

**BROTHER SIR AUGUSTUS CHARLES GREGORY KCMG, MLA,
FRGS, DISTGM:
AN ICONIC AUSTRALIAN EXPLORER, EXEMPLARY CITIZEN AND
NOTABLE FREEMASON**

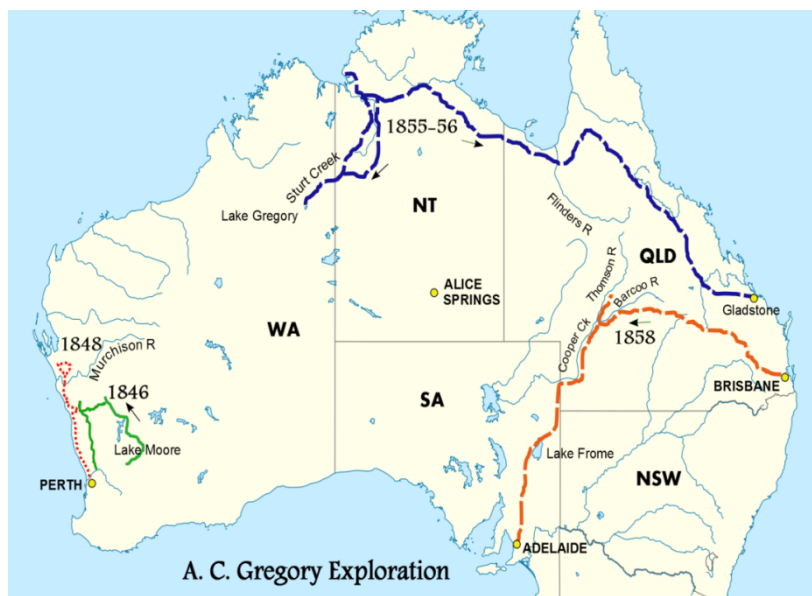
GARY BACON



The life of this extraordinary man (Birth: 1 August 1819: Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire, England. Death: 25 June 1905: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia) is covered in three tranches, viz.:

- Explorer on the Australian Plateau
- State Administrator and Community Leader
- Patriarch of Queensland Freemasonry

Explorer:



Gregory's soldier father had been wounded and in lieu of a pension accepted a land grant in the new Swan River settlement in West Australia. The family arrived in 1829 and the mother home schooled the children. Aided by a neighbour, WA Surveyor-General John Roe, Gregory became a cadet in his department in 1841 and was soon promoted an assistant surveyor. His resourcefulness, bushcraft, facility for invention and technical expertise won him the confidence of his superiors and he was soon given command of his first expedition.

Irwin River Exploration 1846

The Irwin River Exploration of 1846 was led by Augustus Charles Gregory, an accomplished explorer and surveyor. He was often accompanied by his brothers, Francis and Henry, who were also surveyors. This exploration was part of a series of expeditions in Western Australia searching for grazing lands and minerals, and it was Gregory's first command of an exploration expedition. The expedition was significant as it made the first discovery of coal in Western Australia on the Irwin River gorge, which is now known as Coalseam Conservation Park in Mingenew. Through some of the world's most arid country, the Irwin River expedition covered 1534 km in 47 days at an average of 33km per day. Good grazing land and a promising coal seam were reported.

The Settlers' Expedition 1848

A group of colonists, impressed by Gregory's earlier enterprise, invited him to lead an expedition to map the Gascoyne River and search for more pastoral land. This expedition into the Murchison area north of Perth covered 2500km in 10 weeks, averaging 36km a day. Although repelled by dense scrub the party charted the Gascoyne River and found traces of lead which led to the opening of the Champion Bay district centred on Geraldton.

North Australia Expedition 1855-56

The WA Governor Charles Fitzgerald reported to the Colonial Office, with Henry Pelham-Clinton, the 5th Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyne as the Secretary of State for War and the Colonies from 1852 to 1854, in glowing terms of Gregory's skill and ability to abide by instructions. The imperial government had already decided after strong advocacy from the Royal Geographical Society to sponsor a scientific exploration across the north of Australia with an allocation of £5000 and Gregory was chosen to lead it. Fifty horses, 18 men, including

