**Beecroft Freemasonry**

**Sunday Times (Sydney, NSW: 1895 - 1930), Sunday 9 March 1924, page 5**

CALL OF FREEMASONRY

Most Worshipful's Opinion

Most Worshipful Brother, Wm. Thompson, who laid the foundation stone yesterday afternoon of a new Masonic Temple at Beecroft, said he had 52 trowels at home, and that the glass bowl (with which he was presented) would be of benefit to his good wife.

“There has never been a greater call for Freemasonry than at the present time,” he said. “We have 53,000 brethren in New South Wales alone, and if even one-tenth of that number lived up to the teachings of Freemasonry, imagine what a difference it would make to the State!”

The temple will be two-storied and will cost about £2500.

**Sun (Sydney, NSW: 1910 - 1954), Sunday 9 March 1924, page 2**

FREEMASONRY TO-DAY

"A Greater Call"

The foundation-stone of Beecroft's new Masonic temple was laid yesterday afternoon by the Most Worshipful Bro. Wm. Thompson, G.M.

Addressing the brethren present he first of all thanked them for a present of a cut glass rose bowl.

"I've known Beecroft for many years, and it pleases me to see the erection of its own Masonic home. "No word appeals to me as much as the word 'home.' This will be a home of divine worship. There has never been a greater call for Freemasonry than to-day.

"We have 53.000 brethren in N.S.W., and if even one-tenth of that number lived up to the teachings of Freemasonry what a difference it would make to the State. "As an example of how Freemasonry has grown, I have seen £400,000 spent in 3 ½ years on the erection of temples and other buildings."

The temple, which will cost about £2500, will be a two-storied brick building fronting Beecroft-road. It will probably be completed about the end of May, in readiness for the June meeting.

**Daily Advertiser (Wagga Wagga, NSW: 1911 - 1954), Monday 10 March 1924, page 2**

FREEMASON'S TEMPLE.

ORDER'S STRENGTH IN N.S.W. SYDNEY, Saturday.

At the laying of the foundation stone at Beecroft of the new Masonic Temple, the Most Worshipful Brother, William Thompson, G.M., said that' there were 53.000 brethren in New South Wales. If even one tenth of that number lived up to the teachings of Freemasonry what a difference it would make in the State! As an example of how Freemasonry had grown, he said that he had seen £400,000 spent in three and a half years on the erection of Temples and other buildings.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 12 March 1924, page 1**

Freemasonry. Grand Master's Opinion.

Most Worshipful Brother Wm. Thompson, who laid the foundation stone, on Saturday last, of a new Masonic Temple at Beecroft, said he had 52 trowels at home, and that the glass bowl (with which he was presented) would be of benefit to his good wife. "There has never been a greater call for Freemasonry than at the present time." he said. "We have 53,000 brethren in New South Wales alone, and if even one-tenth of that number lived up to the teachings of freemasonry, imagine what a difference It would make to the State!" The temple will be two-storeyed, and will cost about £2500.

**Windsor and Richmond Gazette (NSW: 1888 - 1961), Friday 22 October 1937, page 10**

LATE MR. WILLIAM THOMPSON

PROMINENT FREEMASON

HIS WORK FOR CHARITY

MR. WILLIAM THOMPSON, of 'Stoneleigh,' Wilberforce, who died at the Masonic Hospital, Ashfield, on Wednesday night, October 6, at the age of 75 years, was one of the best-known Freemasons in Australia. He had been, ill for several months.

He was a quantity surveyor by profession, and senior partner of the firm of Thompson and Wark, but retired two years ago.

Most Worshipful Brother Thompson was Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales for 10 years, his term ending in 1924, but he had retained several offices in the administration of Grand Lodge affairs, in which, until his health failed, he always evinced the keenest interest.

In the ten years of his administration as Grand Master, the membership of the Freemason Lodges increased from 20,477 to more than 56,000, the number of lodges from 254 to 284, and the Masonic funds grew from £46,879 to £212,731. He signed over 43,000 Master Masons' certificates during the period, and personally installed 272 Master Masons in the chair. He laid as many as 45 foundations-stones of Masonic Temples, the sum of about £400,000 being expended in the purchase or erection of such buildings during his term.

His greatest memorial will be the William Thompson Masonic -Schools at Baulkham Hills, of which he was the originator and which bears his name, and which was erected in 1922. at a cost of £40,000.

One of the other great interests in his lifelong work for charitable objects was the Benevolent Society of N.S.W., which controls the Women's Hospital at Paddington, the Renwick Home for Children at Summer Hill, and the Scarba Welfare Home for infants at Bondi. He was a director of the society from 1922 until his death, and was its chairman for 11 years, retiring, because of failing health, in 1936.

Mr. Thompson served two terms in the State Parliament as member for Ryde, but did not then seek re-election, retiring in 1919.

He has left a widow, a son, Norman, and a daughter, Mrs. Paton. Another son, Horace, was killed in the Great War, Lodge Horace Thompson, Gladesville, being named in his memory. Every section of the community was represented at the funeral of the late Most Worshipful Brother William Thompson, Past Grand Master of the N.S.W, United Grand Lodge of Freemasons.

St. Andrew's Cathedral was crowded with mourners long before the commencement of the service at 1.30 p.m. The funeral was of great length, and the floral tributes were profuse.

'It has been said of him that he was one of the greatest men of the century, as well as a great Mason,' said V.W. Bro., the Rev. John Bidwell, Grand Chaplain, who conducted the service in the cathedral. 'There was something in his spirit of kindliness and graciousness that expressed itself in everything he did. In all his actions there was purity of motive, and his energy expressed itself in the great projects into which he entered. We cannot soon forget the influence of such a man. Duty was strictly his motto, and he has left behind a memory of useful life and service.”

Archbishop Mowll assisted in the service. A Church of England service and a. Masonic service was conducted by the Rev. ' John Bidwell, at the graveside in the Northern Suburbs Cemetery.

The chief mourners were: Mrs. Thompson |(widow), Mr. and Mrs. Norman Thompson (son and daughter-in-law), Mrs. Paton (daughter), Mrs. Nancarrow (sister-in-law), Mr. B. A. Wark (business partner for many years) and Mrs. Wark.