

The Gympie Researcher

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

September 2015

No. 80

I.S.S.N 1035 - 3534



CONTENTS:

2. GFHS Committee Members and details
- 3: Editors Comments, Presidents Report
- 4: Research Fees and details on methods
5. Cemetery Crawls
6. Research requests
7. Merlyn Burkhardt
8. Library Hours, Meeting dates AGM information
- 9 Router Family
- 10 Router Family
11. 200th Anniversary of Battle of Waterloo.
12. 35th Anniversary Fathers Day
- 13 Remembering our Wide Bay Anzacs
- 14 Bus Trip
- 15, 16, 17, 18 Tab's story
- 19 Publications for sale

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MEMBERSHIP FEES:	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
INFORMATION:	Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Gympie Family History Society Inc.		
WEB PAGE:	www.gympiefhs.egympie.com		

EDITORS COMMENTS

On Saturday 15th August we had a luncheon at the Railway Hotel to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of our organization. It was a wonderful day and many thanks to Marjorie Head and Val Buchanan for the work they put in to making our anniversary a memorable one. We have 3 interesting projects coming up in the next few months, our Kilkivan Bus Trip, WW1 Project at the Gympie R.S.L. and WW1 Cemetery Crawl on Remembrance Day. A lot of effort is being put into these projects so I hope you will support us.

Lyn Fleming

MEMBERSHIP: We currently have 63 members

PRESIDENTS REPORT; Meeting of August 1st 2015

Hello Members,

Everyone is back from their various trips, and we enjoy the photos and stories. It is good to have Val Buchanan back after her sojourn in hospital. She will be taking things slowly for awhile but Keith will see to that.

Preparations are in place for our 35th Birthday get together, hopefully some former members can join us along with our current members.

A reminder, the A.G.M. will be held on Saturday 5th September and the 'Crawl on Tour' 20th September travelling to Woolooga, Boonara & Kilkivan areas. Lyn & Di are doing a lot of digging for information on graves so it should be a very good day once again. Remember membership payments are due by 31st August.

Val Thomas and Joyce Stephens are busy indexing. Faye has not had many requests for research but she has used her talents to indexing Cemetery records. Good work Faye.

The old large maps are gradually being put into their sleeves—thank you Dianne and Kerry-Ann who between them do various things thank goodness.

We have had a number of old books relating to Qld. And N.S.W. donated by Pat Sellen—thank you Pat for those.

We had vandals smash the window in the kitchen recently. That will have to be replaced at some time. I was away when the damage was discovered so thank you to those who had to clean up the mess, and to Keith B who did a temporary fix of the window.

Marjorie is out finding out what we have done in the last 10 years (since our 25th Celebration) It keeps her out of mischief.

Keep in mind November for our WW1 books and presentation.

That's all for now. Margaret.

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 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# 153118963 and is with Bendigo Bank. We ask that you confirm by email to 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.



Cemetery Crawl on Tour #3:

The next bus trip is on the 20th September. We are going to Kilkivan, Woolooga and Boonara and a trip to the Chimney Smelter as well. The bus is booked and we have room for 38 people. Lyn is compiling a story from the amazing volume of information available on the families of the area and it seems that many of the families are interconnected which makes for interesting stories. We have been able to gain access to a few of the properties as many of them have burials. This is going to be an amazing trip and people who join us will be talking about it for ages afterwards.

The cost is \$40 per person and picnic lunch is an optional \$17.

The really exciting news is that we have access to the original Boonara Homestead which was built in 1864. We are having a scrummy Devonshire tea and a look through the house with an informative tour guide in Robert—the guardian of this amazing part of Queensland's history.

The Flemings and the Woodstocks have done two day trips to confirm the route we will take to ensure access for the bus. Photos of the cemetery at Rossmore were also taken so they are our property for future use. We already have quite a few “bums on seats” booked with Del Reid already paying her money!!! She is keen as this is her neck of the woods.

The next normal crawl is 11th November to commemorate Remembrance Day The cost for this crawl will be \$7.50 non-members and \$5 for members.

We already have many of the people selected for inclusion from when we did previous crawls—due to the locations of “interesting” people who were outside the chosen areas for the April Crawl. A letter has been sent to the 5th Light Horse asking them to join us and they have accepted.