his brother Henry, scientific equipment and two years of supplies were crammed into two square riggers. The party sailed from Moreton Bay and landed near the mouth of the Victoria River. After initial setbacks with boat access Gregory led several forays up the Victoria River and traced Sturt's Creek for 483 km until it disappeared in desert and a bone dry 'Gregory's salt sea' later named Lake Gregory. Turning east the party explored the Elsey, Roper and Macarthur Rivers, crossed and named the Leichhardt and then travelled to Brisbane by way of the Flinders, Burdekin, Fitzroy and Burnett Rivers. In a trip 3219 km by sea and 8047 km by land Gregory dissolved the myth of the inland sea and penetrated the Tanami Desert. Expedition botanist Ferdinand von Mueller catalogued 2000 plants. Although Gregory attributed his success to 'the protection of that Providence without which we are powerless', the smooth passage and thorough scientific investigations of the expedition owed much to his honed exploration skills and leadership. Paradoxically it was too successful to be recognized as one of the most significant journeys led by one of the few unquestionably great Australian explorers. Modest, unromantic and resolute in following instructions, he did not dramatize his report, boasted no triumphs and sought no honours despite his admirable Aboriginal policy and meticulous organization.

Search for Leichardt 1858

Gregory led an expedition sponsored by the New South Wales government in search of Ludwig Leichardt who had disappeared in 1848 during his journey across Australia. Gregory's party set out in March 1858 from Juandah station, crossed the Warrego and Barcoo Rivers but after finding traces of the lost explorer was forced by drought to abandon the search and travel south to Adelaide a journey of 2600km. The fate of Leichardt remains a mystery. This was Gregory's last major expedition.

Achievements

Augustus Charles Gregory was a practical bushman, an animal lover, innovative and mechanically skilful.

He designed an apparatus to operate the first revolving light installed on Rottneest Island.

He invented a pack saddle using light weight red cedar that replaced the old English horse furniture that then became standard use in the bush. The saddle allowed the animal to sweat and made it possible for packs to be bucked free if the horse stumbled.

Gregory also dehydrated and compacted food to lighten the load on his pack horses.

His most innovative design was the "Gregory Patent Compass." The compass could be used on horseback, so it gave him the ability to move faster through the bush.

His seasonal knowledge and bushcraft were unparalleled and he was the first to note the sequence of weather patterns in Australia from west to east.

Recipient of the 1857 Founders Gold Medal from the Royal Geographical Society for 'extensive and important explorations in Western and Northern Australia'

More than 14000 km travelled on expeditions, equivalent to three times circumambulating the Australian landmass. He never lost an expedition member.

Add myriad surveys within a newly gazetted Colony including establishing the southern border of Queensland.

Not surprisingly a retrospect of his explorations was headed ***The Bradman of Australian Explorers*** in the *Australian Geographic* magazine Jan-Mar 2006 edition, along with the

caption, ‘Scientist, navigator, inventor, horseman and leader of men. All these titles have been assigned to Augustus Charles Gregory, but his many skills shouldn’t overshadow his brilliance as an explorer and surveyor’.

Senior Citizen:

Gregory was not a man to ‘put the legs up’ after 14000 kms of exploration on horse and *shanks pony*. He actively sourced new active career pathways which most explorers, who survived, kept well distant.

Administrator/Legislator

1859 – 1863: First Queensland Commissioner of Lands

1859 – 1879: First Surveyor-General Queensland

1875 – 1879: Government Geologist, Queensland – Geological Surveyor Department of Works

Gregory was 40 when he embarked on a new challenge. He sent in a short resume and applied confidently to the new Governor of the newly separated Colony, Sir George Bowen, for the job of Queensland Surveyor-General. He was successful and the Governor appointed him Surveyor-General in December 1859 and, a month later, Chief Commissioner of Lands.

Gregory had the most onerous duties in the new government for land was the colony’s greatest resource. Revenue from the lease or sale of Crown lands exceeded the revenue from customs and excise duties, wool and beef were the mainstay of the export trade, and the promise of vast unoccupied pastures described by earlier explorers in glowing terms encouraged capital investment and a steadily increasing stream of permanent settlers. He was responsible for classifying, surveying and controlling an area of 670,000 square miles (Qld 1,853,000 km², British Isles 315,160 km², NZ 267,710 km², Victoria 227,444 km²) inhabited by only 12,000 people.

How best to utilise the land was a question that, from the start, resolved into “a burning political issue” between the pastoralists who laid claim to large tracts of land and “the selectors” who wanted access to small predominantly agricultural holdings.

