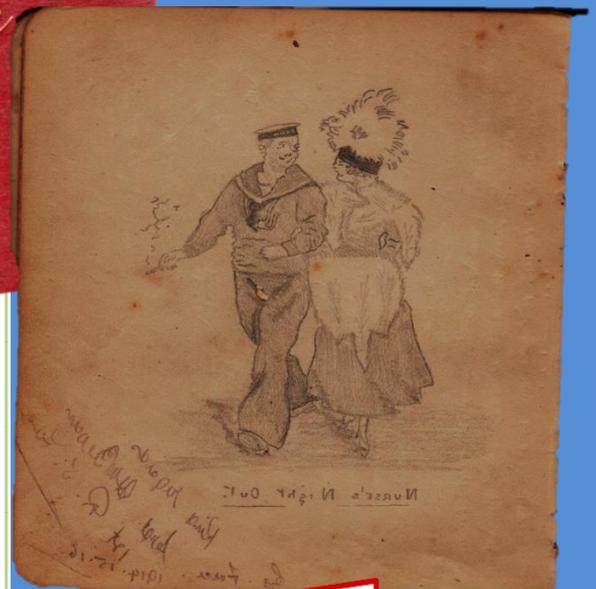
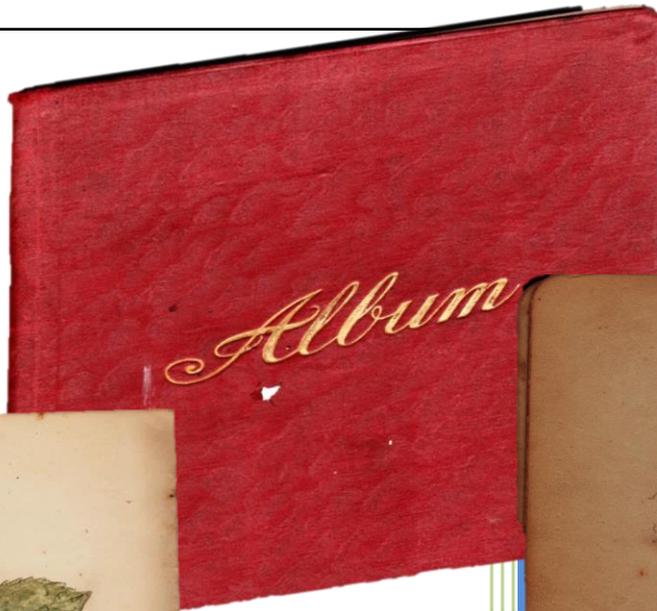


April 2019

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Gympie Gazette

Newsletter of the Gympie Family History Society Inc.



The Autograph Album Of
Nurse Jessie Florence Brown
WW1.

Contents:

Society Snippets.	4-5
When William met Jessie:	6-7
Land Records:	8
‘Wingie the Railway Cop”:	9-10
Returning the Medals:	11-13
My Life in a Nutshell:	14-15
Never Give Up:	16
O’Connor-M’Mahon Wedding:	18

EDITORIAL:

Welcome to the first edition of Gympie Gazette for 2019. Our President, Margaret Long has been ‘missing in action for several weeks with a persistent leg problem, necessitating a few days in hospital. The ‘back room’ is not the same without her and we all wish her full return to good health. Early in the year we were very sorry to receive the resignation of Di Grambower from the position of librarian. Her resignation was accepted with much regret. We look forward to seeing our new Gympie Family History Society Inc. signs erected. Together with re-furbished gardens, beautifully maintained by Clem, no one will be able to say that they don’t know where we are. Have you checked out our GFHS Facebook page, ably administered by Conny, Denise and Di W.

In this edition of Gympie Gazette, we have given you plenty of variety, with articles ranging from a WW1 love story, a railway story and two happy ending research stories. Remember that we welcome any contributions. Our magazine is only as interesting as contributions from you, the members will make it. Enjoy your read.

Val Thomas and Val Buchanan.

Vice Presidents Report. (For April 2019 meeting)

Hello everyone. President Margaret was on the road to recovery and visited us a number of times this past month. It was good to see and hear of the improvements in her health, however, it seems as though more intensive treatment is needed to help gain a full recovery. Veteran Hall Neighbourhood day was interesting. A lot of people attended and showed great interest in the information gathered and displayed regarding the Pioneer Honour Board families. The afternoon finished with a very worthwhile downpour of

rain. Visitors making an appearance this past month here at the rooms have been sharing their information with enthusiasm, sometimes with a cuppa and a chat. It is always nice to be able to provide them with information that has been gathered in our library and files over many years.

Good news continues, with success stories in various sections of the society, especially in Grants, cemetery crawls, as well as our enjoyable society monthly lunches. A big thank you to all who participate in these areas. In closing this report, I wish the society continued success whilst we all work together. Conny V.

Society Snippet and Back Room Banter:

The Back Room brains trust, our 'go to' source for all queries/happenings relating to Gympie has been very quiet of late, due in part to the absence of President Margaret, incapacitated in hospital. Gympie's version of Sadie's the cleaning ladies along with some very necessary manpower assistance descended on our rooms at 1 Chappel St. in January. Two very busy days of re-arranging records, clearing and sorting out the storeroom of accumulated 'surplus to requirements' equipment, plus an overall clean of the rooms resulted in some very weary, but happy workers. It was a marathon effort by all who volunteered their time. It is now a pleasure to even



open the door to the storeroom.