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

Paulina Hewitt, re- Heinrich August Theodore **HELLER** (aka William) and Wilhelmina **SCHILLER**. Couldn't help her as the information we hold is the same as she already had.

Joseph Barry, re- William **BARRY** and Catherine **KING**. (Miner and Builder) Limerick, Ireland. Looking for relatives to connect with. Has approved his email to be shared in our newsletter. joebarry1961@gmail.com

Jessie Dale, re- daughter of James **DALE** and Jane **BROWN**. W.A. She is looking for a school record for her grandmother.

Faye Kennedy Research Officer

MAN'S DESCENT

By Jean Crook 1985.

Three monkeys sat on a coconut tree
 Discussing things as they're said to be .
 Said one to the others, "Now listen will you,
 There's a certain rumor that can't be true,
 That man descended from our noble race.
 The very idea is a shocking disgrace!
 No monkey ever deserted his wife,
 Starved her babies, ruined her life.
 And you never knew a mother monk
 Leave her kids with others to bunk,
 Or pass them on from one to another
 Till they scarcely knew who was their mother.
 There's another thing a monk won't do—
 Go out at night and get in a stew,
 Or use a gun, a club or a knife
 To take some other monkey's life.
 That man descended we make no fuss,
 But, brother, he didn't descend from us.

HOW STRANGE IS THAT:

Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated on the 28th June 1914, an event which led to the beginning of WW1. Strangely, the Archduke's number plate read: A 111 118, a series that can be read as Armistice 11 November 1918.



Recently I received an email from Merlyn Burkhardt via her daughter Lynne Moskwa, for which I am very grateful. Merlyn is one of our original members and as we have just celebrated our 35th Anniversary it is fitting to hear her memories of our beginnings. A lovely luncheon was held at the Railway Hotel Gympie on the 15th August, and a great time was held by all.

I thank my husband, Val, for my joining the Family History, formerly known as GSQ and GARS.

It was he who saw the item in the Gympie Times in June 1980 that GSQ was convening a meeting to ascertain if there was enough interest to form a Branch. He knew I was trying to research my ancestors, but at that stage I had only got as far as my Grandparents.

So I attended the inaugural meeting in the hall on Apollonian Vale and found myself elected as Librarian, a position I held for many years until I suggested that Jan Wegert, with her knowledge of computers, would be more suited to the position.

At the inaugural meeting I was given a few directories....a start to our non-existent Library. Of course, as soon as I got home I had to read them and to my surprise there was an entry where someone was researching my Grandfather's twin brother. As it was about midnight I felt it unwise to phone her, but certainly wasted no time next day.

Our branch of GSQ made use of a room at the Central School for meetings, and the library in Nash Street stored our few books until Val and I volunteered the space under our house. At that time I believe the Society was given \$5 for its bank account. Needless to say, we had to progress slowly with buying books. Many times I bought some books and the Society paid me when able. Jim Buchanan was also a great help.

The Branch accepted gratefully, the donations of microfiche readers which were offered when the Banks were upgrading their equipment. The Society quoted hours for the Library meetings, but often I would answer a call "Can you please look up on the microfiche.....?". This was no hassle for I enjoyed helping others with their research.

Members enjoyed visits to the John Oxley Library, but I realize how inadequate their records were compared with what is available now. Members certainly did it the hard way.

The next move was to the Railway Station rooms in 1995. At that time the Committee secretly decided to give me Life Membership, which was performed by the Mayor at the Council building. It was certainly a shock to the system. Now I can say I am the only Foundation member to have continuous membership for 35 years.

These are some of the things I remember. I'm sure other will be able to fill in the blanks. Best wishes.

Merlyn Burkhardt Life member G.F.H.S.

