

## The York Hotel (to 1900)

York Suburban Lot A1 was originally applied for by 20 year old Revett Henry Bland and Arthur Trimmer, and between them, Arthur Trimmer was entitled to this lot. They built a barn and millhouse here in 1831.<sup>1,2</sup> Both Bland and Trimmer had houses on Lot A1.

The Trimmer brothers had brought Merino sheep to the Swan River Colony and as this was excellent sheep land, it was natural that Bland would go into partnership with the Trimmers. The partnership achieved good profits on their wool in London in 1833, which caused a rush on land in York.

On Wednesday 14 September 1836, following some thefts of flour by local Ballardong Noongar from the barn, Arthur Trimmer stationed one of his employees Ned Gallop in the loft of the barn Bland was away at the time. Ned Gallop waited until a theft had taken place and then as two aborigines were walking away with flour, he shot one of them in the back and injured the other.<sup>3</sup> One was a woman and the other a child.<sup>4</sup> And Trimmer then shot the child as a "mercy killing". Trimmer then cut off the ears of the woman and child and hung them up in his kitchen as a signal of triumph. That kitchen would have been in Timmer's house on the corner. The Colony was ashamed at what Trimmer had done. The Perth Gazette described it as a "treacherous" killing in "cool blood".

Bland immediately terminated his partnership with Trimmer.<sup>5</sup> The Governor despatched a military detachment for York under the command of the young Lieutenant Bunbury who said in his diary that Trimmer's "character never could recover from this foul stain".<sup>6</sup>

The Colony waited for a reprisal which came in a spearing of an old settler called Knott and the burning of his hut. Bunbury's troops were then involved in what is called "punitive action.

Anglican Missionary Luis Giustiniani described York as a "blood bath" where "gentlemen went on hunting parties".<sup>7</sup> Giustiniani also suggested that Trimmer and Gallop had also killed some aboriginal men who had "kindly shown them the road in the bush" and had once again cut off their ears as trophies.

John Henry Monger, an engineer, who had previously run the Perth Hotel, bought this property from Bland and Trimmer for 100 pounds in late 1836.<sup>8</sup>

He bought lots A1 and A2, A1 being to the east of Avon Terrace and A2 being to the west. Each lot was about 10 acres.

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<sup>1</sup> Pamela Statham Drew and AM (Tony) Clack: York, Western Australia, A Documentary History, p14.

<sup>2</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 25 April 1885, p.3.

<sup>3</sup> Bunbury, Early Days, 53.

<sup>4</sup> Bunbury, Early Days, 27.

<sup>5</sup> Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal 15 October 1836, p.779, with the date of dissolution being advertised as 1 October 1836.

<sup>6</sup> Bunbury, HW, edited by W St Pierre Bunbury and WP Morrell, Early Days in Western Australia, Oxford University Press, 1930, pp.53-56; Swan River Guardian, 23 November 1837, p.253; Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal 17 September 1836, p.765.

<sup>7</sup> "Inward Letters". Letter to Colonial Secretary's Office (CSO). 25 August 1837. Retrieved 11 December 2021 – via State Records Office of Western Australia.

<sup>8</sup> Landgate, Deeds and Ordinances 1/166/625 Deed of Conveyance dated 30 April 1838.

Monger must have been building his hotel in late 1836 as he was described as being “a publican, of York” on 5 February 1837, when he had to personally eject a troublesome private in the 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment named John Curran (Curran being later charged with assault in hitting Monger with a bludgeon).<sup>9</sup>

The original hotel was a small building of wattle and daub<sup>10</sup> and was the first hotel in the area. This was called The York Hotel.<sup>11</sup>

In April 1838, Monger completed payment and his deal to purchase the land (Suburban Lots A1 and A2) from Bland and Trimmer was noted in the Deed of Conveyance, with the sum of 100 pounds acknowledged as “paid”.<sup>12</sup>

Monger was not to get a Crown Grant for another 3 years. Even so, after the Crown Grant had been issued, it was cancelled and a slightly smaller area granted in 1842.<sup>13</sup>

In December 1838, Monger (“innkeeper of York”) himself was charged with assaulting merchant James Manson in the street in Perth, but the case was “compromised by paying the constable’s expenses equally”.<sup>14</sup>

Monger’s wattle and daub hotel burnt down and Monger then built a large and substantial hostelry.<sup>15</sup> We do not know the date this occurred. There is no mention of any fire here in any Trove recorded newspaper at the time.

On 23 March 1841, Monger was granted title to the land, being 11 acres, 1 rood and 12 perches.<sup>16</sup>

Monger also established a “store” on the opposite side of Avon Terrace, which was a “long, low building”, and “every three months his wagons would journey to Guildford or Perth for supplies”.<sup>17</sup>

The stone section on the south east corner of what is now called the sandalwood yards appears to have originally been a “long low building” made of stone. You can see it was originally a “long low building” subsequently given greater height with a brick extension.

