

# The Gympie Researcher

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

July—August 2014

No. 76

I.S.S.N 1035 - 3534



Herbert & James William Foan

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<b>Gympie Family History Society Inc.</b>	
<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Margaret LONG
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	Dianne WOODSTOCK (0419 224 628)
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Bruce WOODSTOCK ph (0418 275 770)
<b>TREASURER:</b>	Lynnette FLEMING
<b>LIBRARIAN:</b>	Val THOMAS
<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>	Bruce WOODSTOCK ph (0418 275 770)
<b>RESEARCH OFFICER:</b>	Faye KENNEDY email c/- gfhs@spiderweb.com.au  when writing to the Society, please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for your reply.
<b>MAGAZINE EDITOR &amp; EVENT CO-ORDINATOR:</b>	Dianne WOODSTOCK (0419 224 628) di@magicality.com.au
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	P O Box 767, Gympie QLD 4570 Ph: 07 5482 8211 or phone secretary 0418 275 770
<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b>	downstairs at the Mary Valley Heritage Railway Station, Cnr Mellor & Chapple Sts, Gympie
<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 2014:		
	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		

**EDITOR'S COMMENT**

**Our newsletter is published March, July & November.**

Like to add any stories in the future newsletters?

**di@magicality.com.au**

**Thank you to Lyn Fleming for being such an amazing “finder of awesome stories!”**

**Some of them are included in the next few issues—we are changing the format a bit and some of the longer stories will “to be continued” over a few issues.**

**PS—Don't forget if you would prefer to receive “The Gympie Researcher” by email—let me know and we are more than happy to do this as it is quicker—you can search for names easily and it saves us postage. - we will send it as a PDF file so it is smaller to download.**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW EDITOR>>>>>>>please

Di Woodstock

**MEMBERS**

Our Life Members are: Merlyn Burkhardt, Olive Hearn, Brien Hughes, John Nathan, Wynne Smith, Isabelle Thompson

The 2014-2015 membership year begins on the 1st September and the renewal forms were sent out a few weeks ago for your attention.

Lots of members have re-joined already so thank you for continuing to support our wonderful society.

**AGM**  
**6th Sept 2015**  
**2pm at the rooms**

**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/- [gfhs@spiderweb.com.au](mailto:gfhs@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 645646 Account# 101763948 and is with Wide Bay Australia. We ask that you confirm by email to [gfhs@spiderweb.com.au](mailto:gfhs@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..**

Debbie Tippett, –James GIBB and Mary CLOUGHESY

Doreen Atkinson, –John TREGONING and Rosa SUGG

Sharon Wright, –James William ASKEW

Ian Hands, - Glenwood early settlement owners.

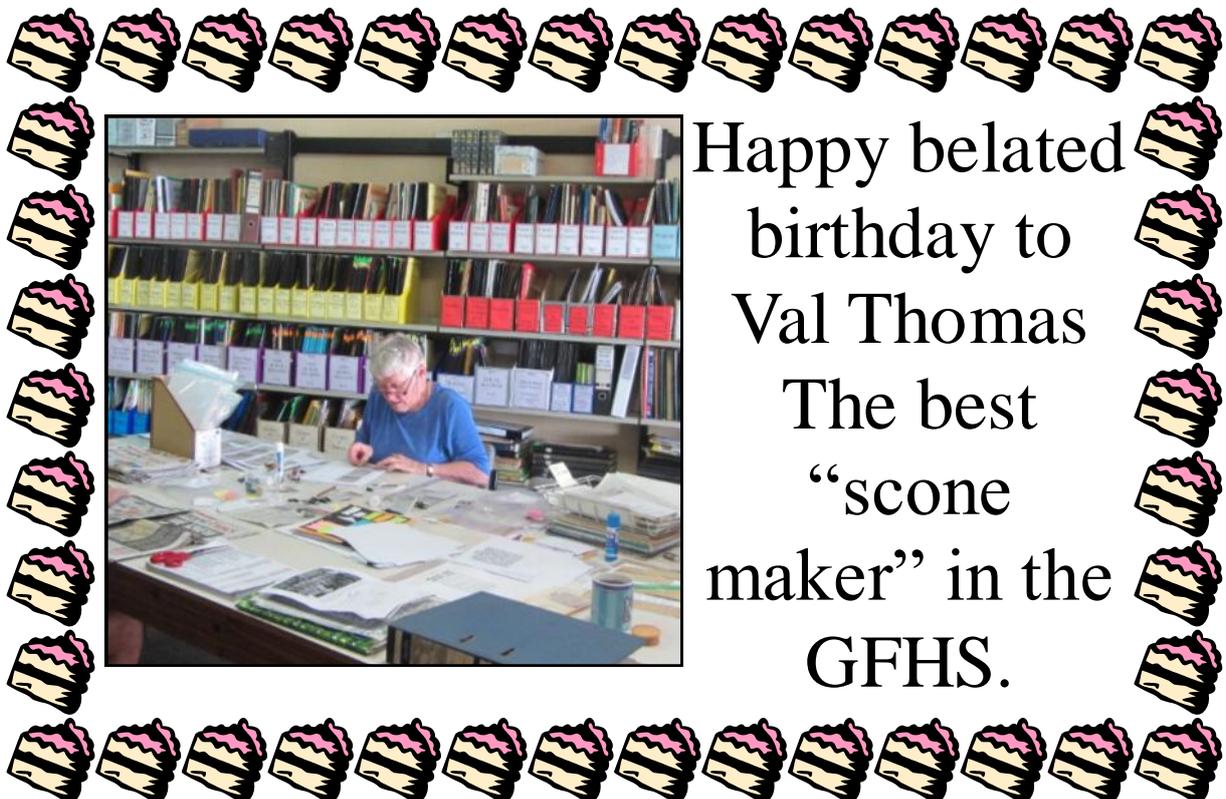
Jessica Roberts, - Clemeth B. W. HEATER and Lilly H. SAUER