The history of lands administration during this period was thus marked by controversy. It was said that none of the succession of Lands Ministers survived with their reputation intact. The civil servants appointed to implement what were described as “confusing and chaotic laws” did not fare much better. Officers of the Lands Department were regularly accused of incompetence, jobbery and even corruption.

In the years after the initial land legislation of 1860 there were over fifty principal and amending Acts, with a further thirty-seven Bills either lost or defeated in Parliament. There appeared to be no simple answer to the “land question”. Gregory was in the thick of this squabble from day one and anyone who has led a Government Agency will acknowledge that serving rotating Ministers with wide agendas is quite a mental and physical feat. Gregory persevered for over 16 years and must, at times, wished he was back in the outback on expedition.

1880 – 1905: President, Shire of Toowong, 1881-1884, 1888-1890, 1895, 1895-1901 and Mayor 1904

1882 – 1905: Member of the Legislative Council, Parliament of Queensland

The first Parliament, consisting of 26 elected Members of the Legislative Assembly, and 11 nominees appointed to the Legislative Council, met in 1860. The members of the Legislative Council were appointed by the Governor, whereas the members of the Legislative Assembly

were elected by eligible voters. Original appointments to the Legislative Council were for five years with subsequent appointments made for life.

Gregory was appointed to the Legislative Council on 10 November 1882 and continued to be a member until his death. Always a critic of the government he spoke more often than most members and his advice was freely sought and given, particularly on land and technical matters. He was never a member of a cabinet, preferring to be an independent member free to vote for measures of which he approved.

It is appropriate that the electoral district of Gregory for the Legislative Assembly of Queensland created in 1878 encompasses some 460 000 km² of rural and remote western Queensland.

Professional & Community Involvement:

1862 – First Council of Qld Acclimatization Society

Members of the Queensland Acclimatisation Society in the nineteenth century played a key role in the importation and experimentation with many plants. Founded in 1862 at the instigation of Sir George Bowen who became the first Patron of the Society, its inaugural meeting was attended by the busiest and most powerful men in the colony. The society's objects were 'calculated to afford powerful aid in the development of the material resources of the Colony and to assist in establishing its prosperity upon a sound and permanent basis'. They aimed to contribute to Queensland's agricultural industries by introducing commercially viable plants. They also believed that by exchanging plants with other parts of the world, they would draw attention to the Queensland's natural advantages and so encourage investment. The *Brisbane Courier* in April 1863 remarked that acclimatisation could bring commercial benefits.

1867 – 1899: Trustee, Queensland Museum

In 1859, a group of curious individuals formed the Queensland Philosophical Society. Three years later, in 1862, they conceived the 'nucleus of a Museum of Natural Science', where by the Moreton Bay Council granted temporary use of a 'large room in the windmill' on Brisbane's Wickham Terrace, and the Queensland Museum was born.

1876 – 1883: Member, Aborigines Commission, Queensland

In May 1876, the Government appointed a Royal Commission of five men with Bishop Matthew Blagden Hale as chairman 'with a view to improving the conditions of the Aborigines in Queensland'. The Commissioners were to 'report from time to time to the Government' on conditions at Mackay and elsewhere and to submit recommendations. The Royal Commission conducted its affairs as a semi-independent agency, and is listed as reporting to the Colonial Secretary in the Blue Book of the Colony of Queensland volumes from 1878 to 1883 inclusive, and then is not listed again.

1876 – Foundation President, Institute of Surveyors

Prior to 1876, surveyors in Queensland were not represented by a professional body. The *Brisbane Courier* reported that a meeting of licensed surveyors was held at Lennon's Hotel, George Street on 1 January 1876. Here they decided that they should form an association to look after 'the status and interests of the profession in Queensland.' This meeting was followed by another on 4 July 1876. It was decided by 20 surveyors to form the Queensland Institute of Surveyors. The officers elected at that first meeting were: President: AC Gregory. By 1877 the Institute of Surveyors had 60 members.

1883 – 1884: President, Philosophical Society of Queensland

1887 – 1888: President, Royal Society of Queensland

The Royal Society of Queensland was inaugurated in January 1884. It was born out of the Philosophical Society of Queensland, founded in 1859, the year Queensland was proclaimed a separate colony. As the senior scientific organisation in the State, the Royal Society with its predecessor has played an important part in scientific endeavour for more than 150 years. Traditionally, its activities have lain within general science, science-related policy and science-related education, but the Letters Patent issued under the Religious, Educational and Charitable Institutions Act 1861 under which it is incorporated do not limit the scope of its mission to science.