He also built a cellar with residence higher up the hill which was the first stage of what was to become Faversham House.

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<sup>9</sup> Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal 8 April 1837, p.880.

<sup>10</sup> John E Deacon: A Survey of the Historical Development of the Avon Valley with Particular Reference to York, Western Australia During the Years 1830-1850, UWA, 1948, p.53.

<sup>11</sup> John E Deacon: A Survey of the Historical Development of the Avon Valley with Particular Reference to York, Western Australia During the Years 1830-1850, UWA, 1948, pp.53 and 74.

<sup>12</sup> Landgate, Deeds and Ordinances I/166/625 Deed of Conveyance dated 30 April 1838

<sup>13</sup> Heritage Conservation Plan for Faversham House

<sup>14</sup> Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal 15 December 1838, p.199.

<sup>15</sup> John E Deacon: A Survey of the Historical Development of the Avon Valley with Particular Reference to York, Western Australia During the Years 1830-1850, UWA, 1948, p.53.

<sup>16</sup> Landgate Crown Grant ET546 dated 23 March 1841.

<sup>17</sup> John E Deacon: A Survey of the Historical Development of the Avon Valley with Particular Reference to York, Western Australia During the Years 1830-1850, UWA, 1948, pp.53 and 74.

On 5 October 1842, Monger was given an amended Crown Grant for his land, reducing the area to 8 acres, 3 roods and 12 perches<sup>18</sup>.

In November 1844, Monger advertised his hotel ("The York Hotel") to be let for "one year to seven, as may be agreed on". The hotel was described as follows:

"The house contains 3 parlours, 3 bed-rooms, one family sitting room, and bar. At the back of the house there is a commodious kitchen and tap, large store, cellar, and bake-house; and on the premises a 12 stalled stable, a good fenced-in yard for the accommodation of cattle and sheep, and piggeries. There is also a garden at the back of the house, which bears excellent crops of vegetables, and is well stocked with vine cuttings and fruit trees. Two paddocks of 10 acres each will either be let along with the premises or without them, as parties may incline."<sup>19</sup>

Monger was trying to find a buyer for the business "so that he could concentrate on his merchandising business". "This included expanding his interests and also establishing himself as a collecting agent for Western Australia's burgeoning sandalwood industry".<sup>20</sup> Monger is more likely to have been the actual buyer of sandalwood rather than a collecting agent.

It makes perfect sense for Monger to move out of his hotel if he was trying to sell the business. And he had already built the first stage of Faversham House up the hill.

It appears that Monger did not find a tenant for the hotel because he continued to trade the hotel and advertise. In fact, he appears to have expanded.

Monger continued to run The York Hotel, though very few members of The York Agricultural Society attended a dinner he offered in November 1846 for their Annual Meeting, members preferring to stay and eat with friends.<sup>21</sup> Was Monger focussing too much on his other businesses and neglecting his hotel? Was Monger charging too much or not paying enough for farm produce, and had become unpopular?

Monger stopped trading The York Hotel from 1 January 1849.<sup>22 23</sup> There are a number of possible reasons for this:

- Monger wanted to live at the hotel with his family without the problems of drunken customers, while stage 2 of Faversham House was under construction
- He had constructed the hotel on Town Lot 1 that was initially occupied by Solomon Cook and possibly contemplated moving the hotel business to those premises
- He was too busy with sandalwood and his stores to run a hotel.
- A competitor was planning to start in the hotel business in York, namely Robert Doncon who was building the Kings Head Hotel in Bland's Town.

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<sup>18</sup> Landgate York Suburban Lots A1 and A2, Crown Grants ET 747 and ET 748 both dated 5 October 1842.

<sup>19</sup> Inquirer, 13 November 1844, p.2.

<sup>20</sup> John E Deacon: A Survey of the Historical Development of the Avon Valley with Particular Reference to York, Western Australia During the Years 1830-1850, UWA, 1948, p165.

<sup>21</sup> Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal 7 November 1846, p.2 and .

<sup>22</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 30 December 1848, p.4.

<sup>23</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 20 January 1849, p.4.

Look at the 1849 plan of York by Chauncey and you will see how big the York Hotel was in relation to all the other buildings in the town.

Samuel Craig appears to have taken over the hotel before or in January 1852 because a claim was made against him by a man called Byrnes for return of a horse sold for 30 pounds ("when Byrnes was sober") to pay for liquor bills on 13 January 1852.<sup>24</sup> Following this, Craig was racing a horse called Tom O'Shanter, so one assumes it was the same horse.

On 8 May 1852, Samuel Craig was granted a liquor licence for a hotel called the "Agricultural and Commercial Hotel", presumably a new name for the York Hotel.