Sue Parkin, – James CONDIE and Ruth Emmeline FELL

Peter Hyland, -Beresford Phillip HYLAND enquiry,

Helen Stephenson, – Martin O’DONOHUE and wife, Mary Markham and Moura, the “South O’Donohoe Mine” no records of him in Gympie before 1869, after this he went to Taroom. Couldn't help

Gaile Wilson, - Ethel Gympie CHILDS, born 14.5.1869 inquiry as to whether she was first born white child in Gympie. Requested fee



Happy belated  
birthday to  
Val Thomas  
The best  
“scone  
maker” in the  
GFHS.

## NEXT GYMPIE CEMETERY CRAWL



# Wednesday 8th Oct 2014

6.30 pm start

\$5 per person incl light supper & a booklet

**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 Crawls report {all three of them!}

The June crawl was well attended considering the cold night with about 60 intrepid crawlers coming with us. We revisited many of the original crawls and had updated some of the information as new access to records become available. We did the stories of James and Catherine NASH, the CAVANAGH family, Dr Edward Robert WEBB, John & Martha SNELL, Sidney SHEPHERD and extended family, John SHANAHAN & family, Thomas SHANAHAN & family, Patrick BARRY with Dr John Joseph AHERN and Norton George RAMSAY. The fruit and vegetable raffle was won by our “Mascot” June Lilwall who is 88 and never misses a crawl. The girls made yummy soups again which is always so looked for after a chilly wander through our history. Rain threatened again on the afternoon of the crawl and although there were clouds—we did get a gorgeous rainbow while we were setting up.



The Kandanga Crawl on Tour went really well and we raised about \$800 including the raffle. A fully booked bus was great with us having to knock back two people as we ran out of seats. The chatting onboard was lovely to hear. Many people caught up with those they knew years earlier and one lady mentioned that this trip was so friendly that she enjoyed herself immensely. To my surprise everyone participated in everything and some of the walks were quite a distance through the scrub. As well as Kandanga and Gheerulla Cemeteries, we visited Brooloo and Bollier cemeteries which have been lost to the scrub for many years. Mal Jocusen has taken on the task of putting a gravestone for his great grandparents, John and Emma Bryant, who are both interred in the lovely little area in the bush at Brooloo and he has certainly done a great job. The Gympie Times are going to be doing a story on the Bryant family and Mal’s works at the cemetery in the near future on a Saturday

so keep an eye out for it. We are grateful for having access to previously little known cemeteries which we will be endeavouring to work towards next year to have recognised and recorded.

Some of the people we presented are: Henry and Mary Jane HOLE, Billy QUINN, Oliver & Mary TINCKNELL, Robert and Maria NOBBS, William and Emily EVERRETT, David & Elizabeth O'FARRELL, Ivy & Florrie HANSEN, Patrick & Beatrice MURTAGH, Alexander Patterson and Hanna MYERS, John McGINN, Harold Emil MEYERS, George Gilbert HORDERN, DURHAM families and John & Emma BRYANT of Brooloo.

