



MONGER FAMILY



MONGER

Ethel Susannah

AUSTRALIAN NURSING CORPS



Unknown Nurse

Family history

Ethel Monger came from a long-established and wealthy York family. John Henry and Mary Monger arrived in Western Australia aboard the *Lotus* in 1829. In 1831, they moved their family to York and established a hotel and store. John was an entrepreneur, not only establishing the hotel and store, but also working in the sandalwood trade. He built Faversham House in York and named it after John Henry's birthplace, Faversham, in Kent, England.

George Monger was the youngest child of John Henry and Mary. He was involved in several exploratory expeditions that helped open up the colony to European settlers, and he was also a highly regarded bushman and friend of Sir John Forrest. George was involved in the sandalwood industry, farming and pastoralism.

He married Belinda Hoops, of York, in 1873. The couple had a large family together: William (born 1875), Margaretta (born 1876), Rose Vittoria (born 1878), Samuel Henry (born 1880), George Richard (born 1882), Ethel Susannah (born 1884), Carmen Mercedes (born 1886), Hubert Vivian (born 1887), Reginald Alfred (born 1890), Gerald Leslie (born 1891) and, finally, Belinda Muriel (born 1893).



George and Belinda Monger circa 1890's
P2002.20

Courtesy York Residency Museum

Life story

Ethel Susannah Monger, born in 1884, was George and Belinda Monger's sixth child. She was educated at York Girls' School, along with her other sisters. As a young adult, Ethel was involved in the Anglican Church and York Tennis Club. As her family was considered to be part of the upper class, Ethel frequently attended functions and events with Western Australia's social elite. On the 12th August 1908, she attended a Vice-Regal reception for the Governor of W.A, Sir Frederick Bedford, and his wife, Lady Bedford, at the Mechanics Institute in York.

Ethel lived on Georgiana Street in York between 1906 and 1910, where she was listed on the electoral roll as a spinster at just twenty-two years of age!

By mid-1910, Ethel was training at Perth Public Hospital to become a nurse. She passed an examination held by the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association on the 20th of June 1913. After completing her training, Ethel worked as a Sister for six and a half months then as a private nurse for four months, before she enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service.

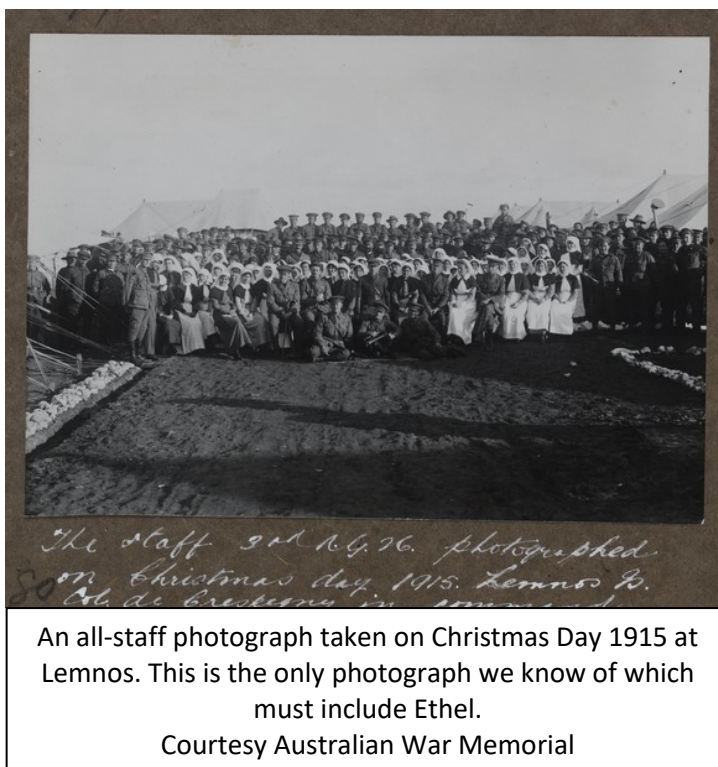
Ethel enlisted on the 10th August 1915 and left Fremantle aboard the *Orontes* on the 11th August 1915, bound for Egypt. She reported for duty on the 4th September and completed her Statement of Nursing Experience at the 1st Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis.

While at Heliopolis, Ethel nursed her first cousin, Mattie Hoops, whom she did not initially recognise due to his unkempt hair. Mattie had been serving at Gallipoli and had been evacuated with severe dysentery and influenza.

On the 14th September 1915, Ethel was transferred to the 3rd Australian General Hospital at Lemnos, where wounded casualties from Gallipoli were being sent.