Craig announced improvements to the "Agricultural and Commercial Hotel" in August and September 1852.<sup>25 26 27 28</sup> "The whole of his apartments, consisting of Bed-rooms and Sitting rooms, are now boarded and ceiled, and finished in such a style as he feels assured must give satisfaction to every one".

In September 1852, Monger put up the York Hotel for rent, Craig had bought from Monger the site of the Castle Hotel and was building that.<sup>29</sup>

There are further reports that Monger was going to reopen the York Hotel in June 1853.<sup>30</sup>

In August 1853, Monger permitted R A Bennett to commence trading at the York Hotel.<sup>31</sup>

Robert Augustus Bennett was the former Captain of the ship Eglinton. Eglinton was the first steamer to come to Western Australia, but was unfortunately shipwrecked on an outer reef near what is now Wanneroo in September 1852.

Bennett was charged with negligence in relation to the shipwreck. However, "in consideration of his misfortune", he was fined only fifty pounds, and even then this sum was raised by sympathetic colonists. The ship's dog, having already survived the previous wreck of the Birkenhead, was washed off the Eglinton by mountainous seas. It managed to make its own way to shore and, subsequently adopted by a Fremantle family, became "the most famous canine in the colony."<sup>32</sup>

Bennett started trading as licensee of the York Hotel in August 1853.

To help Bennett set up the hotel, Monger found some things in his cellar and gave them to Bennett to use in the hotel (presumably the cellar of Faversham House which is still used for storage by Richard and Nola Bliss today). According to Bennett, these objects included two bullock's horns.

Bennett decided not to continue as licensee of the York Hotel after about a year and left.

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<sup>24</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 16 January 1852, p.4.

<sup>25</sup> Inquirer 25 August 1852, p.2.

<sup>26</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 27 August 1852, p.2.

<sup>27</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 10 September 1852, p.2.

<sup>28</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 24 September 1852, p.2.

<sup>29</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 24 September 1852, p.2.

<sup>30</sup> Inquirer, 8 June 1853, p.2.

<sup>31</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 12 August 1853, p.2.

<sup>32</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 10 September 1852, p.3.

Monger then claimed that Bennett had stolen the two bullock's horns and also a number of other objects, namely 5 or 6 boards, some quarter rounds, a box with some nails and screws, a powder flask, some tobacco, a crow bar, a button hook, a pitch fork, a pick axe, a cross cut saw and a small keg. Instead of claiming these items in a Magistrate's civil court, Monger prosecuted **criminal** charges against Bennett.

At the trial, in response to Monger's allegations of stealing, Bennet's evidence went something like this:

When I took possession of the hotel, there were some boards there. I made a counter of three of them and added a board which I purchased for the purpose from Monger at his store. I left the counter at the York Hotel which Monger has now taken back possession of. The quarter rounds were taken away by Monger. The box is mine and I rescued it from the wreck of the Eglinton. I purchased the nails and screws from Monger's store. I bought the powder flask in Perth. I do not smoke tobacco, and the tobacco referred to also came from the wreck of the Eglinton. The crow bar belongs to the Government and was brought here by Mr Teede. I bought the button hook in London. The pitch fork is mine. The pick is Monger's but was borrowed from him so I could dig a pond at the York Hotel, which Monger has now taken back. The cross cut saw was also borrowed from Monger and is at the hotel. The keg was purchased from Monger at his store.

Bennett's lawyer George Leake even gave evidence of a conversation which he had with Monger in which Monger claimed to identify the screws and nails in the box as his. "I asked him whether he charged Mr Bennett with stealing the buckle, and Monger said – Aye, that I do".

John Henderson gave evidence that he travelled out on the Eglinton with Bennett and saw him use a button hook of the same size and description as the one produced in court.

Not surprisingly, Bennett was successful in defending these criminal charges and then Bennett sued Monger for 2,000 pounds damages for malicious and vexatious prosecution for felony. Bennett was successful and recovered 140 pounds damages.<sup>33</sup>

Monger was not content and appealed. Bennett had to fight the appeal but once again Monger lost and Bennett won.

What happened to Bennett is not clear. He appears to have left the colony, and who would blame him.

Monger's son, Joseph Monger took over the running of the York Hotel. At the time, Joseph was 20 years of age.<sup>34</sup>

So it appears that in order to set up a son in business, Monger wanted his tenant to leave, so was prepared to lie and make criminal allegations against him, to break the lease.

On 1 November 1854, "the gentry and public generally of York and surrounding districts" were invited to the re-opening of the "York Hotel" by G.J. Blackiston who has "refurnished and stocked it

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<sup>33</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 11 August 1854, p.2.