The photo below is of Alexander and Hanna MYERS. Part of her story reads: Hanna was a home body as the Golden Anniversary story tells: "*Mrs. Myers, loves her home life and though public functions receive her support, she seldom enters the social life of the community.*" However she was also a gardener and won prizes for her flowers including roses, snapdragons and gerberas at the various flower shows in the areas where she lived. The obituary in the Nambour Chronicle in April 1941 tells the story of A P Myers and his journey with his family from Victoria to Queensland and all of the busy-ness that this highly regarded man had in his life. Sadly Alex died just a year after the couple celebrated their Golden Anniversary in 1940.

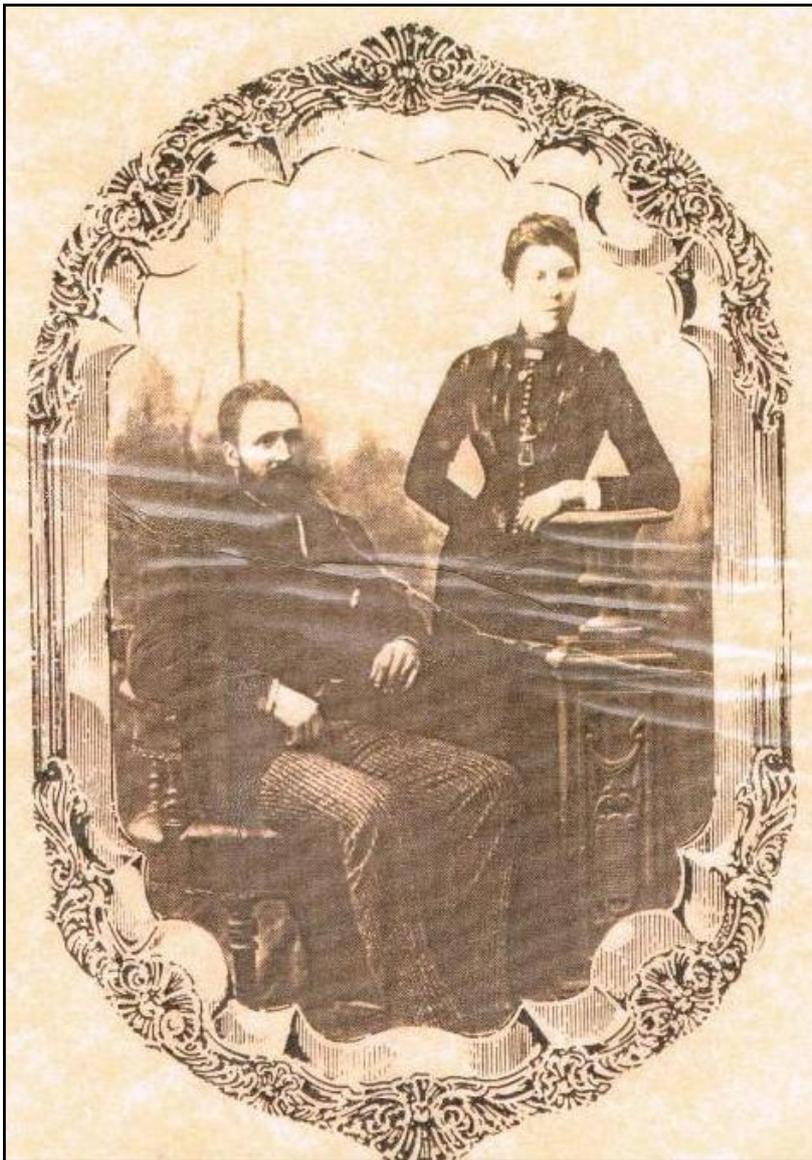
The Chronicle also reports on this huge event including the many guest and well wishes from both local and interstate people.

The Kandanga Crawl books have certainly created some interest and about 10 so far have been sold after the fact. They are \$15 each.