The conditions that nursing sisters experienced at Lemnos can only be described as horrific. Lemnos was inadequately equipped and understaffed. *“Things were in rather a state of chaos when the wounded began to arrive. Their dressings which had been applied on the hospital ships were saturated and covered in flies. Dysentery was a scourge on the island ... many of the wounded fell prey to the disease ... the cold weather brought frost-bitten patients. It was pitiable to see gangrene feet”* - as Sister Pratt described Lemnos in her War Diary.

While treating the sick, Ethel herself became ill with dysentery and was admitted to the hospital. Many nurses became ill while working on Lemnos and some even died. Ethel was working under extremely trying conditions, only one hundred kilometres from the Front, where she could hear explosions from the fighting.



An all-staff photograph taken on Christmas Day 1915 at Lemnos. This is the only photograph we know of which must include Ethel.

Courtesy Australian War Memorial

On the 27th January 1916, after the Gallipoli Campaign had been abandoned, Ethel returned to Alexandria and was transferred to England to work in the Australian Hospital at Brighton.

On the 11th April 1917, she received orders to transfer to the Australian Hospital in Abbeville.

Ethel had been at Abbeville for just over a month when the hospital was hit during a German air raid. Nine women were killed that night. It was a huge blow for the Allied nurses.

Ethel then moved even closer to the Front, working in the 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station (3A.C.C.S.) just behind the lines. It would have been extremely frightening to work there, as casualty clearing stations were under constant threat from enemy fire and often shelled. Resources were also extremely limited at Casualty Clearing Stations.

In May 1917, the staff consisted of one Head Sister, seven Sisters, seven Staff Nurses, four Surgical Sisters and four Sisters trained as anaesthetists. Just over 3 100 patients came through 3A.C.C.S. in that month. The Clearing Station moved on several occasions, following the fighting, so they could be as close to the wounded as possible.

On the 1st October 1918, Ethel was promoted to Sister.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Sketch of the 3rd Australian General Hospital at Abbeville France
Courtesy Australian War Memorial

The following month, on the 15th of November, Ethel was returned to the Australian General Hospital in Abbeville. She was one of eleven sisters sent to the base at this time because, after the Armistice, instructions were received for the unit to move to Audenarde, which it did on the 16th November 1918. Patient accommodation was reduced from 800 to 300, the number of beds from 200 to 50, and it was converted to a mobile hospital for clearing the sick rather than the treatment of surgical cases.

On the 27th May 1919, Ethel was transferred to the Australian Hospital at Dartford and on the 31st of May, she appeared before a Medical Board at Dartford. She stated she was well and was judged by the Board to have no disabilities.

On the 16th June 1919, Ethel boarded the *Ormonde* bound for Australia. She arrived on the 27th August and, on the 8th December, her appointment was terminated. Ethel was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War medal and the Victory medal for her services during the War.

After the War, Ethel continued nursing but left Western Australia for South Africa in 1921. She became engaged to Mr Bentley Euston of Johannesburg, and it was announced in The West Australian newspaper on the 18th of January 1922.

Ethel's family had business connections in South Africa and Rhodesia before World War One, and her brothers were moving between Africa and Australia for most of the 1920s and 30s. She was often visited by her sister, Muriel Belinda Glasscock, who was an R.A.A.F. nurse during World War Two.

In 1954, Ethel wrote to the Returned Serviceman's League asking for their assistance to obtain a copy of her service record as part of her claim for a War veteran's pension in South Africa. In it, she mentioned that her medals had been stolen years before.

Ethel died on the 19th June 1971 in Randburg, South Africa.

Acknowledgements

The following people and organisations helped with the research to compile this booklet.

Birch, Helen
Harvey, Heather

Photograph courtesy of the Australian War Memorial – Please note cover is an image of an unidentified nurse as no known photograph of Ethel exists.

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MONGER
Herbert William
Service No: 999

Basic Information

Name: Herbert William Monger

Service number: 999

Date of enlistment: 28/6/1915

Age at Enlistment: 25

Civil Occupation: Farmhand

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5Ft. 7 ½ inches

Weight: 138 Lbs.

Chest measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Medium

Eye Colour: Dark

Hair Colour: Black Brown

Father: James William Monger

Mother: Frances Forward

Siblings: Florence Frances Jane, George Frederick, Samuel Henry, Matilda Mabel, Edward James, Sarah Elizabeth, Charles Vernon, Frances

Family History

Herbert William Monger came from a long-established and wealthy York family. John Henry and Mary Monger arrived in Western Australia aboard the *Lotus* in 1829. In 1831, they moved their family to York and established a hotel and store. John was an entrepreneur, not only establishing the hotel and store, but also working in the sandalwood trade. He built Faversham House in York and named it after John Henry's birthplace, Faversham, in Kent, England.