Monthly social luncheon days continue on the last Friday of the month with the trip to the **"Black Ant"** cafe at the Noosa hinterland village of Kin Kin, voted one of the most enjoyable. These luncheon days are proving very popular, and are a way of including our spouses in our society events. Our wonderful run of

luck weatherwise, for Cemetery Crawls, almost came to a crashing halt on March 20 when Gympie was treated to an incredible sound and light show plus rain. Despite the storm, the show went on, albeit at a later time. We hope for better luck on June 19th and October 16th, the remaining Cemetery Crawl dates for this year. Faye has selected names for the June crawl and placed them on the notice board in the meeting room.

Monthly meetings are now held on the second Saturday of the month commencing at 2pm at our rooms, The Old Ticket Office, Gympie Railway Station, Chapple Street. All members are very welcome. Ph. 07 54828211 Library Hours.

Wednesday: 9.30am-2pm Friday: 9.30am-12md. Saturday: 1pm-4pm.

Book Lovers Library Robyn Dahl has introduced a library of books for the use of our members. This new addition is now up and running and situated on the shelves in the meeting room. There is a nice selection of reading matter on a variety of subjects. Borrowing is easy, just sign the book provided, and read the rules stipulated. So, if you have some books at home that you would like to donate to the Book Lovers library, come and see Robyn.

ANZAC Day. In Gympie, 2019.

As part of the Memorial Lane upgrade some years ago, an eternal flame was installed at the Reef Street entrance. Each year at that time, a brief but moving ceremony is held at 6pm on April 24 to officially re-ignite the flame to signify the commencement of ANZAC services in Gympie. On ANZAC day, a Commemoration Service is held at Normanby Hill Remembrance Park, with its beautiful memorials and trees planted in memory of soldiers from past conflicts. The 10.30am service at the Rotunda in Memorial Park on ANZAC day was preceded by the march past, down Mary Street, turning into Monkland Street then on to Memorial Park. Piper, Sarah Tolliner led the march followed by the riderless horse, with reversed stirrups, led by Penny Williams. The RSL Golf Club provide veterans. World War 11 veterans were honoured by leading the marchers. They were followed by Korean Veterans, South East Asia Theatres of War, the Vietnam and Timor Veterans, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans, Peace Keepers, National Service, Allied Forces and Nurses. Both the Army and Naval Cadets marched proudly, as did the numerous school students and representatives of Guides and Scouts. Following the service, Pastor Dave Thomas led in prayer before Piper Sarah Tolliner played the Lament, which was followed by the Ode, the Last Post, one minute silence, Reveille and the National Anthem. Attendance at each of these ANZAC services continues to increase as the years go by. Elaine Thomson.



Normanby Hill Memorial



'Lest we Forget.'

When William met Jessie.



This is their story.

The story of William John **BETTS** and Jessie Florence **BROWN** is quite a lovely one and perhaps a true love story. William lived and worked on the family farm at Glastonbury until he enlisted in the AIF in 1916. During his time in the army, he suffered from various illnesses that caused him to be admitted to hospitals in both France and England and made him unfit for duty. It seems that one of his admissions to hospital was at the Bermondsey Military Hospital in London where he met a young nurse Jessie.

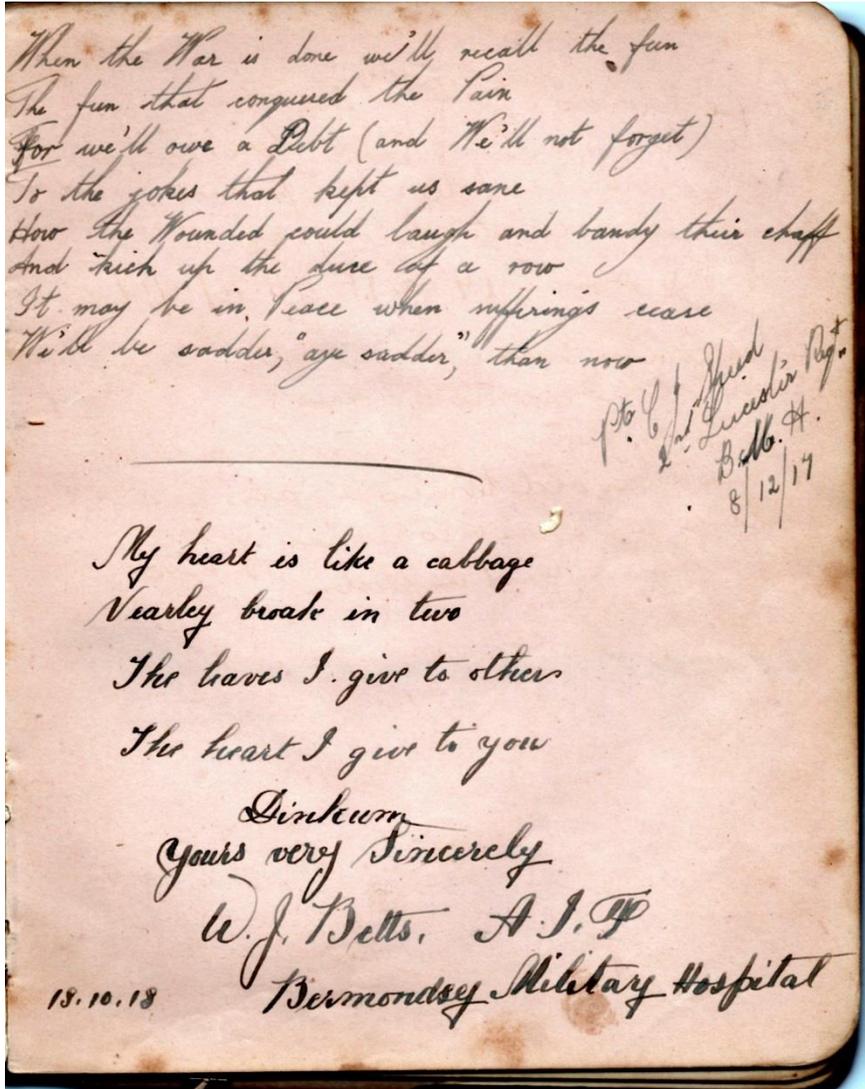
Jessie Florence **BROWN** was the second of five children born to Herbert Charlie **BROWN** and his wife Annie Louise **LOVEDAY**. Herbert was a butcher and the family resided in Walthamstow in Essex in England. Other than Census records of the day, little can be found about Jessie and recruitment as a nurse and appointment to the Bermondsey Hospital. Jessie did have a brother Herbert who served with the British Army during the war.

