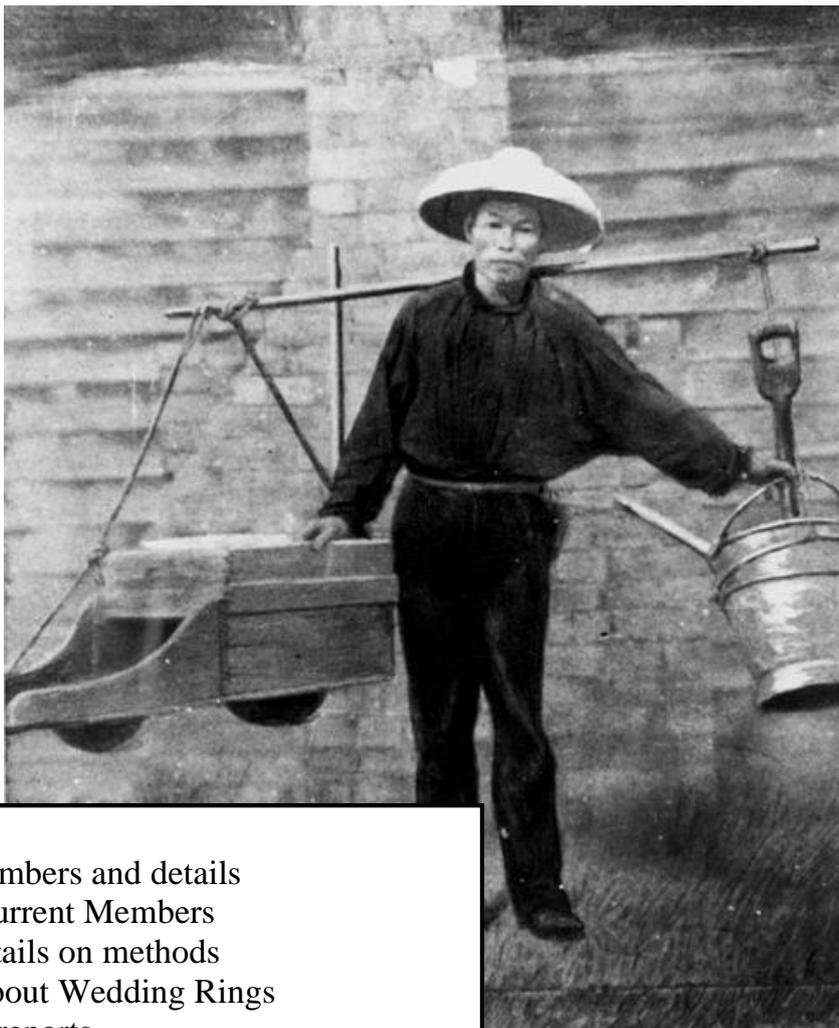


# The Gympie Researcher

*The newsletter of the  
Gympie Family History Society Inc.*

March 2015 No. 78

I.S.S.N 1035 - 3534



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<b>CORRESPONDENCE:</b>	All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary: to gfhs@spiderweb.com.au or P O Box 767 Gympie QLD 4570		
<b>MEMBERSHIP FEES:</b>	Annual fees are: All due by 31st August each year Single Membership \$35 Family Membership \$45 (Two members of an immediate family residing at the one address) PRO RATA till 31st August 2015:		
	Dec to Feb	Mar to May	Jun to Aug
Single Membership	\$30	\$20	\$10
Family Membership	\$40	\$30	\$20
<b>INFORMATION:</b>	Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Gympie Family History Society Inc.		
<b>WEB PAGE:</b>	www.gympiefhs.egympie.com		

**EDITORS COMMENTS**

As we have a busy year ahead I will endeavour to publish 4 Researcher Magazines, aimed for March, June, September and December to keep everyone up to date with what is happening and co-ordinating stories to do with these functions.

I hope everyone will endeavour to support our functions and any help will be appreciated, whether it is cooking a cake or socializing with visitors.

I am always looking for stories to publish so anyone who would like to write a story to do with Chinese, WW1, Traveston train Disaster, or the Early years of our Society (it is the 35th anniversary this year) please forward them on. 1 or 2 pages with photos please.

Our magazine can have stories of anyone but preferably who have some connection with our area. Our Crawls need stories of people buried in our local Cemetery so I'm sure there must be a lot of you out there with relatives who have interesting stories to be told. Put a name forward.. Lyn Fleming

**MEMBERSHIP:**

**We currently have 52 members—with many of them living in other states of Australia.**

**THE FLOOR — THE PLACE FOR STORING YOUR PRICELESS GENEALOGY RECORDS !!!!**

**Guest Speaker  
Sat 7th March 2015  
1.30pm at the GFHS rooms**

**Come and meet Chrissy Fletcher—the instigator of Adopt-a-Digger**

**The purpose of the Adopt a Digger Project is to commemorate that centenary by honouring the men and women from the (current) Sunshine Coast region of South-east Queensland who fought in World War One either with the Army, Navy or Air force**

