

John Joseph William Molesworth OXLEY 1783 - 26.5.1828

Shown on stamp issue of 9.6.1976 (18c). (Also associated with 7c Norfolk issue showing cutter "Mermaid", and 4c Banking issue of 1967).

Born Kirkham Abbey, near Westow, Yorkshire, entered navy as midshipman in 1799. Sailed as Master's Mate on the HMS "Buffalo" in 1802, then engaged in several years of coastal survey in Australian waters and the South Seas. Retired from the Navy in 1811, next year appointed Surveyor-General of NSW. Explored NSW beyond the Great Dividing Range, discovered the Lachland River in 1815; in 1818 further explored the western-flowing rivers, thence to the eastern watershed and on to Port Macquarie. Later explored the coast northwards from Sydney as far as Port Curtis in Queensland, returning to examine Moreton Bay and in 1824 discovered the Brisbane River, landing on a site which is now the centre of the city of Brisbane.

Oxley was a Freemason - as indeed were many of the leading Governmental authorities of colonial Australia. His degree dates are not found, but he was accepted in Sydney as a reputable Mason and his name appears in the Masonic records as having participated in ceremonies. On 2.11.1816 he attended with members of Military Lodge No 227 I.C. - the "Lodge of Social and Military Virtues" (members of the 46th Regiment, working under a warrant issued by the G.L. of Ireland) - the laying of the corner stone of Sir John Piper's house, (Captain John Piper of the 46th Regiment, former Administrator of Norfolk Island 9.9.1804 to 9.4.1810) in the East of Eliza Point, Port Jackson. John Oxley, Surveyor-Genl. is shown in the record of that event as a member of Lodge No 227. It is not known if he was initiated in No 227, or before he came to the colony. It is quite likely that other brethren were with him on the cutter "Mermaid", and moreover on the "Amity" in 1824 when he returned to found the new Moreton Bay Settlement. On the latter vessel was a guard of the 40th Regiment, commanded by Lieut Murray. The 40th arrived in Sydney in 1823, and attached to it was Military Lodge No 284, I.C.; this Lodge was quite active, and later held the first meetings in van Diemen's Land. When the Regiment was stationed in Hobart in 1827-8 Lodge No 284 initiated many local residents and granted them a dispensation to form the island's first permanent Masonic Lodge.

John McDouall STUART 7.9.1815 - 5.6.1868

Shown on stamp issue of 25.7.1962 and associated with issue of 21.9.1960 (Overlanders)

Australian surveyor, explorer. Born at Dysart, Fyfeshire, Scotland; died in London. Educated in Edinburgh. In 1838 he migrated to South Australia where he joined the Government survey staff. Later he practiced as a surveyor, and for a time, devoted his energies to sheep farming. On 12.8.1844 he joined Sturt's expedition to Central Australia as a draftsman. In 1853-62 he made journeys into the interior, culminating in the latter year when he crossed to the north coast, reaching it on 24.7.1862. He was awarded a bonus of 2000 pounds and 1000 acres rent-free land by the South Australian government, as a reward for being the first white man to make the crossing. In 1863, he sailed for England and settled in London. His journals are kept in the Mitchell Library at Sydney. He was buried in Kensal Green cemetery.

Stuart was initiated into the Lodge of Truth No 933, English Constitution (later No 649 E.C., and now No 8 South Australian Constitution) on 1.8.1859, passed on 9th August and raised on 16th August. Special dispensation from the Provincial Grand Lodge was obtained in order that the three degrees be conferred within a month as he was about to set out on his second expedition to explore the country south and west of Lake Eyre. He remained a member of the Lodge until 31.3.1864 when he called off. His G.L. Certificate was issued on 15.4.1860 through the Provincial G.L. of England in S.A. A brother of the Lodge, visiting a neighbour at Narrung, S.A. in 1928, had the good fortune to find this certificate, which he restored and presented to the G.L. of S.A. It was framed and hung in their library. The Lodge of Truth opened in 1854 and has an unbroken history to date. Stuart was 82nd member on the Lodge register.

