

~ MRS. KENNEDY'S STORY ~

Monica Sheeran was born in Ballarat, Victoria in 1892 to Theresa and Hugh Sheeran. The family moved to Melbourne, where she was educated and became a nursing sister, training at St. Vincent's Hospital. After completing her training, she was employed at St. Benedict's Hospital (now Cabrini), where she nursed Michael Frederick Kennedy, known as Fred, following an appendectomy. They later married in 1929.

Monica and Fred traveled soon after his recovery to Elkedra Cattle Station, via Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. Frederick was a co-leasee of Elkedra with his partner, William Riley.

Monica arrived to a landscape vastly different to what she had left behind in Melbourne. The iron-roofed homestead with an ant-bed floor and surrounding veranda was to be her home for the next eight years.

The aboriginal women who camped by the station assisted Monica with many home duties. Despite the hardships endured during these years, Monica maintained a high standard of cleanliness, including white linen tablecloths and silver tableware at meal times. With her nursing background Monica assisted with many births amongst the aboriginal women.

In the ensuing years, Monica and Fred were blessed with five children of their own:- Hugh, John, Teresa, Marcia and Margaret.

As the family grew to school age, Monica was instrumental in the supervision and execution of their schooling through correspondence.

It was upon Fred's untimely death in 1939, at 52 years of age, that Monica returned to Melbourne to raise her young family.

*Compiled by Hugh Kennedy, 'Eldest son of Fred and Monica Kennedy'.
Assisted by granddaughters:- Maree, Gail & Jennifer. September 2004*