1885 – Foundation President, Qld Branch, Geographical Society of Australia (now RGSQ)
The Geographical Society of Australasia started at a meeting in Sydney, on 22 June 1883, by a gathering of citizens who were concerned that the Geographical Section of the Royal Society of New South Wales had become defunct. The meeting decided to form a new federal organisation that would have branches in all the Australian colonies and New Zealand. The idea was then shared with prominent citizens in Brisbane who were asked to support the scheme. Consequently, the Geographical Society of Australasia (Queensland Branch) was established in July 1885 with Gregory as the foundation President. Within a year, Queen Victoria granted the Society the privilege of using the ‘Royal’ prefix. Since 1885 the Society has pursued its main objective of promoting an interest in and the study of Geography through publications, field-based research projects, public lectures and excursions.

1893 – 1895: President, Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science (now ANZAAS).

Speaking at the jubilee congress of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science in 1939, the historian Ernest Scott observed that “the Australia that we know was born in the Scientific Age.” Cook’s first voyage of 1768-1771 was primarily in response to the Royal Society’s request for observations of the transit of Venus across the disk of the sun (in 1769) from a suitable location in the Southern Pacific, and only secondarily a voyage of exploration of the southern Pacific itself. As the editor of the present book emphasizes in his introduction, “No one surrounded by the ubiquity of Cook and Banks and the eponymy of Botany Bay can escape the significance of science in our colonial heritage.” And the welding together of separate state associations to form ANZAAS in 1888--the centenary of which was the occasion for this book--was quite self-consciously recognized by many of the protagonists as a trial run for federation of the separate states themselves (an event finally accomplished in 1901).

Appendix 1 carries sections of an article published in *The Queenslander* noting the election of Gregory to the Presidency of AAAS.

Scientific Awards

1857 - Founders’ Gold Medal, Royal Geographical Society, London (Gregory was in excellent company as David Livingstone received the award in 1855 and Sir Richard Burton in 1859).

1897 - Clarke Medal, Royal Society of New South Wales. The Medal was awarded “for meritorious contributions to Geology, Mineralogy and Natural History of Australasia”.

Royal Awards:

1874 – CMG; Companion (of the Order Of) St Michael and St George

1903 – KCMG; Knight Commander (of the Order Of) St Michael and St George

District Grand Master:



Provincial/District Grand Master Queensland, English Constitution 1862 – 1905

Augustus Charles Gregory was initiated in Sydney Samaritan Lodge No 878 EC in 1855 en-route to Moreton Bay to lead the Victoria River expedition. Joined North Australian Lodge No 796 on 27 March 1861 and joined Prince of Wales Lodge No 908 on 5 September 1861 as a Foundation Member. Whilst he continued to be a member until his death in 1905 he never sat as WM of the Lodge. In extraordinary circumstances Bro Gregory was appointed by the leaders of the United Grand Lodge of England in London to be the first Provincial (later District) Grand Master, Grand Lodge Queensland, English Constitution, while a Master Mason. His unique advancement in the Craft is recorded in the Official Records as: 'On a Tuesday evening, two days before the Christmas of 1862, about eighty Masons met in the original Masonic Hall in Albert Street. They had been invited to attend the inauguration of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Queensland, and the installation of Bro Augustus Charles Gregory as Provincial Grand Master. John Petrie took the chair as WM of the senior Lodge, the North Australian Lodge (then No 1098 EC).

The record runs thus:-

The Lodge having been duly regularly opened in the 1^o, the WM called upon Wor Bro W. M. Boyce to take the chair as Installing Master. Bro Boyce in suitable terms congratulated the Brethren on the occasion which had called them together that evening, and expressed a hope that the Provincial Grand Lodge they were about establishing under Bro Gregory's rule would act beneficially, and that Freemasonry might spread its benign influence over the whole of this Province. Bro Boyce then read the Charter from the Right Hon, the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of England, appointing Bro A. C. Gregory as Provincial Grand Master Queensland. Wor Bro Boyce

explained that as Bro Gregory had not been installed into the chair as Master of a Lodge, it would be necessary that he should be regularly Installed.

The Board of Installed Masters was formed from Wor Bros W. M. Boyce (WM Queensland Lodge), J. Petrie (WM North Australian Lodge), W. Borlase Stevens (PM Lodge No 710), J. M. Llewellyn PM, and the Candidate. The Installation was duly completed with proclamations and salutes, and at 9 pm the first Provincial Grand Lodge Queensland was actually constituted.'

