

Wansbrough Family

Family History

Daniel Wansbrough was born in 1810 in Wiltshire, England. He married Hannah Prangle in 1830 and, in 1831, the couple arrived in the Swan River Colony aboard the *Drummore*.

Daniel was one of a group of servants indentured to William Tanner, but Tanner released the group after only four and a half months, due to the difficulty of fulfilling the terms of the agreements in the new colony.

Daniel worked around the Guildford and Canning areas in the 1830s and 1840s. As a gardener for Captain James Stirling, he is reputed to have been responsible for introducing double gees to the Colony. However, around 1852, Daniel moved to the York area and, by the time of the first census, in 1859, he was listed as a farmer, living at "Rosemary Farm."

Daniel subsequently acquired more land around the District, as his prosperity grew. He employed up to nine Ticket of Leave men at "Knockado" and "Maddington," a property situated twelve kilometres southwest of York.

Daniel and Hannah had a large family, most of whom remained in the Avon Valley area.

Their eldest son, John, married Frances Massingham in 1856. She died that same year and, in 1861, he married again, to Ruth Taylor. John was tragically killed in 1865, when the horse he was riding crashed into a tree at the York Race Course.

George, born in 1834, became a carpenter and established a successful business in York as a carpenter, wheelwright and undertaker. He married Jane Frances Moore Lauder in 1866.

James, born in 1838, married Mary Ann Taylor in 1867. He farmed at "Maddington" and "Rosemary Farm" and had properties around the Northam area.

William, born in 1840, married Hannah Davey at York in 1868. He had a transport business and was involved in farming.

Eli was born in 1846. He became a policeman and was stationed at York in 1869. Eli married Elizabeth Manning in 1873, and the couple lived in many parts of the Colony due to Eli's work.

Henry was born in 1858. He married Mary Davey, the sister of Hannah, at York in 1870. Henry farmed at "County Park" near York.

Joseph, born in 1851, made his home in the Beverley area, where he earned his living as a carpenter and wheelwright. He married Matilda Massingham, the sister of Frances, in 1874. Two of his sons went into politics.

Thomas, the youngest son of Daniel and Hannah, died in infancy.

Of Daniel and Hannah's daughters, Mary Anne, born in 1836, died unmarried at the age of thirty-three, and Rosanna, born in 1843, became the second wife of Samson Charles Massingham in 1866. The couple lived in Perth, Guildford and York before settling at Kellerberrin. Interestingly, Samuel was the father of Matilda and Frances Massingham, making Rosanna not only their sister-in-law but their step-mother.

Hannah died in 1893, aged eighty-three. Daniel died in 1898, aged eighty-eight. They are buried in the same grave at the East Perth Cemetery.

Wansbrough Walter Ernest Service No: 976

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Service number: 976

Date of enlistment: 5/10/1915

Age at Enlistment: 35 years 4 months

Civil Occupation: Shoeing Blacksmith Wheelwright

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1914/15 Star

Height: 5 feet 8 ½ inches

Weight: 150 pounds

Chest measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Dark Brown

Father: William Wansbrough

Mother: Hannah Davey

Siblings: William Alfred (b.1869) Janet (b.1872) Edward Marchant (b.1874)
Percival (b.1876) Emily Millicent (b.1882)

Married: Mary Elizabeth Jenner

Children: Herbert James (b.1905) Jessie Elizabeth (b.1907) William Bird
(b.1909) Rosa Francis (b.1911)

Life Story

Walter Ernest Wansbrough was born at York in 1880. He was the son of William Wansbrough and Hannah Davey. After leaving school, he served a five-year apprenticeship with Geraldton wheelwrights/blacksmiths W.H. Jefferies and R.H. Ward.

In February 1901, Walter was listed in the newspaper as one of the W.A. contingent of volunteers travelling to South Africa to fight in the Boer War. The article stated he was a blacksmith who had three years' experience with the Geraldton Rifles. Walter's World War One enlistment paper noted two years with the Rifle Club, eighteen months' service in South Africa and five years in the Geraldton Rifle Volunteers and Commonwealth Military Forces.

