

**EXCURSION TO "DUNMORE", THE HOME OF COLONEL AND
MRS. P. K. PARBURY**

The following notes on a most enjoyable visit have been prepared by the
President:

Despite cyclonic rain (477 points for the 48 hours ended 9 a.m. 14/5/62) a large party of our members and friends (35) travelled by bus to inspect the historic homestead at Dunmore, now the residence of Colonel and Mrs. P. K. Parbury, and formerly the home of the notable Fuller family. The excursion on May 12 was enjoyed by all, despite the sticking of the bus on the steep slope at the front of the homestead.

The estate, originally called Peterborough, was promised to D'Arcy Wentworth on January 9, 1821, but granted to Randolph John Want on May 29, 1861. It was bought in May 1865 by George Laurence Fuller who from time to time secured additional estates nearby until by 1880 he owned about 9000 acres extending from Lake Illawarra to Minnamurra River and from the ocean, west to Croom.

G. L. Fuller was born at Dunmore, Galway, Ireland, on November 29, 1832, and arrived in Sydney with his widowed mother on December 14, 1839. After an adventure in taking goods by boat to the Victorian goldfields in 1855, he entered business in Sydney as a commission agent. In 1858 he owned the Post Office Store at Gerringong and there married Sarah Miller the following year.

In 1860 he bought the store at Kiama conducted by his brother Thomas and Thomas's brother-in-law George King Waldron, in February opening the Victoria Store on the corner of Manning and Market Streets, the biggest store in Kiama for many years. In 1868 he sold the business to Heydon and turned to his estate which he called Dunmore after his old home in Ireland.

Arthur Cousins says that G. L. Fuller's mother, Mrs. Anne Fuller died at Kiama in 1868. He then probably moved to live at Dunmore where, according to Cousins, he built the home at Dunmore after the bridge was erected at Minnamurra River in 1872. Sheltered on the south by a hill it commands an extensive view to the north.

The home, Dunmore, was built of rubble — rough blue metal — the contractors being J. and M. Dinning of Kiama. Stone from the hillside was used to construct the home and its stone walls, the latter being built by Thomas Newing of Kiama who was renowned for his work.

The building was a remarkable piece of architecture and there is evidence that additions and alterations were carried out as time went by. Originally it contained four large rooms on the ground level with attics above, to which led a cedar staircase. The ballroom behind the main block of rooms was a spacious one. There were several outbuildings for stables and sheds, also built of basalt rubble.

The grounds were laid out in gardens with a drive winding down to the main gate opposite which the Minnamurra railway station was constructed and opened in 1891, remaining there until 1943 when it was moved to the south of the river where the population had grown.

At that home lived George Warburton Fuller, eldest son of G. L. Fuller, who became a renowned member of both State and Federal Parliaments; being a minister of the Federal and Premier of the State House. Born at Dunmore was Colonel C. D. Fuller who became the district's most renowned soldier of the A.I.F.

The home was acquired in the mid-forties by Colonel Parbury who, with his wife and family regard highly their historic home.

The members of the society felt it a privilege to meet and be entertained by so gracious and generous a host and hostess who went to much trouble to make the visit a memorable one, not forgetting securing a tractor by our host and directing its operations in pulling out the bus in pouring rain! In this regard our grateful thanks to the owner/driver of the tractor, Mr. Brian Creagan.

Welcome visitors on the excursion were Mr. and Mrs. H. A. E. de Jersey, of Bowral, the parents of our hard working Secretary.

A letter has since been received from Mr. de Jersey which says in part:

"Talking about Dunmore, I remember as a boy of school age, a small wooden steamer named 'Dunmore'. It used to carry blue metal from the South Coast to Blackwattle Bay, Glebe. We youngsters used to delight to watch the men aloft walking the plank to guide the baskets of blue metal and tip it on to the wharf."

Similar reminiscences were also given by Council Member Norman King.