Notable Highlights

22 January 1864. Provincial Grand Master (PGM) laid the foundation stone by request of the Lord Mayor for the new Town Hall in Brisbane with Masonic honours. This was the first public function of Freemasonry in the Colony and included a procession in Masonic dress.

20 September 1864. PGM laid the foundation stone for the inaugural School of Arts in Brisbane.

10 June 1866. PGM laid the foundation stone for the new Masonic Hall assisted by the heads of the Scottish and Irish Constitutions in Brisbane. Unquestionably the PGM would have been instrumental in obtaining the grant of land on Albert Street from Governor Sir George Bowen.

December 1866 – January 1867 the Provincial Grand Lodge was renamed District Grand Lodge from United Grand Lodge England.

24 March 1869. District Grand Master (DGM) dedicated the new Masonic Hall at Gympie and in May 1875 he visited Pioneer Lodge in Gympie. Travel was by coach as the North Coast rail line to Bundaberg was not opened until 1891.

May 1876. DGM dedicated new Masonic Hall in Ipswich.

16 April 1879. DGM held a Special Communication in Rockhampton the first country siting of the District Grand Lodge.

23 July 1879. DGM dedicated the new Masonic Hall at Roma.

March Quarterly Communication 1882. The DGM considered it undesirable for Masons to appear in regalia at funerals.

21 August 1885. DGM laid the foundation stone for the second Queensland Freemasons headquarters in Alice Street. The growth in membership and Lodges necessitated an enlarged meeting and banqueting Hall with 18 smaller rooms for administration, senior officers, etc. The New headquarters was dedicated on 1 December in the same year.

April 1886. Gregory Lodge was the first Lodge formed in Cairns.

27 June 1887. DGM dedicated the new Toowoomba Masonic Hall.

28 December 1887. DGM dedicated the new Masonic Temple in Warwick.

18 September 1888. DGM accompanied by several Officers of District Grand Lodge attended the ceremony of Installation of His Excellency Lord Carrington as Most Worshipful Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales.

Towards the end of 1888 a movement began among Queensland Masons with a view to establishing a Sovereign Grand Lodge of Queensland. In March QC 1889 the matter was

discussed in fulsome debate. No resolution was passed. The matter was again on the agenda at June QC and a circular issued that marshalled the arguments against the formation of a Queensland Grand Lodge. The DGM was against the formation and remarked, 'what may be highly inconvenient and improper at the present time might in ten to fifteen years hence be quite a proper proceeding'.

20 August 1891. DGM called the first of several annual Special Communications held during Exhibition week. These became a fixture of the year's agenda and were well received and attended by country members.

18 December 1891. The Brethren marked their esteem for the District Grand Master by presenting him with a life size portrait of himself in his Masonic regalia, and also a cheque with which to purchase some personal mementos. The project had been quietly in hand for three years, and in July 1888, in response to a circular, English Constitution Lodge representatives met and resolved, "That a half-figure life size portrait in oils should be painted by an artist of eminence in Melbourne, to be placed in the Masonic Hall, Alice Street, Brisbane, thus ever to serve to keep his memory before the Brethren; and further, that a personal gift, consisting of a piece of plate, should be presented." Signor Ugo Catani, of Melbourne, was commissioned to execute the painting.

RW Bro Barron L. Barnett Deputy District Grand Master in making the presentation said:
"That inner sight which men call memory, enables us to glance backwards over the era of Freemasonry in this Colony, and to see that the present great system sprang from one great Lodge alone, and at a distance of time, which is almost obscurity to some of us, and distant indeed to all who were connected with the Lodge. You, sir, have been connected with it all that time, and you have seen the District grow into one of very active Masonic Brotherhood, and I rejoice to think that it is one where there is to be found that genuine Freemasonry which seeks to do no evil and strives to do good Your government has been so successful because you have always known how and when to apply your authority rightly. Our Constitution proves for the establishment of Boards of Benevolence, General Purposes, etc., and under your careful and wise guidance we now have all the means of governing ourselves and everything in proper order."

The portrait hangs today in the Masonic Memorial Centre, Ann Street, Brisbane.

September 1893. DGM reported having attended the Installation of the Governor of NSW Sir Robert Duff as GM UGLNSW.

