ONE day during the coming Xmas holidays, when we are in a mood, as Shakespeare says, for "peering in maps for ports and piers and roads," we will take up a plan of Geraldton, or better still, a map of the Geraldton district. Looking at a map of our own town or locality is a very useful way of spending an hour or two. Quite a lot of people employ a good deal of time thus. Town-planners, for instance, make an extensive use of maps, or ought to. Surveyors dwell with maps; motorists scan them; and speculators, with an eye to profit, devour them. But beyond all these I want to suggest quite another use for maps. Given that you have an ounce of the romance of youth, a map ceases to be a thing of lines and marks and hard facts and mathematical adjustments, and straightway assumes the form of the magic carpet of Eastern lore and whisks you away from this somber earth and unhappy present to sunny lands and serene days.

I am just now looking at a plan of Geraldton. I note that it is a crescent-shaped town standing on the shores of Champion Bay, lying to the north of Grey's Bay, from which it is separated by Point Moore. I note that Marine Terrace follows the contour of the bay for over a mile; and that several streets, of which I shall name only three, radiate at intervals, at right angles to the Terrace. These are Crowther, Gregory and Fitzgerald Streets. Parallel to the Terrace run two other streets whose names hold my attention—they are Sanford and Shenton Streets—the one called after the founder of Lynton at Port Gregory and the other perpetuating the name of one of the oldest and most respected families in W.A. Not a very great fund of information truly; and yet gazing on the map, three quarters of a century roll away and the history of Geraldton from its foundation is unveiled in the names before me. As has been rightly said, "the true medium of the spiritual holiday is the map."

How those names and a few others are connected with the history of Geraldton, it is the purpose of this article to show. The name of Grey is almost a household word wherever the story of the growth of the British Empire is recounted. In South Africa and New Zealand Grey's is a name to conjure with and he has left his mark indelibly printed on the annals of West Australia. As far back as 1839 he had made a whale-boat trip along the coast of W.A. and was returning from Shark Bay overland to Perth when he discovered the district of which Geraldton is now the capital. The position of the Greenough, Hutt, Bowes, Irwin, and Moore Rivers, and Grey's Bay, were all indicated on Grey's chart, so that it is easy for us, at this date, to follow the line of his journey to Perth. In his subsequent report, he particularly stressed the potential value of this part of the State as a pastoral area. It had, said Grey, great possibilities, and he named it the Victoria district, in honor of the Queen.

Just at this time a company, known as the West Australian Company, had formed a settlement project known as the Australind scheme, and were negotiating with the Government for Leschenault, near Bunbury, as an outlet for their settlement. Grey, with his characteristic judgment, believed he could recommend the company a better site than the one chosen. He advised the company to transfer its activities to his newly-discovered Victoria district with Port Grey, as he named it, as an outlet. But those were the days when white settlement was confined almost entirely to the banks of the Swan, and to go beyond what was called "the area of protection," was to invite danger, either from shortage of supplies or hostile natives. The Governor at that time, Governor Hutt (after whom is named the Hutt river) refused permission for the company to operate so far from the seat of government as the Victoria district; Grey's recommendations were disregarded, and the company proceeded with their Australind scheme at Leschenault.