Di Woodstock

**The next crawl on tour will be planned in early 2015 and will possible be a trip to either Kilkivan and Wondai or up to Bauple and Neerdie.**

**If you are interested in doing the Kandanga Tour as you missed it—let me know and if we get enough numbers, we can do it again. We also went to the Kenilworth Cheesefactory and had a picnic lunch at the Pioneers park—a great day all round.**



**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.**

**Dates till the end of 2014:  
6th September {AGM}  
4th October            1st November  
6th December**

**Saturdays are proving to be easier for members and we are getting good participation so come along and have a chat and a laugh— oh & help your society along the way.**

## **AGM is Saturday 6th September 2014**

**2pm at the rooms**

**ALL WELCOME— PLEASE JOIN US**

**{Di's 50th Birthday fare after the meeting too}**

**Memberships are due  
Our 2014/2015 membership year begins on the 1st September  
You must be financial to vote at the AGM.**

**If you would like to renew, then this may make it easier.  
Bank account details are BSS 645646 Acc#101763948  
and the bank is Wide Bay Australia  
Don't forget a reference on it.**

**Please let the secretary know as there should also be your form completed to ensure your details are correct**

**\$35 per adult    \$45 for a family**

### **LIBRARY HOURS**

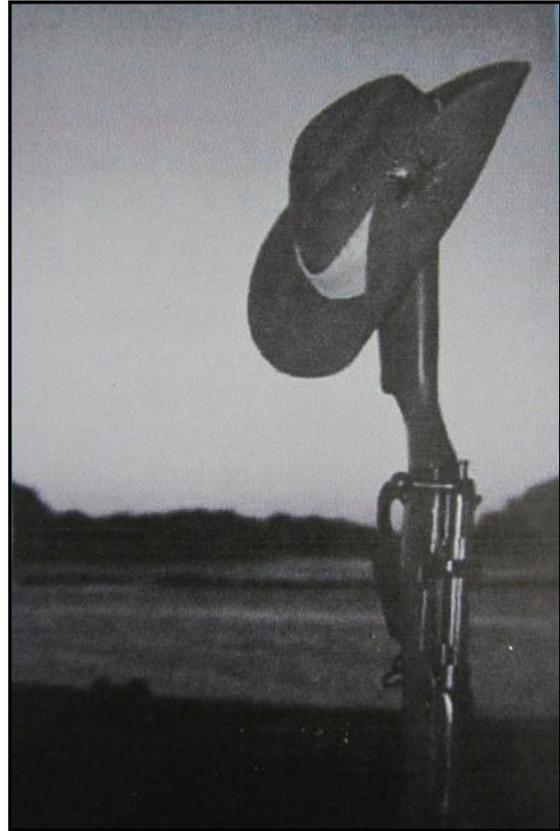
**Wednesday    9.30am to 2pm**

**Friday            9.30am to 12pm**

**Saturday        1pm to 4pm**

## WORLD WAR 1 crawl

The first of the “Digger” crawls was held on Wednesday 6th of August. It was decided to increase the cost of the crawl to \$10 and the book is now a proper bound book rather than a booklet. About 40 people came along on the evening and we were lucky enough to have two members of the Fifth Light Horse come along on the evening to join us when the Ode was read under the flag and a minutes silence was held. Lyn and Wes made the flag pole and two pots of proper Flanders Poppies were on the base—sadly they refused to flower—but Lyn did a magnificent job with the poppies through flood waters and rains, she still managed to grow the plants—which grow as weeds at Flanders so do not take kindly to pots and care. Channel 7 rang about lunchtime on the day and asked if they could send a camera man.....well, he arrived and did a great job of creating a story as we went along. The article was shown the following night and the segment ran for about 2 minutes with yours truly looking very unglamorous! Harsh lights, very late night typing the book the night before and then fighting off a cold, makes for hard work in front of a camera!



This time we were able to put photos of most of the Diggers on the headstones or spaces where their family members lay, and also a little candle in a jar lit the graves in the night which worked beautifully. It was certainly nice to be able to see the faces of the boys {and the nurse} that we talked about at each site. The thought is that this idea will be continued in the future as the books are not distributed until the end of the crawls so that people don't read ahead. There was also a service man Cyril JULIUS who is buried in an unmarked grave in the Gympie Cemetery and so we are going to contact the Australian Graves Commission who may look into having the grave marked in the future.

The crawl was also run on the Sunday and we had about 30 people attend including 3 different family groups of Diggers being presented—so NO pressure at all on us as researchers! But everything went well and the damper with golden syrup went down with a cup of tea very well. Not to mention the wonderful ANZAC biscuits too.