**Tea & Coffee Supplied  
{ maybe even bickies too! }**



**RESEARCH FEES**

Members            Free (when visiting personally to the rooms and doing your own research although we are happy to help guide you or if you are from interstate and are not able to do your own research)

Non Members    \$5 per visit to rooms (at our discretion)

Mail & Internet Inquiries

**\$30.00 Australia**

**\$35.00 overseas**

**For Research Requests:**

email c/- [gfh@spiderweb.com.au](mailto:gfh@spiderweb.com.au) or mail to: GFHS, P O Box 767, Gympie QLD 4570

**The Research Process Explained:**

You make your enquiry, we then look to see what information we can find quickly—then we contact you to see if you wish to proceed and advise of the fees.

If you do, we ask for \$30 (or \$35 overseas—to cover extra postage). Once payment is received, we then investigate either your specific queries or start at the beginning and check cemetery records, BDM registers, local registers, school registers, pedigree charts, some shipping, local history books, Gympie Times records, previous cemetery crawl presentations, previous research requests, mining, electoral rolls and so the list goes on.

We hold a lot of various local registers and cuttings and basic items you would find in a local history library. We also have access to the internet and can often suggest websites and ways of searching that you may not have thought of.

We do many hours of ongoing research and then either email the information to you as we go, or mail packets to you so you have the hard copies. We then also keep the information we have researched for you on file and it is then available to future people who may be researching your names too. Many times we have put people in touch with other searchers of their own trees.

Our research people do so much more work than you would realise to help you in your search for information. Please feel confident that everything possible is done by our volunteers to supply you with any relevant information we may have in our library.

The funds raised from your payments for our research, assist us with obtaining further records and to produce books and CD's for easy access of family details in Gympie and the surrounds.

Payment can be by either cheque sent to our P O Box as above or direct deposit into our Bank account is another option for those who feel comfortable with the method. Details of our bank account are: BSB 633000 Account# 153 118 963 and is with Bendigo Bank. We ask that you confirm by email to [gfh@spiderweb.com.au](mailto:gfh@spiderweb.com.au). if possible when you have made the payment. Then we can allocate your payment and get on with the research!

**Our research officer is Faye Kennedy.**

**Research Requests that have come into the research officer...**

Cameron Selwood Re Thomas Edward Selwood and Gaius Frederick Brown, Headstone enquiry—no headstone.

Lester Hechter U.S.A. Re John Earl Hunter and Daphne Lorraine Pearl Masculin disappeared after 1968 from Kybong. Moved from Gympie not on 1972 Roll.

Lyn Wright, Allora F.H.S. Re Edgar Burnard Dunne and Harold Spink. Both born Gympie enlisted Allora District WW1.

Betty Keep, Tassie Re John Kehl married Matilda Adsett, she married John Barlow looking for both John's deaths.

John Ryan, N.S.W. Re John Ryan and Johanna Frawley's children, saddler in Gympie. John Ryan Jnr., Patrick Joseph Ryan, William Henry Ryan, and Robert Ryan all saddlers of Mary Street, Gympie. To visit later in month.

**THE GYMPIE TIMES 17TH JUNE 1896.****ABOUT WEDDING RINGS.**

English women did not always wear a plain gold circlet for a wedding ring. At one time the custom was for the ring to cost as much as the bridegroom could afford to pay. Rings of bone and hard wood have been used; an ivory wedding ring was recently found on the finger of an Egyptian Mummy—it is the shape of two clasped hands. An iron ring with the design of a hand closing over a heart, was discovered on the skeleton finger of a Roman lady dug up in Pompeii.

In France wedding-rings used to be made of more links of quaint design, and in Germany, at the same time, they were engraved with queer astrological characters. Roman Catholic people—particularly Italians—had a fashion of embedding in the ring a fragment of some relic, such as a morsel of the true cross. The Greek Church used two rings, one of gold and one of silver. In Spain, wedding rings made of the hoofs of asses are supposed to be possessed of peculiar virtue, and ensure their wearers against epilepsy. Fashion has determined not only the style of the wedding-ring, but the finger on which it shall be worn, and so capriciously has custom altered that every single finger, including the thumb, has been used in turn. Often in portraits of the time of Elizabeth, rings may be seen on the thumbs of married ladies.

In many parts of Great Britain it is still supposed that a marriage without a ring is not binding, and when the gold hoop has been lost or forgotten such substitute as the Church key, a curtain ring, even a ring cut out from the finger of the bride's glove have been used.

## 2015 CEMETERY CRAWLS

WED 4TH MARCH

*Chinese Plaque unveiling & crawl*

WED 27TH MAY

*Traveston Train disaster*

WED 22ND APRIL

*Anzac Diggers*



6.30 pm start

**\$7.50** per person incl light supper & the booklet

{ \$5 for GFHS Members }

**Phone : 0419 224 628 (Di)**

(bookings preferred for catering & printing purposes)

RAIN, HAIL or MOONSHINE—It is always on!

