

The Next Life – Rev William Moore

Death Certificates post 1856 give details of the cause of death of our ancestors – and many appear to have suffered from the dreaded TB and asthma that caused their deaths. These documents give only a sketchy outline of their demise. By accident I came across the following document about the death of William Moore - son of Sarah nee Cooper - that ends on a happy note. He was greatly influenced by his uncle, William Price.

MINUTES OF THE NSW WESLEYAN CONFERENCE 1894

QUESTION XIV – What Ministers have died since last Conference?

Answer

WILLIAM MOORE, who was born at Parramatta on the 24th March 1821 and died at Stanmore on the 12th of September 1893, in his seventy-third year. He was the subject of deep religious impressions in the days of his youth, and was converted to God in his early manhood, under the ministry of the Rev Samuel Wilkinson. Uniting himself at once with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, he soon after became a local preacher, and proclaimed the Gospel in many parts of the old Windsor Circuit, with acceptance and success. In response to the call of God and the Church he offered himself in 1847 for the work of Christian Missions in heathen and cannibal Fiji. After a brief term of arduous service in the district of Morton Bay which he laid the foundation of Methodism in what is now the extensive colony of Queensland, he sailed with his wife for Fiji on the 12th December 1849. In those days the work of the Missionary required devotion and courage of the saintly and heroic order, and in these qualities William Moore was never lacking. For nearly twenty years he labored for the salvation of the Fijian people and his work was valuable to a high degree. He excelled as a preacher in the native language and his brother missionaries testify to his almost unsurpassed power over Fijian audiences. His personal influence over chiefs and natives alike was remarkable. In the work of translation and the training of native preachers he occupied a foremost place. On his final departure from Fiji in 1869 his old comrades among the native ministers gave expression in eloquent and pathetic words, and in tears to the honor and love with which they all regarded him, and the sorrow which his removal caused them. His colonial ministry was spent in Armidale, Wollongong, Kiama, Balmain and Windsor Circuits. As in Fiji, so in New South Wales, he showed himself a true and faithful minister of Jesus Christ and won the esteem and affection of the people to whom he ministered, by the spirit of his life and the character of his work. In 1883 the brethren in the ministry honored him by electing him to the Presidency of the New South Wales and Queensland Conference. On his retirement from the active duties of the ministry in 1885 his long and self-sacrificing services to the Church were suitably recognised in an expressive resolution. He spent the remaining seven years of his life at Stanmore, and assisted in local church work as far as his strength permitted, and maintained his interest and studies in all questions relating to mission affairs. He endured much suffering with Christian patience, and on the day preceding his decease clearly and triumphantly testified to his trust in the Lord Jesus as his Saviour, and his sure hope of the life immortal. "I am a sinner saved!" "A sinner saved!" He exclaimed, "I want to go home."