<sup>34</sup> Wikitree: Joseph was born in about 1834.

with a choice selection of wines, spirits, bottled and draft ales, etc. This was the same newspaper that announced the opening of Samuel Craig's Castle Hotel at the other end of the town.<sup>35 36</sup>

The hotel became known for a while as "Blackiston's Hotel"<sup>37</sup>.

A significant event occurred on 4 March 1862, 28 year old Joseph Monger married Mary Jane Craig, the daughter of the owners of the Castle Hotel.<sup>38</sup>

### **Flood damage**

The town of York was drowned in a flood in mid July 1962.<sup>39</sup> Water reached a height of a metre in the Castle Hotel cellar. The local Noongar described the flood as bad as that in the year prior to the arrival of Europeans in York, 1830. The land was so boggy that they easily caught kangaroos by their tails.<sup>40</sup> On both banks small cottages near the river were all washed away.<sup>41</sup> The old court-house and police stables below where the post office now stands were washed away. At the northern end, the Meares steam-mill premises (below what is now Gallery 152) were washed away and water was so high it reached the road in places.<sup>42</sup> The York Hotel must have suffered substantial damage at this time.

In 1863, local baker and former convict Henry Beard became licensee of the York Hotel<sup>43</sup>, so it must have been in sufficiently adequate condition to be able to keep functioning. However, it was not long before Henry Beard was arrested for sheep stealing along with another former convict named Shufflebottom.<sup>44</sup>

### **The New York Hotel**

In November 1864, the Monger family started constructing a new hotel variously called the new "York Hotel" or the "New York Hotel", "containing 17 rooms, and situated in a position suitable to command the principal business of the town" (i.e. opposite Faversham House) and they advertised the property as available to be let from February 1865.<sup>45</sup> This appears to have been a venture of Joseph Monger because applications had to be submitted to either him or his father, John Henry Monger Snr.

The style of the hotel now appears to mirror Faversham House with wings each side, except that, at the time, Faversham House did not have wings each side. These were only constructed by John Henry Monger Jr in 1868 after the death of his father. This conflicts with the story that Joseph built

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<sup>35</sup> Inquirer 1 November 1854, p.4.

<sup>36</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 15 December 1854, p.2.

<sup>37</sup> Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 22 July 1857, p.4.

<sup>38</sup> Wikitree.

<sup>39</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 30 July 1862, p.2.

<sup>40</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 30 July 1862, p.2.

<sup>41</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 30 July 1862, p.2.

<sup>42</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News 30 July 1862, p.2.

<sup>43</sup> West Australian Times, 3 March 1864, p.2.

<sup>44</sup> Bill Marwick: Mary Marwick of York, The Life and Times of Mary Ann Taylor, 2016, p.54.

<sup>45</sup> Perth Gazette and West Australian Times 11 November 1864, p.2; 2 December 1864, p.1.

the hotel in the image of Faversham House to irritate his older brother John.<sup>46</sup> It was more likely the other way around.

This new hotel opened on 25 July 1865 with the hotel being run by Henry Albert, an expirée.<sup>47</sup>

"The opening of the New York Hotel was signalled on the 25<sup>th</sup> July, by a Ball and Supper given at the expense of the Proprietor, at which about 70 of the principal settlers in the neighbourhood, and friends of Mr Monger were present. S Burges, Esq, proposed Mr Monger's health, expressing his knowledge of that gentleman's continued good feeling towards the town, its residents and interests, which was acknowledged by much cheering. Dancing was kept up until nearly 5 o'clock the following morning, when the company separated highly pleased with their entertainment. The arrangements for the Ball, and the Supper, under the care of Mr Albert, were all that could be desired, surpassing anything of that kind ever seen before in York".<sup>48</sup>

The Inquirer and Commercial News wrote:

"A considerable addition has been made to the buildings in the town of York by the erection of the New York Hotel, which was opened at the end of last month by the present occupier, Mr Albert. Mr Monger, the proprietor of these splendid premises, gave a sumptuous spread to a large body of settlers in the neighbourhood, and in the evening, a ball took place, which was numerously attended."<sup>49</sup>

In September 1866, a conditional pardon man was stabbed by a ticket-of-leave holder. This was reported in the Perth Gazette as having taken place at "Craig's public house". An indignant Samuel Craig wrote a letter to the paper saying that "such an atrocity has never been committed on my premises since I have kept the Castle Hotel, extending over 14 years". The newspaper published a note to the effect that the "case of stabbing occurred at Albert's York Hotel on the day in question".<sup>50</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Albert ran a coach service or teamsters, employing ticket-of-leave men while he was running the York Hotel.<sup>51</sup>

John Henry Monger Snr died on 12 November 1867 and the land to the east of Avon Terrace ("except 2 acres", most likely the land on the corner of Ford St) was left to Joseph.<sup>52</sup> Faversham and the other property to the west of Avon Tce (except 2 acres comprising the mill) was left to John Henry Monger Jnr.

