

Charles Hawkes Todd Connor 1836-1926

Provincial Grand Master of the Scottish Constitution in South Australia 1874-1880

Charles Hawkes Todd Connor was born in Dublin in 1836 and came to South Australia in 1853 on the ship "Australia". Here he joined John Hart and Company, and in the course of time he must have joined the Adelaide Lodge No.341, Scottish Constitution. John Hart was installed in 1864 as Provincial Grand Master in succession to Allan McFarlane who "never took possession of his Commission" (*A History of the First Fifty Years of Freemasonry in South Australia*, Glover p.377).

Bro. Connor founded the Adelaide Milling and Mercantile Company. He was sent to Calcutta in 1861 as Commissioner for South Australia, to open up a market for South Australian products. His Company later became the Adelaide Milling Company Ltd., at Port Adelaide; C.H.T.Connor was the Manager at that time (1883).

On 18th June 1873 he joined Mostyn Lodge No.455 I.C. and served as Junior Deacon in the following year and as Senior Deacon the year after that. He was elected Junior Warden just before the Lodge ceased working and entered into its five-year recess. He did not rejoin when the Lodge was revived in 1880.

While Mostyn was still active, however, he had been installed as Provincial Grand Master under the Scottish Constitution. This took place in 1874, and Bro. Connor remained in that high Office until 1880 when he was succeeded by H.C.E. Muecke.

Bro. Connor was one of the donors when funds were being raised to re-purchase the Freemasons' Hall in Flinders Street, contributing £25 to the cause. He was a member of the Marine Board, the Adelaide Hospital Board, the Roads Board and Chamber of Commerce. In another sphere of activity he was a member of the Church of England Synod and a Governor of St. Peter's College.

At the 75th Anniversary Smoke Social of Adelaide Lodge No.2 on 6th October 1919, one speaker said, "that he only knew of three surviving members of the former Scottish Provincial Grand Lodge. One of the three whom he named was C.H.T. Connor". This was 39 years after Bro. Connor had stepped down from the Provincial Grand Master's Throne.

And at Mostyn's Jubilee Meeting on 4th May 1921, the Grand Master, A.W. Piper, suggested that all of those present might join "in sending a message of affection to Bro. C.H.T. Connor who was unable to be present." Bro. Connor died on 21st May 1926 at his home in Barnard St., North Adelaide and was laid to rest on 24th May at the North Road Cemetery.

Portrait by Townsend Duryea, 1890 - State Library of South Australia pictorial collections – B 6130

W.A. Dawson