The supper is lovely and the stories are pretty good too!

*We now have a fruit & vegetable tray raffle as well, drawn on the night,  
so bring a few extra \$\$\$ with you*

- *Meet at the shed at the Two Mile Cemetery*
- *Wear suitable clothing as it can be a little cool in the evening*
- *Wear good walking shoes as the area may be wet—dependant on the weather*

*Bring a torch if you wish—but this is not necessary*

### CEMETERY CRAWL REPORT; DI WOODSTOCK.

2015 is off to a big start with the unveiling of our plaque honouring the contribution that the Chinese people have made to the Gympie area since 1868. This is before our Crawl on the 4th March and will take place at the Pagan section of the Gympie Cemetery at 5.30pm. Councillor Julie Walker will do the unveiling for us. At long last we have been able to put together a combination of the stories of some of the Chinese through the years and this will also be launched at the unveiling. All welcome. The March Crawl is incorporating the three Chinese families that have headstones in the cemetery; Ah Young, Ah Teen and Dann, some stories of some of the men buried in the Pagan area and also 3 other families, McAuliffe, Bradshaw and Granzin.

The next crawl will be on the 22nd April and will be honouring more Diggers from the First World war.

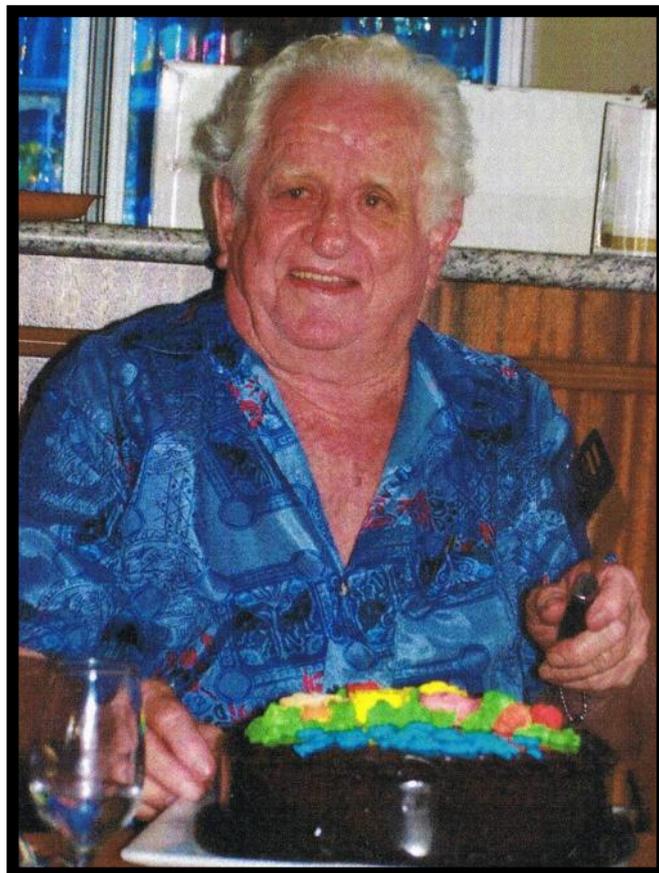
## VALE BRIEN HUGHES.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Life Member, Brien Hughes. Brien was a valued member of Gympie Family History Society. As a born and bred Gympieite, he was immensely proud, and very knowledgeable, of his family connections and place in Gympie history. The Hourigans, his mother's family, were among the pioneers of the Goomboorian area and he was connected to many Gympie families. Much of this is recorded in "The Shadow of the Shamrock" the book of the Irish in Gympie. His input into this was invaluable.

His local knowledge was immense and it was a joy to sit and listen to his stories. Growing up in Gympie, Brien always had an anecdote about so many aspects of Gympie life, his love of genealogy was only matched by his love of music. He loved to sing, and from 7 to 15 he sang at all St Patrick's concerts, including those held during WW2. Even at home he was expected to perform. At family occasions he was stood in a corner and told to "Sing Brien." In later life he enjoyed performing with local musical companies.

Brien is survived by his two daughters and their families and we express our deepest sympathy to them.

Marjorie Head.



**General Meetings are now held on the 1st Saturday of each month at the Gympie Family History Society rooms in Gympie at 2pm.**

**All members are more than welcome to attend and in fact are encouraged so you can participate as well.**

**Next meeting 28th February as we have a guest speaker on the 7th March**

**Saturdays are proving to be easier for members and we are getting good participation so come along and have a chat and a laugh—**