In January 1868, the York Hotel was put up "To Let and possession obtained in July next, the above substantial and newly-erected HOTEL, replete with every convenience, and now doing a first rate trade". This time, applications were to go to either Joseph or John Henry Jr.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> Heritage Trail York, Shire of York, undated.

<sup>47</sup> Rica Erickson, Dictionary of Western Australians, re Henry Albert.

<sup>48</sup> Perth Gazette and West Australian Times 11 August 1865, p.2.

<sup>49</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News, 16 August 1865, p.2.

<sup>50</sup> Perth Gazette and Western Australian Times 14 September 1866, p.3.

<sup>51</sup> Rica Erickson, Dictionary of Western Australians, re Henry Albert.

<sup>52</sup> Landgate, Deeds and Ordinances VI/390/2453 Last will and testament of John Henry Monger 10 August 1867 registered 10 March 1868.

<sup>53</sup> Perth Gazette and West Australian Times 17 January 1868, p.1.

From July 1868, the hotel was run by Richard Chipper "late contractor for the Albany Mail".<sup>54</sup> Chipper advertised that "Great improvements and additions having been made to the above hotel in order to make it replete with every convenience".<sup>55</sup>

Chipper must have done a fair job because meetings of the York Agricultural Society started to be held at the York Hotel, instead of at the Castle Hotel.<sup>56</sup>

Chipper appears to continue to run the hotel but it was advertised as being to let in January and June 1871.<sup>57</sup> Thomas Wilson started to run the hotel at least from January 1872.<sup>58</sup> In November 1872, Thomas Wilson advertised that he was applying for a licence for the "York Hotel". The hotel is described as "containing five sitting rooms, six bedrooms, Ball Room, and two Tap Rooms" with "stabling".<sup>59</sup>

The Monger family started construction of their new store, almost opposite the hotel, in August 1876. A supper was held for the builders at "Wilson's Hotel" on 25 July 1876.<sup>60</sup>

Wilson was one of the Oddfellows so when the Oddfellows wanted to sit down for a banquet in 1876, of course it was to be at the York Hotel.<sup>61</sup>

On 2 February 1877, the one horse dray owned by the main competitor of the York Hotel, Mrs Craig of the Castle Hotel was unloading bags of wheat at Monger's Mill (which was at what is now called the sandalwood yards). As the last bag was being taken out of the dray, a bumping noise occasioned by a jerk frightened the horse which started off at full gallop down Avon Terrace towards the town. Wilson and his wife were on the verandah of the York Hotel and saw the horse and dray coming towards them. Wilson said to his wife "I can stop it". He ran out and grabbed the reins but missed his footing. He was knocked over by the shaft to which he clung to for some little distance, then he lost hold and fell in front of one of the cart-wheels of the dray. The wheel passed over his body causing internal injuries and breaking several ribs. Wilson was quite sensible when he was picked up, so much so that he was able to speak and tell those who were assisting where he thought he might have been injured most. Dr Hope was soon in attendance and was greatly concerned at the extent of the injuries. Wilson lapsed and died within 30 minutes. The Western Australian Times said: "Mr Wilson had many friends and possessed many estimable qualities, the most prominent of which may be mentioned his kindheartedness to those requiring assistance."<sup>62</sup>

Thomas Wilson's widow, Dora continued to operate the York Hotel and on 16 May 1877, she applied for a publican's licence.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News, 22 July 1868, p.3.

<sup>55</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News, 22 December 1868, p.4.

<sup>56</sup> Perth Gazette and West Australian Times, 30 April, 1869, p.2; Herald, 29 May 1869, p.3.

<sup>57</sup> Herald, 21 January 1871, p.4; 3 June 1871, p.1.

<sup>58</sup> Perth Gazette and West Australian Times 5 January 1872, p.2.

<sup>59</sup> Perth Gazette and West Australian Times 15 November, 1872, p.2.

<sup>60</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News, 2 August 1876, p.3.

<sup>61</sup> Western Australian Times, 1 August 1876, p.2.

<sup>62</sup> Combining the reports in Western Australian Times, 9 February 1877, p.3.; Inquirer and Commercial News, 14 February 1877, p.3

<sup>63</sup> West Australian Times, 18 May 1877, p.3.