Shown on stamps issued 28.5.1963 (5d), 16.5.1973 (7c) and 9.10.1974 (7c)

Australian lawyer, explorer, and statesman. Born on Norfolk Island, his birthdate is not known, being variously recorded between 1790 and 1793. Sent to England in 1800 to be educated at Greenwich, near London, he returned in 1811 to NSW, and was appointed by Governor Macquarie as acting Provost-Marshal. On 28.10.1811 he began farming at Vermont, on the Nepean River. He joined Blaxland and Lawson in 1813 in the historic crossing of the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney (he is the one at the head of the horse in the stamp design). In 1814 he joined the schooner "Cumberland" and at one time narrowly escaped death by hostile natives in Raratonga. In 1816 his father d'Arcy sent him to England to become a soldier, but William induced the Earl Fitzwilliam to let him study Law. He graduated and was admitted to the Bar on 4.2.1822. He returned to Sydney in July 1824 to practice in the newly established Supreme Court. On 14.10.1824 he published the "Australian", first non-Governmental newspaper, in which he campaigned for introduction of trial by jury, and a form of representative government. He also found himself fighting for freedom of the press. An outstanding political figure, in 1852 he assisted in preparing a constitution which established a bicameral legislature in NSW.

No record has been found of Wentworth's original Lodge, though it is known that he was a distinguished visitor to Lodge of Australia No 3 (formerly No 820 E.C.) when George Nicholls (son of the first postmaster) was initiated in 1829. Lodge Wentworth No 89 U.G.L. of N.S.W., named in his honour, was presented with a certificate and an apron which had been among the family possessions. The certificate states that the 18th degree was conferred upon him in France; it is known that he spent six months on the continent on a holiday at that time. It is possible that he was initiated and received the whole 18 degrees in France during that period. The French Order was practising all the degrees at the time, but they have incomplete records and have been unable to assist in the search for details. However, the certificate is certainly genuine, and the apron could be the 18th by its colouring.

Charles Robert WYNN-CARRINGTON 16.5.1843 - 13.6.1928.

Shown on stamp issue of New South Wales 1888-9 (20 shillings)

Marquess of Lincolnshire, 1st Earl Carrington (1843-1928), Governor of NSW (1885-90), P.C. (1881), G.C.M.G. (1885), K.G. (1906). Educated at Eton and Cambridge, graduated B.A. 1863. Entered British Army, became Captain of Royal Horse Guards, later Lieut-Col. of Militia battalion of Oxford Light Infantry. Elected Member for Wycombe in House of Commons 1865-8; in the latter year succeeded his father as 3rd Baron Carrington. He accompanied the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) to India 1875-6 as ADC. Was Captain of the Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms 1881-5. On return from NSW in 1891 became Member of London County Council and Lord Chamberlain to Queen Victoria's household. In 1895 was created Earl Carrington and Viscount Wendover. Served as President of Board of Agriculture 1905-1911, then as Lord Privy Seal. Retired 1912 as Marquess of Lincolnshire. Assumed the name Wynn-Carrington by Royal Licence in 1893. Died at High Wycombe, Bucks. Carrington Falls, near Mossvale in N.S.W. were named in his honour.

Initiated in Isaac Newton Lodge, Cambridge 28.10.1861; affiliated with Royal Alpha Lodge on 3.7.1882. In 1882 Lord Carrington, Past Grand Warden of G.L. of England, on becoming Governor of NSW, was empowered by his G.M., the Prince of Wales, to effect a Masonic reconciliation amongst the different jurisdictions in NSW. This was happily accomplished and the inaugural meeting of the United Grand Lodge of NSW was held in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney, under the auspices of the G.L. of England on 16.8.1888. Recognition from other GL's followed; this new G.L. represented approx. 176 Lodges of some 5,600 brethren. Lord Carrington was elected Grand Master, and was installed in that high office by Sir Samuel Way, Grand Master of South Australia, on 18.9.1888. The Grand Lodge officers were invested in the presence of 4,417 brethren. Carrington served as Grand Master until 1891. On his return to England he was appointed Provincial Grand Master of Buckinghamshire.

Edward Hammond HARGRAVES 7.10.1816 - 29.10.1891

Australian pastoralist, miner and author.

Shown on stamp issue of 2.7.1951 (3d).

