



## THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY: G.H. Cumming

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**MAJOR-GENERAL SIR GRANVILLE DE LAUNE RYRIE, KCMG, CB, VD.**

**(1865 - 1937)**

Granville Ryrie, a grazier, soldier and politician, was born on 1 July 1865 on a 4,200 ha grazing and cattle property named *Micalago* situated at a railway whistle stop called Michelago, between Queanbeyan and Cowra.

Granville's father Alexander, was a member of the NSW Legislative Assembly from 1880 to 1891 and a member of the NSW Legislative Council from 1892 to 1909.

Granville's father and mother, Charlotte, nee Faunce, were both born in New South Wales.

They sent their son to be educated at a private school at Mittagong and, from 1878 to 1883, at The King's School, Parramatta. He then became a jackaroo on a number of properties in the north-west of New South Wales.

He enjoyed life in the outback and he became an accomplished horseman and rifle shot. He was also a very good boxer and was twice runner-up in the NSW amateur heavyweight championship. He also studied the Aborigines and learned one of their languages.

He returned to the family property and on 18 February 1896, he married Mary Frances Gwendoline, the daughter of Judge McFarland, at St Thomas's Anglican Church, North Sydney. They had twin daughters and a son.

At the time, the Australian colonies had a strong volunteer citizen's army and Ryrie joined the movement as a trooper.

In 1898, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Australian Horse. Note the title of his unit, three years prior to Federation. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1889 and a Captain in 1901 and served in the Boer War in South Africa with the 6th (New South Wales) Imperial Bushmen from May 1900 until June 1901.

He first saw action in Rhodesia and then at the Transvaal, Cape Colony and the Orange River Colony.

In September 1900, he was severely wounded at Wonderfontein and, two months later, he was promoted to Honorary Major. He was awarded the Queen's Medal with four clasps.

Ryrie returned to *Micalago* in July 1901 and he resumed his part-time military service in the 1st Australian Horse which, in the military re-organisation following

