' or as the 'Northern Defenders'. They used passwords, signs and symbols and issued bogus 'warrants'. The disgraced Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, Alexander Seton (dismissed in 1800), sold returned warrants from defunct lodges to many of these dissident groups. It is thought that Bro Sir Henry Browne Hayes obtained one of these 'sold' warrants.

Seton went on to found the ill-fated Grand Lodge of Ulster.

1817 and before – The furniture, regalia and equipment used by the military lodges were stored in a wooden chest that became a recognised chattel of the regiment known as the 'Masonic Chest'. It would have the lodge number with the Masonic symbol engraved on it. Often these chests were lost or captured in battle. The Lodge of Social and Military Virtues No 227 (IC)'s chest was captured on two occasions – first in the American War and later in a battle with the French on the island of Dominica. In America, General Washington ordered the immediate return of the chest to the regiment under an escort to ensure safe passage. It is reputed that the 'West Bible' in the possession of and used by the Lodge as its VSL was the same one on which George Washington took his obligation as an Entered Apprentice. The French shipped the chest back to France where it remained for three years before a French officer recognised what it was and arranged for its return to the regiment.

1824 – Soon after the formation of the Leinster Marine Lodge No 266 (IC) in 1824 a dispute arose over the passing of the By-laws that contained a rule excluding former convicts from joining or being initiated. The Grand Lodge of Ireland intervened and had the clause removed. It is reported that several of the foundation members resigned and the remaining brethren struggled for some years to get the lodge working harmoniously (Burne).

1834 – At the time of the union of the Antients and the Moderns to form the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813 there were 116 Antient, 25 Modern, 190 Irish and 21 Scottish military lodges chartered to operate throughout the world, although not all were active at that time. The end of the Napoleonic wars had seen regiments being disbanded along with their lodges. Scotland erased her last military lodge in 1860 and by 1889 there were only six Irish and two English lodges with travelling (or peripatetic) warrants. Some like the Lodge of Social and Military Virtues No 227 (IC) transferred their warrant into a stationary lodge. In 1834 the 48th Foot Regiment was in Canada and the brethren petitioned the Grand Lodge of Ireland to allow them to become a stationary lodge in Montreal. This was granted, the Lodge changed its name and is now known as the Lodge of Antiquity No 1 on the Roll of the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

1843 – Was there a lodge in the Bay of Islands? A dispute between brethren of

Leinster Marine Lodge No 266 (IC) and Australian Social Lodge No 260 (IC) led to a written complaint being forwarded to the Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1843. The letter outlined ten complaints about the attitude and actions of key members of 260 towards brethren in 266 that were upheld by the Grand Lodge and in a letter, dated 16 March 1843, the Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary of Australian Social Lodge were suspended from all privileges of Freemasonry during the pleasure of Grand Lodge (Barclay). The letter also stated that the power of the lodge to issue dispensations was withdrawn. The brethren named were effectively the members of the Leinster Masonic Committee, the body authorised to administer the issuing of dispensations. As a result, a copy of this letter was sent to Lodge Bay of Islands, New Zealand (Barclay). Except for Leinster Marine's files recording that the letter was sent, no other source can verify that a lodge was contemplated in the Bay of Islands at that time.

By March 1843 the brethren of New Zealand Pacific Lodge No 758 (EC) felt that they were suffering considerable inconvenience at banquets without the services of a regular Tyler (Chapman). Even though an offer of free banquets and a small retainer fee had been made, none 'volunteered', so a decision was made to 'invite' a person to set up and dismantle the lodge at each meeting, deliver summonses, care for the lodge's furniture and wait on tables at lodge banquets. They found a gardener-labourer willing to do those duties and in July he was proposed for membership, elected and initiated at the August meeting and appointed as permanent Tyler. He was the first member from the non-business or professional class to be so elected in the lodge.

1844 – The Minutes of Ara Lodge No 348 (IC) for December 1844 record that a brother was accused of being an escaped prisoner of the Crown who had disappeared from Parramatta Gaol in 1834. He denied this but failed to appear before a Board of his Brethren to answer the charge. He never attended that lodge again.

