

(Hannah) Elizabeth Glover

1854-1946

These were the times when women were breaking away from home duties and gentle arts. More were being educated at the University and were becoming leaders in their professional occupations. Elizabeth Glover was one of the leaders pushing for the professional status of nurses and those who followed her to Marysville, to Kerami were amongst these women and knew each other.

This overview of her life should be read in conjunction with her Obituary in The Advocate 21 August 1946 and the 'The Encyclopaedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia' entry.

She was born on 9 Nov 1854 in Newark, Nottinghamshire to Margaret nee Holmes and George Richard Glover, innkeeper and farmer. She was the youngest of 12 children and by 1865 both her parents had died.¹

She trained initially as a teacher/governess and worked with her sister Minnie Jane Glover² but had always wanted to be a nurse. She did her nursing training in England with a brilliant record and then joined her sister, Minnie Jane Glover in Melbourne about 1891, in her 30s.

This energetic, keen, mild of manner, and loyal woman would play a significant part in nursing in Australia. With her maturity and leadership qualities she soon held high positions in nursing, developing private hospitals and nursing support groups. She was a voice calling for professional respect.

In 1900 Elizabeth leased Mena House, 29 Simpson St, East Melbourne and had it converted to a private hospital. Here she first met Sister Margaret Thomas.

By 1901 she had moved on to the house on the corner of Wellington Road south and Vale Street which she converted to a private hospital. 'It was possibly she that added a third storey to the eastern section of the house, which was originally two storeys, and she who removed the conical roof that once finished the corner turret.'³ She renamed the building St. Ives and was both proprietor and matron of the hospital with Sister Margaret Thomas her head nurse and theatre sister. Soon, St Ives was the premier hospital in Melbourne specializing in obstetrics and gynaecology with the best doctors and important Melbourne citizens as patients. Elizabeth sold St Ives about 1905 and set up Kerami looking for a place for respite from her many professional appointments.

"Glover was a leader of the profession in Australia, a founder and inaugural secretary of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association in 1903 and acting as managing director of the associated club. She represented Victoria on the Federated Council of Nurses when it sought to affiliate with the International Council of Nurses in 1914. A member of the Nurses Association Board from 1903 to 1941, Glover



From UK and Ireland Nursing Register 1898 including Australasia.



Sister Elizabeth Glover

From Matthew Fleay's family tree on Ancestry. Matthew is a Glover descendant.

was insistent that nurses should see themselves as members of a profession rather than a trade. In response to a call from Vida Goldstein that conditions for nurses should be improved she replied: 'We are professional women and work for the benefit of mankind not for twelve hours but twenty-four hours if the necessity arises' (quoted in Godden, p. 177). 'A nurse's life was necessarily one of self-sacrifice, and unless a woman recognised that fact it would be as well for her not to enter the nursing profession' (Brisbane Courier, 23 April 1903). She argued for increasing the educational qualifications of nurses, but resisted moves towards central control, arguing instead for the autonomy of matrons (Horsham Times, 12 September 1905).

In 1904 Glover was appointed by the Federal Government to establish the Australian Army Nurses' Reserve from which the nurses sent to World War I were drawn. She stood down from this position in 1913 but when war was declared was approached to become matron of Australia's first field hospital, an appointment which she refused. When illness broke out in the Broadmeadows camp Glover argued for the need for trained nurses to be appointed dismissing suggestions that they would be at risk in such an environment (Argus, 15 May 1915). Throughout the war she used the resources of the Trained Nurses' club to organise the collection and distribution of comforts to nurses posted overseas and was one of the founders of the Edith Cavell Trust, designed to care for nurses on their return, arguing that 'nurses deserved as much consideration as soldiers' (Leader, 13 November 1915)."

Extract from Hannah Elizabeth Glover's entry in The Encyclopedia of Women & Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia

Ovens & Murray Advertiser, 6 June 1908

Among our readers I feel sure there are many whom within the last eight years have been the fortunate (though in one sense unfortunate) inmates of Miss Glover's private hospital, St. Ives, in East Melbourne. They and their friends will therefore be interested to learn that Miss Glover has sold her hospital and has gone into private residence. Where, do you think?

As high as she can get — Marysville. Could any change conceivable be more restful and delightful. One of her most clever and

devoted nurses, Sister Margaret, has gone with her. All who know Miss Glover will congratulate her on the success which has attended her indomitable courage and excellent managing capabilities which has allowed her in these few years to establish a first-class hospital, put it on the top of the ladder, and sell it profitably. Knowing the undercurrent of energy in the lady's character they will also enquire with me, "What next, I wonder?"

