



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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V.WOR. BRO PAUL HEINREICH MATTHIAS FOELSCHE
Past Senior Grand Deacon

Paul Heinrich Matthias FOELSCHE was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1831. In 1849 at the age of 18 years he enlisted in the German Hussar Regiment and served in the German army for a period of seven years.

At the age of 25 years he left the German Army and he migrated to South Australia, in 1856. At that time a large number of German Nationals had migrated to South Australia and settled the wine growing areas. Foelsche then applied for and enlisted in the South Australian Mounted Police Force as a trooper.

He gained rapid promotion in the Police Force and attained the rank of Sergeant. No doubt exercising his previous Hussar skills. In 1869 he was appointed as a 'Sub Inspector of Police' and tasked with setting up a Mounted Police Force in the northern part of South Australia, (Later named the Northern Territory). Foelsche proceeded to Stuart Siding (Now named Alice Springs) he stayed there for a short period and was then confirmed as an Inspector of Police. He proceeded to the small port town of DARWIN and established the first Police presence and Police Force in the northern portion of Australia. This consisted of eight European Troopers and two black trackers.

FOELSCHE performed a wide variety of duties in the Northern Territory such as, Local Magistrate, Coroner, Dentist, Armourer, Photographer and is believed to have been an Artist. Whilst in Darwin he was made one of the first trustees of the Methodist Church.

FOELSCHE continued to perform all of the abovementioned duties until his death on the 31st January, 1914.

MASONIC CAREER:

The exact date that Foelsche joined Freemasonry is not known, however shortly after his arrival in South Australia he joined the Lodge of St. John, No. 1240 of the English Constitution, which was located at Strathalbyn, near the township of Adelaide. This Lodge was later named Lodge of St. John No 15 of the under the United Grand Lodge of South Australia.

