

The Streets of York

Harriott Street



While there is no written record of its selection it is likely that Harriott Street in York was named after George Harriott Roe (1848-1924), the son of John Septimus Roe, R.N., who was the first Surveyor-General of Western Australia, and a member of Western Australia's legislative and executive councils for nearly 40 years. John Septimus Roe and his wife Matilda arrived on the *Parmelia* in 1829 and Roe immediately set about surveying the harbour, river, and surrounding land. He chose the sites for Perth, Fremantle and King's Park and went on to conduct many explorations and surveys throughout the state. John and Matilda had 13 children, their 5th son Frederick Mackie Roe followed his father into exploring and joined Charles Cooke Hunt's expedition to Lake Lefroy in 1866 and another son Augustus Sanford Keats Roe was admitted to the bar, held a Master Mariner's certificate, became engaged in pearling, and became a police magistrate in 1898.

George Harriott Roe was their 12th child, his middle name probably chosen by his parents because of their links to Berkshire where Richard de Heriott was a landholder in 1197. George led an equally adventurous life to his father and brothers; he also qualified as a surveyor, travelling with John Forrest throughout the South-West. He was a pastoralist, leasing Thangoo station south of Broome and held a Master Mariner's certificate, for some years carrying on extensive trading operations between the islands to the north of Australia. He was engaged in the pearling industry at Broome, with varying success, and had interests in cattle breeding in the West Kimberley. Records indicate that he fathered many children and could have had as many as four indigenous and/or Malay wives and nine children. It is reported that some of his children were taken from their mothers between 1909 and 1912 and sent to Beagle Bay Mission while he was absent. One of his daughters Lucille, was sent from Beagle Bay to Moore River in 1920 and after her marriage there became known as Clara Jackamarra. Her story about the Stolen Generation was documented in the book *Proud Heritage: by S.M. Kelly*.

George Harriott Roe died in Melbourne in 1924 with Probate stating that he was a "Gentleman" late of the Port Phillip Club Hotel, Flinders Street, Melbourne, and of Queenscliffe in the State of Victoria, but formerly of Changergoodering Station, near Broome in the State of Western Australia.