What is known from William's army records is that, in August of 1918, William's mother was advised that he had been admitted to the Bermondsey Hospital suffering from disordered action of the heart. There he wrote in an autograph book belonging to Jessie,

“*My heart is like a cabbage, Nearley broak in two.
The leaves I give to others
The heart I give to you.*”

Undoubtedly the words of a love struck young man sick and a long way from home. This autograph book gives the reader quite an insight into Jessie as a nurse. Her patients have filled the book with poems, cartoons and drawings indicating their regard for her and suggesting she had quite a sense of humour.

Before he was sent home to be discharged medically unfit he married Jessie on 8 February, 1919 in the Parish Church at Walthamstow. In July of 1919 he returned to Australia, accompanied by his wife, disembarking at Sydney on 19 September and continuing on to Brisbane by train. He was declared medically unfit, discharged on 6 December, 1919, and returned to the family farm at Glastonbury. From a busy, demanding life as a nurse in the Bermondsey Military hospital to farm life in the Gympie district, the contrast in Jessies' life is hard to imagine. Her first Christmas in Australia would have been spent in the heat and humidity of a Queensland summer, a vast contrast to Christmas in the cold of an English winter. In 1925, they were living in Stewart St where William was a piggery attendant. From 1928 until at least 1958 they lived at 37 Rifle Range Road and William worked in the Butter Factory. William and Jessie had three children including sadly a still born baby born in 1929. So the English nurse and the Glastonbury farmer appear to have found 'happily ever after' here in Gympie.



Note from the researcher: In 2017, a descendant of William and Jessie, now living in Victoria, commissioned the Gympie Family History Society to research the **BETTS** family. During email conversations the gentleman disclosed that he possessed the above mentioned autograph book and would gift it to us in gratitude. It is now a treasured part of our collection. Denise Juler.

Ed: Autograph books captured the numerous banter that existed between WW1 nurses and patients, as well as the realities of war.



Bermondsey
Military Hospital
Lewisham

Land Records. What we know as the Land Records were given to the Historical Society from the then Lands Office in Channon Street, Gympie, in 1994. The papers had been kept in the air raid shelter which is at the rear of the current AIMC building.



Over the following years, they were indexed into bundles and kept safe by Rose Sami and a band of helpers including GFHS member Marjorie Head. This indexing was done by hand into folders and diaries and

was an amazing amount of work. Back in 2014, the GFHS was able to remove the collection to our rooms as the sheer weight of the collection was bowing the floor of the building they were housed in. A group of twenty willing helpers carried ninety full archive boxes down the long flight of stairs at the Historical Museum and onto new shelving in our Society rooms. New boxes were obtained, and the long process of indexing onto computer began. Kerry-Ann Langford has done all the typing into an Excel list-cross referencing to the original records. Each file was sorted by Marilyn Mullaly and is now housed in smaller, numbered boxes for ease of use.

At long last, the Land Records are available for research purposes. Denise Juler, our Research Officer, is the main contact for the look up of these records. We can search by name and lease numbers if you have them.

The types of leases contain an index of the Land papers, with first selector, Parish and portion number, and range from Agricultural, Occupational, Reserves, Unconditional Selections, Road Cases, Prickly Pear Selection and Water Applications. Each file contains original documents on the lease or transfer of the land, and many include letters from the Selectors to the Land Office explaining situations and difficulties. Many of the letters are heart wrenching.

These records DO NOT cover Gympie area but focus mainly on the surrounding areas .The areas covered are: Murgon, Goomeri, Kilkivan, Nanango, Curra, Glastonbury, Miva, Tuchekoi, Gutchy, Brooyar, Widgee, Noosa, Yabba, Woondum, Goomboorian, Cloyna, Barambah, Tagagian, Neerdie, Tewantin, Winderah, Boobyjian, Gympie(Fisherman's Pocket), Goomeribong, Nangur, Imbil, Amamoor, Kandanga, Brooloo, Woroon, Gronagh and possibly a few others. There is just an odd mention of Gympie. The date ranges from 1876-1972.

Di Woodstock.

Gympie Family History Society Inc

. Would like to acknowledge the generosity of Mr. Tony Perrott MLA for Gympie, whose Electorate office has kindly printed this edition of Gympie Gazette.

‘Wingie the Railway Cop’

Wingie was the ‘nickname’ of (Bill) William Harvey Connellan

A one-armed man - a fact which earned him his nickname.