Born at Gosport, England; migrated to Port Jackson in 1832. Obtained employment on a station, and in the same year joined the crew of a beche-de-mer lugger in Torres Strait. Returned to England, then came out to Australia again in 1834, where he followed pastoral pursuits until 1848. He made a home at Illawarra from 1836 to 1841, then at Gosford 1841 to 1849. On 6.7.1849 he sailed for the Californian goldfields (became a "forty-niner"), and succeeded in Stanislaus Valley in finding sufficient to pay his way back to Australia. Noting similarity of earth structure with that in NSW, he returned on 7.1.1851 and with a companion John Lister, panned gold on 12.2.1851 at the junction of Summerhill & Lewis Ponds Creeks, near Bathurst, finding payable gold. The NSW Government rewarded Hargraves in October 1853 with 10,000 pounds, and the Victorian government with 2,381 pounds. Earlier discoveries of gold by Strzelecki in 1839 and W.A. Clarke in 1841-2 had been suppressed by high official who wished to avoid a goldrush at the time. In 1854, Hargraves returned to England, and next year published the book "Australia and its Goldfields". After unsuccessful searches for gold in Western Australia in 1862 and Tasmania in 1864, the NSW Government granted him an annuity of 200 pounds for life. He died at Forest Lodge, Sydney.

Records of Leinster Marine Lodge Australia No 2, U.G.L. of NSW, show that Edward Hammond Hargraves was initiated into that Lodge on 22.4.1853, passed 21.4.1853 and raised 9.5.1853. He became one of the hardest workers in the Lodge, and he was invested as Senior Warden on 17.12.1853. There is nothing in the Lodge records to show what happened after his becoming S.W. in December 1853. The minutes record that on 26.5.1853 he proposed that each member of the Lodge should take one share in the "Australian Freemasons Hall" Company and present them to Leinster Marine, but the proposal was rejected, though it was the first Lodge to meet in the new hall when it opened in January 1854.

Air Commodore Sir Charles Edward Kingsford SMITH M.C., A.F.C., Kt. 9.12.1897 - 7.11.1935

Shown on Australian and New Zealand stamps of 27.8.1958 (8d & 6d respectively), also on Fiji issue of 5.6.1960. His aircraft shown on other issues.

Australian pioneer aviator. Biography should be easily traced and compiled.

"Smithy" was initiated into Garrobyne Lodge No 62, Western Australian Constitution, at Carnarvon, W.A. on 9.4.1925, passed 1st July and raised 3rd September of the same year. He remained a member of that Lodge until his untimely death in 1935. His Master Mason apron was presented to A.I.F. Memorial Lodge No 289, United G.L. of Queensland on 16.8.1945 by his brother Wor Bro W.Kingsford Smith, and has been used in the ceremonies of that Lodge ever since, particularly in the tribute to "Our Fallen Brethren" in the Anzac Day ceremony (25th April every year).

Str Arthur William FADDEN PC GCMG KCMG FICA FCA 13.4.1895 - 21.4.1973

Shown on stamp issue of 26.3.1975 (one of Prime Ministers series).

Born Ingham, North Queensland. Worked as office boy and clerk in a sugar mill, and in 1916 became Town Clerk of Mackay. Began successful accountancy business, entered State politics in Queensland Parliament in 1932. In 1936 became Federal Member for Darling Downs (southern Queensland) and in 1949 Federal Member for McPherson which he held until his retirement. He was Federal Leader of the Country Party from 1941 to 1958, Federal Treasurer and member of the Australian War Cabinet 1940-41. He was a member of the Advisory War Council 1940-45, Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Minister for Supply & Development and Air Minister in 1940. He served as Leader of the Opposition from 1941 to 1943. He was knighted in 1951.

He served as Treasurer and Deputy Prime Minister under Robert (later Sir Robert) Menzies (also a Freemason) and when the latter's government failed in 1941, Fadden formed a parliament and became Prime Minister. Unable to continue, due to an evenly divided House and having to rely on two Independents, he stepped down and the Labor Party under John Curtin took over the wartime government of Australia. When Menzies regained control in 1949, Fadden again became his Treasurer and Deputy in a coalition government of the Liberal and Country Parties. In 1958, Fadden decided to retire from politics, and handed over leadership of the Country Party to John McEwen.

Str Arthur Fadden was initiated in CALEDONIA LODGE No 737 Scottish Constitution, now No 34 United Grand Lodge of Queensland on 20.7.1915. He later affiliated with LAMINGTON LODGE No 110 in Brisbane. On 5.6.1968 he received the 50-year-service jewel from the Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. J.A.R. Thompson.