AGM 5th September 1.30pm

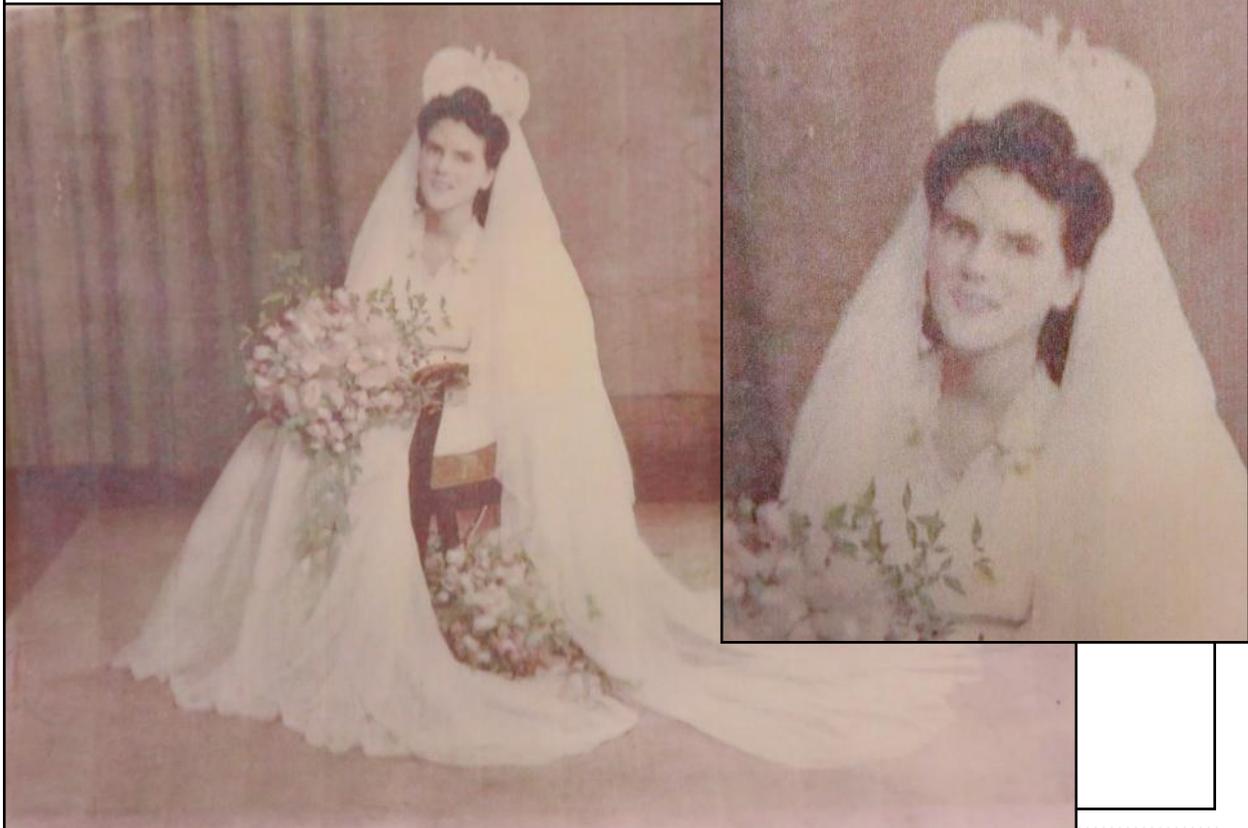
GENERAL MEETINGS ARE NOW HELD ON THE 1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE G.F.H.S. ROOMS, GYMPIE AT 2 PM. ALL MEMBERS ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO ATTEND AND IN FACT ARE ENCOURAGED SO YOU CAN PARTICIPATE AS WELL.

PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO SUPPORT OUR OUTGOING AND INCOMING MEMBERS.

WHO AM I ? From Olive Hearn

My photo and frame was bought at the market at the "Gympie Duck Ponds". I remained in the frame and travelled as far north as Cairns and hung on a strangers wall. The gentleman who bought me would like to return my photo to my relatives for he thinks I must be someone's mother or grandmother and my photo is too nice to destroy.

Can anyone help identify this lovely bride? The back of the photo says Panel Murray Gympie.



LIBRARY HOURS

Wednesday 9.30am to 2pm

Friday 9.30am to 12pm

Saturday 1pm to 4pm



Gympie Family History Society Inc ^{Page 9}
P O Box 767,
Gympie QLD 4570
Ph: 07 5482 8211

Membership Renewal Form

Membership #:

Name/s:

Address:
.....

Email:
(Please print email address clearly)

(are you happy to receive newsletters by email?) Yes / No

Phone: (h).....(m).....

Fees: **\$35** for a single person
 \$45 for two persons at the same mailing address

Bank Account: Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 Acc 153118963 {please put your name as reference}

I/We hereby apply for membership renewal of the Gympie Family History Society to **31st August 2016** and agree to be bound by the rules of the Society.