Dora was mentioned in the Legislative Council in a debate on the Wines, Beer and Spirits Sales Act, as to whether or not it was appropriate in a prosecution against a publican for allowing a drunken person to be on the premises for the onus of proof to be on the publican. The York police were in the habit of prosecuting the publicans who could not prove that they were aware of drunk people in or outside their premises. Dora Wilson was cited as an example where the York Police prosecuted her because a drunk person (who had come from another hotel) was found in the street making his way past the York Hotel. Dora was not able to prove that she had ejected the man from her own hotel so she was fined.<sup>64</sup>

Running a hotel meant all sorts came into your building. In 1878, Mrs Wilson was robbed of a valuable gold watch and a cash box with 100 pounds. Amazingly, the watch was found in some mud on the outskirts of the town.<sup>65</sup>

On 1 September 1878, a fire broke out at the York Hotel in Dora Wilson's own bedroom. A little boy was fast asleep in Mrs Wilson's bed. A candle caught the valance of the bedstead and set fire to the bedroom furniture. How the candle fell is not known. Police Constable Scott was walking past the hotel and noticed an unusual amount of light at the window of Mrs Wilson's room. A servant was standing on the verandah and Constable Scott drew her attention to the light. She rushed upstairs and on reaching the top, she called out "fire". Police Constable Scott ran in and quenched the flames. Everyone else was at Church at the time. Mrs Wilson was so grateful that she presented two sovereigns to the Constable for his timely assistance.<sup>66</sup>

In September 1879, an incident occurred which caused some concern about the liability of hotel landlords. Patrick Gibbons was standing outside the York Hotel "worse for liquor" and invited John Smith to drink with him. The two men went to the bar and Gibbons called for a drink. He was being served by Dora's son, Richard. Richard refused to give Gibbons another drink. Smith, who was sober, called for a drink and was supplied with it. Gibbons was asked to leave which he did. A short while later, while Dora and her family were at tea, and a servant Charlotte Screech was minding the bar. Gibbons re-entered and "was in a helpless state of intoxication". He could barely stand and was leaning against the bar. At that moment, the police came in and took him away. Dora was charged with allowing a drunken man to remain on her premises. The police were criticised for this in the Herald newspaper of Fremantle.<sup>67 68</sup>

On 9 January 1880, a thief obtained a ladder from Mrs Wilson's haystack and entered through one of the back windows of the hotel, and after turning over sundry boxes over, he hit upon a box containing 9 pounds in silver, and a silver watch and chain.<sup>69</sup> A man named Thompson was later charged with the theft and gaoled.<sup>70</sup>

Notwithstanding that he had a tenant in Dora Wilson, on 20 April 1883, Joseph Monger advertised "the above old established Hotel" being the York Hotel, "tenders to mention the amount of rent per

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<sup>64</sup> Western Australian Times, 7 August 1877, p.2.

<sup>65</sup> Western Australian Times, 15 February 1878, p.2.

<sup>66</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 7 September 1878, p.2.

<sup>67</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 13 September 1879, p.3.

<sup>68</sup> Herald, 20 September 1879, p.2.

<sup>69</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 16 January 1880, p.3.

<sup>70</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News, 31 March 1880, p.3.

annum for 3 or 5 years." "Possession on the 1<sup>st</sup> July next." So commenced a fight between Joseph Monger and Dora Wilson.

The Daily News in Perth announced that Joseph was receiving "numerous applications" and "The rumour that Mrs Wilson, the present lessee, intends opening an hotel business in Northam, is entirely without foundation."<sup>71</sup>

What the Mongers had in mind soon became evident as Herbert Monger applied for a publican's general licence on 24 May 1883.<sup>72</sup> Herbert Monger was a cousin of Joseph, being from the Northam branch of the family.<sup>73</sup> On 1 June 1883, Dora Wilson struck back as she was reported to be "applying for a removal of the license which she holds as landlady of the "York" which she leaves at the end of the present month."<sup>74</sup>

On 1 June 1883, Dora advertised for sale all of the household furniture and kitchen utensils and other equipment of the hotel to be sold on June 27<sup>th</sup>.<sup>75</sup> There was so much to sell that the auction was extended to two days, 27 and 28 June. Everything to be sold was listed in another advertisement, including firewood.<sup>76</sup> There was a "good attendance of buyers" at the auction, the sale not being concluded until 29 June. "Everything realized fair prices and the competition was spirited for a great deal offered."<sup>77</sup>

The next report is that the York Hotel is closed. The Eastern Districts Chronicle announces that the hotel is to "undergo a thorough overhauling before it is opened again."<sup>78</sup>

What in fact was occurring was negotiations between Dora and Herbert over the price for the sale of the publican's licence. Dora wanted 100 pounds<sup>79</sup> which price the Herald newspaper of Fremantle described as a "fancy one" and it was a price that Herbert Monger refused to pay.

Dora applied for the removal of her publican's licence to premises leased from William Marwick on the other side of the river. Monger's lawyers argued against this on the ground that the police could not watch premises on the other side of the river.<sup>80</sup>

It was reported that a compromise had been effected between Dora and Herbert but (as reported) "woman is as fickle as ever and not to be depended on".<sup>81</sup>

The Attorney General ruled that another licence could not be granted for the York Hotel until Mrs Wilson's licence was forfeited.<sup>82</sup> Following that, the Licensing Bench in York ruled that a fresh licence cannot be granted to Herbert Monger until Dora's licence had expired.<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> Daily News, 3 May 1883, p.3.

