

The Gympie Researcher

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

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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 2017		
	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.gfhs.com.au (new website address)		

EDITORS**COMMENT**

2017 is here and we look forward to another full year of activities for our club. Sadly we lost one of our members in January, June Lillwell. June always attended our Cemetery Crawls and Bus Trips and she will be greatly missed. This magazine covers a few different shooting accidents in our area. I hope you enjoy it.

Here is June at a Crawl celebrating her 88th

**Vice PRESIDENTS REPORT;**

Our much loved president Margaret Long is recovering from knee surgery and so is out of action for a few weeks. This is the first thing I have had to do as Chairman of Vice so I will keep it short. We have an amazing group and everyone gets along so very well. We muddle along and even though it seems like we are going slowly—what we are achieving is awesome. Books, records, indexing, crawls, researching, sorting, caring and mingling—all in a days work at our Society. We have had some more new members join lately and that is great news. Some of the girls have decided to dedicate a few hours to a “job” to help and then they are spending some time on their own research—what a great idea—winning all round then.

Regards Di Woodstock

RESEARCH -

Denise has been very very busy with lots of enquiries for chasing family and stories.

Funny enough a phone call came into the rooms yesterday and the gentleman from interstate was looking for details on a man by the name of J J Stanley.

Strange co-incidence as we are actually doing his story in our next cemetery crawl on the 15th March.

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 (at our discretion)

Mail & Internet Inquiries

\$30.00 Australia

\$35.00 overseas

For Research Requests:

email c/- research@gfhs.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 re-searching 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 secretary@gfhs.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 Denise JULER

NEW

www.gfhs.com.au Check it out!!

Cemetery Crawl

Wednesday 15 March 2017

Time: 6.30pm start (so come along a little earlier for a chat and to meet new people) - there is also a fruit tray raffle \$1 ticket drawn on the night. Postcards for sale \$10 for 6 or \$2 each

Where: Meet at the shed at the Gympie Cemetery

Cost: \$7.50 (includes a light supper & a booklet) **{\$5 members }**

Bring: Good walking shoes, a torch, bug spray,

To Book: Ring Di Woodstock on 0419 224 628 (this assists with catering and printing)

Some of the family names: O'DONNELL, DOVEY, REED, GARSON, STANLEY,
RANKIN & CAREY

This is on—regardless of the weather!!!

Mystery History Bus Tour

join us as we tour into the unknown

26th March 2017— 9.30 start

\$50 All day tour including entry fees and morning tea
(optional \$5 sausage sizzle)

bookings—contact Di Woodstock 0419 224 628

secretary@gfhs.com.au www.gfhs.com.au GFHS facebook

LIBRARY HOURS

Wednesday 9.30am to 2pm

Friday 9.30am to 12pm

Saturday 1pm to 4pm

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE {Please note that some prices have changed}