21 October 1895. DGM laid the foundation stone of the new Masonic Hall in Roma and District Grand Lodge met therein.

June 1896. DGM reported having attended the Installation of Lord Brassey as GM of the Grand Lodge of Victoria. The ceremony was attended by 3000 Masons.

9 November 1900. DGM dedicated the new Masonic Hall in Killarney.

February 1901 was a busy travelling month for the DGM, marked by three separate building ceremonies. 14 February the foundation stone laid for the new Masonic Hall in Gympie. 27 February the new Masonic Hall was dedicated at Rockhampton. 28 February the new Masonic Hall at Barcaldine was duly dedicated.

December Quarterly Communication 1903. A tone of rejoicing as HM the King had been pleased to confer knighthood on the District Grand Master.

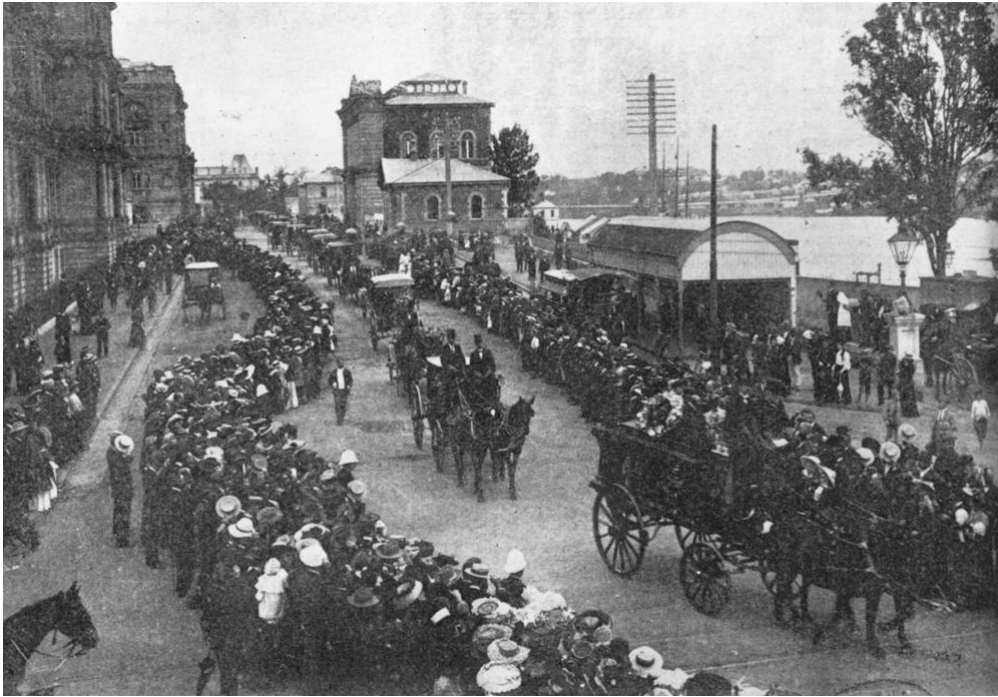
25 February 1904. Two senior Brethren were suspended by the DGM from all Masonic functions under the English Constitution for their involvement in circulating Lodges with a view to establishing a Sovereign Grand Lodge. On 25 April 1904 the Grand Lodge of Queensland was formed consisting of 39 Lodges (25 Irish Constitution and 14 Scottish Constitution Lodges but no English Constitution Lodges) and the 'Queensland Question' was not resolved until the amalgamation of 281 Lodges under the United Grand Lodge of Queensland on 27 April 1921.

March QC 1905 was the last at which the revered DGM presided. At the June QC meeting he was absent. He died at his home 'Rainworth' at the ripe old age of 86 years, and with him there passed away a unique figure in the world's Freemasonry.

A summary of his Masonic life provides recognition of his uniqueness.