<sup>72</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 25 May 1883, p.3.

<sup>73</sup> Wikitree.

<sup>74</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 1 June 1883, p.3.

<sup>75</sup> West Australian, 1 June 1883, p.2.

<sup>76</sup> West Australian 22 June 1883, p.2.

<sup>77</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 29 June 1883, p.3.

<sup>78</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 6 July 1883, p.3.

<sup>79</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 8 June 1883, p.3.

<sup>80</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 8 June 1883, p.3.

<sup>81</sup> Herald, 7 July 1883, p.2.

<sup>82</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 15 June 1883, p.3.

In August, Herbert Monger started advertising for staff, looking for a housemaid and ostler, “marred couple” preferred.<sup>84</sup> He also applied again for a publican’s general licence. The hotel was described as having “seven sitting rooms and five bedrooms exclusive of those required by my family, rented from Mr J T Monger, now unoccupied and unlicensed.”<sup>85</sup>

Dora’s application for transfer of her licence to premises on the other side of the river was then considered. Magistrate Cowan did not make a decision. In September, the police (Sergeant Peacock) laid a charge against Dora Wilson that she was not affording the necessary accommodation under her licence. Dora’s response was that she was looking for alternative premises, only two months had elapsed and she needed more time. Cowan said that this was “an extraordinary case and asked Mrs Wilson if she would accept less than 50 pounds. No, not a penny less, Mrs Wilson responded. More time was granted to her.”<sup>86</sup>

On 12 October 1883, the Eastern Districts Chronicle noted that there were only two pubs now kept in the town.<sup>87</sup>

On 3 December 1883, Herbert Monger was granted a licence for the York Hotel.<sup>88</sup>

On 1 January 1884, C S Monger & Co (from Northam) commenced to advertise their Royal Mail Passenger and Parcel Van travelling between Newcastle (Toodyay) and York via Northam.<sup>89</sup>

The hotel was reopened in January 1884 under Herbert Monger’s management.<sup>90</sup>

Dora Wilson left York to take up a hotel from “Mr Baston” in Geraldton.<sup>91</sup>

In May 1886, tenders were called for additions to the York Hotel: ‘balcony, verandah, underground tank etc’<sup>92</sup>, but the tenders were all considered too high and fresh tenders were being requested.<sup>93</sup>

Then in August 1888, the hotel was once again advertised as being to let, this time from 1 January 1889, five years after Dora had left York.<sup>94 95</sup>

Herbert Monger was still operating the hotel during this period.<sup>96</sup> On 15 November 1888, Stephen Hogan, the son of a pensioner guard, was sent to jail in 1886. During that time, his wife applied for poor relief but was refused because her father in law was a pensioner and in receipt of a pension. His father died in April 1888.<sup>97</sup> In November 1888, Stephen was giving trouble in hotels and an order

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<sup>83</sup> West Australian, 15 June 1883, p.3.

<sup>84</sup> West Australian, 3 August 1883, p.4.

<sup>85</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 10 August 1883, p.3.

<sup>86</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 7 September 1883, p.3.

<sup>87</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle 12 October 1883, p.2.

<sup>88</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 7 December 1883, p.3.

<sup>89</sup> West Australian, 5 January 1884, p.3.

<sup>90</sup> West Australian, 10 January 1884, p.3.

<sup>91</sup> West Australian, 10 January 1884, p.3.

<sup>92</sup> Herald, 22 May 1886, p.11.

<sup>93</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 26 June 1886, p.11.

<sup>94</sup> West Australian, 27 August 1888, p.2.

<sup>95</sup> Inquirer and Commercial News, 29 August 1888, p.6.

<sup>96</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 17 November 1888, p.5.

<sup>97</sup> Rica Erickson, Dictionary of Western Australians, Stephen Hogan (Jr).

was made prohibiting him from being served. This notice was posted on the wall of each hotel in the town. Hogan wandered from hotel to hotel carrying a gun (which he said was not loaded), ripping the notice down and asking to be served with drink. After being at the Castle and being ejected by Frank Craig, he came into the York Hotel about 4 pm and demanded Herbert Monger to pull the notice down and he be served a drink. He kept hitting his gun on the floor. He was removed from the premises and went to the Railway Hotel where he was arrested for being disorderly, and the next day he was fined one shilling and 3 months' jail.<sup>98</sup>

The licence renewal in December 1888 was granted to Herbert Monger,<sup>99</sup> however it was soon after noted that Herbert had retired from the York Hotel "and a gentleman from the Colonies has taken over the business." Monger advertised for a cook in February 1889.<sup>100</sup>