Signature/s _____

Office use only: Card: Receipt No. Computer M/Ship Folder filed

Amount Paid \$ Method of Payment Date Paid

The Gympie Researcher



ROUTER FAMILY

For a few years now, on and off, I've been researching my maternal Grandfather's family. Generally this is only when I get some time and or when I find a lead or information.

While the Router family has lived in Gympie for quite some time now, evidently not long after Gympie was discovered, not much is really known, except that everyone seemed to know my Grandfather (Matt Router). Possibly because my Grandfather was the last child in his family, and his father was second last, not much was really spoken about their family history. Of course it's now, a few generations on, that I have questions. When did Stephen and Angelina Router arrive in Australia? Did they arrive as husband and wife? What did they do? Who relates to who? While there isn't much information which has flowed through the family, simply because it wasn't discussed, I have found the Routers were miners and also on the committee who started the Monkland School with a brilliant family photo in the Monkland School 75th Anniversary Souvenir booklet. They had a large family, but the only photo I can locate shows Stephen and Angelina as elderly and no date. All my other Great or Great Great Grandparents can be traced on the Queensland State Library's passenger index list, but no trace of Routers or Follards (Angelina's maiden name).

I had been able to track Stephen Router to the 1851 census in Devon England, but then nothing in the 1861 census. Angelina shows up in the 1861 census as living at home with

her parents aged 18. But where was Stephen? I had also been able to list all of their children, including birth dates, with their first child being born in 1865 or 1866. Only their third child is shown on the Birth, Deaths & Marriages website followed by all other children. I was presuming (which isn't good) that they must have been married between 1861 and 1865 with their first two children born in England, coming to Australia by 1871 (birth of their third child).

Oh so wrong. I had tried many searches on Ancestry, but really hadn't gone far. Nothing would show for Router coming to Australia. I also spent an afternoon searching various UK websites for births and marriages, to no avail. Not to be beaten, and I have no idea how I found it, I did find an entry for an S. Router serving in the Royal Navy in the China War and was at sea for the 1861 census, also saying he had been awarded a medal of Service. I had tried some searches on Trove but as you would appreciate the search of "Router" brings up lots of things not relating to Family History, so I would give up. Armed with all this information I asked Di Woodstock for some help/suggestions on where I should be looking.

With some tinkering on her laptop she found an entry on Ancestry for an S. 'Houter' who arrived in Australia in 1864 on a sailing ship called the "*Young Australia*". The age and country of origin matched but was this my Ancestor? With some further tinkering, Di found an article on Trove which was a Personal Notice talking about the death of Mrs. Angelina Router.

It mentioned she arrived in Australia in 1864 on the sailing ship "*Young Australia*". Oh my goodness what a find. How she found this I have no idea, but I was so thankful and beside myself with excitement. I then spent quite some hours and turned into a pumpkin that night trying to find the passenger list for this vessel. No google search would uncover this passenger list. I tried looking through all possible spellings using the Qld. State Library passenger list index, but still nothing. There were other passenger lists for this vessel, but not this particular year. The following day, I decided to order on line through the BDM website Stephen and Angelina's death certificates to see what was listed as their marriage date and location. My Great Grandfather's birth certificate has listed Devon England in September 1864. Both death certificates had different marriage locations. On Stephen's death certificate (who died first) it had Ipswich Queensland, but Angelina had Devon England. I then went and ordered the death certificates for their first two children and their births were in Laidley and Gympie. This information matched the Trove newspaper article. I ended up sending an inquiry to the Qld. State Archives asking if they had a copy of the passenger list for this vessel and year as this was the source of the Ancestry find. Maybe they had a hard copy which hadn't been digitalised yet. They replied to my inquiry asking for full information and searched all their documents but couldn't find a passenger list, but did send me a crew list. This had the entry of S. Houter, which does clearly look like a H but could this be my man just with some pronunciation issues? A few emails back and forward with another query as I'd found another reference material item on the National Archives website after searching Inward Passenger Lists for the year 1864, but I wasn't sure if it had already been searched. As they don't hold these records it was suggested to contact the National Archives. So off I went with another inquiry but this time to the National Archives with the series number, box number and item barcode. I received the following reply from the Qld. State office:

Hello Kerry-Ann

We do have a passenger list for the 'Young Australia' for May 1864.