- **MINING ACCIDENTS SERIES** by Betty D'Arcy, information on mine accidents from the annual reports of the Mines Dept. (Qld) Volumes 1-14 (1878-1945). Cost per volume \$13 plus p&h **B**, order whole set add p&h **E**, order 5 copies add p&h **D**
- **PIONEER REGISTER** of families of Gympie and Surrounds (pre 1900) \$30 plus p&h **B**
- **PIONEER HEADSTONE BOOK** of Tozer Park & King Sts Gympie \$30 plus p&h **B {updated}**
- **A GOLDEN FUTURE 1867-1967** Stories, reports & photos of Gympie (photocopy version) \$15 p&h **B**
- **HISTORIC SKETCH OF GYMPIE 1867-1927** Stories & photographs of people & events of that period, includes index. (photocopy version) \$15 plus p&h **B**
- **The Gympie Chinese Vol 1** Stories of the early Chinese people of Gympie. \$15 p&h **B**
- **COOLOOLA COAST CEMETERY** (Tin Can Bay & Rainbow Beach) transcribed 2001. Headstones, burial register in date order. Cost \$15 plus p&h **B**
- **GYMPIE FUNERALS Cooloola Crematorium— funeral notices transcribed from their website**
 1. **2010 part year** \$10 plus p&h **A**
 2. **2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015** \$15 each plus p&h **A**
- **GYMPIE CEMETERIES**
 1. **Headstone Transcriptions to 1995** \$25 p&h **C**
 2. **Burial Register 1866-1994.** King Street, Tozer Park Road & Two Mile cemeteries \$35 p&h **C**
 3. **Burial Register 1995-1999** Two Mile Cemetery, Cooloola Coast Crematorium register of burials in other towns \$15 plus p&h **A**
 4. **Burial Register 2000-2004** Two Mile Cemetery, Cooloola Coast Crematorium register of burials in other towns \$15 plus P&H **A** **(Set of all 4 books) \$90 plus p&h **D****
 5. **Cemetery Crawl on Tour #1 (Tiaro, Munna Creek, Miva & Gunalda)** \$15 plus p&h **B**
 6. **Cemetery Crawl on Tour #2 (Kenilworth, Brooloo, Bollier, Gheerulla)** \$15 plus p&h **B**
 7. **Cemetery Crawl on Tour #3 (Kilkivan, Woolooga & Boonara)** \$15 plus p&h **B**
 8. **World War 1 Crawl August 2014** \$10 plus p&h **B**
 9. **World War 1 Crawl April 2015** \$10 plus p&h **B**
 10. **World War 1 Crawl November 2015** \$10 plus p&h **B**
- **GYMPIE TIMES SERIES**
 1. **1868-1874** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals and miscellaneous
 2. **1875-1884** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals
 3. **1885-1889** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals
 4. **1890-1894** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals & in memoriam
 5. **1895-1899** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals & in memoriam
 6. **1900-1904** Births, deaths and marriages, in memoriam, wills/probates
 7. **1905-1909** Births, deaths and marriages, in memoriam, inquires/court**(Set of all 7 books) \$95 plus p&h **D** or each book \$15 plus p&h **A****
- **GYMPIE CEMETERY CRAWL BOOKLETS** Presentations of headstones by our members. Approximately 10 names described per booklet. Includes some photos of headstones. Cost \$5 each plus p&h **B** for 3 booklets (we are up to book 40 now) (see website for a list of names)

Postage codes: A=\$4 B=\$5 C=\$8 D=\$10 E=\$16 to any part of Australia

Also Old photos of Gympie in Postcards \$2 each or a set of 6 for \$10 (postage is \$2.50)

BSB 633000 Account# 153118963 and is with Bendigo Bank if you wish to order and pay by deposit—don't forget to email secretary@gfhs.com.au with your order and mail address



Tab Greber, my dad, who has been a member of our club for some years, will turn 100 on the 5th March . Together over the years since my Mothers death, we have written stories of our ancestors, I have done the research and he has contributed with his memories of family stories. I had made a promise to have the book of his grandfather and father ready for his birthday celebration, so I have been shirking my time at the rooms. I had planned to do a Researcher with stories of accidental shootings in our area in the late 1890's early 1900's. One of these stories is part of my Grandmothers stories of my Great Uncle, William Fritz. William as a name seems to hold a curse in our family or so the Irish side say. Have a wonderful Birthday Party Tab.

WILLIAM FRITZ

William was the son of Jane Walker and Gottlieb Fritz. Gottlieb was born in Wurtenberg, Germany on the 3rd March 1858 and Jane, Loughgall, County Armagh, Ireland on the 12th April 1867. Gottlieb emigrated to Queensland with his family on the ship "Johann Ceasar" in 1863. The family had to renounce their citizenship from Hohenhaslach, Wurtenberg, and set sail with 150 Florins and no passport. The Town Council sent a duplicate from the records with departure date and the discharge from town and state citizenship and application for a new passport. They arrived in Moreton Bay on the 25th April 1865.