By 1905, aware that she needed to slow down she made plans which led her to Marysville to set up a place for respite which soon became a high class guesthouse. She bought 6 lots of land on each side of the Woods Point Road heading west out of Marysville. [See map at end of this document.]

In 1907, with Marion Curdie, Kerami House was built on Lot 4, being the lot nearest to the intersection with Pack Road [later the name Murchison Street was extended to the bridge]. Things did not work out and a year later Marion Curdie withdrew from the partnership forcing an auction of the property in December 1908. Luckily Elizabeth Glover found a way to buy the property and continue the business.

Leader, 5 December, 1908

WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER

At 12 o'clock.

At the Rooms, 375 COLLINS STREET

UNRESERVED REALISATION SALE

TO CLOSE PARTNERSHIP ACCOUNTS.

BAILLIEU PATTERSON and SONS PTY. LTD. have received instructions from Miss Glover and Miss M. Curdie to sell by auction, as above, as a going concern, including the furniture and effects,

That charming mountain home, known as

"KERAMI", MARYSVILLE,

with every up to date appointment.

The land comprises an area of 10¹/₄ acres, on the Steavenson River, and quite close to the falls, and is beautifully laid out in gardens and shrubberies. The residence, which has been erected within the last 12 months, under the best architectural direction, is W.B., with iron roof, fibrocement linings, and contains 10 LARGE and SPACIOUS ROOMS, kitchen, scullery, 2 bathrooms, and detached man's room.

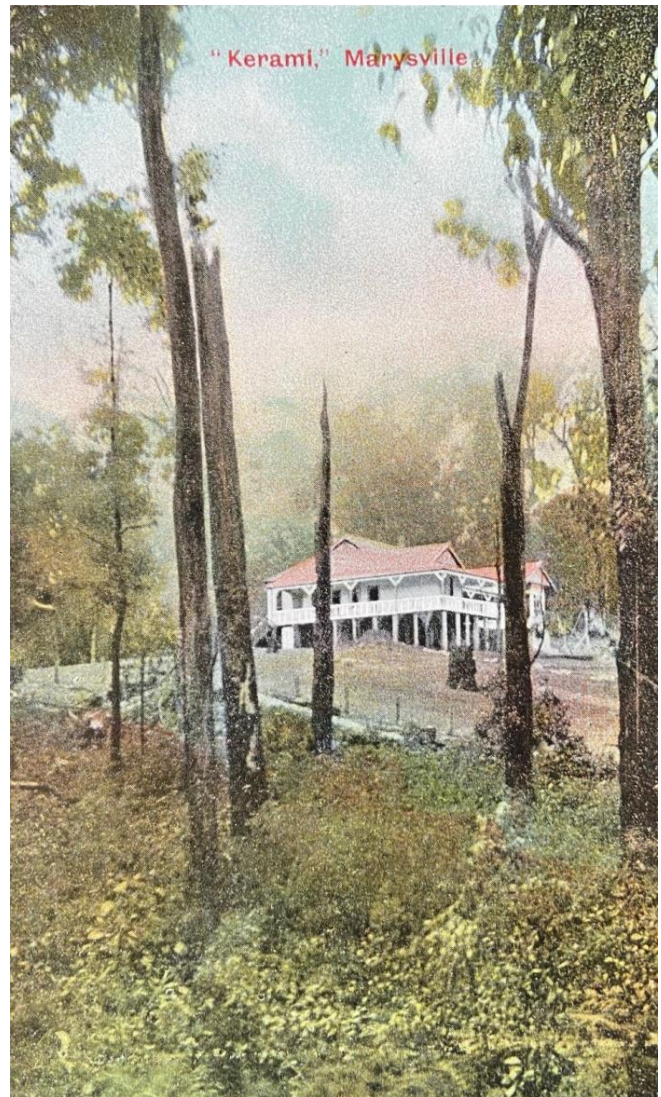
To anyone on the lookout for a perfect home in the mountains, this sale affords an opportunity of securing a place ready to go into at once without the trouble of sending the furnishings up there. With the home the whole of the FURNITURE and EFFECTS, which are quite new, will be included.

Terms: One-fourth cash, balance one month.

Title: certificate.

Solicitor: V. Wischer, 443 Chancery lane.

Further particulars and inventory of furniture from the auctioneers, Baillieu Patterson and Sons Pty. Ltd, 375 Collins street.