The people presented were: **JULIUS, Cyril Norman, WOODYATT, Percy Severn Roy {KIA}, BONNICK, Samuel John, TINCKNELL, Alfred Charles, TINCKNELL, William George, DAHLKE, Percy James {KIA}, DAVIES, Bertram Devnalt {KIA}, WOODROW, David Douglas, WOODROW, George Laurie, TREEBY family {Roy, Stewart, George, Frederick & Henry Paul}, LOOSEMORE family {John, Thomas, Mary Ann & William Alfred KIA} and FOAN {Herbert, Ernest & James William}**

Thank you to Lyn and Val B in particular who have helped so much with the fact finding.....

Di Woodstock

### **Presidents report August 2014 meeting:**

I would say that last month was very productive. Everyone has been involved with Cemetery Crawls, both the Mary Valley and our upcoming World War One Crawls, as well as everyday things.

We were fortunate to be the highest bidder for the map cabinet from Caloundra FHS, it just has to be collected. ***(This has now been done and the cabinet is in the library)***

The electrician has been and we now have brighter lights, new fans and safer switches etc.

The ladies put on a nice morning tea for my birthday – thank you. {Happy belated Birthday Margaret}

We have received some more of Wyn Smith's collection of books and papers that are very welcome.

Margaret Long

### **NEWS IN A NUTSHELL—from the Darling Downs Gazette**

DON'T DRINK THE WATER..... It is stated that the illness of a Mrs Moyes, who died at Gympie, was caused by drinking water taken from a gully draining the Gympie Cemetery.....  
24th Jan 1877

The Rev Wm Ridley of Riverina, offers a combined solution of the aboriginal question and the marsupial nuisance, he suggests that the blacks be paid for kangaroo and wallaby skins. The body of a missing man was found in Hobson's Bay with the flesh on each leg, from the knee upwards, entirely torn out, and there were the marks of two jaws of a large fish of the breast and back. On opening the craw of a goose, at Gympie, about two grains of nice alluvial gold were found. 24th Feb 1877

At Rockhampton, Norman has been acquitted of manslaughter, but remanded on a charge of larceny of a horse. No survivors of the wreck of the ship Merchant have been discovered. Twenty South Sea Islanders died of dysentery on Terra Vena Plantation last month. Some of the Frazer Island blacks went to Maryborough to share the good things going at the late festivities, other blacks remained behind, and had their reward by having landed at their feet unlimited supplies of tobacco, rum, etc 13th April 1877

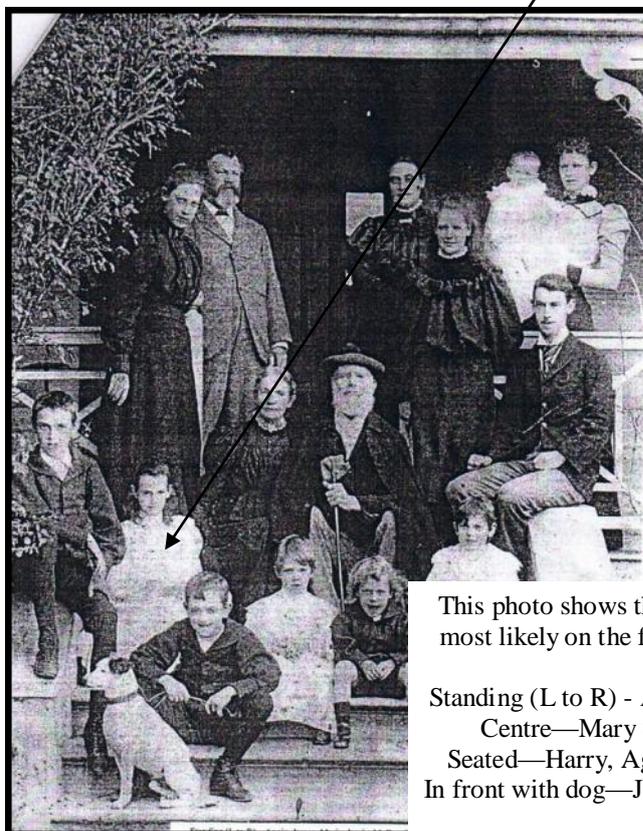
The late Sir. G. Petrie was the youngest son of the late Sir Andrew Petrie, and was born in Brisbane in the house in which he died. He was the first white man born in the metropolis. The Government have decided to convert the Benevolent Asylum, near Ipswich, into a lunatic asylum for old patients and those of a less violent character. The winter in Warwick is the severest known for many years. Sickness is prevalent in Brisbane, owing, it is said, to the sudden and severe changes in the temperature. His Excellency the Governor has returned from his recent excursion to Gympie. The ship Nairnshire, with 349 immigrants, from Glasgow, has arrived at Brisbane. 29th June 1877