Jane with her parents and one sibling, set sail from Belfast on the 'Kapunda' arriving in Townsville on the 17th November 1875. They made their way to Brisbane where 5 months later tragedy struck. Jane's brother William, was 11 years old and with 2 other boys were pulling about in a boat on the Brisbane River, when William leant out to push away a buoy and fell in the river and drowned. He is buried in a paupers grave at Toowong Cemetery. Gottlieb and Jane married in June 1885 and lived at Beenleigh where their first son William Fritz was born on the 4th March 1886, he was named William after Jane's brother William. They moved to Albion, Brisbane, and three more children were born, before moving to Cooran where one more child was born and Tewantin where another child was born. In 1901 the growing family moved to Chatsworth near Gympie where Gottlieb was employed by the Widgee Shire Council building bridges and roads. Another three children were born here. They cleared 50 acres of scrub, where Fritz Road is today. They grew maize, experimented with sugar cane & their stock consisted of 11 pigs and a fair number of poultry (fowls, turkeys, geese and ducks). They were extremely happy in their Chatsworth home until tragedy struck on the 15th October 1909.

The best way to tell the story is the article in the Gympie Times: *Early yesterday morning the community was shocked by the news of a sad fatal shooting accident, which took place between 8 and 9 o'clock the previous night at the Chatsworth about 4 miles from Gympie, and resulted in the death of a fine young man named William Fritz, 23 years of age. From particulars gleaned, it appears that Mr. H.G. Percival, dairy farmer, Chatsworth, had with his wife been spending the day, as most other citizens of the field at the Shop Assistants Carnival, and prolonged their stay in town after the usual tea hour. At home, his family, among*

them a son, Arthur William, about 16 years of age, were attending to the household duties, and after tea adjourned to the verandah. They were not long there when a stone was heard to flail on the roof. Young Percival did not move, but shortly afterwards another missile struck a tree close by and the party retired into the house and locked the doors. Soon the sound of more stones falling on the roof, and other sounds as of trespassers in the paddock near the house alarmed them, and their trepidation was further increased by the sound of a whistle, the crackling of sticks and foot steps, apparently as of someone approaching the fowl house. Then the gate between the paddock and the house yard appeared to be opened, and young Percival thought he could hear someone at the feedbox near the corner of the house, and a match struck, but he could see no light. Fearing that marauders were about, he took down his father's gun and unlocking the door walked on to the verandah. Soon after he heard the fowls making a noise as if disturbed and it appeared to him that someone was at the fowl house. Leaving the verandah, the youth went under the house to watch and await events. Becoming seized of the fear that someone was about to set fire to the house—an impulse probably conceived through the fact of his father's barn having been burnt down some 5 months ago, he fired the gun in the direction of the fowl house, intending to scare away any intruder who might be there. When firing he did not see anyone, but immediately afterwards, heard William Fritz call out "You have shot me Bill." He at once went and had a look at Fritz, who was lying on the ground about 13 yards from where he had fired. His sister, who had been within the house up to the shooting, then bought a light, and they discovered blood on the unfortunate victim's hand. Getting his horse, whilst his sister remained with Fritz, young Percival galloped to the elder Fritz's home, about three quarters of a mile away to apprise them of the mishap. On the way he met his own father and mother returning from town and informed them of the accident. Continuing along to Fritz's house, he told Mr. Fritz what had happened to his son, and the father asked if he was dead. On being informed that he was yet alive, arrangements were made and young Fritz was conveyed to the hospital in Mr. Percival's sulky. On arrival there an examination of the wound, which was in the abdomen, soon convinced Dr. Morris of the seriousness of the case, and that an operation to arrest the internal hemorrhage was urgently necessary to give the victim a chance of life. This, with the assistance of Dr. Nicoll, was performed, but the patient, though conscious, was already collapsed and weak from loss of blood before the operation, and he passed quietly away a few minutes before midnight. Previous before operating upon deceased, Dr. Morris, in the presence of Dr. Nicoll, asked if the injury was inflicted accidentally or otherwise, and Fritz answered "quite accidentally". The unfortunate young man was a son of Mr. G. Fritz, ganger for No. 1 division of the Widgee Shire Council. Both families are well known and respected in the community and were on the most friendly of terms with each other. The deceased young man was engaged to young Percival's sister, with her father's consent, and it is surmised that, at the time of the misadventure, he was on his way to join the company of the young lady's family at her house. The gun with which the fatal shot was fired was a pin firing breech loader, and was already loaded when young Percival took it up that night, a fact that is ascribed to the delay of loading which a farmer desires to avoid, when the necessity of guarding his crops from vermin hurriedly arises. The funeral of the deceased took place yesterday afternoon and was well attended.