This list is very old and damaged.

The first page had to be copied in two sections and I don't know why they have 'arrived in August 1864 on this page'.

I will send you a copy if you let me know your mailing address.

As you would imagine I responded with my postal address with such excitement, but also not sure whether this was going to show my ancestors. Within 2 business days a copy of the passenger list in A3 size completely copied with original writing was in my letterbox.

On the front page just below where the photocopied damage was showing, there was Angelina Folland, a single woman listed as travelling on the sailing ship. Not married, no children, no other family and occupation listed as servant. Such exciting news, but also now more questions. Did they meet on the ship? Or given they came from the same area, did they know each other beforehand? Did she run away because he was sailing to Australia?

Was there a story told in the family that they were married in England hence the different information on the death certificates, one completed by Angelina when her husband passed away and hers completed by the children? Why would a story be told? Why did she come to Australia alone? Why is the ships arrival date amended to August? Why are there two different sets of shipping company paperwork for the one voyage? Such a beautiful document, which isn't digitised, that holds a lot of information for me, but continues to raise questions.

Also the helpful people at the Qld. Archives and National Archives Qld. State Office, so willing to help me find my ancestors and offering copies of documents. All this started with the tinkering fingers of Di Woodstock on her laptop, with the knowledge of the right places to look..

Kerry-Ann Langford GFHS –Treasurer

Di Woodstock responds:

How exciting to assist someone in their search for their ancestors...and to actually witness the glee and frustration that Kerry-Ann went through after we found this one little obituary. It made me part of her search too.

One of our other members, Tiffany, is also researching her family tree. She has Gympie relatives and is so very fortunate in that she comes from very well documented families here and so her welcome to the wonderful world of research started off fairly easy.

Now we are working together on the other side of her tree on a fortnightly basis and I am so privileged to be a part of her search. She will write up a story as she progresses but we have proven that family tales often carry a segment of truth—so never dismiss them. We have also found the correct person from the comment " My aunt knew him as Snowy Night and he may have been in the war—yep—we found Snowy—but that story is Tiffany's to share.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

Val Thomas (nee Rodwell) Librarian GFHS

18th June 1815—This is the date when my Great Great Grandfather—Thomas Rodwell—was wounded in the Battle of Waterloo. The following is a brief resume of his life.

He was born c 1794 in Bolton-on-Deerne in Yorkshire England. He joined the 33rd Regiment of Foot, the Duke of Wellington's Own on the 16th December 1812. He was described as a labourer, 5 ft 4 ins tall, brown hair, grey eyes, fresh complexion. He served in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 and was wounded in the left shoulder that lead to him being discharged on 6th June 1816. At the time of the battle, the regiment numbered 561 Officers and men. During the four day battle, which resulted in the final defeat of the French under Napoleon, the regiment's casualties were five Officers killed and several wounded, 49 other ranks killed and 162 wounded.

On the 27th August he received a disability pension of 6 pence per day as a Chelsea Pensioner at the age of 24 years.

Thomas later re-enlisted on the 25th October 1819 at York in the 4th Royal Veteran Battalion where he performed garrison duties in both England and Scotland. Whilst at the Barracks in Berwick upon Tweed he married Agnes Kirton on 15th March 1820. He was discharged in June 1821 at Ayr, Scotland.

Thomas again re-enlisted on the 25th September 1825 in a newly formed unit, the New South Wales Royal Veteran Corp. He then embarked from Gravesend England in May 1826 on board the ship "*Orpheus*" arriving Sydney September 1826. The Corp's duties were to do garrison duties and guard convict gangs.

During this time the Corp was described as being "highly insubordinate and the most drunken, disorderly worthless set of fellows that ever existed." In 1829/30, they began to discharge the members of the Corp and Thomas took his discharge in March 1830.

Eventually he became a Constable with the Australian Agricultural Co at Gloucester/Stroud, then spent time at both Paterson, Clarence town and finally was Pound keeper at Gresford.

Thomas died from rheumatism on 31st December 1861 and was buried in the St Annes Church of England Cemetery, Gresford, together with his wife Agnes.

This is a photo of the Waterloo Medal.

REL/006363 –Private T Rodwell,

33rd Regiment of Foot.