His younger brother, Stephen John, born in 1806, migrated to Western Australia in 1844 with his wife, Eliza, and their three children. To give his brother a start in the colony, John Henry purchased a block on his behalf in Northam and, in February 1845, Stephen advertised as a storekeeper and licensed victualler at the Northam Inn. As his family grew, Stephen took on a variety of commercial enterprises in York, Northam and Toodyay. He eventually had eight children, of whom James William was the seventh.

Born in 1852 at York, James spent time working on farms around the district. He also worked as a carpenter and a ganger on the railway.

Eventually basing himself in Beverley, James married Frances Forward in 1878, and they went on to have nine surviving children. One of them was Herbert William, born in 1890.

Life Story

Herbert, who was known as William, or Bill, enlisted at Blackboy Hill on the 28th June 1915, giving his occupation as farmhand. He embarked from Fremantle on the *Katuna* on the 24th November 1915, a Private with C Company of the 32nd Battalion, bound for Suez. On the 18th March, William transferred to the 5th Divisional Artillery and was Taken on Strength with the 14th Field Artillery Brigade before being posted to the 54th Battery as a gunner.

On the 20th June 1916, William left Egypt to join the British Expeditionary Forces in France. Less than two months later, he was taken to hospital with diarrhoea. Re-joining his unit, James spent some months as a mustered driver before returning to hospital with mumps on the 24th March 1917. He re-joined his unit from hospital on the 15th April, only to take twelve days' leave in July. Another period of leave was taken in the U.K. in September 1918, after which William returned to France.

In March 1919, while awaiting his return to Australia, William was admitted to the 39th General Hospital at Havre, suffering acute boils. He was transferred to Paddington Military Hospital, then the 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, before he was discharged on the 3rd May 1919.

Finally, on the 1st June 1919, James was returned to Australia, disembarking in W.A. on the 8th July 1919.

In 1921, William married Rhoda Clara Phyllis Broadway. The couple had two children, Herbert Lawrence, born at Beverley in 1922, and Joyce Merle, born at Beverley in 1923. The family were living at Main Camp, Beverley, in 1928 but, by 1934, the electoral roll listed William as a farmhand at Kondinin.

By 1939 William had moved his family to Minnivale. Two years later, when his son, Herbert Lawrence, enlisted during World War Two, William's address was noted as Damboring. In 1943, their son, Herbert Lawrence changed his Next of Kin contact to his mother, who was residing with family members at Morrison Road, Midland.

The electoral rolls show that William continued to move around in subsequent years; from Midland (1949), to Bassendean and then Pingelly (1972). He died in East Coolgardie in 1974, and it is believed he was residing there with his son, Herbert, who was living Kalgoorlie at the time of William's death.

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Harvey, Heather
Clarke, Cathy

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MONGER Florence



Family History

Florence, born in 1882 at Prahran in Victoria, came from a very wealthy family. She was the granddaughter of Peter McCracken who arrived in Victoria from Scotland, with his older brother Robert, in 1841. Initially farming, they later established a brewery in Melbourne in 1851. Both brothers became extremely successful and wealthy with other interests outside farming and brewing.

When Florence's grandfather died on the 4th October 1892, his Estate, split between his four children, was valued at over £332 000. There were also large farming properties in New Zealand. The McCracken Brewery is one of several Melbourne breweries which joined, in 1907, to form the Carlton United Breweries Group.

When Annie McCracken, Florence's mother, died in 1896, her Estate only consisted of the payout on a life assurance policy carried in her name: £1035, 5 shillings. When her father died, in 1907, his Will stipulated his estate be split equally between his five children and that his daughters' shares were to be independent and free from the control and interference of their husbands, meaning Florence would be a wealthy woman, totally independent when she married, which was unusual in those days.

It is likely Florence was educated at home by a governess or tutors. Her parents were travelling between Australia and New Zealand during her childhood because of family business/farming holdings.

It is possible that Florence met Alexander Monger in Victoria. He was educated there as a young man and his family had extensive business interests there. However, the announcement of their engagement, in June 1906, mentioned that Florence had been holidaying with Mrs Isadore Emmanuel each winter (in Kalgoorlie) for the past two years. She had arrived with friends to enjoy the racing season there. As Alexander Monger had interests in gold mining in the region at that time, it is also possible that Florence met Alexander while staying with the Emmanuel family.

Alexander Joseph Monger, pastoralist and businessman, was born on the 26th January 1869 in York, Western Australia, the son of John Henry Monger junior and his wife, Henrietta Joaquina, née Manning. He was educated at Wesley College, in Melbourne.

