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VASEY, George Alan (1895-1945)

Born in Victoria, he studied at the Duntroon Royal Military Academy and held military posts in Australia and India before the outbreak of World War II. He served with distinction in the Middle East and in the Balkan States during the first years of the war, and in 1942 was promoted Major-General and placed in charge of the 6th and then the 7th Divisions of the AIF in Papua New Guinea. After leading his men in the arduous Markham and Ramu valley campaigns in 1943-44, Vasey was invalided home to Australia for a time, but on his way to resume command of the 6th Division at Wewak in 1945 he was killed when his plane crashed.

VAUX, James Hardy (1782-?)

Born in 1782, he was initially transported to Australia for stealing a handkerchief. He worked as a clerk and as a tutor, in the latter position succumbing to the temptation of forging Governor King's signature and subsequently finding himself on a chain-gang. Seemingly through charm alone, Vaux managed to obtain the position of secretary to Governor King, and in 1907 he accompanied King to England. Demoted in transit because of dubious behaviour, Vaux then deserted his post and again turned to crime. His second transportation to NSW occurred three years later, and after escaping from his assignment and being re-captured, he wrote *Memoirs of James Hardy Vaux, Written By Himself* (1819) while serving his sentence in the Newcastle coal mines. In 1829 Vaux escaped yet again, and this time managed to make his way to Dublin. There, he set the record for the most number of transportations by being convicted of forging bank notes and sent yet again to NSW.

Along with his remarkable autobiography, Vaux also compiled a dictionary of contemporary underworld slang, *Vocabulary of the Flash Language*, which provides a valuable insight into convict speech.

VERGE, John (1782-1861)

Born in England, he took up a land grant in NSW and began farming in 1828. This venture was unsuccessful, so Verge turned his hand to building design. He became one of the finest architects of the early years of colonial Australia, designing notable buildings such as Darlinghurst's Tusculum and Rockwall, and Elizabeth Bay House. In 1831 he began constructing the Macarthurs' Camden Park House, which included what was probably the first true bathroom in the colony.

VICARS, John (1821-94)

Ran a tweed mill in Scotland before coming to the goldfields of Queensland in 1863. Soon he went to Sydney where he managed a woollen mill, gaining ownership of the company in 1873. As his business grew and his product increased in quality and attracted awards for excellence, Vicars became active in the cause of child labour welfare, employing as he did a number of minors, some as young as ten. He campaigned for a restriction on the number of hours a child could work, and for the right of all children to an education. From 1877 Vicars was also involved in politics, publishing his own pamphlet discussing *The Tariff, Immigration and the Labour Question*, advocating tariff protection and unaided immigration. Vicars' company grew to be one of the largest woollen mills in the country.

VICKERY, Ebenezer (1827-1906)

Came to Australia with his family at the age of six, later working in his father's boot and leather goods factory. Inheriting the business, he expanded it to embrace such interests as importing, shipping and the development of precious metals. He had extensive land holdings in Sydney and in pastoral regions, and was Chairman of the NSW Trade Protection Society and a director of the Sydney City Bank. He entered State politics in 1887 as a staunch conservative, and was involved in a variety of philanthropic activities such as the YMCA and the YWCA and the Methodist Church.