When I first heard the story of “Wingie the Railway Cop” I was fascinated. My husband, who is a Gympie boy, had never heard the story and was sure he was some sort of country town myth. Whenever I need local information, I consult the ‘brain’s trust’ the ladies of our back room who are an endless source of knowledge of Gympie history. To my surprise, not only had they heard of him but knew Buddy **WILLIAMS** had recorded a song about him which was quite the hit in country music circles.

According to his death certificate, William Harvey **CONNELLAN**, sometimes known as William Henry was born in South Africa. Other records indicate that he may have been born in Ireland. I found him first on the Australian Electoral Rolls in 1917 living in Lily St, somewhere in Queensland with no listed occupation. However, the Queensland Railway Employees Index indicates he was a labourer with the maintenance branch. From here he moved to Toowoomba and back to Brisbane but by 1925 he was residing at ‘Beech’s’, Davidson St, East Ipswich and was a railway employee. I could then assume that he was boarding with the Beech family as I found the girl who was to become his wife, Ellen **BEECH**, living at the same address. According to the Australian Marriage Index, they were married on 13 December 1928 in Queensland.



A newspaper report from Trove reports that he was transferred from Maryborough to Gympie as the railway night watchman in December of 1932. Inspecting every train that came into the station, “Wingie” apprehended hundreds of non-paying passengers in the days when it was not uncommon to see scores of tattered, penniless tramps herded into a compound at the police station awaiting Court punishment for “jumping the rattler.” He was well-known for his determination to “get his man” and often braved considerable danger to carry out his job. ‘Swaggies’ usually left the train just before the trains slowed near the Red Hill Road railway gates, rejoining it a short distance to the north. If “Wingie” missed you there was every chance that his short-fused Alsatian dog would not.

It was his dogs which became the victims of perhaps revenge for “Wingie’s” vigilance. On two occasions, I found reports in several Queensland newspapers of the poisoning of his dogs. He was also assaulted and badly beaten by three men.

Daily Standard Brisbane Thursday 9 March 1933

A nightwatchman, H Connellan, was attacked by three men after he frustrated an attempt on the part of eight to board the goods train. One man was armed with an iron bar, another with a piece of wood and the third with a bottle.....

Connellan has only one arm but he fought bravely and was considerably battered.”

In 1936, in what became known as the Gympie Train Murder, he testified to having witnessed the accused, Herbert KOPIT, boarding the Brisbane train in Gympie.

As the impact of the Depression years lessened, the reports of his exploits also lessened.

In the One Mile School admission registers Eric William **CONNELLAN** aged 11 years 1 month was enrolled on 14 February 1944. His date of birth is 16 January 1933. His father was William **Connellan**, railway employee residing at 67 Hilton Rd, Gympie.

By 1949, "Wingie" had returned to Maryborough, was living in John St and was a railway officer. William Henry **CONNELLAN** died in Maryborough on 20 September 1950 and is buried there. His funeral notice was a sad affair without any family or relatives mentioned. There was a notice from the RSL but I could not find a war service record for him.

So, in death, "Wingie the Railway Cop", remains the enigma he was in life.

How did he lose his arm?

Why is he never recorded as living with Ellen?

What happened to their son born almost 10 years after their marriage?

These questions will perhaps be answered by another researcher in the future.

Denise Juler

Research Officer

Gympie Family History Society.

Sources: Ancestry.com; Find My Past; Trove Australian Newspapers Online. Reminisces of Keith Buchanan, Ray Mullaly, Val Thomas and Margaret Long.



Gympie Railway Station
C1930s

Wingie the Railway Cop (song Lyrics)

Recorded by Buddy Williams 1957

*Now come on all you hoboes, I'll tell you all a tale,
About a trip I had up north, aboard the Sunshine Mail.
It was in the early morning, I heard her whistle blow,
When nearing Gympie Station, I grabbed my swag to go.
I was just about to leave her, but the speed was far too great,
And as I jumped into the dark I found it was too late.
For a one-armed guy you hoboes know, he hooked me by the coat.
I struggled with for a while, but found he was no joke.
He took me to the jailhouse and in the light, I saw,
That he was "Wingie the Railway Cop," You've heard of him before.
Three days in Gympie jailhouse, from riding on this train.
Three days to wash my dirty clothes, and I was fine again.
Now hoboes do take warning, when northbound trains you hop,
When nearing Gympie Station, dodge
"Wingie - The Railway Cop."*



Returning the Medals

After many years of searching I am now in a position to return two World War 1 medals to their rightful family in England. It has taken many years of research, dead ends and making contact with other members of Ancestry.com to find the correct family.



The story started like this.