The distress of the accident caused the family to leave Gympie and moved to Tewantin. Williams sister gave birth around this time and called the baby William. Third time lucky—he lived to old age.

Lyn Fleming, Tab Greber

Source Trove, Tab Greber

A BRIEF HISTORY OF INSKIP:

Inskip Point was named after Captain George Henry Inskip, a Naval Officer, by Captain Owen Stanley, the Admiralty Hydrographer and Commander of 'HMS Rattlesnake' in October 1849. This ship was used for surveying much of the Northern East Coast of Australia and surveyed the area between Fraser Island and the Great Sandy Straits on a journey from Moreton Bay to Cape Deliverance, New Guinea. One of the most memorable stories of this area is of a pregnant Eliza Fraser, who was on board the 'Stirling Castle' when it was wrecked on the Queensland Coast. Eliza was aboard one of the boat loads of survivors who made it to Fraser Island, and was cared for by local Aboriginal women. She was taken by them to Inskip Point in a canoe, then Rainbow Beach and finally rescued at Lake Cootharabah.

With the start of free settlement in 1842 the number of ships heading to Queensland increased dramatically. At the time of Queensland's separation from New South Wales in 1859, ports had already developed in Wide Bay. In 1848 the first Harbour Master for Wide Bay was appointed, Government Botanist John Carne Bidwell. His other duties were Commissioner of Crown Lands, Registrar of births, Marriages and Deaths, performing marriage ceremonies and acting Magistrate. He died in 1853 at the age of 38 after being lost for 8 days in the bush at the head of the Mary River. He had forgotten to take his compass.

In 1859 the Sub-Collector of Customs for Wide Bay Richard Sheridan was appointed Harbour Master. The Wide Bay Bar, like all bars, is a shallow area of sand deposited near the mouth of a bay or river. When the water from the Sandy Strait slows down to meet the ocean, it deposits tons of silt and mud that



it carries. This area is called the Wide Bay Bar which extends across the southern entrance near Inskip Point. The benefit of having a light keeper at Inskip is that they can signal the state of the bar so Captains can get their timing right. The coxswain is the master of the pilot boat, he will take the pilot from shore station out to the steamer or other ship requiring safe passage through the straits. He will have one or more deckhands to operate the sails or row the pilot boat. These deck hands are skilled operators of boats and are called boatmen.

Photo Samuel Reilly and son James at Lighthouse, Inskip Point

EMILY JANE REILLY:

Emily was born on the 1st July 1875 in Maryborough, the eldest daughter of Samuel James Reilly and Emily nee Crompton. Samuel was born in Middlesex England, Samuel Crouch, but his name was changed to Reilly. Emily Crompton was also born in Middlesex. The couple married in Maryborough in 1875, and went on to have 17 children.

He joined the Navy as an Able Seaman at the age of 19 and arrived in Australia under the assumed name of Samuel Reilly. He joined the Queensland Lighthouse Service as a Pilot and Receiving Officer at Inskip Point 1st December 1875. On the 15th June 1891 a terrible tragedy struck the Reilly family. Their 14 year old son William accidentally shot his sister, Emily Jane.

The Magisterial Inquest into her death was held at Inskip Point on the 16th June 1891 and went as follows: *William Walter Reilly, on oath, deposed: Am the son of Samuel James*

Reilly and the brother of deceased; on the 15th instant my father left the house leaving my sister and myself alone; my sister was cleaning pictures in the kitchen; there was a revolver hanging in the parlour; took it down off the nail; I was standing on a chair; my sister was in the next room (the kitchen) standing at the table; did not think the pistol was loaded; looked at the chamber and saw the cartridges were all dented in; as I



Photo Reilly Family at Inskip Point.

stood on the chair I turned round toward my sister and said to her, "It ain't loaded" at the same time pointing toward her; I had previously snapped the hammer down, but it was not at my sister; when I pointed it at her I pulled the trigger and it went off: She immediately said "Oh Will, you've shot me," and threw her arms out; she ran out to the gate and fell down; Mrs. Dewar than came up but my sister did not speak; I was about five yards from her when the pistol went off; I saw where the bullet struck her afterwards; it was right under the breast.