*The Morning Bulletin—Rockhampton 7th Jan 1878*

THE HEATHEN CHINEE.--

We (Gympie Times) have heard of an exceedingly ingenious way by which the Goldfields Act Amendment Act of this year has been evaded by a Chinaman. The Act, it will be remembered, raised the price of the miner's right for "Asiatic aliens" from ten shillings to three pounds per annum. There is one of these aliens on this gold-field whose miner's right will shortly expire, but who strongly objects to pay the increased fee. He sought legal advice and was informed that provided he had lived in the colony for three years, and was married, he was entitled to be naturalised as a British subject. This Heathen Chinee had resided in Queensland for the required time, but had remained in a state of single blessedness all the while. He left his legal adviser with a smile that was childlike and bland, but full of meaning. A few days after he called again to say that he had found a partner who had taken him for better or for worse, and that he was ready to be naturalised. The necessary oath was accordingly taken before a Justice of the Peace, and our Asiatic friend is now legally a British subject, and need only pay ten shillings a year for a miner's right, or four pounds for a business license. Our readers will probably agree with us that the race which produces a man who is willing to brave the perils and trials of matrimonial life for the sake of saving fifty shillings per annum, is not to be despised, but must be considered to have an inherent capacity for great things

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**CHINESE IN THE GYMPIE DISTRICT** By Ailsa Dawson.

**Chinese settlers were not allowed to bring women and children into the colonies, and my grandfather remembers that even when he was young, how barren and lonely their lives seemed to be — no children's or women's voices singing or laughing . Some indeed did marry Europeans.**

**Ah Young married an English woman, and had a large family. There are many of his descendants in Gympie and District today. Many of them have become excellent farmers, and have helped to open up the farmlands in the Mary Valley. I remember my grandfather saying that one of Ah Young's sons grew prize vegetables and fruit in the Imbil district, and at the Brisbane Exhibition these were featured in the District exhibit.**



### **ALEXANDER CHISHOLM. By Lyn Fleming**

Alexander Chisholm was born in Brisbane on the 8th December 1878, to William Chisholm, soldier and draper and Margaret nee Gibson, both Scottish migrants. He attended Brisbane Grammar School, worked in Melbourne and Sydney before joining his father's Drapery business in 1901. In 1903 he became a Company Director of Cullinane's Ltd., Gympie, managing the drapery department. In 1909 he married Alice Ruth Curtis at Bundaberg. In 1911 he was commissioned in the 13th Light Horse Regiment and served with this unit (renamed in 1912 1st Light Horse Regiment), until WW1 when he joined the A.I.F. as a Lieutenant. On the 20th August 1914, he was appointed to the 2nd Light Horse Regiment. He arrived in Egypt December 1914 and in May 1915 was sent to Gallipoli to fight as infantry, serving at Quinn's Post and Pope's Hill until the evacuation when he was appointed temporary staff Captain of the 1st Light Horse Brigade. He took part in operations in Upper Egypt and was made Brigade Major, and later confirmed as Captain. He fought in the battle of Romani, Katia and Bir-el-abd and promoted to Major, fighting in the desert column that defeated the Turks at Maghaba and Rafa. He also fought through the 1917 Palestine campaign, participating in the 2nd battle of Gaza. In January 1918 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, and in April of that year at Musalbeh he was severely wounded in the neck. On resuming duty he was made General Staff Officer of the Australian Mounted Division. He was mentioned in dispatches three times in the Sinai and Palestine campaigns.

After the war Alexander resumed business in Gympie, continued to serve in the A.M.F. and in 1921-1924 was Lieutenant Colonel commanding the 5th Light Horse Regiment. In 1923 he established a very successful drapery business in Rockhampton, opening another branch in Biloela. He was very active in local affairs, holding executive positions with the Rockhampton Agricultural Society, the Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme and other organizations. He was a branch Official of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia and after his death the Rockhampton headquarters were named after him. In 1939 he was appointed an O.B.E. Alexander died on the 17th August 1945 when his car went over an embankment at Slater's Creek, near Dululu. He is buried at North Rockhampton Cemetery.

A jacket and trousers worn by Alexander Chisholm is on show at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Description of Jacket: Light Horse Officer's Pattern 1903-1912 khaki wool mess jacket with white wool shawl or roll collar. The white wool shoulder straps are sewn down. The cuffs are white wool and pointed and there are no buttons on the jacket.. The shoulder straps bear silver bullion and coloured silk embroidered rank pips for Lieutenant. Each side of the collar bears silver badges for 13 Light Horse Regiment. The body of the jacket is lined with light brown polished cotton. A small welt pocket is set into the right inside lining. The sleeves are lined with cream cotton printed with fine lines and dots. There is a cream coloured cotton hanging loop attached to the collar. The silver metal collar badge depicts an emu surrounded by a wattle wreath, surmounted by a King's Crown. Around the emu are the words "AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE REG. X111QMI." The motto is a scroll under the emu is "FORWARD."



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

REL/00376.011



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

REL/00376.013

#### Description of Trousers:

Light horse Officers' Pattern 1903-1912 Khaki woolen mess trousers, with a 4 button fly and 2 white wool stripes, each 18mm wide, running down each side of the side seam. There is an inset pocket in each side seam. The pockets are lined with white heavy cotton drill. The waist and crotch is lined with unbleached linen and printed cream cotton, and there are 7 brown plastic buttons, stamped 'CULLINANES LTD., GYMPIE,' to take braces. A manufacturers label in the centre back waist bears the name "CULLINANES LTD. GYMPIE." Under this is hand written in black ink "A. Chisholm." There is a white hanging loop stitched above the maker's label. There are 2 pairs of white metal buttons stamped "EXCELSIOR" and "RING EDGE BEST." at the bottom of each leg seam to take an instep strap.