This was the first general medal to be issued by the British Government to all Officers and men that took part in a battle. This campaign medal was also the first to be awarded to the Next of kin of men killed in action and was the first medal on which the name of the recipient was impressed round the edge by the machine.

Maker—Wyon, Thomas Date—c1816

Physical description—Silver

The winged figure of Victory seated on a pedestal and holding a palm branch in her right hand and an olive branch in her left.



OUR 35TH ANNIVERSARY.

Thanks to Marjorie Head and Val Buchanan who organised the celebrations.

A few words on our future. The last ten years have seen many changes, ones that we could not have foreseen. In the rapidly changing world of technology it is difficult to imagine what the next ten will bring. The solid foundation built over the last 35 years by the hard work of many dedicated members will allow the Gympie Family History Society to meet the next ten years head on and deal with any changes that it may bring.

FOR FATHERS DAY:

DUTIFUL DAUGHTER Maryborough Chronicle 05/11/1904

She opened the door to her fathers den, but hesitated on the threshold. "Well" he growled inquiringly. "What's the trouble?" She entered and stood before him with downcast eyes, "I have a confession to make" she said slowly.

"Fire away!" he said "I guess it's nothing serious."

"Oh, but it is" she protested, "Very serious indeed. You know George?"

"Well what about George!"

"He has been coming to see me for quite a long time," she continued paying no attention to the interruption, "and last night—well—last night he proposed that we—we should run away and—and be married."

The old man frowned, and what did you say? "

"I refused!" she replied promptly and proudly. "I refused absolutely, and told him he must ask you for my hand." The old man still frowned

"That's all pretty and creditable" said he "but far from business like. It seems to me you might have given your poor old father the best of it just once and saved him the cost of a wedding, just at present business in the stockmarket is at a standstill. "

"If he brings the subject up again, just have your hat ready so that you can make a quick trip to the Parson and let the old man down easy.

Remembering our Wide Bay ANZAC's



Gympie Family History Society Inc. Presents

The Boys in the Band that went to War

The story of the 9th Battalion Band

Family stories, news items, photos and military records compiled into a commemorative collection.

Wednesday 15th October 2015

Lunch session 12pm

OR

Dinner session 6.30pm

Orchid Room
Gympie RSL, Mary St

Cost \$40 per person
Includes two course meal, presentation and booklet.

Tickets available by contacting Di Woodstock 0419 224 628



With thanks to the Department of Veteran Affairs Grant

And the Gympie RSL for their support in us hosting this event

Further information available at www.gympiefhs.egympie.com.au

Cemetery Crawl on Tour #3



Hosted by the Gympie Family History Society

Kilkivan, Boonara & Surrounds

A day of fun, meeting new people and learning the stories of our local families and area

When: Sunday 20th September 2015

Time: 8:45am, back around 4:00pm

Cost: \$40 per person

Includes: Morning Tea, Bus Travel and Book of the days stories

Optional \$17 for a picnic lunch from Picnicin

Need to bring: Drinking water, chair and good walking shoes

Also we will have some raffles on the day—so bring a few spare \$\$

Limited numbers, so book **EARLY**

Contact: Di Woodstock 0419 224 628



Bookings **MUST** be paid for prior to the day, including the optional lunch

LATE NEWS: We will be having an exclusive tour of the original Boonara Homestead and Devonshire tea there. The homestead has many original 1864 features.

70TH ANNIVERSARY of WW2

ALBERT (TAB) GREBER

Albert was born on the 5th March 1917 at Tewantin, the only son of 5 children born to James Phillip (Jim) Greber and Lillian {nee Fritz}, dairy farmers of Happy Jack Creek, West Cooroy. His sister named him Tab, a name that has stuck with him all his life. On the 22nd February 1938 he married Grace Isobelle White, the daughter of a neighbouring family and continued working on the family farm.

When the British Government declared war on the 3rd September 1939, Prime Minister Menzies announced that Australia was also at war.

In December 1941 when Japan attacked Pearl Harbour and then Singapore, Australia declared war on Japan.

After many discussions with his wife and parents he decided to enlist, joining the A.I.F. 2/6 Division on the 19th February 1942. What was thought to be a short stint lasted almost 4 years, with him being discharged on the 10th January 1946.

After the death of Grace in 2011, I convinced him to write his war time memoirs which resulted in a book he named, "How I saw the Circus." He is now 98 years old and has been a member of the GFHS for several years.