Samuel James Reilly, on oath, deposed: *Am a coxswain pilot stationed at Inskip Point; the deceased Emily Jane was my daughter; she was 17 years of age; on the 15th instant left home at Inskip Point a little after 2 pm, leaving William Walter, aged 13 years; before leaving I took down some pictures off the wall of the front*

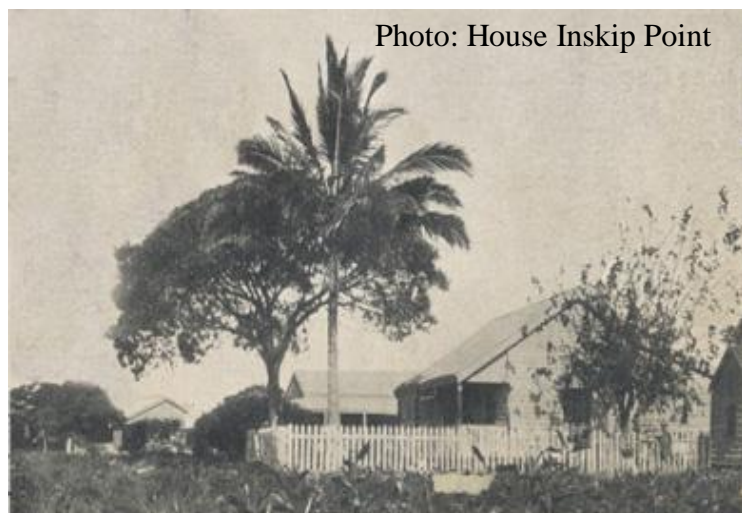


Photo: House Inskip Point

room for the deceased to clean; there was a revolver hanging on one of the walls that I took a picture from, which had one chamber loaded with ball cartridge; loaded it myself the evening before with a pin-fire cartridge; about 4 pm I was called, and returning to the house saw the deceased lying at the gate in the front of the house; when I went up to her she was still breathing, but did not speak, and died in about a minute after my arrival; examined her after death, and saw a wound under the left breast and a slight mark of blood; the body of the deceased lied in the house; it was not unusual to keep the revolver loaded; loaded it the previous evening for the purpose of shooting a dog, but had not discharged it: had warned the deceased not to allow the revolver to be touched

William Reilly stayed with his family at the lighthouse station until he turned 19 years of age. The regulations of the department forbade any son of a light keeper or pilot from remaining with the family at a lighthouse or light station after turning 19 years.

In 1902 there were very few vessels that required the services of a Pilot through the Sandy Straits so the Inskip Pilot Station was discontinued in 1902. Samuel James Reilly and his family left Inskip and stayed at Cape Moreton from 21st July to 1st October of the same year. The Inskip Point Pilot Station was officially abolished on the 31st July 1902.