In 1905, Walter married Mary Elizabeth Jenner at Albany, and the couple went on to have four children. All of them were born at Geraldton. In 1906, the couple were living with Walter's mother, Hannah (who was earning a living as a dressmaker) and his brother, Percy, who was married to Minnie Gray. As Percy was also a blacksmith, it is possible that they were in business together but, by 1910, Walter had moved to Dowerin.

Walter enlisted on the 5th October 1915, listing his occupation as blacksmith and wheelwright. Interestingly, shoeing appears to have been added as an afterthought. He was assigned to the Remounts Unit at Guildford and, ten days' later, his blacksmith skills were examined, with the result that he was certified as fully qualified to be a Shoeing Smith in the Australian Imperial Forces.

On the 12th November 1915, Walter embarked from Melbourne aboard HMAT A67 *Orsova*, bound for Egypt. On the 13th February 1916, Walter was admitted to hospital in Maadi, Egypt, suffering from mild lumbago and mumps. He was transferred to hospital in Helouan and then Abassia before being discharged to the Australia and New Zealand Convalescent Depot at Helouan. Walter finally re-joined his unit on the 23rd March.

On the 3rd April, Walter was Taken on Strength with the Anzac Provisional Corps before transferring to the Australia New Zealand Police Corps on the 24th April.

In August, Walter left Alexandria for more training in the United Kingdom where, on the 1st September 1917, he was Taken on Strength with the Australian Army Veterinary Corps.

Formed in 1911, officers of the A.A.V.C were responsible for the veterinary care of horses and the training of farriers and non-commissioned officers in shoeing, horse care and veterinary first aid. One hundred and twenty officers of the A.A.V.C. served overseas with the Australian Imperial Force during the First World War.

It was not until seven months later that Walter finally proceeded overseas to France and reported to the Australian Veterinary Hospital at Calais on the 18th April 1918.

On the 11th January 1919, Walter was found to be Absent Without Leave and had to forfeit one day's pay. Just over two weeks' later, with the War coming to an end, he was granted leave to the United Kingdom which was extended pending a decision about his early repatriation.

By the 29th January, the decision had been made and Walter embarked HMAT A68 *Anchises* at Calais to return to Australia.

After the War, Walter returned to his family at Geraldton. However, by 1922, he had moved to Midland Junction, where he was working as a wheelwright.

Walter continued to live and work in the Midland area until 1958. His wife, Mary Elizabeth, died in Midland in 1957 and, by 1963, Walter had moved to the War Veterans' Home in Mount Lawley.

He died in North Perth in 1967 at the age of eighty-seven.

Wansbrough

Ernest James

Service No: 19769

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Ernest James Wansbrough

Service number: 19769

Date of enlistment: 10/4/1916

Age at Enlistment: 31 years

Civil Occupation: Postal Official

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

Height: 5 feet 5 ½ inches

Weight: 140 pounds

Chest measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Dark

Father: James Wansbrough

Mother: Mary Ann Taylor

Siblings: Emma Agnes (b.1868) Charlotte Jane (b.1870) Rose Anna (b.1872)
John Henry (b.1874) Annie Maud (b.1877) Alice Maria (b.1881) Edith
Verina May (b.1887) Elsie Winnogene (b.1890)

Married: Ada Louisa Hornsby

Life Story

Ernest James Wansbrough was born at York, to James and Mary Ann Wansbrough, in 1884.

He grew up at Grass Valley and "Maddington" farm near York and, in 1902, was employed by the Post Master General's department as a letter carrier for Northam Post Office.

By 1910, Ernest was in the Northwest of the State, where he worked as a postal assistant at Halls Creek before transferring to Leonora in 1916, where his job was described as telephonist.

