



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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**Wor. Bro. THOMAS HENRY CHAPMAN
CYCLIST and FOOTBALLER**

Tom Chapman was born near Sheffield in Yorkshire, England on 28th July 1850. He was educated at Pitsmoor School noted for providing some of Yorkshire's finest cricketers, among them Allen Hill (1843-1910), George Ulyett (1851-1898), George Pinder and the Sugg brothers.

Tom Chapman was captain of the School's first eleven but preferred cycling to cricket.

The Sydney Exhibition held in 1879 found him in Australia with his father with an exhibit of saws manufactured in his own factory.

Young Tom decided to stay in Australia and continued his interest in outdoor sporting activities.

He was amateur cycling champion of New South Wales for six years and was one of the founders of the Sydney and Redfern bicycle clubs.

He was also involved with the introduction of "Association" soccer football into Australia which began through the efforts of an English Schoolmaster, Bro. John W. Fletcher, a member of Lodge Sir William Wallace No. 748, Scottish Constitution (No. 165 UGL of NSW in 1888), and fellow soccer supporter, Bro. J.A. Todd, a member of Lodge Parramatta St. George No. 1943 English Constitution (No. 95 UGL of NSW in 1888) who called a meeting in Aaron's Hotel, Parramatta to promote the English game of Association football in the colony.

They formed a club known as The Wanderers with Bro. Fletcher as Secretary.

The first match was played on 14 August 1880 against a team from The King's School. The Wanderers won 5-0. They wore a white jersey with a Southern Cross badge, cap, knickerbockers and blue stockings.

The captain was Bro. J.A. Todd, Bro. John W. Fletcher and Thomas Chapman were members of the winning team who played in Australia's first soccer match.

Thomas Chapman did not neglect his civic duties and he became an alderman on Annandale Municipal Council.

Bro. Thomas Henry Chapman was made a mason in Lodge Rose of Sharon on 10th September 1894 and was raised a Master Mason on 17th November 1894. He was Master of the Lodge in 1900, 1901 and again in 1907 and 1908.

He was elected Grand Steward of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales in 1906.

He was Deputy Grand Pursuivant in 1907 and Grand Standard Bearer in 1908. He stood for election for the office of Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1909 but was defeated by Wor. Bro. John Goulston who later became Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales.

REFERENCES:

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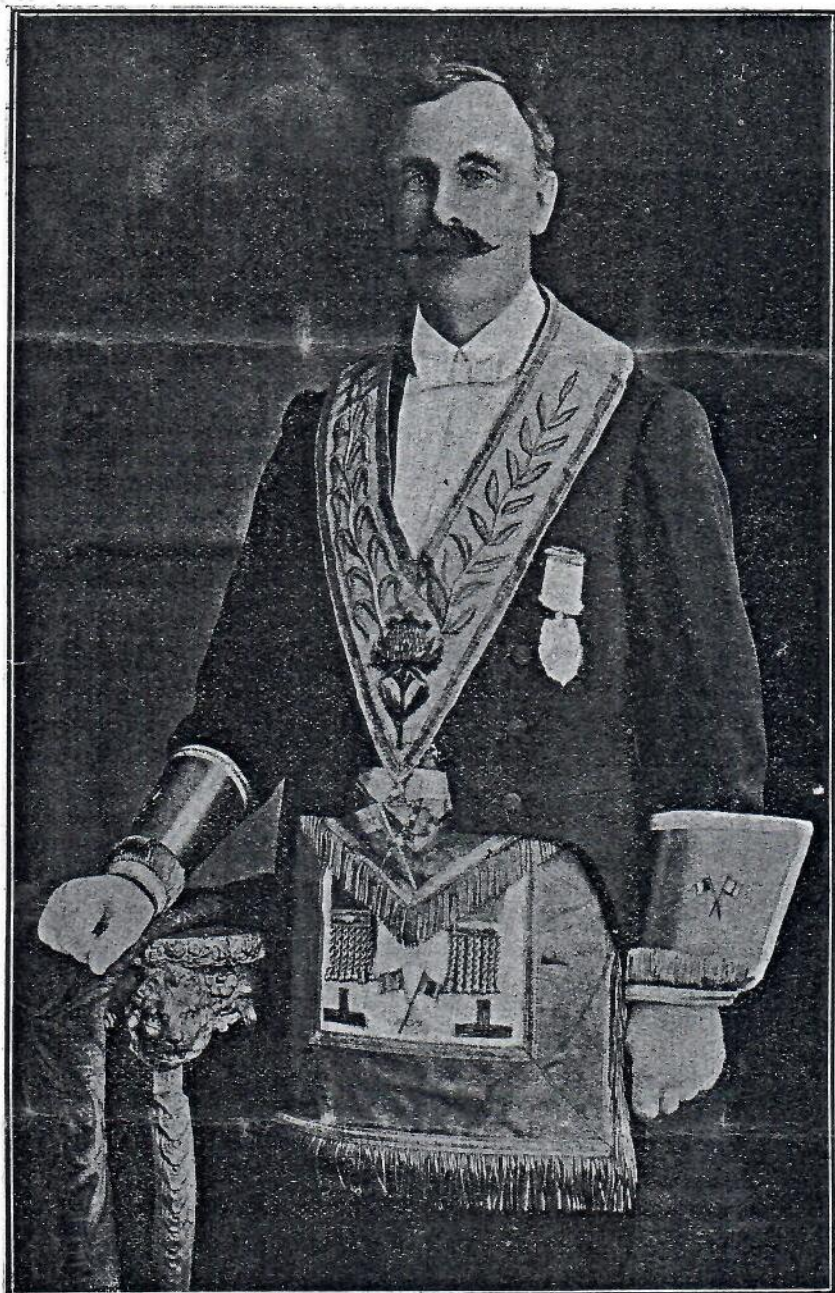
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Worshipful Bro. Thomas Henry Chapman,