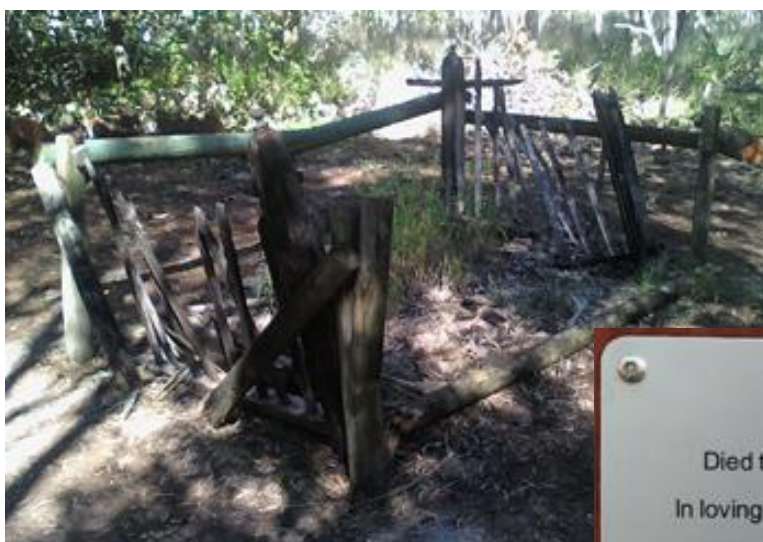


Photo Emily's Grave 2012. In May of 2012, Grant Phelan of the Q.P.W.S. was appointed to take on the conservation and acknowledgement of Emily Jane Reilly's grave. On the 7th August 2012 a new grave and Plaque was finalised.

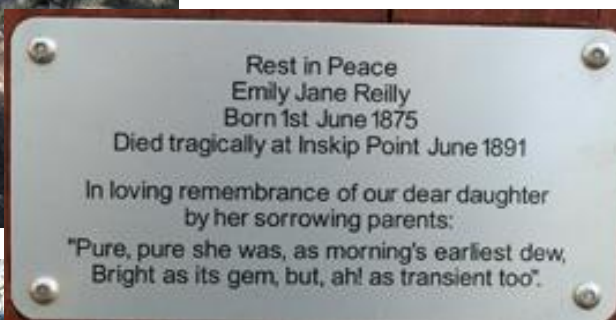


Photo left: Q.P.W.S Staff Denis Parton, Tony Moore, Grant Phelan, Richard Walding (Great Nephew of Emily), Dave Palmer and Richard Whitney.

Lyn Fleming Source: Inskip Point Light and Signal Station by Dr. Richard Walding and Great Grandson of Samuel James Reilly.

TWO GYMPIE'S A WORLD APART.

Every Sunday, as a child, my husband went to Gympie for lunch, scrubbed and in his Sunday best. No, not Gympie in Queensland, but a house of the same name in our hometown of Peebles in the Scottish Borders.

His Grandfather, Hamilton Neilson, had the house built on his return from Australia in the 1890's, a solid two storey stone house with unusual, for Scotland, carved painted wood barge boards in the Australian style below the eaves.

Hamilton, then aged 21, and his young wife Eliza, with their one year old daughter, left Scotland in December 1880. They sailed on the Lady Dalhousie, to seek gold in Queensland. The gold rush had begun some years before.

Leaving Scotland on a freezing November day, they arrived at Moreton Bay in February, 1881 in the height of a sub tropical summer.

After travelling to Gympie, Hamilton bought his Miner's Right for the sum of 10/- and started the search for his fortune.

In the next 10 years, 4 more children were born, and during that time Eliza's sister and younger brother also arrived in Gympie from Scotland, having travelled on the Duke of Sutherland. Her brother was only 17 years old.

In 1891 Eliza died at the age of 31, her young brother having died the previous year at the age of 21. A now prosperous Hamilton returned soon after with his 5 young children to his home town of Peebles in Scotland, eventually remarried and had 4 more children, one of whom was my husband's father.

Recently, having visited Gympie to search for Eliza's grave—with no success, we were browsing through the Tourist Information Centre and came across a local publication 'Gympie Times Birth, Marriage, Death, Funeral and In Memorial Notices 1890-1894 compiled by Smith and O'Hearn. Not only was the date of Eliza's death there but also that of her younger brother the previous year.

After contacting the after hours number of the Gympie Cemetery Trust (it was a weekend) we were given the exact location of the graves. On arriving early the next morning at the cemetery we found that Lee Selby, the supervisor, had placed a marker at the burial spot in the cemetery and he arrived soon afterwards, being most helpful and informative.

In 1933, Hamilton Neilson died in Peebles—a successful local coal merchant and elder of the Church of Scotland. Father of 9 children 1 of whom, also Hamilton died with the Royal Scots in the bloody battlefields of Flanders in 1917.

In one lifetime a gold mining town in Queensland was linked to a small town on the River Tweed in the Scottish Borders. Elizabeth Neilson Member Tweed and Gold Coast Family History Association.