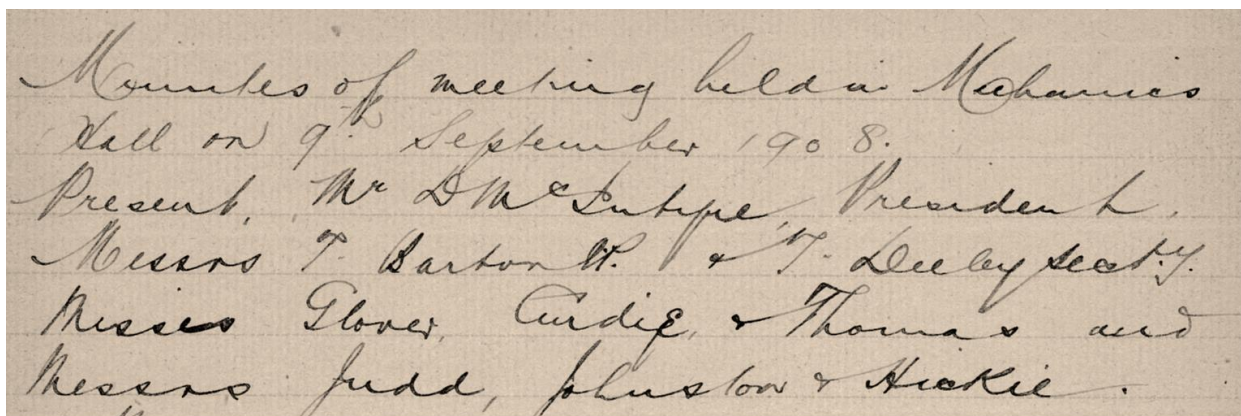


*Kerami, in The Leader, 1908
later as this coloured postcard.*

Alexandra & Yea Standard 8 Jan 1909

Owing to dissolution of partnership, the fine property known as "Kerami" was sold by auction in Melbourne recently, and bought by Miss Glover, one of the partners. Much satisfaction is expressed by the residents that this lady is still remaining with us, as since taking up her abode she has greatly assisted the advancement of the district.

Elizabeth Glover went on to run the property with Margaret Thomas, who had worked with her at Mena House, been theatre sister at St Ives and would marry her nephew. She became an active member of the Marysville Tourist & Progress Association which was formed in 1907 to promote tourism in the area, organise tracks to nearby rivers, waterfalls and other attractions.



Minutes of meeting held at Mahan's Hall on 9th September 1908.
Present, Mr D McInnes, President.
Messrs T. Barton W. & T. Lee Secs.
Misses Glover, Curdie, & Thomas and
Messrs Judd, Johnston & Hickie.

Elizabeth Glover had bought a number of blocks of land on both sides of the Woods Point Road. Elizabeth sold Kerami and much of her land to fellow nursing sister Helena Brayshay in 1914. About 1918⁴ Elizabeth's blocks on the east side of the road were sub-divided as Kerami Crescent by Helena Brayshay.

Riverine Herald (Echuca, Moama), 31 December 1915, from 'Pansy' article.

It may be interesting to my women readers, and perchance may be some of the men (in view of the recent provisions of Parliament that makes women eligible for municipal councils) to know that much of the progress of this district is due to the energy and enterprise of a woman. Miss Glover, so well-known in hospital work in Melbourne, conceived the idea of carving out a paying guest establishment and home in the forest, and succeeded where failure seemed imminent. By dint of perseverance she

overcame all difficulties, and founded "Kerami," now carried on by Miss Brayshay, a popularity that sometimes threatens to be overtaxed. More than that, she interested herself in the affairs of the village, resuscitated⁵ a local progress association, and made such representations to the Government that they put old roads into good order and opened up new ones that now promises to become the most favoured motor routes, in Victoria.

Elizabeth Glover and Margaret Thomas left Marysville in 1914 returning to Melbourne where Elizabeth became the Managing Director of the Trained Nurses Club⁶.

With her high reputation, she was asked to form the Australian Army Nursing Reserve⁷ and here she used another skill she had learnt when studying for the Education Department's Diploma of Cooking. She taught the men training for war how to cook basic meals. A skill they appreciated at the front and many wrote to thank her.

When war started she was given the rank of Superintendent of the 1st Australian Army Nursing Reserve. Many of the Australian Nurses sent overseas to the Front in WWI came from this reserve.

As the war ended she had the licence for Craig's Hotel, Ballarat⁸ where Elizabeth and Margaret resided⁹. Here Margaret Vincent Thomas met and married Thomas Blight Glover, son of Elizabeth's brother William, who had settled his family in Ballarat. Thomas had been farming at Lake

Moodemere, Rutherglen so on his return from WWI, he and Margaret, as his wife, moved there¹⁰. Thomas had mixed health due to his war service.