In 2015 a group of family members were chatting about what we were up to and projects on the go. I mentioned that I was involved with writing the Gympie's Great War book series for the Gympie Family History Society. During the discussion one of the cousins left the room and returned with a small box that contained two medals, a Princess Mary biscuit tin and a small soldier's booklet. The cousin was at a complete loss to know how they came to be in her possession as it was certain none of our family had served in WW1. A quick examination led to the name, rank and serial number of the soldier and this name also failed to spark any memories. That night I looked up the name of Gunner A. **J GRIMSON**, 99847 and found that he wasn't an Australian soldier, he was British. The following day, as we were certain he was not from our family, it was agreed that if we could find his true family these items would be returned. From that point onwards the research began into how these objects came to be with our family and this is the story of Alfred James **GRIMSON**

Alfred was born in Bromley, Kent on 17 June 1871 to Eliza (nee **MONDAY**) and William John Evans **GRIMSON**. His father and grandfather were both gardeners and head gardeners respectively on an estate nearby. From research Alfred had an older sister Ada Emma born in 1865, and a younger brother Claude born in 1875. Alfred had just turned 4 years of age when his father William died in the latter part of 1875. This left his mother without support to raise her young family so tough times requires tough decisions. As Ada was of an age to help Eliza take in laundry work and Claude was less than nine months old the decision was made to send Alfred to the Little Boys Home at South Daren't, Horton Kirby for care. Alfred never lived with his family again. Throughout the search for Alfred's family it became obvious that his English relatives had no idea that he was a member of their family, as he didn't show on the regular census records for his mother or siblings. Since 2015 numerous contacts were made via Ancestry and all were rejected by the various family historians that I contacted. His mother Eliza had died in 1887 when she was 48 years of age, and apart from his sister Ada Emma no one knew of Alfred.

On 17th October 1893 at the age of 19 years Alfred had been working as a Groom when he enlisted for the Royal Artillery. Following training he served in India before returning to England after 8 years of service.

In the years between his return to civilian life and signing on for WW1 he worked as a builder at Hampton Hill, Middlesex although a passenger record was found for 1910 from London to Sydney aboard the ship "Wakool" where he gave his occupation as a farmhand. It is not clear how long he stayed in Sydney, as the next record is when he signed up to serve in the Great War in 1914. His war service took him into France as a Gunner for the duration although after the official ending of the war Alfred remained in service for another few years before receiving a final payout.

On 24th November 1925, at the age of 54 years, Alfred sailed from London aboard the "**Hobson's Bay**" leaving his homeland for the last time. On arrival in Sydney he found work as a cleaner in one of the Government buildings in Kent Street. This is where a friendship was formed with the Bates family and eventually led to the safe custody of his war medals etc. Through the following years he lived in York Street Sydney, close to the now Darling Harbour area, and when his sister Ada Emma died on 17th January 1937, another link with his homeland and family history was lost.

In 1939 the New South Wales Returned Servicemen's League commenced the building of a War Veterans Home at Lagoon Street, Narrabeen on the north shore of Sydney. At this stage Alfred was still living in the inner city near his friends however when the **BATES** family moved to Narrabeen Alfred also made the move out of the city to a much quieter lifestyle for his later years as he was now in his 70's. With his friend less than two blocks away he was living in the War Veterans home when his brother Claude, a retired Railway Guard, died on 4 January 1953 in Lambeth, London.

Alfred was the last of his immediate family to pass away when he died on 15th January 1955 at the War Veterans Home before being laid to rest at the Matraville Cemetery.

During the process of trying to find his family I set up an Ancestry family tree titled 'Alfred **GRIMSON** family from Bromley, Kent.' I kept adding information and responding to hints hoping that the tree might bring me closer to finding someone who would recognise Alfred as a family member. I knew he was related from a record found in the Andrews Newspaper Index cards 1790- 1976 as this record shows he was the son of William John Evans **GRIMSON** and Eliza **MONDAY**. However because he didn't show with other family members on the census records following his father's death in 1875 approaches were rejected as "not ours".

Other hints were on his attestation papers for WW1 where both his brother and sister were mentioned and once again when this was pointed out there came the same response "not ours". Still not to be outdone I ordered his birth certificate from the General Register Office in the UK. On my next attempt to find a family member I quoted this registration number.

Within a short time I had a contact in Kent, England who took one look at the family tree I had set up and agreed that he was indeed related. The man who responded is the youngest son of a youngest son, the great- great nephew of Claude **GRIMSON**, Alfred's younger brother.

Over the next few weeks the medals will be dispatched to England. The story of Alfred James **GRIMSON** and how his medals ended up with the **BATES** family solved.

Robyn Dahl

In 1967 Australian Prime Minister, the Rt.Hon.Harold Holt, issued an Anzac Commemorative Medallion

"It was awarded to surviving members of the Australian forces who served on the Gallipoli Peninsula, or in direct support of the operations from close off shore, at any time during the period from the first Anzac Day in April 1915 to the date of final evacuation in January 1916.

Next of kin, or other entitled persons, are entitled to receive the medallion on behalf of their relatives if the medallion has not been issued."

All members of the Australian Defence Force who served during the Gallipoli Campaign are entitled to receive the ANZAC Commemorative medallion.

If you have a member of your family who is entitled to this medallion and has not received it, you may still claim it, provide that you are the nearest next of kin.
Marjorie J.Head

REFERENCE:

<http://www.defence.gov.au>





My Life in a Nutshell (Getting to know Clem Brosnan))

I was born on September 9th, 1945, in Timaru, New Zealand. As my Mother wasn't married, I was to be adopted out. On October 17th 1945 my name was changed from **COLLINS** to **BROSNAN**. I had a quiet time in my earlier years as my parents were in their sixties and we spent most of the time at home. School was not much fun either, as I was bullied because of my older parents and having to wear glasses.

During my time at high school, I became a bit of a rebel and ran away with a mate of mine. This meant boarding school, and a close watch was kept on me. As time went by, this became the best time of my high school days. An interest in many sports led me to hold a few records in district school competitions and also top results in Rugby. Science became a special subject and I spent many hours at night classes with the Science teacher.