## Agnes Petrie WOODROW

James married Maria Fleetwood Luya on the 26th September 1877 at Maria's parents place at Cootharaba, Noosa. This Woodrow family lived at *Thornton Villa* at 65 Channon Street in the part of Gympie known as Horseshoe Bend. The house is still standing, although much changed and is beautiful. All of their children were born there. James was very musical and was an entertainer in his younger days. He was known as a very generous man and much has been written about him in the local papers, histories and directories. He was an alderman of the town for three years, a member of the Stock Exchange and of the School of the Arts and was on the Committee of the Hospital. He was also Captain of the Defence Force, a director of the Gas Company, a Justice of the Peace and a Past Master of the Pioneer Lodge. All in all, a community man and a very busy one at that!. After the Woodrow business went bankrupt in 1896 due to his father's neglect of his own business in Maryborough, James went on to become an auctioneer and commission agent.



James and Maria had 13 children: Mary Eliza ("Molly" Tregear) 1878-1940, Thomas Turnbull 1879-1926, Amelia "Annie" Clare Gauld (Gardner) 1881-1930, Jessie Isobel (Warner) 1883-1934, Harry Luya 1885-1956, Agnes Petrie 1888-1979, James Edward "Ted" 1890-1963, Jean Waterston (Loveday) 1891-1978, Kathleen Clare (Darker) 1893-1970, David Douglas "Douglas" 1895-1972, George Laurie "Laurie" 1897-1989, Jack Luya 1899-1963 and Donald Graham 1901-1992. What a credit to James and Maria to raise all 13 children during a time when many people lost children at very young ages.



Agnes Petrie WOODROW is the only

This photo shows three generations of the Woodrow family and is most likely on the front steps of the house of *Thornton Villa* at 65 Channon Street

Standing (L to R) - Annie, James, Maria, Jessie, Molly, with Laurie  
 Centre—Mary Galloway and Thomas Turnbull Woodrow  
 Seated—Harry, Agnes, Kathleen, David Douglas, Jean, Thomas  
 In front with dog—James Edward (Ted) - Gympie early 1899

Agnes Woodrow born in QLD. Agnes appears on the 1913 electoral roll in Channon St Gympie which was the family home, but also on the same roll as being "care C Zoller, Munna, Murray St, Wilston Brisbane". She would have been 25 years old. 1925 shows her at Lawrence St Gympie & also at Mrs Stewarts, Barker St Brisbane {nurse in both places}. 1927 Agnes Petrie WOODROW was a midwife and is shown on the NSW Medical Register as having certificate #614/6 record #6635 and she trained at the Mothers Hospital in Toowoomba in Qld. She began this training on the 2nd June 1927. She renewed her license each year until the 3rd Nov 1933 when it was surrendered. In 1930 she was nurse at Cleveland Station at Mungindi in NSW which was a sheep station managed by the Scriven family. 1937 electoral roll shows her at 70 Roslyn Gardens in Darlinghurst living with Donald Graham & Lyndsay Duncan Woodrow and she was a nurse and was 49 years old. Teh 1949 electoral rolls show her living at 137 Hargrave Rd West End in QLD and she was 61 years old. She died in NSW in 1979 at 91 years of age according to the Ryerson Index as her death notice as Agnes Petrie {Peg} WOODROW shows in the Sydney Morning Herald.

As a young lady, she lost her father and then she would have watched her mother died from breast cancer in 1916 when Peg was 28 years old, and perhaps this is why she became a nurse. As an unmarried woman, she was able to honour her calling as a nurse and midwife but if she had of married, then she would have had to have left the workforce.

I have done a great deal of research on the Woodrow family, initially for a cemetery crawl some years ago and then just recently when I presented Agnes's brothers, Douglas & Laurie at our recent Cemetery Crawl featuring servicemen and women of the First World War.