These uniforms were made between 1903 and 1912, and were dress uniforms worn on special occasions. The uniform worn overseas was entirely different. The jacket was wool serge, breeches bedford cord with laces below the knee held up by braces, fireman pattern, usually khaki or leather with small stretch strap at the back.. Leggings, wide leather waist belt with brass buckle, ammunition pouches and 9 pocket leather bandolier.

It would be interesting to know if any WW1 uniforms were made by Cullinanes, and, if the buttons stamped CULLINANES LTD. GYMPIE were specially made for WW1 uniforms or did they sell their own brand of buttons? If anyone has any information please let me know.

Sources: Australian Dictionary of Biography, Australian War Memorial, Ancestry

## GYMPIE BORN WW1 NURSES.



At the time of WW1 it was thought that a woman's place was in the home, the only way that the Government permitted women to participate in active service was through nursing.

On the 1st July 1903 the Australian Army Nursing Service was established, staffed entirely by part time volunteer civilian nurses. In September 1914 the first sisters to form the medical units, left Australia. They followed the Australian troops to all parts of the world, including Egypt, England, France, Belgium and Mesopotamia. They served in Hospitals, Hospital Ships and Hospitals constructed under tents without any floor covering. These are four Gympie born nurses.

**EDITH FLORENCE AVENELL:** Born 30th March 1890 at Gympie. She was the daughter of Richard Goodall Avenell and Matilda Jane Lee. Edith enlisted on the 26th April 1915 the day after our Anzac troops landed at Gallipoli, and embarked on the 15th May 1915, serving in France and England. She returned to Australia on the Euripides on the 18th September 1917. She married Dr. Harvey Sylvester Walsh, an army medical officer. Edith passed away on the 23rd October 1936 age 46 years. Her nickname was "Queenie" and her book is available in our library.

**ANNIE ISOBEL WARNER:** Born 6th November 1876 at Gympie. She was the daughter of John Reid Warner (Land Commissioner Gympie Region 1876) and Lucille Jeanette Symes. She enlisted on the 11th April 1916 aged 39 years and embarked 29th December 1916. She served in France and returned on the 31st May 1919. She did her training at Toowoomba.

**MARY ANN LOOSEMOORE;** Born 21st September 1888 at Gympie. One of 13 children of William Henry Loosemoore and Ann Duncan of Inglewood Hill. She worked as a nurse at the Gympie Hospital before going to Enoggera Clearing Hospital. She enlisted on the 10th May 1917 and sailed the same day. Mary Ann was sent to 74th General Hospital in France. She returned to Australia 20th March 1919. In 1921 she married Cecil Rankin Crowther.

**AMY EDITH WARNER;** Born in Gympie on the 25th October 1878. She was also the daughter of John Reid Warner and Lucille Jeanette Symes. She became an A.A.N.S., 1st M.D. on the 3rd September 1917. Amy enlisted on the 8th November 1917 and transferred to A.N.S. India. She embarked on the 16th January 1919 and was posted to King George War Hospital Poona. She returned to Australia 17th November 1919. On her return she was an Anglican Sister at St Margarets Albion, St Mary's Herberton and St Catherine's. Anyone with any other stories of Gympie nurses of WW1 let me know.

Sources: AWM, Ancestry, Adopt a Digger.

Lyn Fleming

**Presidents report: Meeting held 7th February 2015.**

Welcome to another New Year of our family research. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year break.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our long term member Mr. Brien Hughes following a long illness. Our sympathy goes out to the family.

Our 'Show and Tell' in November was well attended and enjoyed by all. We had a visitor from Woolooga, Mr. Ted Dray and daughter Fiona in attendance. He was a wealth of knowledge on the Woolooga district. We were sorry to hear of his passing a couple of weeks ago, our sympathy goes to his family on their sad loss.

It's business as usual here at our rooms, plenty of enquiries, some very interesting.

We have the Chinese dedication coming up on the 4th March, that should be good with early start 5.30 pm and the crawl after that.

Research is going well on WW1 and indexing is going very well with extra helpers doing it now. We can look forward to a productive year ahead.