As he was present at the surrender of Lieutenant-General Adachi, Commanding Officer of the Japanese 18th Army to Major General Horace Robertson, General Officer Commanding 6th Division at Cape Wom Airstrip, Wewak, on the 13th September 1945 and as it is the 70th Anniversary of that surrender, I have asked Tab to share some of his memories of that time. {Lyn Fleming—his daughter}



LIEUTENANT– GENERAL HATAZO ADACHI:-

was born into an impoverished Samurai family in 1890. As a youth he tested into the fiercely competitive Tokyo Cadet Academy, which enabled him to enter the imperial Japanese Army Academy, from which he graduated in 1910. In 1934 he was promoted to Colonel and in 1936 was given Command of the Japanese Army 12th Infantry Regiment. During the Shanghai incident of 1937 he gained a reputation for leading his troops from the front where the fighting was the thickest. He was wounded by a mortar barrage which permanently damaged his right leg.

He was promoted in 1938 to Major General, Commander of the imperial Japanese Army 26th infantry Brigade. He had a reputation as a “Soldiers General” sharing the miserable living conditions with his troops and welcomed open discussion with his Officers and Staff. He was promoted to Lieutenant General in 1940 and appointed Commander in Chief of the 18th Army in November 1942.

**MAJOR GENERAL HORACE CLEMENT HUGH ROBERTSON:-**

was born on the 29th October 1894 at Warrnambool, Victoria, the 6th child of school teacher John Robertson and Annie {nee Gray}. He was educated at Outtrim State School and briefly Geelong College, before barely qualifying academically for entry to Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1912 where he gained the nick name ‘Red Robbie.’

He fought in the Dardanelles campaign of WW1 from May 1915, and took a leading role in the battle of Hill 60 leaving with the last evacuation of Gallipoli. In May 1916 he was promoted to Major and given control of a squadron. He won the Distinguished Service Order when he led his men in a mounted charge against Turkish positions at the battle of Magdhaba, Palestine. Twice he was mentioned in dispatches and received the “Order of the Nile.”

After WW1 he attended Staff College in England receiving an A pass and impressing his superiors as being of “Strong character and high ability.” With the onset of WW2 he was commissioned to take preliminary steps to place Australia on a better defensive footing in the event of war with Japan. In 1940 he was given Command of the 19th Battalion leading them in the Libyan campaign and contributing to the Australian capture of Tobruk. War in the Pacific brought him back to Australia where many Senior Officers thought he should be made “Commander in Chief,” but the honour went to Blamey. In April 1945 he became Commander of the 5th Division and July Commander of the 6th Division.



On the 15th August 1945, Emperor Hirohito went on National Radio for the first time to announce the Japanese surrender. To allow time for all major allied powers to attend the surrender, the ceremony wasn't held until Sunday 2nd September on board the USS Missouri surrounded by 250 allied war ships. On the 13-14th September General Adachi surrendered.

TAB'S STORY: It was about 2 more weeks before we could get them to surrender. The end of the war was a bit sad for me; two of us had just come back from burying one of our men who had died from his wounds when an Officer came out with a wireless and told us the war was over. A few days later my best mate was killed when a coil of signal wire broke away from the parachute when they were dropping supplies. Charlie was writing the address on a letter to his mother, he just stood up to come out of the tent when the coil landed on the tent splitting his head. He died at my feet. The wireless played music and noise from people dancing in the street but I was so depressed I didn't care what happened, but after awhile I just wanted to get home to Grace and the kids.

We bought in 2 Japanese Americans and a loud speaker and put it as close as possible to the Japanese lines telling them the war was over but they bought up a machine gun and riddled it with bullet holes. Eventually a Japanese plane was flown over the area dropping leaflets from the Emperor to tell them the war was over. A few came out holding white flags but they were very unsure.

General Attachi carried on a litter came out of the bush and all his troops followed. A lot of them were very sick with malaria and other tropical diseases, also malnutrition, but if they could walk we made them walk. When they fell over and couldn't get up, we put them in a truck and took them to a hospital. They were all taken to a small Island off the New Guinea Coast where they waited for a ship to take them home. One of the Japanese Officers had a small soldier carrying all his gear and every time the little fellow fell over he was abused and made pick up the Officers gear and keep walking. We put the little fellow in the back of the truck but the Officer abused him and made him get out and walk. Every man picked up handfuls of mud and threw it at the Officer even filling his hat with mud and putting it back on him.