To my surprise, we recently received a letter from Mr John Leslie in Nambucca Heads to the GFHS with a letter and a photograph of Sister Woodrow. He was birthed by Sister Woodrow in Armidale NSW in 1937 and his father was the manager of GOSTWYCK Station at Uralla at the time and that was her place of employment at the time. He has done a little research himself and found that there was an Agnes Petrie Woodrow born in Gympie in 1888 and requests any confirmation of the same person..... While I was in the process of writing to him with the Woodrow story, I decided for the first time ever, to purchase a copy of the Australian Family Tree magazine from the local newsagent as it has not been sent to the rooms for some time. What caught my eye was an advert in the Classified Ads from Mrs T Denny at Childers ..... wanting to send photos of Sister Edith or Agnes Woodrow who worked at Kiola Private Hospital and Gostwyck Station near Uralla NSW c1938 to any family members!!!!!!! How coincidental is that!

So I will now write to both of them and ask for further information on Sister Woodrow and any other information for our Woodrow files for future generations and also we can then find family members hopefully here is Gympie or the surrounding areas.

Di Woodstock

## Cannibals??

While looking for interesting stories on trove for a project I came across a story I thought might be interesting for the next Researcher. John Fitzgerald Barry, "Did he die in Gympie or was he eaten by Cannibals in Fiji"?" I see a few people asking the question on Ancestry? Cheers Lyn Fleming

Our Melbourne Letter.

### CONFUSED LANGUAGE.

Everybody knows, of course, that all solicitors, even in New Zealand, are highly educated persons now a days, and could not possibly make mistakes in dealing either with questions of law or grammar. Not with standing all this, we are all acquainted with lawyers who get very much tangled up in their law, while lawyers' English is notoriously among the worst of its kind. Dr. McInerney, the Warden of the University Senate, does not often appear in court, but when he does there is generally trouble or some kind. The latest instance of this occurred the other day between the learned doctor who differed with Judge Eagleson as to the meaning of "theatrical display."

The argument went on excitedly for two or three minutes when the judge brought in a referee, in the shape of a policeman, and the doctor accepted His Honour's interpretation of the phrase, and sat down. When lawyers, however, sit down and calmly perpetrate such a sentence as the following in a legal advertisement surprise and mystification are excited :-"James Fitzgerald Barry left New Zealand about 1883 and is believed to have been in Sydney in 1883, afterwards to have had, for a few months, a stationers and fancy goods shop in Goulbourn, New South Wales, rumored to have intended going to Fiji, to have been killed and eaten by cannibals in some South Sea Islands in 1885, or to have been at Gympie, Queensland, in 1887. Ellen Barry believed to have come to Melbourne from New Zealand in or about 1871, and to have gone into domestic service. What was the misguided James Barry's intention in leaving Sydney and going to Fiji. Apparently the advertiser thinks James meant to be killed and eaten by some un-introduced cannibals. Certainly the meaning is not clear, and is as confused as was another lawyer, the late Mr Shiels, who in Parliament one night thundered at his opponents "You cowered" and, to the day of his death years after wards, could not convince them he was using a verb not a noun when the storm broke out. He had used the word coward and, in the Parliamentary vocabulary, there was only one word with that sound and its use was forbidden. Still one would hope to hear later, on what became of James Barry. Were his intentions as to being eaten satisfactorily carried out? Did he disagree with his mop headed hosts? or did he go to Gympie?

## THE PASSING OF BILL JUDKINS

MR. S. D. STEPHENS, of Ormiston recalls: So far as I can gather Bill Judkins fought in the Indian Mutiny and after his discharge migrated to Queensland and for a time worked on the Gympie goldfield. He later did casual work, generally for a few shillings a week and tucker. He was just an ordinary man, with an ordinary man's faults, and typical of many who came and went across the Australian scene in earlier times. Driving home from Gympie to Brooloo in John Grainger's wagon (some say dray) he fell under a wheel and was badly crushed. He was taken to John and Paddy Ahern's home, where he died a few hours later.

As it was something to have a dead man around the place, the news soon spread in the district, and the police at Gympie were notified. Most of the local male population found a place in the drama. One of the foremost was David Lane, a real hard case, son of Erin, who immediately took over and became Master of Ceremonies. It was decided to make a coffin out of silky oak slabs. And a site for a grave was selected at a place known as Anderson's Rise; as David suggested, it was close to where the poor old fellow was killed. When the policeman arrived and viewed the corpse he was armed with a certificate of death, a form of burial service, and a large bottle of over proof rum — of which David had the most to drink, and, from then on, the most to say.

