

William James Tutcher 1867-1920 Botanist & Freemason

William James Tutcher was born on 22 November 1867 in Westbury on Trym, Gloucestershire. His father was the Head Gardener at Kings Weston House, the Miles family seat who were involved building the Avonmouth docks.

Tutcher received his education at the Merchant Venturers School in Bristol and then the Science and Arts Department in South Kensington where he obtained 13 certificates including Botany, Chemistry and Drawing. By 1888 he was a student gardener at Kew.

By 1891 Tutcher was Sub-Foreman of the Orchid House. A vacancy became available for an Assistant to the Superintendent of the Botanical Department in Hong Kong.

Tutcher accepted the post on 24 August 1891. He intended to leave for Hong Kong on 10 October. Before leaving for the Barren Rock and before climate change he decided to take a 'bit of stuff' with him for his Peak accommodation winter season as it was cold in those days. He married Elizabeth, the sister of his friend & colleague John Aikman. They were married at Duns Castle in Berwick on 23 September.

On 14 December 1891 William and his new bride arrived in Hong Kong aboard the "Agamemnon" Blue Funnel line's.

The Botanical and Forestry Department maintained the grounds of the Colonial Cemetery and the gardens of Government House and Mountain Lodge.

Tutcher and his wife went home on leave in 1904 and in December he was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society. The couple lived in the Mid Levels at No. 7 Babington Path in a house named "Hartley."

Promotion came in 1910 when Stephen Dunn the Superintendent retired.



In January 1920 William Tutcher was taken seriously ill with influenza and bronchial pneumonia. Over the next couple of months his health deteriorated. Tutcher died just before midnight on 5 April 1920 at his home at 1 Peak Road aged 52.

William James Tutcher funeral was held at 5.00pm on the 6 April and was attended by senior Government officials and Freemasons. He was buried in grave number 8430 in Section 18 Happy Valley Cemetery.



Masonic Career in Hong Kong

Tutcher was believed to be a prominent Freemason living in Hong Kong and a member of the Orders below:



Zetland Lodge No.525 E.C. Past Master in 1901 & 1916 *

Victoria Royal Arch Chapter No.525 E.C. Past First Principal 1903 *

Eothen Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.264 E.C. Past Master 1908 *

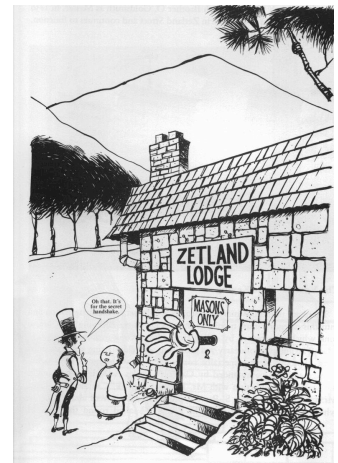
*** Confirmed**

St.Mary Magdalene Chapter Rose Croix No.73 E.C.

Victoria Preceptory & Priory No. 78 E.C.

Deputy District Grand Master of Hong Kong & South China E.C.

Deputy District Grand Master District Grand Chapter of Hong Kong & South China E.C.



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