Then I became old enough to drive a car, so it was no more school, much to the disappointment of my Science teacher and my father. You could obtain a drivers licence at fifteen in those days in New Zealand. My father had expected me to become a world leading chemist, not for me, when you could be free and out on the road.

My teenage years were spent doing all the things teenagers do, and I had a great bunch of mates. Marriage came along and I have three sons. In 1982, my wife and I separated; I remarried and moved to Australia in 1983 with my new wife. My boys Mother and I are still good friends and we always have a great time when we catch up.

My wife and I settled in Maryborough, Queensland after a few months in Brisbane. During the next twenty two years, two of my sons came to Australia, one lives in Maryborough, and the other is in Gympie. In 2004, I was single again and eventually moved to Tasmania for an enjoyable five years, before returning to Queensland to live in Gympie.

Soon after moving to Gympie, my sons suggested I should check to see if my biological parents may still be alive. After some time, a reply came from the New Zealand Adoption Agency. I was told that my father had passed but my mother was in aged care going through the legal procedures, was told to see me. I was also informed that I had a brother. So it was on the plane and off to family. One of my sons came with me and we



from the New Zealand Adoption Agency. I was told that my father had passed but my mother was in aged care going through the legal procedures, was told to see me. I was also informed that I had a brother. So it was on the plane and off to family. One of my sons came with me and we had a great time.

It came to be that my brother had been living in Timaru during my time there before I moved, and not know each other. He is a great guy and it is sad that we didn't meet earlier. Once back in Gympie, I began the process of following up, tracing the family's history. My mother passed in 2011. While checking on my father, I found that he did a lot of mountain climbing, which my mother had also told me about. I had worked at Mt. Cook as a coach driver during the late 1960's and early 1970's. It was during these years that my father was also climbing there. I am sure our paths have crossed as I mixed with a lot of climbers. Mick **BOWIE** was a Guide for many years, and I would

spend many nights at his house, listening to the stories the climbers would tell of their adventures, over a few beers. Mick **BOWIE's** wife wrote a book about his times in the mountains and my father is mentioned in the book, many times. My parents did eventually marry and my father passed in 1987. My brother was also adopted, and it was great to meet him when he took me and my sons to meet Mum for the first time. I am in constant contact with him, and enjoy being with him and his family. During the research on my family, I have found my father had family in Finland. That explains our love of the mountains.



One never knows what may come out of tracing your ancestors. It has opened a whole new chapter of my life. I just wish I had started the journey earlier. I look forward to many more happy times with my new family. **Clem Brosnan**

Photo: (Clem with his mother Joan **WINN** and brother Graeme **WILSON**.)

(Ed: Clem's story, in Clem's words.)

Cemetery Crawls

Join us for our next cemetery crawl on June 19

With the final for 2019 on October 16

6pm at the Two Mile Cemetery, Corella road Gympie.

Please bring a torch and wear comfortable walking shoes.

GFHs Inc. Monthly meeting are held second Saturday of each month, 2pm.

This is a story to encourage you to never give up on your elusive relations.

For some years, I have been searching for my great grandmother, Elizabeth **ROSS**, maybe I was not looking in the right places. My mother was Jean **RODWELL** (nee **GILMOUR**) hence the interest.

My grandmother Annie **ROSS** was born at Katamatite in Victoria or maybe born in Muckatah and registered in Katamatite. Don't you love those Australian names? Her father Robert **ROSS** died of pneumonia in 1889 being only 41 years of age and having been married for some fourteen years. During this time, they had a family of six children, Annie being the second youngest. She was four when he died with the youngest Gordon only 1 year old. Then, disaster struck again with Elizabeth dying in 1891 of colitis and pneumonia. Imagine both parents dead and the youngest only one or two years old.

Fast forward many years - Annie married in Lockhart in NSW and she and her husband Herb **GILMOUR** and his brother Arthur travelled up to Queensland and settled on properties in Miles, Queensland. From there, Herb, being interested in timber, travelled and settled in Wolvi and went into a partnership with George **LORENSON** in the Wolvi sawmill.

Over the years, we, in Queensland, were told many stories of how Annie was raised for a period of time by a lady who was said to be married to a man who was a rabbit-trapper. Nobody knew much of the details and being so far away, we just carried on with our lives, always remembering how difficult it must have been for the little ones. We always say that when grandparents etc. were around, we were never interested enough to enquire as to the real story - it is only when we get older that we begin to wonder about our family history and then of course it is too late as they are not here to tell us.

When I started to do my family history, I was always wondering where and when Elizabeth died. I could never find her and I even enlisted some help but nothing was found. Six years ago, a lady from Victoria, , e-mailed me to tell me that she had taken some photos of gravestones in Katamatite but found that they did not belong to her and having seen my family name suggested that he may belong to me. I found that he did - not too close- but nevertheless, he did belong to my branch of the family. She had offered to help me at the time but I did not go any further with it.

Last week, I just thought I would contact her again - hoping that she still had the same e-mail address - so off my message went.

A couple of days later back came her e-mail, saying it had intrigued her and she would have another look. The next day, back came another, saying that she had found Elizabeth's death and also her probate online and went further to find that she thought it was the same Elizabeth who had remarried and had a child the next year. She gave me the name of the daughter, Victoria May, and her birth details. I then knew that it was my Elisabeth. as it had included her former married name on the probate data. After bringing Victoria May's name up on Ancestry, up came her story from her family tree. I got in touch with the "Contact", Vikki, who very quickly got back to me with the details from the second marriage. After Elizabeth died in 1891, the new husband, William **WARREN**, then had a baby of his own and

the young family of Elizabeth's to look after. Just imagine what a responsibility that would have been. Also he apparently never re-married although he was much younger than Elizabeth.