Margaret Long (President)

**LIBRARY HOURS**

Wednesday 9.30am to 2pm  
 Friday 9.00am to 12pm  
 Saturday 1pm to 4pm

**It would be lovely to have as many members as possible attend our unveiling of a plaque to honour our early Chinese citizens at 5.30pm on the 4th March. There will be a booklet containing stories of the times spent on the goldfields and a cup of tea and a fortune cookie at the end.....**



**followed by the Cemetery Crawl incorporating the stories of the three Chinese families starting at 6.30pm which will be followed by a light supper. We usually finish about 8.30 when the raffle will be drawn and the crawl booklet handed out.**

### **UNCLE DUD. By Lyn Fleming**

Sometimes when searching for interesting stories, we need to look closer to home, this was my experience with my Uncle Dud. Dud was born in Glebe New South Wales to Joseph Jackson and Annie Blanch Payne, nee Price, on the 8th October 1895. To me he was a quiet, unpretentious man who was comfortable with his own company. In 1925 he was living at Ridgewood at a place we called 'Bagtown.' He grew bananas for awhile but could see the need for transport to take the local produce to Cooroy. He purchased a truck and became the local 'Cream Carrier'.

Local dances were held in his large shed before the Ridgewood Hall was erected and this is where he met his future wife, my Aunt Essie (known as Bub) Greber. Essie played the piano at local dances. They had one son Trevor Phillip known as Peter, {my family are big on nick names}.

As a child, I, along with my cousins, would spend school holidays at Bagtown just so we could ride on the cream truck with Dud. He would pull up at each cream box and pick up the cream cans destined for the butter factory along with orders for bread, groceries, even samples of material to match cotton to. He had a great interest in geology and would point out different rock formations to us as we drove along. I must admit sometimes it was a bit precarious coming around the West Cooroy Range.

One story he never told us was the story of his families Military Service in WW1, so whilst looking for the records of our Gympie boys I decided to study his service record. This is the WW1 story I uncovered.



Photo: Leonard Walter Jackson  
alias Richard Walter Mayhew.

Duds older brother, Harry Melville Jackson, enlisted in January 1915. He was wounded at Pozieres, France and taken prisoner by the Germans. Harry died of his wounds in a Prisoner of war Camp on the 15th August 1916.

His younger brother, Leonard Walter Jackson, was born on the 27th August 1901. He was much too young to join up so he ran away and enlisted at the age of 13 years 11 months and 10 days under the name of Richard Walter Mayhew, claiming to be an 18 year old orphan. On his enlistment papers he listed his next of kin as Annie B. Jackson, friend. (his mothers name) On his embarkation roll HMAT "Euripides" he gave his next of kin as Uncle J. Jackson. (his father). Leonard was 5ft 10 3/4 ins tall and weighed 140 lbs.

His father, Joseph Jackson, was a veteran of the Sudan Campaign of 1885. When he found out his youngest son was embarking for Egypt, he decided to enlist to keep an eye on him. There was no thought of let-

ting the authorities know his son was under age. Joseph was 52 years old, overage to enlist, so he gave his age as 44 years and 11 months. Leonard and Joseph served together in the 55th Infantry Battalion from early 1916

When the news of the death of Harry reached Joseph he decided to admit to the Military Authorities that he had been serving overage and his son was serving underage without his parents permission. This is part of a letter written by Dud , “When my father heard of my elder brothers death he decided in fairness to my mother to go back to Australia.” Joseph and Leonard were discharged and returned to Australia on board HMAS “Ulysses” March 1917. On the 4th March 1918 Richard Walter Mayhew again enlisted in the A.I.F, this time claiming his age as 21 years 3 months.

Dud joined the 20th Battalion on the 15th August 1915. During operations at Port St Quentin, Peronne, France he received the Military Medal :-

‘This man was conspicuous from the moment the attack commenced until the final objective was reached. His work with the Louis Gun was both effective and fast. He was the first machine gunner to reach the objective and on his own initiative mounted his gun on the left flank, swinging it into action with telling effort, at the same time protecting the flank, which at that time was very much opposed to the unit attacking on the left being held up.’

Dud suffered a gun shot wound to the left leg and cheek on the 5th September 1918. He returned to Australia on the 14th February 1919 and was discharged on the 30th August 1919.

Dud spoke of the war to my Grandfather and Father, but said he was just in the right spot at the right time and didn't do anything great to receive his medal, always humble. He had written 2 books containing a hand written memoir of his Military Service, 2 type script volumes entitled ‘War Diary of D. Jackson’ each liberally illustrated with post cards and photographs, all donated to the Australian War Memorial.

In their later years Bub and Dud retired to Nambour. In the 1960's he was one of the first recipients of a pace maker, in his usual way he studied every piece of information he could find on this new technology, when visiting he would explain all he had read to any one who showed an interest. Dud passed away at Nambour on the 16th July 1970. We remember him with pride.



Leonard Walter Jackson was injured during his second enlistment In 1936 he married Angela Cronin and they had three daughters. He passed away at the age of 44 years, his death notice states he passed away in the St George District Hospital and was a member of the Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers' Association. He is thought to be the youngest Australian to enlist and serve in WW1.

