

## William Wigmore Hoops (1813-1887)

Hoops was born on 10 June 1813 in Tipperary, Ireland,<sup>1</sup> the same town from which the Burges brothers came.

He arrived in Western Australia on the ship *Trusty* on 30 May 1843 with William Burges also on board (who was returning to Western Australia after having gone back to Ireland in 1841) and WH Bradshaw.<sup>2 3</sup>

Hoops went into partnership with the Burges brothers, William, Lockier and Samuel Evans at their farm north of York called Tipperary.<sup>4</sup>

By October 1844, he had become became a member of the York Agricultural Society.<sup>5</sup>

By February 1848, he was requiring money as he advertised one draught mare and one good saddle horse for sale.<sup>6</sup> The partnership with the Burges brothers was terminated on 1 March 1848<sup>7</sup>. In August 1848, he advertised a flock of sheep.<sup>8</sup>

Hoops was one of those who signed the petition to the Sheriff of Western Australia to make Western Australia a penal settlement and calling for a meeting for the purpose.<sup>9</sup> He also wrote a personal letter to the Sheriff approving of the meeting and saying that he could not attend.<sup>10</sup>

On 20 February 1849, in York Church (St John's) Hoops married Margaret Harvey Meares, the youngest daughter of Captain Richard Goldsmith Meares.<sup>11</sup>

From around this time, he appears from then on to be farming at *Woodlands*, four miles north of York.<sup>12</sup> *Woodlands* is Avon Location A1<sup>13</sup> and is on the east bank and immediately to the south of Captain Meares' farm, *Hawkhurst*<sup>14</sup> (the homestead of which overlooks the pool at Mackie's Road Siding).

He was one of those who signed a request for a public meeting on 9 July 1849 to consider the Depasturing Regulations recommended by a committee appointed by the Governor.<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Tribalpages family tree of the Hyde Family; Wikitree.

<sup>2</sup> Inquirer 5 June 1844, p.2.

<sup>3</sup> Rica Erickson: Dictionary of Western Australians, p.1524.

<sup>4</sup> From the notice of termination (see below).

<sup>5</sup> Inquirer, 30 October 1844, p.2.

<sup>6</sup> Inquirer 2 February 1848, p.2.

<sup>7</sup> Inquirer 8 March 1848, p.1.

<sup>8</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 19 August 1848, p.1.

<sup>9</sup> Inquirer 24 January 1849, p.3.

<sup>10</sup> Inquirer, 28 February 1849, p.2.

<sup>11</sup> Inquirer 14 March 1849, p.2.

<sup>12</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 4 May 1849, p.2.

<sup>13</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 22 October 1879, p.3.

<sup>14</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 6 October 1854, p.2

<sup>15</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 13 July 1849, p.2; 20 July 1849, p.1;; Inquirer, 18 July 1849, p.1.

He was one of the investors in the Western Australian Mining Company who requested a meeting of shareholders to consider purchasing the land to the northward containing copper and discontinuing works at Kelmscott.<sup>16</sup>

He was also one of those who signed a letter to the Inquirer objecting to the appointment of Clifton and Brown as representative of their districts in June 1851.<sup>17</sup> He later signed the open letter denying that Samson, Brown and Clifton (who had been appointed to the Legislative Council) represented the opinion of the Colonists.<sup>18</sup> This gave rise to more correspondence about representative government, and more meetings<sup>19</sup> including an allegation that Hoops was the author of false allegations.<sup>20</sup> Hoops joined a committee to make submissions about representative government.<sup>21</sup> One of the resolutions carried at a public meeting on 12 July 1856 was that “this Committee protests, in the strongest manner, against any taxation without proper representation”.<sup>22</sup>

In July 1851, at a meeting of the York Agriculture Society, he seconded a motion that until ticket-of-leave men become accustomed to the colony and its usages, their wages should not be more than 1 pound per month.<sup>23</sup>

A road was being constructed past *Woodlands* in March 1852.<sup>24</sup> His son, Richard, was born on 29 October 1852.<sup>25</sup>

From 1853 onwards, he was Honorary Secretary of the York Races and involved in all its activities.<sup>26</sup>

He was a member of the committee for the building of a new Anglican Church,<sup>27</sup> and involved in the promotion of a depot for bibles and prayer books.<sup>28</sup> He was involved in the debate about the role of

---

<sup>16</sup> Inquirer 13 March 1850, p.1.