My new-found relation tells me she now lives in Melbourne in the next suburb to where my son lives. It is a small world, isn't it? Victoria May would be a half-sister of my grandmother Annie. Vikki tells me she hopes to travel up to Queensland next year in winter so I hope we shall be able to meet her - she is around the same age as my daughter. Her mother is Victoria's daughter.

So ends my story. Val Thomas.

STREET NAMES OF GYMPIE.

How well do you know your city? Many of the streets and roads of Gympie were named after our pioneers.

ASHFORD'S ROAD: Named after the late G.J.Ashford, one of the pioneers of the goldfield. At one time, he owned practically all the land between Crescent Road and Rifle Range Road, and used it as a farm. He was one of the original founders of the Loyal True Friendship Lodge of Oddfellows in 1868.

AMY STREET: Named after Amy Nash, the daughter of James Nash. She later became Mrs. J. Moore.

ALENOLA STREET: This street is in the Pine Street area, and derived its name from the combination of the names of the three children of the late E.P. Thurecht, former part owner of the land. Their respective names were Alan, Leonard and Noela.

ARALUEN TERRACE, MONKLAND: this was named after a very rich goldfield in New South Wales, from which many miners came following the gold rush to Gympie.

BLIGH STREET: perpetuates the memory of O'Connell Bligh, Warden and Police Magistrate in Gympie from 1870 until his death in December, 1880.

LILLIS ROAD: Named after the late Patrick Lillis, a well-known Irishman who made a fortune following the gold rush in 1867. He was the original owner of the land which he presented to the Catholic Church in 1885 and at one time was owner of Kenilworth Cattle Station and Woolooga Station.

McLeod LANE: Adjoins the One Mile School and was named after the late J.A.McLeod, first master of the school- a position he held for forty five years.

GEORDIE ROAD: The name arose from the fact that many of the miners residing in the area came from Durham in Northern England and were known as "GEORDIES"

(Taken from How Gympie's Streets Were Named. Compiled by Mr. G Thomas)