The surrender was a great spectacle to us all; the whole division was lined up on the aerodrome. I was standing right behind Major General Robertson. Lieutenant General Adachi, Commander of the 18th Japanese army refused a litter and marched in his battle dress between two very tall Military Police. I think they picked the tallest. It may seem strange but at



that moment a lot of us felt a bit sorry for Adachi he was a true soldier. When he handed over his sword to Major General Robertson I could see 'Red Robbies' legs shaking.

We had to wait a long time to get ships to take us home. There were many others before us so we had a long holiday on the beach at Wewak. We built a sailing boat out of an old tent fly and used a parachute for a sail and decided to sail over to the Island where the Japanese were being held and see if they had anything to do some trading with. Knowing they had been starving we decided on food, tins of bully beef and as many dog biscuits as we could get, no rifles or anything army. One bright morning we loaded up and set sail for the Island. We got about half way, it was slow going as we had to tack into a head wind, when I looked back a big shark was cruising along a few yards behind us, we got a bit worried as we had no rifles. We got to the island and the Japanese were there to meet us. The branch of a tree broke our mast so we were in more trouble. A Japanese Officer gave orders to his men and they had it fixed in no time. They had nothing to trade so we gave them all the food for their labour and set sail for home.

Under the custody of Australians, Adachi was charged with War crimes committed by men under his command, and he accepted the responsibility for the atrocities his men committed.. He was sentenced to life imprisonment, but on the morning of 10th September 1947 he committed ritual suicide with a rusty paring knife at Rabaul.

Part of the message he left is as follows. "I have demanded perseverance far exceeding the limits of man's endurance of my Officers and men, who were exhausted and emaciated as a result of successive campaigns and for want of supplies. However my Officers and men all followed my orders in silence, without grumbling, and when exhausted they succumbed to death just like flowers falling in the winds, God knows how I felt when I saw them dying, my bosom being filled with pity for them, though it was solely to their country that they dedicated their lives. At that time I made up my mind not to set foot on my country's soil again but to remain as a clod of dirt in the Southern Seas with the 100,000 Officers and men, even if a time should come when I would be able to return to my country in triumph."

Major General Horace Robertson was appointed temporary Lieutenant General and supervised the repatriation of Australians serving in New Guinea, before being appointed Commander of the Commonwealth Forces in Japan. With the outbreak of the Korean War he was appointed Commander of the British Commonwealth Forces, Korea. He retired from the Army on the 30th October 1954 and died of a ruptured Aortic aneurysm at Heidelberg Victoria on the 28th April 1960. He was widely admired and heartily detested, but even those who did not like him conceded his great ability as a trainer of troops and administration.

Tab remembers his trip back to Australia as a cyclone was situated in the Coral Sea and they had a very rough time, arriving in Brisbane in the early hours of New Years Day 1946 with no one to meet them. From here they were put on a truck and taken to a staging camp to await discharge. Due to the large number of men waiting to be processed it took some time before he walked through the door a civilian.

Grace was waiting for him at his Grandparents home at Clayfield and late that night they were able to get a train back to Tewantin. Life had changed completely in those four years. The farm had been put in the hands of share framers and one daughter was diagnosed as

deaf. As has always been his way, his family came first and the years he spent in New Guinea were never spoken about during our childhood. The only reminder was occasional relapses of malaria over the years.

Tab now resides at Oxford Crest Retirement Village in Gympie. He never participated in Anzac Day marches until 2009 when two of his Great Grandchildren asked him to march with them in the Gympie procession. He reluctantly agreed. Since living at the retirement Village he has read the Ode every year at their Anzac Day Celebrations, and of course written his stories. He now speaks freely of those days and sheds many a tear at some of these memories. As a family we are proud of his war service and because of his book, understand the sacrifices he made for us all.

Tab Greber and Lyn Fleming (Editor) GFHS & the Australian War Memorial Site



Tab with Great Grandchildren Luis Jacobson and Mathew Davis.
The poster proudly made by Matthews family.



Anzac Day 2012
Oxford Crest
The Ode being read by Tab
with two war widows
looking on.

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