<sup>17</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 6 June 1851, p.3; Inquirer 11 June 1851, p.3.

<sup>18</sup> Inquirer 20 August 1852, p.2.

<sup>19</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 17 August 1855, p.2; Inquirer and Commercial News 22 August 1855, p.2; Inquirer and Commercial News 20 February 1856, p.1.

<sup>20</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 30 August 1854, p.3, 1 September 1854, p.2.

<sup>21</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 14 March 1856, p.2; Inquirer and Commercial News 26 March 1856, p.2; Inquirer and Commercial News 1856, p.3.

<sup>22</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 23 July 1856, p.3.

<sup>23</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 18 July 1851, p.2; Inquirer 23 July 1851, p.1.

<sup>24</sup> Inquirer 16 March 1853, p.3; the road was constructed by aboriginal workers who worked on their own and were proud of their achievement. Refer to the Report of the York Protector of Aborigines Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 11 March 1853, p.3 and Inquirer 16 March 1853, p.3.

<sup>25</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 12 November 1852, p.4; Inquirer 17 November 1852, p.3; Wikitree.

<sup>26</sup> Inquirer, 16 February 1853, p.3; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 18 February 1853, p.4; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 25 March 1853, p.2; Inquirer 30 March 1853, p.3; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 14 October 1853, p.2; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 13 January 1854, p.2; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 17 March 1854, p.2; Inquirer 5 April 1854, p.1; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 18 August 1854, p.2; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 1 September 1854, p.2; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 15 September 1854, p.4; Inquirer 20 June 1855, p.3; Inquirer and Commercial News 8 August 1855, p.1; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 25 January 1856, p.3; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 24 August 1860, p.2.

<sup>27</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 4 March 1853, p.2.

<sup>28</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 15 September 1858, p.2.

religion in education.<sup>29</sup> And he donated one pound for the construction of St John the Baptist's Church at Wilberforce.<sup>30</sup>

In June 1853, he signed a letter with other members of the York Agricultural Society calling for continuation of transportation to the colony.<sup>31</sup> At a meeting of the members of the society on 9 June 1853, he seconded a motion congratulating the Governor and others for good management of the convict population.<sup>32</sup> He co-signed a request for a public meeting to discuss the convict system in July 1855.<sup>33</sup> He was appointed to the committee in November 1855.<sup>34</sup>

In November 1853, he was appointed Honorary Secretary of the York Agricultural Society and from then on was involved in the many activities of the society, despite him being only a lessee.<sup>35</sup>

Belinda Ellen was born in 1854.<sup>36</sup>

On 13 May 1854, in the absence of his father in law, the Resident Magistrate, Hoops chaired a public meeting to deal with the question of female convicts.<sup>37</sup>

Margaretta Georgianna was born in 1855.<sup>38</sup>

In June 1857, he advertised for sale York Town Lot 18 (the property south of the current York Palace property) which was still owned by Solomon Cook but had been mortgaged to Frederick Croft.<sup>39</sup> Hoops had presumably acquired the mortgage. He gave his address at the time as being at *Dwoitanuniging, York*.<sup>40</sup>

On 25 November 1859, William Wigmore Hoops Jnr was born.<sup>41</sup>

In 1859, he co-signed an open letter calling for the promotion of a savings bank.<sup>42</sup> x

In July 1860 his tender to repair the road from York towards Northam was accepted.<sup>43</sup>

---

<sup>29</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 2 November 1859, p.2.

<sup>30</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 3 August 1860, p.2.

<sup>31</sup> Inquirer 1 June 1853, p.2.

<sup>32</sup> Inquirer 15 June 1853, p.3; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 17 June 1853, p.2; see also Inquirer 22 June 1853, p.2.

<sup>33</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 6 July 1855, p.2; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 20 July 1855, p.2; Inquirer and Commercial News 25 July 1855, p.2.

<sup>34</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 9 November 1855, p.3.