Hamilton HUME 1797 - 1873

Shown on stamp issue of 9.6.1975 (18c) (also named on special postmark 14-21.10.1974)

Born Parramatta, son of Andrew, a government Agricultural Instructor and Supervisor. Engaged on exploratory journeys with his two brothers from an early age, and during 1821-2 formed a squatting station near Gunning, southwest of Goulburn NSW. He became known to the Surveyors General and Governor Macquarie, who granted him some 300 acres of land. In 1821 he discovered Yass Plains and in 1822 explored with Alexander Berry in the tableland near Bralwood thence down to Jervis Bay. In 1824 Governor Brisbane chose him to accompany William Hilton Hovell to lead an expedition through Victoria and back to Port Jackson. Their journey became a highlight of Australian history, opening up much of the country between Sydney and Melbourne. Both received a 1200 acre land grant as reward for their work. Hume joined Charles Sturt on his first expedition on 28.11.1825 as second-in-command, when the Darling River was discovered. Hume was able to converse with aboriginals and became adept in tracking stray animals. He retired to the land and died in Yass on 19.4.1873.

Hume was initiated into Leinster Marine Lodge of Australia, No 260 Irish Constitution, now No 2 United Grand Lodge of NSW, on 12.9.1825, passed on the same date, and raised on 12.12.1825.

Lawrence HARGRAVE · 29.1.1850 - 6.7.1915

Shown on stamp issue of 4.8.1965 (5d)

Aviation pioneer. Born Greenwich, England, educated at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Kithby Lonsdale, Westmoreland. Arrived Sydney 1866, obtained a position in the draughting room at the engineering shops of the Australasian Steam Navigation Co. Explored in New Guinea in 1875-6, then settled in Sydney in 1877 and was elected member of the Royal Society of NSW. Married 7.9.1878, they had a son and five daughters. In that year he was appointed Assistant Astronomical Observer at the Sydney Observatory, a position he held until 1883, when he retired to research human flight.

Initiated 3.4.1877 in United Service Lodge No 937 E.C., in Sydney NSW; raised 5.6.1877. This Lodge was formerly Volunteer Artillery Lodge No 1239 E.C., which became No 937 E.C. in 1863 and changed name to United Service in 1876; it became No 24 U.G.L. of NSW in 1888. His G.L. Certificate is held in the Museum of Arts & Sciences, Sydney NSW, and reads, in part .. "regularly received into Freemasonry on the 3rd Day of April AL 53 1877, and was admitted to the third Degree on the 5th June 1877, United Service Lodge 937, Sydney." Certificate number is 2581, dated 2.7.1877. Clearance Certificate, showing wording "Declared Off" is also held in the above Museum; it was issued by Volunteer Artillery Lodge No 937 Sydney NSW, and stated his membership from 3.4.1877 to 5.11.1878 (apparently the old Lodge name was still shown on the stationery.) He joined Prince of Wales Lodge No 1653 E.C., now No 49 U.G.L. of NSW. The date of his joining is not known but it was prior to 1888. The information is taken from a history of Empress of India Lodge. He affiliated with Empress of India Lodge No 1761 E.C., now No 57 UGL of NSW on 17.4.1878. In this Lodge he served as J.D. in 1879, and S.D. in 1880. He called off on 4.1.1883; a certificate to this effect, with the wording "paid all dues and demands to date", is held in the above Museum. He presented to this Lodge a handsome brass derrick with Perfect Ashlar. He called off from Prince of Wales Lodge on 22.8.1893; a certificate held in the above Museum is dated 24.10.1893, shows him as S.D. and the words "Called Off". He rejoined this Lodge on 24.7.1900, then called off again on 5.2.1904. A further certificate in this Museum indicates that he was S.W. at the time of his clearance. He was a member of Empress of India Lodge from 20.8.1903 until his death on 6.7.1915. He delivered an occasional lecture in this Lodge, generally on moral teachings, such as the V.Ts. Upon his death, though there is no record of a Masonic funeral, the Lodge observed a month of mourning. He was made a Life Governor of the Freemasons' Benevolent Institution on 21.8.1914. He petitioned Zetland R.A. Chapter No 1, Supreme Grand Chapter of NSW, for membership of that Order on 28.1.1878, and was initiated to the Holy R.A. Degree at their regular meeting on 5.9.1878. His R.A. Certificate, numbered 1815, is held in the above Museum. It reads, in part ... "admitted into the mysteries of the Order on the 5th Day of September AL 5378 by Chapter attached to the Lodge No 390, called 'Zetland of Australia'. Registered in the books of the Supreme Grand Chapter 22nd day of November AL 5378." (There is no record of his membership of Zetland Lodge of Australia No 390 E.C., now No 9 UGL of NSW. He was invested as a Steward in 1880 & 1881, and Standard Bearer 1890. He called off on 21.1.1890.