On the 10th April 1916, Ernest signed on with the A.I.F at Leonora, lowering his age by a couple of years. He attended Signal School and was assigned to the 4th Divisional Signal Company before embarking from Sydney on the *A68 Anchises* on the 8th August 1917.

On arrival in the United Kingdom, Ernest was marched out to the Engineers' Training Depot and attached to the Signalling Section in Shefford. On the 4th January 1918, he proceeded overseas to France and was Taken on Strength with the 5th Divisional Signal Company in the Field.

On the 24th April, Ernest was Wounded in Action and transferred to the 6th General Hospital at Rouen suffering severe effects of being gassed. He was transferred back to England and admitted to the 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on the 20th May. While in hospital, Ernest wrote a letter to one of his sisters, describing the effects of gassing as "eyes that would not keep open and a stomach that would not keep shut."

Sapper E. J. Wansbrough, writing to a sister in Midland Junction, stated he was recovering from his recent gas-sing, and expected to shortly return to the front. He described the effects as "eyes that would not keep open and a stomach that would not keep shut," the eyes remaining shut for five days, and vomiting being excessive. Ernie has a relative of the same name in the fighting line.

Ernest was discharged on the 24th May but did not return to the Front until the 13th August 1918.

Ernest re-joined his unit on the 19th August and remained in the Field until he marched out on the 5th May 1919. He returned to Australia aboard the *Somali* which disembarked at Fremantle on the 8th September 1919.

In 1921, Ernest married Ada Louise Hornsby at Wagin. She had served as a nurse in the Australian Army Nursing Corps during the War. The couple left for Youanmi, where Ernest was post master, straight after the wedding. It was the beginning of a transient lifestyle, as Ernest was appointed to different locations by the P.M.G.

The couple's first child, Stanley, was born in Youanmi but, sadly, died in infancy. Their second child, Shirley Dene, was born at Wickepin, where Ernest was transferred in 1925.

By 1931, Ernest was post master at Onslow and, between 1935 and 1937, he held the position at Beverley. During his time there, Ernest was involved in the local branch of the Returned Servicemen's League.

In 1935, he became ill with influenza and was hospitalised for an extended period of time. His recuperation was probably delayed to the state of his lungs.

In 1937, the family left for Mount Magnet and, by 1939, Ernest had spent some time as the post master at Harvey before arriving in Guildford in 1939. This appears to have been his last posting, as he served at Guildford until at least 1949 and felt settled enough to purchase a block of land in the town site.

Ernest James died in Nedlands in 1958 at the age of seventy-three and was survived by his wife, Ada Louise.

Hornsby Ada Louise Staff Nurse

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Ada Louise Hornsby

Service number: Staff Nurse

Date of enlistment: 12/12/1916

Age at Enlistment: 25 years

Civil Occupation: Certificate Nurse

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal

Father: Samuel Hornsby

Mother: Martha Jones

Siblings: Frederick Leonard (b.1889)
Edith Miriam (b.1893) Keith Goldney (b.1902)

Married: Ernest James Wansbrough

Children: Shirley Dene (1921-1922)
Stanley (b.1921)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Patients and nurses of Ward 31, Colaba War Hospital, Bombay, c1917, make Christmas decorations on the veranda of the ward.
Courtesy Australian War Memorial

Life Story

Ada Louise Hornsby was born in Bordertown, South Australia, to Samuel and Martha Hornsby in the year 1891. Samuel was a carpenter and wheelwright and owned a business, first in Bordertown then in Mundalla.

In 1908, he took up land at Moulyinning, east of Wagin, in the southwest of Western Australia. Samuel and his son, Len, lived and worked on the block while the younger members of the family lived in Albany with their mother. The family was eventually reunited at Moulyinning.

Ada Louise trained as a nurse at Fremantle Public Hospital and gained her General Nursing Certificate. By the time of her enlistment in 1916, she had achieved the level of Acting Sister.

