

# Margaret Vincent Thomas

c1871-1967

*Sister Thomas worked with Sister Glover in Melbourne at her hospitals and then at Kerami from 1908 to 1914, and the pair remained very close for the rest of their lives. Margaret married Thomas Glover, Elizabeth's nephew. See also articles on Elizabeth Glover, in particular in The Advocate, 21 Aug 1946 where Margaret tells their story.*

Margaret Vincent Thomas was born in 1871 in Melbourne, a year after her parents Frances nee Blake and William Joseph Thomas arrived. Her nursing training was at St Vincent's Hospital, where she became a head sister.

*Extract from an article based on an interview with Margaret Thomas on Elizabeth Glover in The Advocate, 21 Aug 1946.*

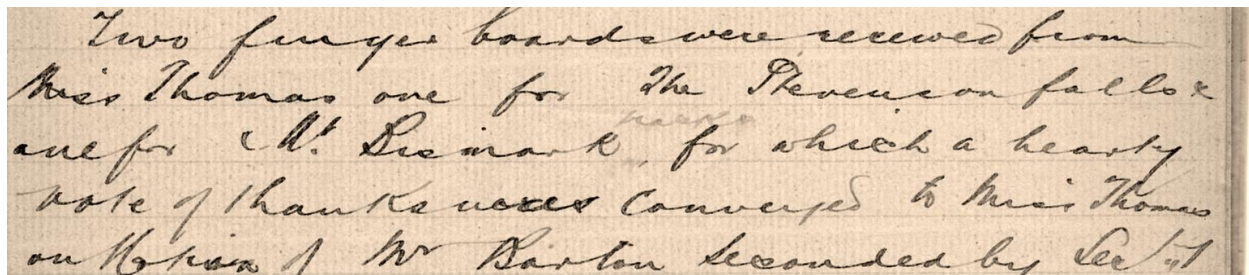
..... she joined Sister Glover when the latter, who was endowed with exceptional organising ability, took Mena House, previously a private house, and converted it to a hospital. There they remained for two<sup>1</sup> or three years; then went on and converted St. Ives (another private home), which soon became a leading hospital, where the important people of Melbourne went.

When Elizabeth built Kerami, she went to Marysville to assist with the running of Kerami from 1908 until 1914. She was involved with the Marysville Tourist & Progress Association and Mt Margaret was named after her<sup>2</sup>.



Minutes of meeting held in Mechanics  
Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1908.  
Present, Mr D. M. Lintype, President L.  
Messrs T. Barton W. & T. Leeby Secs.  
Misses Glover, Curdie & Thomas and  
Messrs Judd, Johnston & Hickie.

At a meeting of the MTPA later in Sep 1908 -



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"Two finger boards were received from Miss Thomas one for Stevenson [sic] falls and one for Mt Bismarck<sup>3</sup> for which a hearty vote of thanks was conveyed to Miss Thomas on motion of Mr Barton Seconded by Sec."

With WWI about to commence Margaret left Kerami as Elizabeth Glover had sold it to Helena Brayshay and returned to Melbourne.

At the beginning of 1915 she took up her duties as manager of the new Victorian Trained Nurses Club with Elizabeth Glover, the Hon Managing Director. Located at 452 Lonsdale street<sup>4</sup>. The club provided a place of information, including an agency providing job details, meetings, meals and accommodation for the members of the Victorian Trained Nurses Association.

As WWI ended she assisted Elizabeth at Craig's Hotel, Ballarat. Here she met Elizabeth's brother, William and his family including his son, Thomas Blight Glover, whom she married in 1919. Thomas had been farming at Lake Moodemere, Rutherglen so on his return from WWI, he and Margaret, as his wife, moved there<sup>5</sup>. Thomas had mixed health due to his war service. They were there amongst the vineyards from 1919 till 1924 meantime Elizabeth Glover was running the Mt Buffalo Chalet.

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.

*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."



Hotel Gracedale, Healesville in the 1930s.

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

During this time the disastrous 1926 fires came to the fringe of Healesville. Gracedale House 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 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.

Margaret and Thomas lived at 71 Martin St, Elsternwick/Gardenvale, with Margaret caring for her ever more invalid friend and aunt in law, Elizabeth Glover.

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 are buried together in the Roman Catholic section of St Kilda Cemetery.

## **ENDNOTES**

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- <sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Glover had what would be St Ives from 1901. There were building works to extend and convert the building to a hospital so the nurses still worked at Mena house.
- <sup>2</sup> Reported in "Song of a Nightingale Life Story", The Advocate, 21 Aug 1946.
- <sup>3</sup> Renamed Mt Kitchener after WWI.
- <sup>4</sup> Margaret used this address on the 1917 Electoral Roll.
- <sup>5</sup> 1921-1924 Electoral Rolls – Thomas Blight Glover with Margaret Glover and Elizabeth Glover listed also.