<sup>35</sup> Inquirer 2 November 1853, p.2; 9 November 1853, p.2; see Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 2 December 1853, p.2; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 30 June 1854, p.4; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 30 June 1854, p.2; Inquirer 2 August 1854, p.3; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 11 August 1854, p.2; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 22 September 1854, p.2; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 10 November 1854, p.2; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 17 November 1854, p.3; Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 29 June 1855, p.2.

<sup>36</sup> Wikitree.

<sup>37</sup> Inquirer 17 May 1854, p.2.

<sup>38</sup> Wikitree.

<sup>39</sup> Landgate Deeds V/325/257: Mortgage dated 1 August 1853 from Solomon Cook of York Miller to Frederick Croft to secure 160 pounds.

<sup>40</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 24 June 1857, p.1.

<sup>41</sup> Wikitree.

<sup>42</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 26 January 1859, p.4.

From 1861, he was one of those calling for a meeting to consider the erection of a Mechanics Institute.<sup>44</sup> He donated 10 shillings to a building fund for the Mechanics Institute in 1876.<sup>45</sup>

In 1862, the Avon River flooded to such an extent that in York itself, many buildings were swept away.<sup>46</sup> The same flooding might have occurred 4 miles north at *Woodlands*. Perhaps this was the reason that a new home was constructed there in about 1864, though the barn was older.<sup>47 48</sup>

While at *Woodlands*, he employed 24 ticket-of-leave men.<sup>49</sup>

In January 1867, on behalf of Hoops, Thomas Bailey advertised a public auction at *Woodlands* of all Hoops' personal possessions, his "STOCK, PRODUCE, FARMING IMPLEMENTS, HOUSEHOLD AND KITCHEN FURNITURE &c, &c, &c". The list goes on to include carts, carpenters' tools a piano and books.<sup>50</sup> As the list appeared to include everything he owned, he was clearly in debt and had to sell everything to settle with his creditors.

*Woodlands* was advertised as being to let in April 1867.<sup>51</sup> Applicants were to apply to HM Lefroy of Fremantle or to Hoops himself at York. The farm was let to former convict Martin Stone until 1872, and then to Robert Sheehy. At the time both were in a very bad state of repair.<sup>52</sup>

In 1867, Hoops was awarded the contract to carry mail between Guildford and York via Northam, providing a twice weekly service.

He is named a few times in the press in his capacity as executor of various estates.<sup>53</sup> In 1867, Hoops and John Henry Monger Jnr (being executors) and William Dunham were named as defendants in a case brought by Caroline Woods to enforce probate of an estate.<sup>54</sup> She lost and was ordered to pay the costs.

He still described himself as a farmer in August 1867 (in a Memorial supporting the administration of Governor Hampton).<sup>55</sup>

In about 1868, he commenced business in York<sup>56</sup>. This was probably at the post office or as post master as Hoops was officially appointed Postmaster at York in 1869.<sup>57</sup> In 1872, his business address was described as being at the "Post Office York".<sup>58</sup>

---

<sup>43</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 18 July 1860, p.3.

<sup>44</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 24 April 1861, p.1; Perth Gazette and West Australian Times 13 March 1868, p.2.

<sup>45</sup> Western Australian Times 24 October 1876, p.3.

<sup>46</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 30 July 1862, p.2.

<sup>47</sup> Daily News 17 November 1883, p.3.

<sup>48</sup> Martin Stone thought that the house had been constructed 13 years or so before he became the lessee (that is, in about 1854). Daily News 17 November 1883, p.3.

<sup>49</sup> Rica Erickson: Dictionary of Western Australians, p.1524.

<sup>50</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 30 January 1867, p.2.

<sup>51</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 3 April 1867, p.3; Perth Gazette and West Australian Times, 12 April 1867, p.1.

<sup>52</sup> Daily News 17 November 1883, p.3.

<sup>53</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 17 January 1862, p.2.

<sup>54</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News, 12 June 1867, p.2.

<sup>55</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 14 August 1867, p.2.

On 1 July 1871, he purchased what is now the York Palace Hotel property for 450 pounds.<sup>59</sup> The price indicates it may have already been developed, that is, the shed may have already been there.