Ada enlisted on the 12th December 1916 at the age of twenty-five and was assigned to the No. 8 Australian General Hospital at Fremantle.

In 1918, Ada was posted to India. Her Service Record is somewhat confused, but it appears that Ada was originally attached to Colaba War Hospital on the 18th December 1917 but, on the 6th October 1918, she was transferred to the Station Hospital at Bangalore.

On the 19th June 1919, Ada was transferred to Bombay and embarked SS *Hungaria* for her return to Australia. Her Service Record states that she was invalided to Australia, so it is possible that Ada was a victim of the Spanish Influenza pandemic which hit Bangalore Station Hospital around mid-1919. Ada was discharged on the 11th November 1919.

She met Ernest James Wansbrough and married him in 1921.

Ada died in Applecross in 1984, surviving her husband by twenty-six years.

Wansbrough Sydney Harry Service No: 4629

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Sydney Harry Wansbrough

Service number: 4629

Date of enlistment: 3/11/1915

Age at Enlistment: 24 years 2 months

Civil Occupation: Fireman

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1914/15 Star

Height: 5 feet 10 inches

Weight: 154 pounds

Chest measurement: 35 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Dark

Father: James Lauder Wansbrough

Mother: Emily Elizabeth Duperouzel

Siblings: Francis Roy (1893-1893) Viola Gray (b.1895)

Married: Ida Amy Wetherall



Life Story

Harry's father, James Lauder Wansbrough, was a carpenter and wood turner. He was also a prominent member of the York Brass Band, playing the euphonium and violin.

In 1913, James, with his partner, W.J. Wheeler, took over as undertaker. In 1921, W.J. Wheeler set up his coachbuilding business in the premises that previously housed Wansbrough & Wheeler, while the undertaking business became known as J.L. Wansbrough & Son.

Sydney Harry Wansbrough (known as Harry) was born in 1891 to James Lauder Wansbrough and Emily Elizabeth Duperouzel. He was educated at York State School and played for the school football team, where he met many of his life-long friends and comrades. His name is amongst those commemorated on the School Honour Roll.

After leaving school, Harry completed a mechanical engineering apprenticeship with C. Hasforth & Co. The company amalgamated with G.H. Smith to form the York Engineering and Agricultural Implement Company in November 1909, but this new development did not suit Harry because, by early December, he was looking for another job.

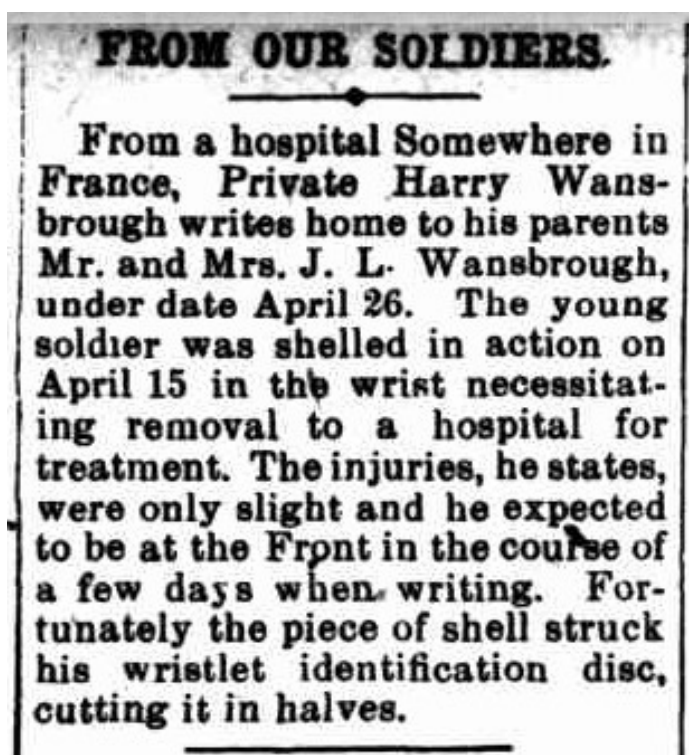
On the 17th December 1909, Harry passed the Selection Board for the West Australian Government Railways (W.A.G.R.) and was appointed as a cleaner at Wagin Railway Station. He passed the W.A.G.R.'s exam for the Fireman's Certificate on the 12th November 1910 but was not appointed as a fireman at Wagin until 24th December 1911.