The story was published in their magazine 'Tracks' April 2010

Truth (Brisbane, Qld. : 1900 - 1954), Sunday 25 January 1931, page 22

BULLET TAKES THREE YEARS TO DO ITS DEADLY PURPOSE

Strange Drama Of Unbrotherly Bitterness Recalled By Recent Passing Of
Albert McKenna

HOUSE WHERE TRAGEDY AND MISERY REIGNED.

Three years ago Edward McKenna shot his brother, Albert in the back—the culmination of a violent hatred between them. They were partners with another brother in a jewellery establishment, one of the best-known in Queensland, which had been bequeathed to them when their father died.

For years Edward and Albert quarrelled. Sharp differences brought their sensitive temperaments clashing together, and the bitterness between them magnified into mountains of hatred the tiniest molehills of dissension; so that the feud, simmering for many months, finally burst the barriers of reason one day in January, 1928, and Edward, picking up a pistol, fired at his brother. The shooting created a stir in Gympie, leaving eddies of interest which will remain for many years; for not only was the McKenna family amongst the best-known in the district, but the barrier of strife existing between Edward and Albert was common knowledge.

Return To Shop.

There were four brothers—Edward, Albert, Henry and George. To-day there are two. Albert is dead; so is George, and the shop in Gympie's main street is controlled by Edward and Henry. Edward returned to the business one day in July of last year, the day the law decided that he had paid for his crime. Unhesitatingly he came back to the town ignoring, with the strange silence that characterised his demeanour during his trial, the gossip of the town people. As though nothing had happened, he resumed his old place in the shop. He is there now. The shooting of Albert occurred about two o'clock on the afternoon of January 3, 1928. Albert returned to the shop from lunch at one o'clock and was sitting at his bench working when Edward walked in. Albert said nothing. The brothers had not spoken for a long time. Suddenly a sharp report burst behind him. Something stung his back like a hot knife-thrust, and reeling into unconsciousness, he collapsed to the floor. Two employees rushed forward and Albert was picked up and carried out to a bed at the rear of the shop. Soon Dr. Cuppaidge was attending him. One glance was sufficient to tell the doctor that the man's injury was grave. There was a wound in his back under the left shoulder blade, six inches from the spine, which had paralysed him from the waist downwards. For many hours, Albert hovered on the borderline of life and death. Doctors did not think he could live. Yet he did.

The Living Death

But he lived a living death. Paralysed, the bullet in his back in such a position that it could not be removed, Albert knew long weary days of hell . . . while Edward, silent morose, waited for the day when he would face a judge and jury on a charge of attempted fratricide. The trial of Edward was sensational. He appeared before Mr. Justice McNaughton and a jury in the Brisbane Criminal Court; and, standing there in the dock, he watched with enigmatic eyes his brother Albert, whom he had shot, being carried carefully into court on a stretcher; heard him later tell, in a voice so weak that it was barely audible, how his own brother had shot at him. It was a strange story that Albert unfolded from his stretcher bed of pain. In the

tensely listening court room a story of unbrotherly bitterness which, he alleged, had led his brother to attacking him on three occasions previous to the shooting. "One Sunday when I went down to the car as usual," he said, in his thin, weak voice. "I found the key was missing. I went to the shop, and rang up George, another brother. He told me that perhaps Edward had the key. Went to Eddie's house and when I asked him for the key he told me I wasn't going to get it. "I asked him to hand it over, pointing out that it was my Sunday to have the use of the car. He pulled out a pocket knife, opened it and tried to put it into me. "I went and got a brass rod in the shop and came and demanded the key again. He came at me with the knife, I tried to ward him off with the bar. The bar bent up. "He put the knife into me before I could get away. I lost a terrible lot of blood. I went to the shop and told George what had happened. The knife went into my groin, and as a result I spent 10 weeks in hospital. "Another time a traveller came to Gympie. We had an appointment with him to open up some samples. Eddie didn't turn up. . . . Later, when I saw him, I asked him why he hadn't kept the appointment. I abused him. I admit it was a thorough abusing. I considered I was justified. Next morning Eddie got to the shop before me. He hid behind a partition and hit me across the head with an iron bar. It knocked me out. I was not seriously hurt although my head was split. Father picked me up and helped me. Then, just before Christmas three years ago, I was dressing one of the windows, and missed my cloth for polishing silver. I happened to walk round the jewellery counter to see if it was there. My back was turned to Eddie at the time. He picked up a piece of silky oak and hit me on the side of the head with it. My head and ear were split. George came down and put me in a chair and waited till I came round.