He was a member of the York board of education in 1872.<sup>60</sup>

In 1873, his son Richard purchased the property to the south.<sup>61</sup>

His daughter Belinda married George Monger on 11 December 1873.<sup>62</sup>

From 1874, he was chairman of the York Road Board<sup>63</sup> and one of two “auditors” of the expenditure on the roads in the York District.<sup>64</sup> He was Chairman of the York Town Council from 1871 to 1873<sup>65</sup> and Chairman of the York Municipal Council in 1875.<sup>66</sup>

In 1879, he was one of those who called for a public meeting to consider abolishing the bye-law with reference to driving horses abreast on various roads.<sup>67</sup>

In the late 1870s, his son William became manager of the store.<sup>68</sup> Then in 1881, Hoops (the father) retired and handed his business over to William, who is described as “WL” Hoops,<sup>69</sup> being William Lockyer Hoops.<sup>70</sup> This indicates that William Wigmore Hoops Jnr had changed his name to avoid confusion with his father. Three years later, the son described himself as “WS” Hoops.<sup>71</sup>

The store sold “a large and assorted Stock of Seasonable Goods” and advertised “Cash, Sandalwood, Gum, Hay, Barley, Oats, Hides, Kangaroo Skins and all descriptions of Colonial Produce bought for cash or in exchange”.<sup>72</sup>

Hoops’ business was remembered by the Eastern Districts Chronicle in a 1921 article:

In those days the York Post Office stood upon the site that is now occupied by the Palace Hotel, the postmaster being Mr. William Hoops, one of whose daughters (Mrs. Stokes) was postmistress at East Perth a few years ago.<sup>73</sup>

---

<sup>56</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle 23 December 1881, p.2 which says he had been in business in the town for “a period of over 13 years”.

<sup>57</sup> ‘York Post Office & Telephone Exchange’ notes for tourist bureau guide, in Buildings Sites Accommodation Heritage York Post Office, Australia Post File 049-A97 (1997-98).

<sup>58</sup> Herald 27 April 1872, p.1.

<sup>59</sup> Landgate Deeds VII/54/449: Conveyance John Lott to William Wigmore Hoops for 450 pounds.

<sup>60</sup> Rica Erickson: Dictionary of Western Australians, p.1524.

<sup>61</sup> Landgate Deeds VII/136/1048: Conveyance 19 August 1873 Henry Stevens to Richard Hoops for 190 pounds

<sup>62</sup> Perth Gazette and West Australian Times 19 December 1873, p.2.

<sup>63</sup> Rica Erickson: Dictionary of Western Australians, p.1524.

<sup>64</sup> Perth Gazette and West Australian Times 9 January 1874, p.2; West Australian 18 January 1881, p.1.

<sup>65</sup> Bicentennial Dictionary.

<sup>66</sup> Rica Erickson: Dictionary of Western Australians, p.1524.

<sup>67</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle 12 July 1879, p.2.

<sup>68</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle 23 December 1881, p.2.

<sup>69</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle 23 December 1881, p.2.

<sup>70</sup> Rica Erickson: Dictionary of Western Australians, p.1524.

<sup>71</sup> West Australian 16 October 1884, p.1.

<sup>72</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle 23 December 1881, p.2.

<sup>73</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 24 June 1921 p.3.

In 1880 he signed a public letter of support for Richard W Hardey to be appointed to the Legislative Council.<sup>74</sup>

In 1884 he signed a public letter of support for Edward Keane to be appointed to the Legislative Council and for “railways and progress”.<sup>75</sup>

In 1886 he mortgaged the York Palace Hotel site (and possibly other properties) for 1,500 pounds.<sup>76</sup>

Hoops died on 24 October 1887.<sup>77</sup>

Richard Hoops took over his father's business in York in 1891. He lost the property in 1898 when it was taken over by Mortgagees.<sup>78</sup>

Rob Garton Smith  
President  
The York Society (Inc)  
September 2020

---

<sup>74</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle 9 January 1880, p.1.

<sup>75</sup> West Australian 16 October 1884, p.1.

<sup>76</sup> IX/337/1292: Mortgage William Wigmore Hoops to Union bank of Australia Limited 17 May 1886 to secure sums of money advanced, stamped to 1,500 pounds.

<sup>77</sup> West Australian 2 November 1887, p.2; Western Mail 5 November 1887, p.24.

<sup>78</sup> Wikitree.