Like many other men who worked for W.A.G.R., Harry moved around a lot. He worked at Wagin, Narrogin, York and Northam Railway Stations as a Fireman, 2nd class and, just before leaving for the War, Harry was appointed Fireman, 1st class, at York on the 20th August 1915.

Harry was an extremely gifted musician who could play anything he put his hand to. He was a member of the York Brass Band, as was his father and his good friend Ernest Hobbs. Harry's youngest son, Bruce, described Harry as "York's Music Man".

On 5th of November 1915, Harry was granted leave from W.A.G.R. to enlist. He enlisted in the 14th Reinforcements, 11th Battalion, on the 3rd November 1915 and, on the 12th of February 1916, embarked on A28 *Militiades* bound for Egypt. Harry arrived in Alexandria on the 10th March and, by the 29th, was on the way to France.

While serving in France, Harry was Wounded in Action with a gunshot



wound to the hand. He wrote to his parents saying that the injury was only minor and he would soon be back at the Front.

Harry was hospitalized on a number of occasions while serving in France. He had influenza during the cold winter of 1917 and was gassed in 1918. Mercifully, Harry was not sent back to the front again. He boarded the *Ormonde* on the 27th May 1919 to return to Australia.

Once back in Australia, Harry was discharged as medically unfit. His lungs and eyesight (especially his left eye) had been seriously affected by gas. Despite this, Harry passed the W.A.G.R. medical examination to re-join the workforce on the 10th September 1919.

On the 13th September 1919, a Smoke Social was held by the Railway Social Club to welcome Harry and his friend, Ernest Hobbs, back to York. On the 16th, Harry returned to his role as fireman, 1st Class, at York Railway Station.

In December 1920, he was burnt while on an engine travelling to Quairading and sustained injuries to his hands and arms. This injury did not affect Harry's musical career because, just four days later, his name was in an advertisement for a concert to be put on by "The Tatlers" company at the York Town Hall. The proceeds of the concert were going to the York Hospital Christmas Dainties and the York Parents' & Teachers' Association.

The following year, Harry married Ida Amy Wetherall. It is likely that Harry had known Ida since childhood as she, too, was from York and had attended the State School. The couple had three children together: William Lauder (born 1923), Margaret (born 1925) and Bruce (born 1931). Margaret was a beautiful baby and won the Under Two Years Division of a baby competition at the Perth Zoological Gardens in 1927.

In 1926, another accident saw Harry spend time in hospital after a spark from an engine lodged in his eye.

The family lived in Pool Street, and Harry continued working until the early 1930s, when his health suddenly declined. He died in 1934 after suffering from illness for a prolonged period. The obituary, published after his death, stated that Harry's good friends and bandmates, Ernest Hobbs and Vernon Harris, played the Last Post at his funeral.

After Harry's death, Ida and her children remained in York, where she opened a boarding house. When the Second World War broke out, Harry's eldest son, William, enlisted, as he wanted to follow in his father's ANZAC footsteps. Tragically, William contracted meningitis while completing basic training at Northam and died there. He is buried in the Perth War Cemetery.

Harry was remembered in the community for his musical talents. In the words of his son, Bruce:

His greatest loves were Ida, his children, music, animals, music, gardening and music – in that order! He played the violin, cello, cornet, trumpet, slide trombone, euphonium and the E flat Bass, being somewhat of a perfectionist with each instrument. There wasn't a musical event held in his time in York in which he was not involved. He was Bandmaster of the York Brass Band up until the day he died on 28 September 1934...

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