In December 1919 Elizabeth swapped Craig's Hotel for a 9 year lease on the Mt Buffalo Chalet¹¹. In 1924 the Railways took over the Mt Buffalo Chalet leaving Elizabeth out in the cold.

The Glovers next appear at the famous Gracedale House, built in 1895 and soon to be known as Gracedale Hotel. In time it would be Maroondah Lake Hotel and burn down in 1955.

The GRACEDALE HOUSE, Victoria's Premier Mountain Tourist Resort, is now under the personal supervision of the proprietress, E. GLOVER, Late Kerami, Marysville, and Craig's, Ballarat. Tel. 122 Healesville.



Hotel Gracedale, Healesville in the 1930s.

Table Talk, 8 Jan 1925

HEALESVILLE - "GRACEDALE HOUSE."

The list of guests at "Gracedale House" last week included the Lord Mayor of Melbourne and Lady Mayoress, Alderman [list of names]. The visitors entered heartily into the carnival spirit on New Year's Eve, and during an interval in the proceedings the Lord Mayor, on behalf of the visitors, presented the popular chatelaine, Miss Sheila Buchanan, on the occasion of her departure (she recently sold "Gracedale" to Miss Glover) with a cheque in recognition of her ever-amiable personal attention to her guests 'comfort. The new year was ushered in to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne."

The Glovers involvement in Gracedale House/Hotel is hard to determine. Comments as to owners in newspaper articles is often a loose reference to the person who fronts the business. Certainly Elizabeth Glover's reputation in accommodation at Kerami, continued at Craig's Hotel and Mt Buffalo Chalet would have benefitted the business. More extensive research is needed but the focus of this article is around Marysville.

During this time the disastrous 1926 fires came to the fringe of Healesville. Gracedale was just saved.

The Herald, 25 Feb 1926

Gracedale House stood out solidly above a sea of flame clamouring all round it. Eight women and two men fought heroically and beat the danger back. They were Miss Hayes, the proprietress; Miss Kennedy, her niece and Miss Duggan. Housemaids and the cooks fought with them. The men were Mr Glover former proprietor and the house handy man.

Today Mr Glover was in bed exhausted. Miss Hayes had stayed up all night, and had not been to bed. Others had snatched the briefest sleep.

In 1926 & 1927 the trio have their main residence in Elsternwick with Thomas & Margaret listed back at Gracedale Hotel in 1928 and Elizabeth staying in Elsternwick.

The Argus, 9 Feb 1927

THE LICENSING ACT-Application for TRANSFER of LICENCE

I, Catherine Hayes, of Gracedale Hotel, Healesville, the holder of a licensed victualler's licence for Gracedale Hotel, Healesville, in the Evelyn Licensing District, and we, Thomas Blight Glover, engineer, and Margaret Vincent Glover, married woman, both of Gracedale Hotel aforesaid, and the said Catherine Hayes, trading together under the firm name of "Glover and Hayes" hereby give notice that we will APPLY to the Licensing Court at Melbourne on the twenty first day of February, 1927, for the TRANSFER of such LICENCE to the said firm, with the said Catherine Hayes as nominee.

Dated the 9th day of February, 1927. CATHERINE HAYES,

Transferrer: T. B. GLOVER. MARGARET V. GLOVER,

Transferee; CATHERINE HAYES.

V. Wischer, of 443 Chancery lane, Melbourne, Solicitor for the applicants.

1931 sees them all back at 71 Martin St, Elsternwick/Gardenvale, with Margaret caring for her ever more invalid friend and aunt in law. Elizabeth's heart problems were getting worse and she eventually was house and bed bound.

Although brought up in the Church of England faith, she had much contact with the Catholic church, through St Vincent's Hospital and with her friend Margaret's Catholic faith and so two years prior to her death in 1946, she became a devote Roman Catholic.

Elizabeth Glover died in 1946 and was buried at her request in St Kilda Cemetery.