Little To Say

Edward had little to say in his defence. Throughout the trial he maintained a strange calm and silence; and he heard the jury's verdict of "guilty of unlawful wounding" a verdict returned because the jury did not consider Albert entirely blameless. Without a tremor, without a stir, as he also heard Mr. Justice McNaughton sentence him to three years' imprisonment with hard labour. So, while Edward went to suffer remorse for his crime behind the walls of a prison, Albert went home to the little house upon the hill at Gympie, to spend the rest of his life upon a bed of pain. He could not sit up. He required constant attention. He was in pain all the time. Day after day he wasted, as the bullet's terrible wound ate away at his strength and health. Doctors attending him were surprised that he had lived at all and they were fully convinced that it would be only a matter of months before the bullet accomplished its grim work. Yet, though in dreadful agony, the spark of life glimmered feebly. Through the long months of suffering his wife never faltered in her service of loving care to the sick man. At times, when, looking into the future and seeing it as a void, fits of black despair descended upon him, she cheered him and brought him back to optimism. Nothing was spared him that might ease the cruelty of his helplessness.

Wife's Loving Care

His wife bought him a wireless set, a gramophone, books and birds. He loved them, and on the veranda there stands a huge cage empty now which housed the many beautiful specimens he spent hours watching and talking to. Then, slowly, the half-paralysed man got better. He could move from his bed and when they bought him a wheel chair he could make slow, painful journeys about the house. His doctors were astonished; not only that he should have lived so long, but that now he should show signs of improvement. Albert himself became a changed man. He felt that it would not be long before he would be able to start work again; and one night he talked with his wife for hours, planning to open a little shop in the town, where he could be taken down each morning in his wheel chair, and brought back again at

night. With eyes brighter with hope than they had been since that bitter day in January, 1928, he planned and planned. He even had the shop selected.

Came Tragedy

"It will be wonderful to be able to start work again!" he used to say to his wife; and she too learned to smile again. Then tragedy, swift and sudden, quenching everything as abruptly as a snuffer quenches the candle-flame. he awakened one morning feeling very queer. Later In the day his wife became alarmed at his condition and a doctor was called.

Double Pneumonia

"Double pneumonia," was the verdict; and the man was rushed to hospital and there he died. Death, the doctors decided, was due to the pneumonia, aggravated by the paralysis which the bullet had caused. To-day, Mrs. McKenna has in her possession 3000 pieces of paper shares in the jewellery business which were her husband's. They are worthless. Depression, and the general trend of unfavourableness in the business world, has affected the jewellery establishment, now run by Edward, who was released from gaol last July, and another brother, Henry. Mrs. McKenna's shares return no dividends. Now, in the little house upon the hill, a young widow remembers a man who was, in her own words, "a good husband and a loving father"; remembers, too, with bitterness, the ghost of strife which took him from her. And three young children remember a father; a father who was never able to play and romp with them like other children's fathers. In the shop in Mary Street, Edward, who shot his brother in the back, mends watches and sells gems ...

The bullet has finished its work.

Denise Juler Researcher GFHS Source: Trove

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Either pop into the rooms during our opening hours with your cash and pick up a set

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In 1935 Ian McBain drew caricatures of many of the well known Gympie Golfing identities. Henry McKenna is Number 10. The snake in his bag comes from a story of Henry choosing an iron club and with the backward movement a brown snake became entangled on the club. After some excitement it was killed and hung on a nearby fence as a warning to other golfers.

Thanks Val Thomas.

MEMBERSHIP: WE CURRENTLY HAVE 58 MEMBERS