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FOUR AUSTRALIAN MASONIC CRICKETERS

W. BARDSLEY (1882-1954)

Warren Bardsley was born on the 7th December, 1882 at the western New South Wales township of Nevertire. His birth was registered at nearby Warren and his parents chose the name of the town for their son. His father taught at the public school at Forest Lodge, an inner Sydney suburb and it was at the nearby Glebe Cricket Club that Warren began his career.

Warren was the leading figure at the 6 a.m. practice at Jubilee oval along with Bro Bert Oldfield. After breakfast he walked the four kilometres into the city to his job as a clerk in the Crown Law Office.

It was that batting practice after a morning dew that made him the most successful Australian to tour England until Bro Don Bradman came along.

Bardsley was a stylish left-hander of medium build who wore only one batting glove on his left hand secured with an elastic band to his thumb.

He always carefully inspected the pitch and spoke with the groundsmen and was cautious in his approach to the opposition bowling.

He was not a big hitter and there was the occasion in England when, having scored a century in a County match, his captain Monty Noble instead of congratulating him said: "Lets' see how you are at hitting sixes".

Bardsley was first selected to play for New South Wales in the 1903-4 season and won selection in the Australian team to tour England in 1909.

He became established as an opening batsman and topped both the aggregates and averages with 2180 runs at 46. He was named one of "Wisden's" cricketers of the year.

During the test match at "The Oval", he made 136 and 130 and became the first player ever to make a century in each innings of a test. His opening partnership of 180 with Syd Gregory stood as a record for over 50 years.

Bardsley made three further tours of England in 1912, 1921 and 1926. On the 1912 tour he again headed the aggregates and averages with 2441 runs at 51 and, on the 1926 tour he carried his bat at Lord's for his highest test score of 193.

On this tour he had the honour to captain Australia in the tests at Headingley and Old Trafford.

His best test series was in 1912 in South Africa where he scored two centuries in the three tests played and finished with an average of 113.66.

In 1914, Bardsley was a member of a team which toured the United States of America and Canada during which he made 117 against the Gentlemen of Philadelphia.

