## **FULLER, Andrew Edwin**

Andrew Edwin Fuller was born in 1852, the son of Edgar and Mary A. (Annie) Fuller.**1**

He married Emily Paull in 1878 in the district of Glebe. Emily was the daughter of Charles & Flora Paull.**2**

Children of the marriage were:

Clifford Edley P., born 1879, district of Glebe [died 1900]

Clement Edwin P., born 1880, district of Orange

Vera F., born 1884, district of Berrima

Celsus T., born 1886, district of Woonona [died 1890, district of Woonona]

Essie V., born 1888, district of Woonona

Una S., born 1890, district of Woonona**3**

In April 1897 duties were commenced at the new Beecroft public school on a Monday morning, when 42 pupils answered to the roll call. Mr. A. E. Fuller was the teacher appointed. He had been in the teacher service since 1868 and for the latter ten years permanently in charge of the North Bulli Illawarra District School. Mr. Fuller, with his wife and family were currently living in one of Mrs. Hudson's cottages.**4**

By June 1897 the attendance at the public school had increased so much that the Department found it necessary to appoint an assistant teacher, and Miss [Elizabeth] Robertson took up the duties. Miss Robinson [Robertson] was a daughter of the assistant Presbyterian minister at Nowra. Mr. Schools-Inspector Dwyer put the children through their examination, and, taking into consideration that the school has only been established about six weeks, and that many of the children present were never at a school before, the examination proved highly creditable to Mr. Fuller, the teacher. While conducting the examination the Inspector experienced the necessity of an enlargement being made to the building, and that he would report the matter to the Department. The number enrolled was far above that for which the school was intended.**5**

In April 1900 At the Ryde Police Court on Tuesday, before Messrs. B. Hilliard, J. Franks, Cox, and J. Forsyth, J's.P., Andrew Fuller, head-master of the public school at Beecroft, appeared in answer to a summons charging him with having on Wednesday, the 4th April, unlawfully assaulted a scholar named Charles James Martin, aged 11, son of William Arthur Martin. Mr. H. B. McIntosh appeared for the complainant, and Mr. G. C. Smith for the defendant, who pleaded not guilty.

Charles James Martin gave evidence to the effect that on Wednesday, the 4th instant, about half past 1 o'clock in the afternoon he was sitting in the third class in the front form. Mr. Fuller gave an order to put out the slates. A slate was passed to him (witness) and he shoved it down on the desk towards the next boy. He did not know that was against the rules. Mr. Fuller then ordered him to “come out,” but he did not do so. Mr. Fuller did not say what he was to come out for, and he (witness) did not say anything. Mr. Fuller pulled him out by the shoulder. He had the cane in his hand and said, “Hold out” (meaning that he was to hold out his hand for the cane.) Witness did not “hold out,” and Mr. Fuller then hit him across the legs with the cane. He next shoved him (witness) out, and he caught hold of the cane, having been beaten severely on a former occasion. Mr. Fuller knocked him down with his fist four times on the head. He hit him most with the cane when he was down. Witness struck his head against the desk when Mr. Fuller hit him and knocked him down. The blow hurt his head, and Mr. Fuller knocked him senseless. He received a cut on his hand,

the mark being still there. He also had scars on his leg. He did not know how many times Mr Fuller struck him. He (witness) afterwards went back to his place and stayed in the school. When he got home, he showed the marks to his mother and brother. He was crying when Mr. Fuller was beating him. He had seen other boys severely beaten at the school before but had not seen girls beaten. He (witness) had previously been caned severely for coming late.

Mr. Fuller said that he had been 33 years in the service. He had entered the punishment in the punishment book as a thrashing for impudence, disobedience, and trying to break the cane.

Cross-examined: He had never lost his temper in the school. He had pretended to do so in order to impress the scholars.

Elizabeth Robertson, assistant-teacher at Beecroft, deposed to glancing down the school and seeing Fuller caning the plaintiff's son. There did not appear to be anything very unusual in the punishment. She had never seen Fuller in a temper and did not think Fuller was an unnecessarily severe teacher.

Mr. Smith submitted that the case should be dismissed. The teacher was quite within his rights in acting as he had done. He admitted the boy was bruised, but not in any extraordinary fashion.

Mr. McIntosh submitted that the boy, who was 11 years of age, had been chastised with such violence as was unnecessary. The bruises and marks made were out of all reason, he did not wish for a vindictive fine, but one such as would show that teachers were not in their rights in chastising children as in the present case.

The Justices adjourned to consider the case, and on returning into court announced that they were equally divided, and consequently could not give any decision.**6**

On 11th May 1900, at Prince Alfred Hospital, Clifford Edley P., the son of A. and E. Fuller, of Beecroft, died aged 21 years.**7**

In October 1901 the children of the Beecroft Public-school, with their parents met in the schoolroom to make a presentation to Miss Robertson, who for over four years had been assistant teacher there.

Mr. Fuller, teacher of the school, occupied the chair, and he, addressing those present, made some eulogistic remarks on the work done by Miss Robertson, and spoke also of her great kindness to the children at all times. The parents, generally, in parting with Miss Robertson, expressed their high appreciation of her work among the children.**8**

In 1902 Mr. Fuller, the headmaster, was transferred to Robertson Park Public School, in the Bowral district, and Mr. Forsyth, appointed to take charge in his stead, was previously at Marulan.**9**

On 18th December 1922, while walking to the Stanmore railway station, Andrew Edwin Fuller, 70, a retired schoolteacher who resided at 22 Stafford-street, Stanmore, collapsed and died at the intersection of Percival-road and Douglas-street. It is believed that death was due to heart failure. He was interred at Rookwood.**10**

On 27th June 1939, at her residence, 22 Stafford Street, Stanmore, Emily Fuller, relict of the late Andrew Edwin, and loving mother of Clement, Vera, Vida, and Una, died aged 89 years.**11**

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

2 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

3 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages; Australian Town and Country Journal, Sat 2 Jun 1900

4 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 10 Apr 1897

5 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 Jun 1897

6 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Thu 12 Apr 1900; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 14 Apr 1900

7 Australian Town and Country Journal, Sat 2 Jun 1900

8 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 26 Oct 1901

9 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 8 Mar 1902; Government Gazette of the State of NSW, Fri 25 Apr 1902

10 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 19 Dec 1922; Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Sat 30 Dec 1922

11 Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 28 Jun 1939

**NOTE**: Additional information contained within Beecroft Cheltenham History Group book ‘Beecroft and Cheltenham, the Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914’.