Joseph passed away 27th July 1931. We believe he may have been the oldest Australian to enlist in WW1. Sources: Australian War Memorial, Ancestry, Tab Greber

## **GYMPIE'S CHINATOWN: A SKETCH BY DR. EILEEN BROWN.**

It is difficult to know how many Chinese came to Gympie with the gold rush, but the 1871 census recorded 250 Chinese in the district. When Governor Blackall visited the goldfields in August in 1869, the procession that greeted him included forty Chinese, who carried a banner displaying Chinese characters that identified them as 'Canton Chinamen.' A similar procession for Governor Normanby's visit in May 1873 included 50 Chinese and a band comprising a gong, a pair of cymbals and a hide drum. Their banner bore the word 'Welcome' in English and Chinese.

Thirty Chinese, carrying flags and preceded by gong, cymbals, drum and a man who let off fire crackers all along the route, greeted Governor Kennedy in 1878. In 1879, the Gympie Miner reported the elaborate funeral of head-man, Lin Too, which was attended by the fifty Chinese then remaining in Gympie. "The procession passed through the town between 5 and 6 o'clock. Small bits of perforated tissue paper were scattered along the route every few yards. On arriving at the Cemetery the conductor of the ceremony gave three distinct raps on the coffin lid, lit a candle and some small bundles of scented wood. Some paper was also burnt at the grave and a bottle of spirits poured out and ignited. Other seemingly important forms having been gone through, the coffin was lowered into the grave. "A large concourse was assembled at the cemetery to watch the Pagan ceremonial, which was conducted with much gravity and decorum throughout. The occupant of the coffin is still considered by the Buddhist creed to have some material wants after leaving this vale of tears, and to provide for his journey to 'that undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns,' a pretty complete outfit was supplied.' Besides being arrayed in a new suit of the best cloth, three complete new suits were placed in the coffin. Creature comforts, which the disembodied spirit used to solace itself with when sojourning in the flesh, were also provided.

Lin Too's grave was one of six graves that were disturbed in 1926 when the Chinese section of the Tozer Park cemetery was required by the railway department. The late Jack Pearce told me that when one of the coffins was opened, the body was upright and the clothing appeared intact. Then everything crumbled to dust before his eyes.

It seems that, after the frenzy of alluvial mining, most of the Chinese moved to other gold fields, leaving a number to fossick the old ground and the rest to earn a living as shop keepers or market gardeners. In their short tunics, trousers, pointed shoes, long pigtails and wooden or straw hats, they were a familiar sight, as they moved from house to house, selling their wares from baskets made from lawyer cane and slung from bamboo poles across their shoulders.

Although not fully accepted in the community, most Chinese were law-abiding and respected. Tensions arose when they were tormented by youths, who thought it smart to steal their gold, throw stones, or thief fruit from their baskets, barrows or gardens.

As well as their gardens on River Road, which suffered great losses when the river flooded, the Chinese acquired land and produced food in many other parts of the district, such as the Two Mile, Eel and Pie Creeks, Monkland, East Deep Creek and Cootharaba Road near Gympie High School.

A few married and founded families, but most had no opportunity to marry and death claimed them, one by one. Ah Yet one of the last of the gold rush Chinese, died in the Gympie hospital in 1929 at the age of 92.

## **THIS IS THE STORY OF THE GIBBETED JOBLING IN 1832.** **WILLIAM JOBLING - MARTYR OR MURDERER ?**

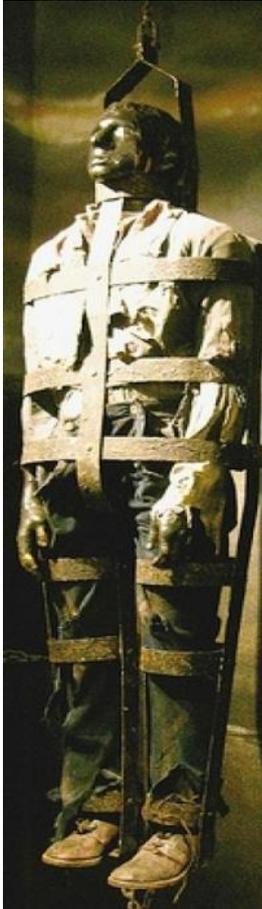


South Tyneside council has decided to Commemorate the Gibbeting of William Jobling. The grave of Thomas Hepburn founder of the Northern union of Pitmen, can be found in Saint Mary's churchyard at Heyworth, Gateshead. His gravestone reads: "This stone was erected by the miners of Northumberland and Durham and other friends." It's the phrase 'other friends' that gives the inscription it's power. Conditions in collieries in 19th century North East England were hard, and colliery records reveal a frightening death toll. Jarrows Pit was no exception.

On January 25th 1817, 42 men and boys were killed there, and in a near duplication of events in August 1830, a further 42 lost their lives, leaving on that occasion, 21 widows and 66 fatherless children. It's in this context that the story of William Jobling must be seen. Mine workers had to sign a annual contract known as a bond, which meant they had to stay at a particular colliery for a year and a day. As most men of that time were illiterate, they would just write an 'X' on the bond, and the viewer or manager of the colliery would add their name for them. Since the beginning of the 19th century, miners had voiced dissatisfaction about the conditions of their bonds and eventually they went on strike in 1810, no permanent union organization existed, however, until the establishment of the Northern Union of Pitmen of Tyne and Wear, led by Thomas Hepburn in 1831.