Alexander joined his father's business in York but, as both father and son were volatile and 'impassionate', they fell out. Alexander took a camel team to Coolgardie and there, with £2000 borrowed from Dalgety & Co. Ltd, he established a store and built two others at Southern Cross and Kalgoorlie.

Alexander floated Monger's West Australian Stores Ltd, with its head office at Fremantle, in London in 1897. It was overcapitalized and went into voluntary liquidation in 1904.

In partnership with Ernest Lee Steere, Monger bought the 30 000 acre (12 141 hectare) "Woongondy" estate in 1900. Much improved, they sold it to the W.A. State Government. With Lee Steere and A. Watson, Monger also owned "Hamelin Pool" Station. From his father's Estate, he bought Daliak near York and, advised by G.L. Sutton, developed it into a show property. Monger was a founder of the Fremantle Freezing & Meat Works and chairman of the Western Australian Meat Exports Co.

Florence and Alexander were married in Perth in 1906. Initially, the couple appeared to spend most of their time in Perth, living at 2 King's Park Road, on the corner of King's Park Road and Havelock Street.

In 1909, they returned to York to live at Faversham House where they remained until 1941/2, when Alexander was listed as living at Number 6, The Esplanade, Perth. This was the Lawson Flats building on The Esplanade which was listed as their address on the electoral roll from 1943 onwards.

For many years after their marriage, Florence returned to Melbourne during the summer months, often accompanied by her husband. Their many trips were often mentioned in the gossip columns of W.A. newspapers.

Florence and Alexander had three children: Ernest Alexander (born in 1907, he died in 1941 while serving overseas with the A.I.F.), Barbara Mary (1909-1959) and Peter (1917-1988). After basing themselves at Faversham House, the couple continued going to Melbourne during the summer months. Sometimes they travelled with their children (accompanied by nurses), but often reports of the couple's travels made no mention of the children.

During World War One, Florence became more active in fundraising efforts at York. In 1915, she provided material, new blankets, singlets and clothing to the York Distress Committee. Additionally, she donated £10 to the flag auction for the Belgian Relief Fund.

Between 1915 and 1916, Florence began knitting socks and balaclavas in large quantities for the Red Cross Society in York. She also sent cakes, magazines and newspapers to soldiers on hospital ships in transit.

In early 1916, a fundraising scheme called the Queen Carnival took place, and Florence was elected Queen for the York district. Various events took place in York, including a Carnival Day that raised over £220, with a procession in which she was the Queen of Giving. The Carnival concluded with the Queen Carnival Ball at the York Town Hall in May.

Florence and her children returned to Faversham House after a prolonged stay at the coast in early 1917. She resumed knitting, and also collected cash donations for the Trench Comforts Fund, but resigned from the position of agent for the Trench Comforts Fund in September, probably due to the imminent birth to her son, Peter, in November that year.

In June 1918, Florence is mentioned in a report of a meeting of the committee formed to raise funds for the Y.M.C.A. The Committee resolved to have a Popular Lady Competition, with Florence representing the Red Cross, Mrs J.W. Parker the Trench Comforts Fund and Mrs W.G. Burges the Farmers. These ladies were the social elite of the York district.

Florence continued to be mentioned in the social pages in the years following the War. She attended the Matrons' Ball at Government House in honour of the Prince of Wales' visit to W.A. in 1920 and, in 1926, when she and Alexander travelled to England with their daughter, they were farewelled by the York Red Cross. There were also occasional mentions of Florence entertaining guests at Faversham House, though reports of her husband entertaining V.I.P.s at Faversham House were more common. In 1939, she was reported as returning from a holiday cruise to New Zealand with her son, Peter.

With the outbreak of World War Two in 1939, Florence again became Vice President of the York Red Cross and, in 1941, Faversham House was gifted by the Monger family to the Australian Government and the Red Cross to be used as a convalescent home for Australian soldiers. Men who had seen action in the Middle East and New Guinea were sent to Faversham House to recuperate. In 1945, the property was leased to the Dutch government to house refugees escaping from the War. The R.S.L. also used Faversham House during this period.

After the War, Faversham House was put up for tender, as the Federal Government had no further use for it. In 1961, the Methodist Department of Christian Education bought the property for £500 and, on the 20th April 1963, Faversham House was officially opened as a Methodist conference centre, holiday home and educational facility.

In 1949, Florence was awarded the 10-year Bar to her 20-year Badge for membership of the Red Cross in York, though she was unable to attend the ceremony. The newspaper report mentioned she was a life member of the Branch.

In 1951, Florence and her son Peter attended the unveiling of a plaque at Faversham House to commemorate the gifting of the house to the Commonwealth by Alexander Monger.

Florence died on 31st July 1976 in Perth.

Acknowledgements

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