1847 – Further to the duel held between Bro's Featherston and Wakefield in Wellington in 1847, it is reported that Dr Featherston fired first and missed, then William Wakefield fired into the air. Featherston's request for another shot was declined by the two respective seconds, Bro's Dr John Dorset and Francis Bell. Honour had been avenged. The dispute arose over animosity between the two when Wakefield did not invite his doctor (Featherston) to his daughter's wedding. Featherston, as editor of the Wellington Independent newspaper, wrote a scathing article on the New Zealand Company's land policy and accused William Wakefield of renegeing on contracts. After the duel, Wakefield stated

that he could not have shot a man who had seven daughters. Featherston, who went on father two more children, said later, in a letter to his eldest daughter, that they had both benefited by our morning encounter and are now as good as friends as ever (Kerr). William Wakefield died of a heart attack the following year.

1850 – The first ten years of organised settlement in New Zealand were difficult indeed. Most necessities had to be imported and with funds running low the new settler soon learned that prosperity depended upon exports. The discovery of gold in Australia and California created a demand for farm produce and sheep meat and wool became the main earners that kept the New Zealand economy afloat. Then gold was discovered in New Zealand and the export of this valuable metal continued the prosperity cycle.

1854 – When Waitemata Lodge No 659 (EC) was constituted in 1854, the first Master, Bro Sir Samuel Gibbes, was also a member of the Ara Lodge No 348 (IC) as were twenty-seven of the thirty-five brethren present. The Master of Ara Lodge No 348 (IC), WBro James Buchanan, acted as the Installing Master on behalf of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master (EC) in Sydney. Sir Samuel Gibbes, who was a Past Master of Lodge 199 in Weymouth, England, and a Past Provincial GSW for Dorset (EC), soon after retired to live in Sydney and became the Provincial Grand Master for NSW in 1856.

1865 – In November 1865, Bro Frederick Whitaker as Superintendent of the Auckland Provincial Council representing the Government and Bro Henry deBurgh Adams as Provincial Grand Master (IC) representing the Freemasons, laid the foundation stone for the Supreme Court building in Auckland.

1871 – When the Charter for the Prince of Wales Lodge No 1338 (EC) arrived in Auckland by ship from England in September 1871, it was found to be damaged having been eaten by rats during the voyage. Fortunately the signatures of the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary were unaffected, so Bro Charles Heaphy, VC, a member of Ara Lodge No 348 (IC) and an artist of some esteem, offered to restore it. The restored Charter is still in use and on display in the Lodge.

1877 – A joint ceremony between the District Grand Lodge of Auckland (EC) and the Provincial Grand Lodge for New Zealand, North (SC) was held in Auckland on 30th November 1877. Bro F. Whitaker having received his patent from the MW Grand Master of Scotland as Provincial Grand Master for the North Island of New Zealand, it was thought that it would tend to

Masonic advancement if the erection of both District Grand Lodges were to take place at the same time so as to make one Masonic Holiday and Festival and the Installation Ceremonies rendered more imposing. Bro N B Spencer, in his paper on the first twenty years of the District Grand Lodge (EC), states that this was a quote from the District Grand Lodge's record book.

1889 – Ara Lodge No 348 (IC) was one of the sixty-five lodges that in 1889 agreed to the formation of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, but when this fact was reported back to the lodge some of the brethren disagreed and resolved to continue to hold and use the Irish charter. Thus 'half' of Ara Lodge became Ara Lodge No 1 (NZC) and the other 'half' remained as Ara Lodge No 348 (IC). According to Masonic Law any three persons may hold a warrant in the event of a lodge intending to divest itself of Irish heritage (Cam).

1890 – When the new Grand Lodge of New Zealand numbered the lodges that had formed it, a decision was made to use the date on the lodge's dispensation as the criteria. Thus Ara Lodge, because its dispensation was dated four days earlier than that of New Zealand Pacific Lodge, became No 1 on the roll even though the Wellington lodge had held its first meeting two months before the Auckland lodge.

1894/96 – The delay in recognition of the new Grand Lodge of New Zealand by the three 'home' Grand Lodges posed a problem for brethren of the remaining English, Scottish and Irish lodges in New Zealand, as they were not allowed to visit or receive visitors from any New Zealand Constitution lodge. When Sir Francis Bell became the Grand Master in 1894 he made it his mission to get recognition from the three Grand Lodges. He travelled to England in 1896 and requested an audience with the Grand Master, MW Bro HRH The Prince of Wales, which resulted in recognition being favourably discussed at a special meeting of the United Grand Lodge of England on 29 July 1896. It took until 1898 before formal recognition was proclaimed, which was immediately followed by the Grand Lodge of Ireland and a little later by the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