To run the hotel, Joseph Monger found Askin Edward Bonney, an accountant, who had arrived in Western Australia on 23 September 1888.<sup>101 102 103</sup> On 2 March 1889,, Bonney applied for a publican's general licence<sup>104</sup>, which was granted.<sup>105</sup> His wife was named Fanny.<sup>106</sup>

The arrangement which Joseph Monger entered into with the Bonneys was as follows: Bonney was to be paid a wage of about 45 pence per day for the services of himself and his wife. Monger would pay for all expenses which were incurred by the Bonneys. All money from the bar trade was to be paid to Monger, and money from the hotel itself were to be paid to Bonney. However as the Bonneys began to incur expenses, Joseph Monger disputed them. The Chinese cook, Meng, sued Monger for wages owing of 3 pounds, but Monger said he only employed Meng for 2 weeks and that Bonney was liable for any additional work he did. Bonney spent money on forks, spoons, water bottles, locks etc but Monger refused to reimburse him for these expenses or pay him for this time. Bonney gave notice terminating his employment and Monger accepted this but did not pay him, claiming there were things missing from the hotel. At the end of the day, Monger was ordered to pay Bonney about 4 pounds.<sup>107</sup>

The Bonneys left of course and took up an opportunity to run the Rose Hotel in Bunbury. Bonney got to Bunbury ahead of his wife, immediately on entering his hotel room, he tried to turn on the light and in doing so, fell into a fit and suffocated himself. Mrs Bonney arrived on the next steamer to find her husband dead<sup>108 109</sup>.

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<sup>98</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 17 November 1888, p.5.

<sup>99</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 8 December 1888, p.7.

<sup>100</sup> West Australian, 5 February 1889, p.3.

<sup>101</sup> Rica Erickson, Dictionary of Western Australians, Askin Bonney.

<sup>102</sup> Daily News, 24 September 1888, p.3.

<sup>103</sup> Bonney advertised that he was a registered accountant: West Australian, 16 November 1888, p.2.

<sup>104</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 2 March 1889, p.4; 9 March 1889, p.2.

<sup>105</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 9 March 1889, p.2.

<sup>106</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 18 May 1889, p.7.

<sup>107</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 15 June 1889, p.4.

<sup>108</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 3 August 1889, p.5.

<sup>109</sup> Mrs Bonney continued the plan to run the Rose Hotel in Bunbury, then met and married John Henry Darley, a stockbroker who floated mining companies. In 1913, Fanny Darley sued the Alexandra Tea Rooms for negligence after a chair she sat in collapsed, she was bruised and incapacitated and unable to work for 10 days. She was awarded 10 pounds (The West Australian 20 September 1913, p.12). She and her husband both died in 1932.

All these events were described as a “hitch in the management of the York Hotel”, but the hotel was expected to open at the end of May, and it did, on 29 May.<sup>110</sup>

Joseph Monger “thoroughly renovated” the hotel and found a new “proprietor”, Edward Ingram.<sup>111</sup>  
<sup>112 113</sup> Ingram was a former station master at Clackline.<sup>114</sup> He was assisted by his wife Elizabeth.<sup>115</sup>

Behind the hotel on the river front must have been a good lawn area because a writer suggested that the back premises of the York Hotel were suitable for the annual public sports.<sup>116</sup>

Ingram was into a number of businesses, for example the York Hotel had a brick-yard run by Ingram & Whittam.<sup>117 118</sup>

On 27 August 1890, a guest named Patrick Gibbons set fire to the Ostler’s Room, an outhouse of the York hotel. Ingram heard him shouting: “I set fire to it and I’ll burn the whole place down!”. Gibbons was drunk and no-one knew why he was determined to burn the whole place down. The fire was quickly extinguished by a “Chinaman” called Teck, and Gibbons was arrested for drunkenness.<sup>119</sup>

In December 1893 the billiard room, being the building to the south, was added, the building work being carried out by Thorn Bower & Stewart.<sup>120</sup>

By 1899, the hotel was run by A Beard.<sup>121</sup>

**Rob Garton Smith**  
**February 2022**

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<sup>110</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 27 May 1889, p.4.

<sup>111</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 1 June 1889, p.9.

<sup>112</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 19 October 1889, p.3.

<sup>113</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 2 April 1892, p.8.

<sup>114</sup> Rica Erickson, Dictionary of Western Australians, Edward George Ingram.

<sup>115</sup> Daily News, 12 August 1892, p.1.

<sup>116</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 1 March 1890, p.5; 8 March 1890, p.7.

<sup>117</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 9 August 1890, p.6.

<sup>118</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 20 December 1890, p.1.

<sup>119</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 6 September 1890, p.6.

<sup>120</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 9 December 1893, p.5.

<sup>121</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 30 September 1899, p.2.