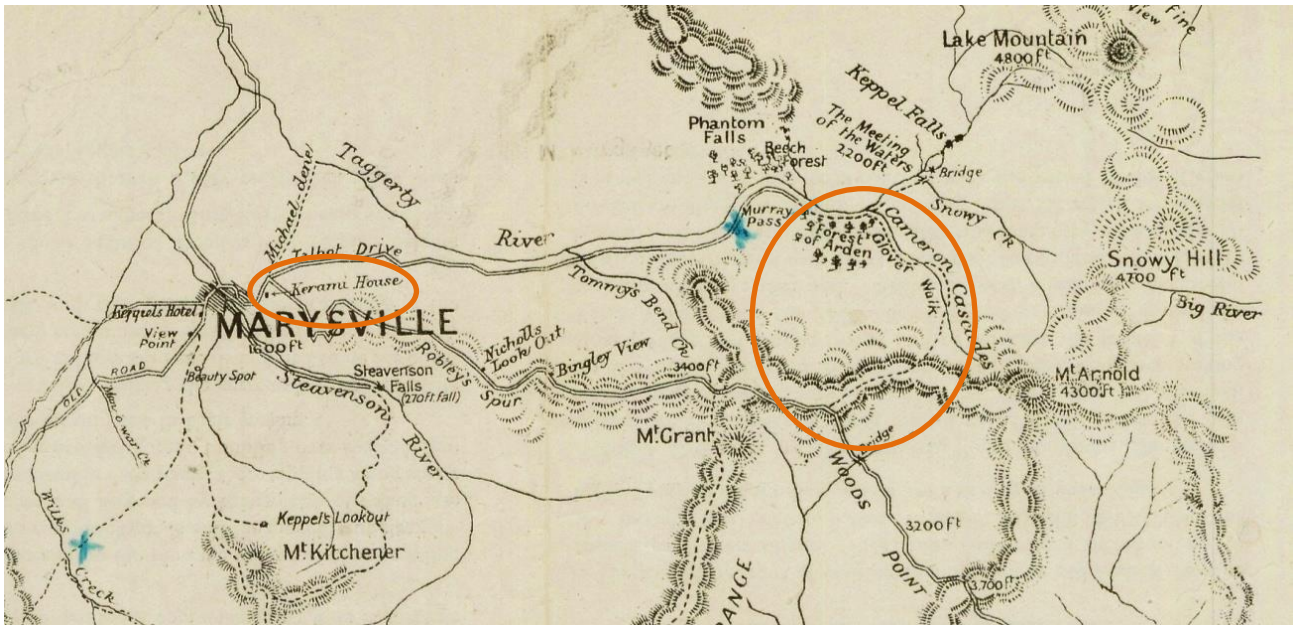
After Elizabeth's death in 1946 Margaret and Thomas lived on at 71 Martin St, Elsternwick where Thomas died in 1960 and Margaret in 1967. The trio ended up buried together in the Roman Catholic section of St Kilda Cemetery.

The Argus, 26 July 1946

REMARKABLE CAREER IN NURSING

The death of Miss Hannah Elizabeth Glover will be mourned throughout the nursing profession. She was the founder of Mena House and of St Ives Hospitals, and her name is connected with the founding of many humanitarian institutions and with the progress of others. Miss Glover, who was aged 91, was trained at Winchester and Queen Charlotte Hospitals in England. She was in charge of St Kilda Nurses' Home when first she came to Australia, and later she was also in charge of the Melbourne Nurses' Home. Miss Glover was managing director of the Victorian Trained Nurses' Club. She was

on the board of the Nurses' Association until five years ago. She was a foundation member of the Edith Cavell Nurses' Trust, also the Talbot Colony of Epileptics. It was Miss Glover who was asked to form the Australian Army Nurses' Reserve, from which our Army nurses were drawn at the outbreak of the 1914-18 war. After her retirement from nursing Miss Glover opened Kerami guest house at Marysville, which she conducted with her niece¹², Mrs T. Glover. She obtained Government aid in making many beauty tracks in the Marysville district. The Glover walk is named after her.



Glover Walk by Cameron Cascades

From W J Butson's Department of Lands & survey Map 2 May 1919

Elizabeth Glover's land in Marysville.



Section of the Survey Map with amalgamated information supplied by the Lands Department in 1946.

ENDNOTES

-
- ¹ Family Tree on ancestry.co.uk.
 - ² 1881 English census listing.
 - ³ East Melbourne Historical Society website.
 - ⁴ Details on Keith Young's title for his land in Kerami Crescent.
 - ⁵ The Marysville Tourist & Progress Association was formed in 1907 and Elizabeth attended her first meeting on 9 Sept 1908 with Marion Curdie and Margaret Thomas.
 - ⁶ Weekly Times, 9 Jan 1915.
 - ⁷ She was the first Lady Superintendent of AANS, of the third military district, 'They who served', Kenny Peter Francis.
 - ⁸ The Argus 5 Feb 1818.
 - ⁹ 1919 Electoral Roll – Margaret Vincent Thomas.
 - ¹⁰ 1921-1924 Electoral Roll – Thomas Blight Glover with Margaret Glover and Elizabeth Glover listed also.
 - ¹¹ The Age 27 Nov 1919. No further evidence of Elizabeth at Mt Buffalo has been found.
 - ¹² Margaret Thomas, Elizabeth's business co-worker in fact married her nephew, Thomas Blight Glover.