



Lowe Street

The Reverend William Lowe (1817-1891) arrived in W.A. from Sydney in 1851 with his first wife Mary Rodda. After her death he married Mary Jane Hardey, daughter of Joseph Hardy of "Tranby". A story has it that Joseph insisted that none of his daughters was allowed to marry unless she married a minister of the Methodist church. As there was only one minister in the colony, all but one daughter remained single and Mary Jane, Joseph's second daughter married the widower Rev. William Lowe.

He had been ordained a Wesleyan minister in 1841 serving in both Perth from 1852-1855 and York, where he was appointed on three separate occasions. He was Chairman of the Wesleyan Church of W.A for 17 years and appointed President of the Y.M.C.A. in 1875.

Throughout his career Reverend William Lowe was a notable figure in the Wesleyan Church both in Perth and in rural areas. He was instrumental in having Wesley Church built in central Perth, and was the inaugural preacher there on the first day of opening.

He conducted the first formal service at Gingin in July 1854, at the homestead "Creaton", travelling 50 miles from Perth on horseback to attend.

In York he laid the foundation stone of the old Church in 1852 and succeeded the Rev. Smithies who had been instrumental in its establishment, inheriting the small chapel and leading the small congregation in holding tea meetings and bazaars to raise money to help cover its resultant debts. One such meeting was held in 1856 in Mr Monger's new steam mill.

He was renowned for his kindness, charity and true Christian Spirit and was greatly loved and admired by the children of York particularly those at the Wesleyan Sunday school.

He died in 1891 at his residence "Font Hill" in York, and was buried on 20 May 1891 at the Wesleyan Cemetery, Perth, Western Australia.