Sir Augustus Gregory first saw Masonic life in 1855 in the Sydney Samaritan Lodge, No 578, which Lodge returned its Warrant in 1874 to the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE). He joined the North Australian Lodge No.796, on March 27th 1861, resigning December 27th 1872. He became a member of the Prince of Wales Lodge No. 908, on September 5th 1861, and continued a member therein till his death. On February 28th 1865, he was made a Royal Arch Mason in the North Australia Chapter and served as leader from 1895. He was installed in the chair of the District, then called Provincial Grand Master (PGM) for Queensland of English Freemasons on 23 December 1862, and remained in that exalted position till his death — a period of over 42 years. The only comparable leader occupying so high a rank for so long a time and working so hard and continuously is the current Grand Master UGLE, Prince Edward, Duke of Kent. When he took the chair as PGM in 1862, there were but four English Constitution Lodges in the then Colony of Queensland; when he died, in 1905, there were 64. Almost the last act of his life was to sign the Warrant for the new Sir Augustus Lodge at Bundaberg, this being the second Lodge established in Queensland that carried his name. The record of District Grand Lodge (DGL) for 42 years is his Masonic record. His death evoked telegrams and letters from every part of Australia. A special meeting of DGL was held on 29 June 1905 with the Deputy DGM A.J. Stephenson in the chair. Sixty officers were present and representatives from thirty country Lodges. DGM of Scottish Constitution with his officers also attended to mark the regard in which the deceased was held by the Scottish brethren.

The funeral was attended by the Lieutenant Governor, the Premier, Leader of the Opposition, Supreme Court Judges, Ministers of the Crown, Members of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly, and a large number of Aldermen and Councillors, officials of the Public Library, the National Agricultural Association, the Royal Geographical Society, the Royal Society and the Queensland Clubs, a great concourse of Masons and a very large number of the general public.



Funeral Procession of Sir Augustus Gregory, Brisbane, 1905.

Obituaries appeared in all the major media outlets of Australia.

The local *Brisbane Daily Mail*, 29 June, 1905, 53carried an extensive and well researched coverage of a most extraordinary and active life, without peer in Queensland and perhaps Australasia:

“The late Sir A. C. Gregory, K.C.M.G., was a man of so many parts that in limited space it would be difficult to justly deal with his brilliant career. The excellent work that he accomplished in the political world, and his achievements as an explorer, are perhaps more widely known than the scientific side of his life and his private character.

The late Sir Augustus C. Gregory was a pronounced philosopher, and his scientific knowledge embraced a very wide range of subjects. As a geologist he was one of the most accomplished men that ever set foot in Australia. He was also a mineralogist, and in that branch of science was continually experimenting. The experiments he sometimes conducted in his little office in Mary-street, other times at his residence in Rosalie, where he had an extensive workshop. Many people used to consult him upon the subject of minerals. Samples unearthed by prospectors in all parts of Queensland were brought to him for opinion concerning their worth and kind. The intimate knowledge which he possessed was always at the disposal of all. He was the author of the first published geological map of West Australia.

Sir Augustus not only achieved brilliant success in the field of exploration, but through his profound scientific accomplishments was able to associate himself with work outside that sphere of usefulness altogether. And that is the ground upon which his career will be handed down to posterity.

He produced a few simple scientific instruments. These consisted of a box sextant, a prismatic compass, a small pocket aneroid, and a little thermometer. This was portable as the whole could be placed in one’s pocket. He could make numerous stellar and solar observations to determine latitude and longitude.

As a leader of men, he had been able to conduct hazardous expeditions, and return to civilisation with their good results, without the loss of a single life. This was largely due to his foresight. He took the precaution of reducing his impedimenta to a minimum. He caused all the tinned meat to be mixed with flour, and made meat biscuits.

At the workshop contained in his private residence at Rosalie he had an interesting machinery plant. Here there were to be seen lathes, steam engines, boilers, circular saws, and numerous other appliances dear to the mechanical mind. He was also an inventor of no mean order. He invented a compass, a

sextant stand, and a variety of mathematical instruments. He reconstructed an ordinary “Admiral Fitzroy” barometer upon an entirely new plan, and demonstrated the fact that a column of mercury can be enclosed hermetically within a wooden cistern.

Some years ago, Sir Augustus Gregory was elected to the presidency of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science. This is the highest position of honour which a local man can possibly occupy in the Australian scientific world, and the act was warmly approved. The portraits of Sir Augustus Gregory and his brother Frank occupy prominent places in the council room of the Royal Geographical Society in London. He was elected to the highest position in Freemasonry possible to be held in Queensland, and held the same continuously until the time of his death.”

