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WBro. Valentine Dunne

The Prince Of Wales Lodge No.1338



Valentine Dunne was born in Chester, England, and came out to New Zealand with his parents in 1881, arriving at New Plymouth on New Year's Day, 1882. As the breakwater was not then completed the passengers were brought ashore in a surf boat.

The family was lived in Hawera for five years, and in 1887 moved to Auckland where he attended the Beresford Street School and narrowly missed out on a scholarship to Auckland Grammar.

After leaving school, Val Dunne worked in farming in the back areas of Taranaki and in dairy factory work until leaving with the Third New Zealand Contingent, known as "the Rough Riders", to serve in the Boer War.

On his return to New Zealand, he was appointed a cadet at the Auckland Chief Post Office. He was for a short time assistant mail agent on the Auckland-San Francisco service when the Spreckels Line ships Sierra, Sonoma and Ventura were on the run.

Val Dunne also held a commission in the No. 1 Native Rifle Volunteers, later merged into B Company, Auckland Infantry Battalion, known as The Countess of Ranfurly's Own. Subsequently he commanded of the Auckland Company of the Post and Telegraph Engineer Corps, and was transferred to Wellington as adjutant of the corps and staff officer to Colonel V. R. Morris who was Director of Post and Telegraph Services. In this capacity he acted as liaison officer between the Department and military headquarters.

He was also secretary of the Dominion Rifle Association, and while holding this position went to Australia as captain of the New Zealand rifle team which competed in 1920 at Liverpool, New South Wales, and for the Empire Cup. at Melbourne. Although the Australians won the cup, the New Zealand team was successful in winning the overseas match.

On resuming his duties with the Post Office, he was promoted to supervisor of parcels at Christchurch, and then transferred to Auckland in 1921 as chief clerk. Four years later he was promoted to supervisor of parcels at Auckland. In 1930, he became superintendent of mails in Wellington, and the following year returned to Auckland to take up a similar position Three years later, when the position of superintendent of postal branches was created he was promoted to that position.

He went on record at his retirement to comment that as large numbers of officers of the Post and Telegraph Department had joined the military forces, there had been an increasing call on women and girls to fill their places, and they were giving excellent service.



He was appointed DGSwdBr in 1913 and PDJGW in 1960.

The Prince of Wales Lodge

www.englishmasons1338.org.nz

The Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 1338, under the United Grand Lodge of England, was founded on the 18th day of December, 1869, and consecrated on Thursday, the 28th day of September, 1871, at the Masonic Hotel, Princes Street, Auckland, by Bro. J.J. Fitzgibbon, Past Master of the Waitemata Lodge, No. 689, E.C.





In athletics, he won trophies for boxing, running, rowing, shooting, swimming and wrestling and after retiring from active sport was for a number of years a referee at professional wrestling matches in Auckland. He was a life member of St. George's Rowing Club, with which he had a lifelong association.

During the 1930's he was a very active bowler as a member of the then Stanley Street club.

Val Dunne married Effie la Cumbra Harris in 1909 and they had three children, two sons Valentine and Trevor and a daughter, Margery. The family lived for many years in Cleveland Road in Parnell.

He died in 1965 at the age of 88.

He was initiated into the Prince of Wales Lodge in 1903 and rose to become master in 1910.

He served the lodge as a trustee of the benevolent fund and as Secretary for many years. It is recorded that, in 1962 at the age of 85 he was still able to deliver lodge ritual very well.

He was awarded a medal for 60 years' service in 1963 and was still assisting in the ritual in the following year.

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Sources:

Contemporary newspaper reports



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