John Ahern had a buckboard that was to become the hearse, and two very good horses, a black and a bay that he usually drove. He also had another black horse that was not so good, but David suggested that it was only right and proper to use the two black horses. And that was decided. The cavalcade then started. But it was in no way solemn, for there was much excitement and talking. All those following the hearse were men, and they were on horseback. On the way to Anderson's Rise was a very steep hill and the younger horse played up and would not pull properly, jibbed and backed down the hill. Some say they tried a second time. This caused some delay, but David suggested they "get a run on, and lay on the whip". His advice was tried, with the result that the horses jumped ahead with a jerk, and the coffin fell to the ground.

The horses, relieved of the weight, rushed up and over the hill. The coffin was manhandled and again loaded on the hearse, and eventually Anderson's Rise was reached. Then the rum bottle was produced again and all had a swig. John Ahern read the burial service and even David declared he had made a good job of it. A very large hole had been dug, enough to bury a bullock. A pole had been cut, and a real argument occurred as to whether it should be placed at the head or the foot, but David again won the day by declaring, "By all means put it at his feet, so that if old Bill tries to climb out he won't bump his head."

There were many helpers to fill in the grave. The policeman was hardly mentioned, but when the grave was filled he handed the remnants of the rum to David, who gave the last toast, prefacing it with: "Well Bill, you weren't such a bad poor old \_\_\_\_\_."

The funeral party then broke up and went to their respective homes. The grave is now unmarked, as the pole was soon pushed over by cattle and horses rubbing against it. But a few locals can still show you its position. The day of the funeral was a red-letter day to those who attended. All have now passed on, but I believe the story will be told for generations. Brooloo really has a cemetery, but it has not been used for many years.

### **Some of the stories included on the Kandanga Cemetery Crawl on Tour:**

Robert & Maria Nobbs must have not wasted any time in selecting their land and setting up home as their house at Bunya Creek was washed away in the 1893 flood and rebuilt the next home on higher land. 1893 flood occurred when there was 107 inches of rain in 21 days recorded. On the 2nd February, 35 inches fell!

William & Emily Everett: Between March 1890 and February 1910, Emily Everett gave birth to 8 babies including two sons, William Francis and George Herbert. The daughters were Elsie Jane, Susan Emily, Ivy, Ruby May, Daisy Evelyn and Doris Gertrude Kemsley. Daisy died at 3 years and 6 months and is buried in Kandanga. There was diphtheria in Australia at the time and there was actually fundraising for a special diphtheria ward in Brisbane during 1907. Perhaps this is what happened to little Daisy but this is just a thought. Little ones were very susceptible to this horrendous virus. There were children in the area who were confirmed from passing from this illness at the same time.

Oliver & Mary Tincknell had a new farm area, called “New Farm” as the old farm was the part of Imbil station on Bollier Plains. The land was on the eastern side of the Coonan Giber river and they were growing corn, oats and potatoes as staple crops with the addition of onions and field peas as an experiment. It was thought that wallabies would not like the taste of onion tops—but they had found them quite appetising.

South Sea Islander Billy Quinn was one of Kandanga most colourful characters and certainly one of its best known identities. He was a familiar sight in charge of his bullock wagon. Billy dressed in a grey flannel shirt and moleskins “to stop the snakebite”. He came into the Bollier district from Nanango and stayed in the Mary Valley. As late as 1965 he still walked to Kandanga with his dog, always carrying a stick and a hessian bag for his purchases. No one dared touch his possessions once he left his dog in charge.

The Burial Ground in Moy Pocket Road Gheerulla was established by the community in 1907 to provide a resting place for two little girls, Florrie May and Ivy Christiana Hansen who died of diphtheria before medical assistance could reach them from Nambour. In 1908 a petition was submitted to the Minister of Lands requesting 5 acres of Reserve as no other land being available within several miles which could be used as a burial ground. It had already been found necessary to make use of land as a cemetery on one previous occasion owing to no other place for burial. The little girls have a plaque as their headstone which has been placed at a later date and it reads: “Sadly departed eldest daughters of Henry Christian Hansen and Bertha Muriel Louise Hansen (nee Anderson). Victims of a dreaded diphtheria epidemic. The death of these two small children was the catalyst for the establishment of this cemetery by the local community. Our history may be traced here with the hope that future generations may cherish our past and protect its future.”

*“Diphtheria. At the first indication of diphtheria in the throat of a child, shut all doors and windows. Take a tin cup and pour into it an equal quantity of tar and turpentine, then hold the cup over a fire so as to fill the room with the fumes. The patient, in inhaling the fumes, will cough and spit up the membranous matter, and the diphtheria will pass on.”* The Warwick Examiner 6th March 1907

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