

# Information Sheet No. 34



City of  
Greater Geraldton  
Regional Library



## Heritage Services

## Geraldton Regional Library

### TRIGG FAMILY – Building Geraldton

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#### William Trigg

1828, May 29

1831

- Born in Hartford, England.
- Emigrated to Western Australia with his mother on the Egyptian.

1857, Dec 31

c1860

1871-1878

1886, Jun 15

- Married Maria Ann Austin in Perth.
- Moved to Geraldton and built the first school.
- Geraldton Municipal Councillor.
- Died in Perth, WA.

#### Onslow Austin Trigg

1860, Feb 22

1890-1891

1896

1912, Dec

- Born in Perth, WA.
- Geraldton Municipal Councillor.
- Married Charlotte Jane Wiley in Greenough.
- Died in Perth, WA.

#### Ernest Austin Trigg

1862, Jan 6

1894-1896

1901-1903

1905

1906-1912

1939, Nov 19

- Born in Perth, WA.
- Geraldton Municipal Councillor.
- Geraldton Municipal Councillor.
- Married Marie Le Couter.
- Geraldton Municipal Councillor.
- Died in Perth, WA.

William Trigg took up residence in Geraldton in the early 1860s and as architect and builder was responsible for the design and construction of many of Geraldton's finest buildings. William was carrying on the family tradition, as his father Henry, who arrived in the colony in 1829, was also a builder and later Superintendent of Public Works.

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William Trigg. Photograph: *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*.

The first building constructed by Trigg in Geraldton was a school in Marine Terrace (now the Missions to Seamen building). His tender of £225 was accepted in 1860. As well as building many private dwellings, in 1865 he built the Government School at Central Greenough; in 1868, Christ Church in Marine Terrace; and in 1874 successfully tendered to build the Bluff Point lighthouse and cottage for £200. In 1882 he built a railway goods shed and Wainwrights Store, both in Marine Terrace (and both since demolished).

Like many builders at that time, Trigg also served as an undertaker (Geraldton's first) and was paid by the Government to bury paupers.

The mother of seven children, Maria Trigg died in Perth in 1884 after a long and painful illness. By June 1886 Trigg was also very ill, and seeking medical treatment he left for

Perth, but died shortly after at the home of his sister, Eliza Maycock.

The family tradition was carried on by two of William's sons, Onslow and Ernest.

Onslow was born in Perth and received his education there and later at Geraldton. He was then apprenticed to his father as a carpenter and builder. Interested in learning architectural skills, in 1886 he travelled to Adelaide and Melbourne with his brother Ernest, so both could further their training in the building trade. On returning to Geraldton the brothers carried on the business commenced by their father, trading as Messrs Trigg Brothers.

The Trigg family home was on Durlacher Street close to the corner of Marine Terrace. In 1895 the brothers built the Freemasons Hotel on that corner, and Onslow took over management of the hotel, leaving Ernest to administer the family business.

The Trigg brothers successfully petitioned to have Geraldton's new jetty built at the end of Durlacher Street. This proved to be very good for their business.

## References

Text taken from **Geraldton: 150 Years, 150 Lives**, Local Studies Department, Geraldton Regional Library, 2001, p. 170.

Copies are available from the Library, 37 Marine Terrace, Geraldton (PO Box 101, Geraldton, WA, 6531) for \$27.50 (plus \$6.50 postage and handling).