Hepburn was a Wesleyan, as were many pitmen. He was also a Lay Preacher and could read and write, courtesy of classes organized by Methodist Chapels. In April 1831 he led the pitmen in another strike. He wanted boys to work no more than 12 hours a day, rather than the 16 hours they had been putting in. He also sought the abolition of so-called tommy shops. These were company stores charging inflated prices at which pitmen, paid in tommy checks, were forced to spend their wages. Battles ensued between pitmen and the militia, though Hepburn pleaded with his members to shun violence. Meetings were held at Black Fell, Bolden colliery and Friars Goose, Gateshead. The strike lasted until September 1831. Some concessions were gained, Hepburn was made a full time official, but there was still bitter opposition to the unions. In April 1832, there was another strike among the pitmen of Northumberland and Durham and they refused to sign their annual bonds. Once again, there was violence.

On June 11, 1832, Jarrow pitmen Ralph Armstrong and William Jobling were drinking in a pub in South Shields. On the road by the toll-bar gate, near Jarrow Slake, Jobling begged from Nicholas Fairles, a 71 year old Magistrate. Fairles refused to hand over any money, prompting Armstrong, who had followed Jobling, to attack him with a stick and a stone. Both men then ran away, leaving Fairles seriously injured. Two hours later, Jobling was arrested on South Shields Beach. Armstrong, an ex-seaman, apparently returned to sea. After his arrest Jobling was taken to Fairles's home, and it was established that he had been present but not taken part in the assault. Jobling was returned to Durham Jail, and after Fairles died of his injuries on June 21st, he was charged with murder. Jobling was tried at Durham Assizes on Wednesday, August 1. The jury took just 15 minutes to reach a guilty verdict. The sentence was that Jobling be hanged from a gibbet erected in Jarrow Slake,



near the scene of the attack. The Judge in the case said : “I trust that the site of that will have some effect upon those who, are to a certain extent, your companions in guilt and your companions in these illegal proceedings which have disgraced the country. May they take warning by your fate.” Jobling was the last man to be gibbeted in the north East.

He hanged on August 3rd. Hepburn asked his men not to attend the execution. After Jobling was taken from the scaffold, his clothes were removed and his body covered in pitch. He was then riveted into a cage made of flat iron bars. His feet were placed in stirrups, from which bars of iron went up each side of his head, ending in a ring, from which the cage was suspended. Jobling's hands hung by his side, and his head was covered with a white cloth obscuring his face. In a horse drawn wagon on Monday August 6th, his body was taken to Jarrow Slake, escorted by a troop of hussars and two companies of infantry. The gibbet was fixed upon a stone sunk into the slake, and the heavy wooden uprights were reinforced with steel bars to prevent them being sawn through. At high tide, the water covered up to 5 feet of the gibbet, leaving a further 16ft to 17 ft visible. Isabell Jobling, the hanged man's widow, had a cottage near the slake, so she would have been able to see her husband clearly for the three weeks he was left on display. On August 31st, after the guard on the corpse was removed, Jobling's friends stole his body. It's whereabouts are still unknown. By September 1832, the strike had petered out and the union was almost non-existent, though it did revive some years later. After the demise of the union, Hepburn tried selling

tea door to door, but for those buying from him risked losing their jobs. Eventually, Hepburn went to Felling Colliery and asked for work. He was offered employment provided he had no further dealings with unions. He agreed and devoted the rest of his life to educating pitmen. In 1891 Isabella Jobling went into South Shield's Work House and died there, too senile to recall her husband. Much of Jarrow's slake has been reclaimed. The town's colliery closed in 1852 and now there is no indication of where it stood.

**WHAT EFFECT DID JOBLING'S HANGING HAVE?** His death and gibbeting have stuck in folk memory.

**WHAT IMPRESSION DID HIS CAGE SWINGING ON JARROW SLAKE MAKE?**

It is a powerful image of the ruthless strength of those in authority.

**WERE THE PITMEN BOWED BY ITS POWER?** I suggest they were?

Jobling was no murderer, at worst he was accessory to murder and he could be considered callous for leaving Fairles to suffer.

**DID HE DESERVE TO BE TREATED THE WAY HE WAS?** Perhaps the revolution in France was too fresh in the mind, and it was felt the working class should be treated harshly at any sign of insurrection.

**WAS HE A MARTYR?** Here was a poor, illiterate man. We can now recognize that his fate made him a symbol, a battering ram to butt the pitmen of 1832 back to work, and it had the desired effect.

“William Jobling, Jarrow pitman, may you now, at long last, Rest in Peace.”

Our treasurer Kerry Ann Langford has a relative William Jobling buried in 1907 in the Gympie Cemetery. Is he a relative of this William Jobling? Shields Gazette, Di Woodstock

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