The *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 June 1904, can be given the final word:

“Masons and non-Masons were alike touched with sorrow, and animated with the desire, to do honour to the dead. That was attested by the 1,500 or more people who passed through the *chapelle ardente* and the long procession, extending from Victoria Bridge, North Quay. No great geographical discoveries are linked with Gregory’s name, no Darling or Murray. Though his name is not associated with any striking discovery, it is with a succession of long and successful expeditions, with no hint of failure amongst them; and his name will now take its place in the roll of Australian history as one of its most illustrious explorers. **He lived when there were giants, and he was not the least amongst them.**”

In summary it can be said that Brother Augustus Charles Gregory was a very significant person on every metric of assessment in Queensland’s early history. The name of Gregory figures prominently on the map of Queensland, the district of Gregory, the Gregory Highway, the Gregory River, and numerous streets in major towns. They are a reminder of his manifest contribution to Queensland’s development in many fields. A staunch Christian (Anglican) who won repute for his private charity and noble ideals of citizenship and sustained public service over diverse jurisdictions he undoubtedly meets every characteristic of an icon.

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Appendix I

THE HON. A.C. GREGORY, C.M.G., M.L.C.

PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

The Hon. A.C. Gregory, C.M.G., M.L.C., &c., was unanimously elected on the 26th September, 1893, at Adelaide to the position of president of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, in succession to Professor R. Tate, and, perhaps no one of those who have hitherto had a similar honour conferred upon them has more truly merited the high distinction. His scientific career has been protracted and fruitful in events that the truth of this conclusion cannot be gainsaid.

It was but a few years after his arrival in Western Australia — as early as 1829 — that he gave evidence of the possession of those scientific attainments and moral qualities which combine in the production of a successful explorer, and which led to his being chosen leader in two exploratory expeditions there.

The expedition, however, on which his fame principally rests, and which won for him the title of the Explorer of North Australia, started from the Victoria River in the Northern Territory. This important highway he ascended to its source, and then, crossing the watershed at a height of 1060 ft. above sea level, followed a stream — which Mr. Gregory named Sturt Creek — flowing south. From the Victoria the expedition advanced to the Gulf of Carpentaria, crossing the various rivers south to the Burdekin watershed crossing the dividing high lands, which he named the Newcastle Ranges.

That the choice of leader was amply justified may be concluded from the fact that he so creditably performed his arduous undertaking as to win a royal award, the founder's gold medal of the Royal Geographic Society being in 1857 bestowed upon him, Sir Roderick I. Murchison remarking when delivering the medal to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for transmission to the recipient of the honour that it was an award which would be approved of by the geographers of all countries. In 1858 Mr. Gregory undertook a further exploratory journey, assuming the command of the Barcoo expedition, which, as is well known, was equipped for the purpose of tracing the course of Leichhardt's ill-fated party; and during this, amongst other achievements, Mr. Gregory confirmed the supposed identity of the Barcoo River and Cooper's Creek.

After returning from this latest expedition he served as Surveyor-General of the colony from 1859 to 1875, and in this capacity accomplished much important work.

As might have been anticipated, Mr. Gregory has taken a leading part in the inauguration and proceedings of the different Queensland scientific societies, contributing important memoirs, especially dealing with local requirements, to their literary archives.

In fact so general are Mr. Gregory's scientific attainments that few engage in important investigations without consulting him, and of the many who apply to him none come empty away.

If asked to indicate anything which may have specially contributed to Mr. Gregory's eminence, one would probably point to his ready wit, his abundance of resource, his facility of invention.

There must be superadded certain high mental and moral attributes which conspire to effect the felicitous issue of an exploratory journey, and which are none other than those which are essential to the attainment of success in all human enterprise. That the president of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science is ennobled by their possession has been long since remarked upon, and is known to all who are honoured with his acquaintance.

In this connection it were inexcusable to pass over a certain incident connected with Mr. Gregory's election. Some time ago there was reason to believe that the honour of which he is recipient would be conferred upon Sir S.W. Griffith. It is eloquent of the magnanimity which happily not rarely adorns the occupants of the highest social positions that the Chief Justice, upon learning that there was a pronounced desire amongst the majority of our local scientific men that Mr. Gregory should be the successor to Professor Ralph Tate, at once took steps to withdraw from the position of nominee. He also expressed regret that he was not himself in a position to nominate our explorer.

Of Mr. Gregory's services to Queensland as a member of the Legislature, and of his generally high conception and industrious discharge of the duties of citizenship, it is quite unnecessary to speak. Queensland and Brisbane especially, is delighted to see him in the chair of the distinguished gathering of thinkers and investigators. His personal friends — and their name is legion — wish him a full measure of health and happiness in the year of his Presidency.

The Queenslander (Brisbane, Qld.) Sat 19 Jan 1895. Page 112