The fateful second expedition

In 1848 Leichhardt set out again, hoping to cross the continent from east to west and then follow the coast down to Perth. Leichhardt is believed to have given his compass and thermometer to a friend in Port Stephens, New South Wales, before leaving for what, unbeknownst to him, would be his last expedition.

In early April 1848, the party headed inland from the Darling Downs and vanished. The expedition's disappearance has been a mystery ever since.

Many theories seek to account for the disappearance of the party. The two most popular explanations are that the party perished in the desert or were attacked and killed by Aboriginal people, the latter thought to be the most likely.

[a320004h.jpg](#)
Reverse of compass, engraved "Dollond London", collection of Frederick Danvers Power: realia, 1829-1901,
In search of Leichhardt

Augustus Charles Gregory (1819-1905) was an experienced explorer, and later surveyor-general of Queensland. In 1855 he led an important scientific expedition to explore the north of Australia. Leaving Moreton Bay in August that year, his party of 18 men explored the Victoria, Elsey, Roper and Macarthur Rivers and discovered and named the Leichhardt River.

They then returned to Brisbane by way of the Flinders, Burdekin, Fitzroy and Burnett Rivers, taking sixteen months to complete the expedition. Gregory was awarded the gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society for his efforts.

In 1858, Augustus Charles Gregory led another expedition for the New South Wales Government, hoping to unravel the mystery of what had happened to Leichhardt. In March, after several months of preparation, Gregory and his party of seven experienced bushmen and 40 horses, each carrying 150 lb (68 kg) of provisions, set out from an area near Ipswich.

Upon reaching the Barcoo River in April, a tree marked ‘L’ by Leichhardt was discovered. Unfortunately, prevailing drought conditions ultimately forced Gregory’s party to abandon their search and travel to Adelaide.

The fate of Leichhardt was as much in doubt as ever.

**FL3270387 [5]**


Gregory, C. F. (Charles)

*Call # SSV4B / Coo Cr / 1 [6]*

**Digital ID:** a4776001

*View collection item detail [7]*
Dr Augustus Charles Gregory in Account current with the Public.

Date
Dec. 18

From whose Receipt here for what Service Amount

Dec. 18 1857

To impress placed to credit at Joint Stock Bank at Sydney by the Colonial Treasurer as per requisition No. dated
11th December 1857.

£ 0 0

Carried forward £ 700 0 0

The fateful second expedition
Published on State Library of NSW (https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)

Augustus Charles Gregory
Call # B 867 [9]
Digital ID: a1801001
View collection item detail [10]

a1801006h.jpg [11]
### December 1857

**1857.**

**Brought forward £ 91 2/7**

- 2 Best Aughrim saddles @ 9/- each
- 2 Aughrim saddles second quality @ 3/- each
- 18 Lead-tail Bridles @ 1/- each
- 10 Horse bells & strings @ 7/2 each
- 33 Read Collars metal rope each @ 3/6 each
- 10 Peasars & Straps @ 2/- each
- 8 Water Cans @ 50/- each
- 10 Ammunition Pouches & belt @ 8/- each
- 10 Gun-buckets & straps @ 5/3 each
- 10 Woolen Gaiters @ 2/- each
- 20 Gregg Blankets @ 14/- each

**Total:** £ 182 5/3

---

### January 1858

**1858.**

- 7 Chas Scott & Co for sundries etc supplied
- 10 Double barrel percussion guns @ 60/- each
- 5 Colt American Revolvers @ 120/- each
- 5 Kettles & washers for do. do @ 3/- each
- 2 Hollos & washers for do. do @ 75/- each
- 5000 grain powder @ 1/- each
- 2000 Colt Revisions & Co. @ 4/- each

**Total:** £ 182 5/3
The fateful second expedition

Published on State Library of NSW (https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)

Augustus Charles Gregory, Sir, 1819-1905

Call # B 867 [9]

Digital ID: a1801006

View collection item detail [12]

a1801011h.jpg [13]
January 1858
Brought forward - £700 0 0

January 8 To inspect place to erect at Cadell's Point Stock Bank at Brisbane as perdirections from Colonial Treasurer

2500 0 0

£ 3200 0 0
The fateful second expedition

Augustus Charles Gregory, Sir, 1819-1905

Call # B 867

Digital ID: a1801011

View collection item detail

a1801028h.jpg


"type": "image",
The fateful second expedition

Published on State Library of NSW (https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)

Augustus Charles Gregory, Sir, 1819-1905

Call # B 867 [9]

Digital ID: a1801028

View collection item detail [16]

a1801129h.jpg [17]
SIDNEY'S STORES, DALBY, MYALL CREEK, DARLING DOWNS.

30th September 1857.

Sir,

Having been selected by several influential gentlemen and friends in this District to establish myself at the above Township, I have the pleasure to inform you that I have, at considerable expense, erected an extensive Store for the sale of General Merchandize; and also Commodious Premises for the reception of Produce. I have a very extensive and well-selected Stock of every description of Goods of direct Importation, and from the best Wholesale Houses in Sydney, and, in selecting the hansom of your patronage, I beg to intimate that it is my intention to sell at the lowest remunerative prices.

I am also prepared to make such advances on Stock and Stations; or, upon well-contracted to my friends in Sydney, London, or Paris.

Eighteen years' residence in the Colony as Overseer, Superintendent, Postmaster, and Proprietor of Stations, ten of which have been spent on the Burnett, has rendered me intimately acquainted with all the events, wishes, and troubles of the Stockholders.

Relying upon this, I trust to be able to give satisfaction, by strict attention to business, and selling a first-rate article at a moderate price, I trust to merit a share of your patronage.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

John Ridley.

A. B. Gregory Esq.
Burrandowan
The fateful second expedition

Published on State Library of NSW (https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)

Augustus Charles Gregory, Sir, 1819-1905

Call # B 867

Digital ID: a1801129

View collection item detail [18]

[19]a4779004h.jpg
The fateful second expedition

Expedition in search of Dr. Leichhardt report of proceedings
September 1858

[A.C. Gregory
Call # Q984/N [20]

Digital ID: a4779004
View collection item detail [21]

a4779009h.jpg [22]
Expedition in search of Dr. Leichhardt report of proceedings

The fateful second expedition

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The fateful second expedition
Published on State Library of NSW (https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)

September 1858
A.C. Gregory
Call # Q984/N [20]
Digital ID: a4779009
View collection item detail [23]

This story has been developed with the support of the State Library of NSW Foundation.

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation.


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