Wedding

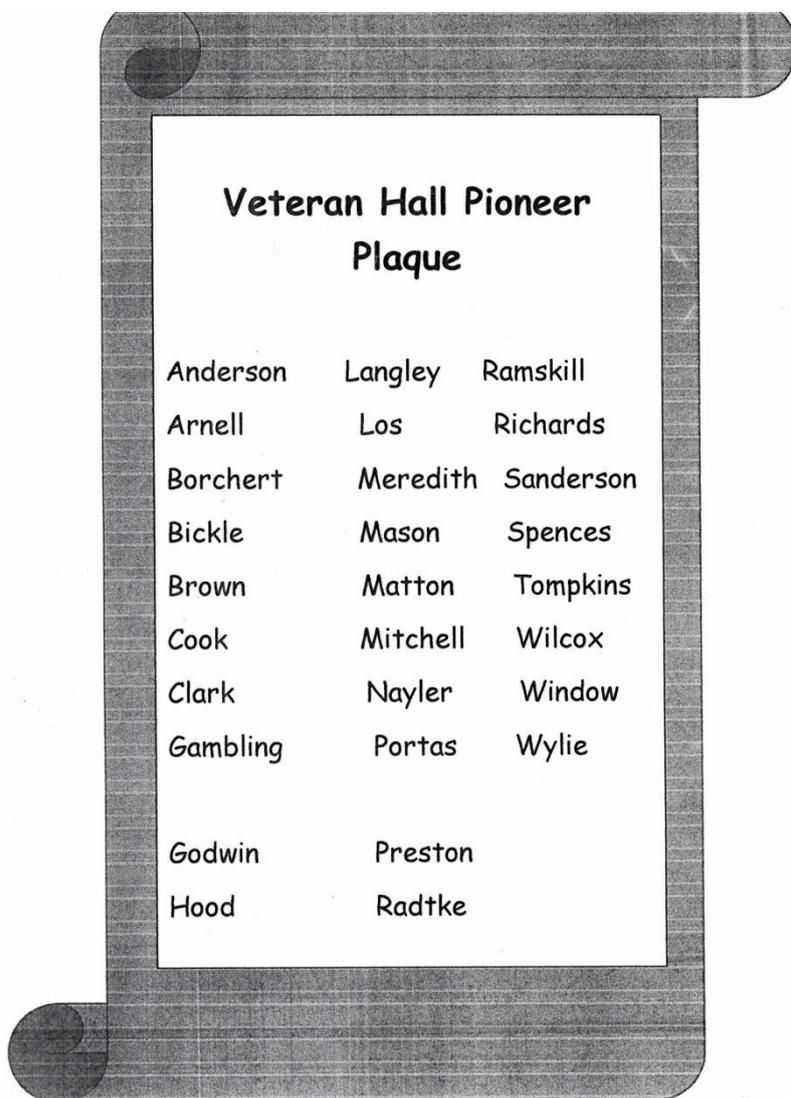
O'CONNOR – M'MAHON

A quiet and very pretty wedding was celebrated in St. Patrick's Church, Gympie, on Easter Monday, April 9. The contracting parties being Rose, eldest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur McMahon, "Rossmore", Inglewood Hill, Gympie and Edmund, fourth son of the late Mr. T. O'Connor, Mt. Pleasant, Gympie. The Very Rev. Dean Horan officiated. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a bridal gown of Spanish lace, mounted on a underslip of white satin and trimmed with seed pearls and nixon. The train, which hung from the shoulders, was of fine Brussels net over pink silk trimmed with pink bebe roses and seed pearls. Her beautiful embroidered veil (which was lent by her sister, Mrs. A. Lydement) was arranged in cap fashion and fastened with a wreath of pink bebe roses. She carried a bouquet of Easter lilies and other choice blooms, tied with white satin streamers, presented by Mrs. J. Bush. The bride's two sisters acted as bridesmaids. Miss C. M. McMahon (chief) wore a dainty frock of pale blue crepe de Chine, black hat relieved with pale blue; Miss M. e. McMahon was daintily attired in a pretty gown of pink silk. She wore a pretty pink hat trimmed with black lace and roses. Both bridesmaids wore gold rings, gifts from the bridegroom. Their bouquets were composed of pale pink roses and asparagus fern. Little Miss Una Vowles, cousin of the bride, acted as train bearer; she was frocked in white crepe merle relieved with pink, hat to match, and wore a gold brooch, a gift from the bridegroom. The bride's present to the bridegroom was a suitcase, and the bridegroom's to the bride a silver manicure set. Mr. H. Heymer, of Wynnum, took the role of best man, and Mr. Arthur McMahon, brother of the bride, as groomsman.

After the ceremony the wedding party motored to Murray's Studio, where they were photographed and thence to "Rossmore", Inglewood Hill, the residence of the bride's parents, where a sumptuous breakfast was laid in the large dining room, which had been decorated by friends and sisters of the bride, with flowers and flags. The chief feature of the table was the beautiful wedding cake which stood in the centre of the table under a wedding bell, which was suspended from the ceiling. During the breakfast the usual toasts were honoured. The catering was done by the City Café. Mr. & Mrs. O'Connor left by the afternoon train for Sandgate, where the honeymoon was to be spent. The bride's travelling dress was of baby blue silk trimmed with floral; her large American sailor hat was black tagel straw trimmed with cerise silk and roses. The presents received were costly and numerous, including cheques from the following:- Mrs. A. Shanahan (Townsville), Mr. and Mrs. T. O'Connor (Gympie), Mr. and Mrs. P. Earner (Sandgate) Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Clare (Eidsvold)

(April 1917).

From the Research Desk Late last year, we were approached by the Veteran hall Committee for our help with a project they had instigated. In the hall, they have a wooden plaque entitled 'A Tribute to Our Pioneers'. The Committee have no details about the plaque except that it bears the names of early settler families in the Veteran area. As they plan to have an open day in late March, they were looking for help in researching these families. We are delighted to be part of this community project and have begun putting the stories together. One of our intrepid researchers, Conny V, has embraced this difficult assignment as there are only surnames on the plaque and no other details. The names on the plaque are: ANDERSON, ARNELL, BORCHERT, BICKLE, BROWN, COOK, CLARK, GAMBLING, GODWIN, HENWOOD, HOOD, LANGLEY, LOS, MERIDITH, MASON, MATTON, MITCHELL, NAYLER, PORTAS, PRESTON, RADTKE, RAMSKILL, RICHARDS, SANDERSON, SPENCES, TOMPKINS, WILCOX, WINDOW and WYLIE. If any of our readers have any information we would love to hear from you.



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.

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 **Account: BSB 633000 Acc 164520546** and is with Bendigo Bank. We ask that you confirm by email to gfhs.com.au if possible when you have made the payment or simply put your name in the reference box. Then we can allocate your payment and get on with the research.



**GFHS Meetings are held on the
2nd Saturday Of each month at the GFHS Rooms
1 Chapple Street Gympie. Ph 54828211
All members are welcome to attend.
Friendship, a raffle and afternoon tea.
We are a friendly group. Come and join us.**

GYMPIE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC. OFFICE BEARERS 2018-2019

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<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	Downstairs at the Old Ticket Office 1 Chapple St. Gympie QLD. 4570
<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	All correspondence P.O.Box 767, Gympie QLD.4570 or secretary@gfhs.com.au
<u>MEMBERSHIP FEES</u>	Annual fees are due by 31 st August each year Family Membership \$45(Two members of an immediate family residing at the one address) PRO RATA till 31 st August Dec-Feb. Mar-May June-Aug.
<u>SINGLE MEMBERSHIP</u>	\$40 \$30 \$20
<u>FAMILY MEMBERSHIP</u>	\$50 \$40 \$30
<u>WEB PAGE</u>	https://www.gfhs.com.au/ (new website address)

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Gympie Family history Society Inc.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Gympie's Great War 1914—The lead up to the war and the beginning of enlistments in 1914 through the words of the local papers and including the stories of the men who enlisted during the year.

Gympie's Great War 1915- -The year of 1915 through the words of the local papers and including the stories of the men and women who enlisted in 1915. This is in two parts-Book 1 Jan-June and Book 2 July-December.

Gympie's Great War 1916- The year 1916 through the words of the local papers and including the stories of the men and women who enlisted in 1916. This is in two parts- Book 1 Jan-June and Book 2 July-December.

Each Gympie's Great War book in the series is \$30 (postage is \$14 for up to and including 3 books)

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) \$20 plus p&h **B**

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**

GYMPIE FUNERALS Cooloola Crematorium— funeral notices transcribed from their website

2010 part year \$10 plus p&h **A** **2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015** \$15 each 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 \$3 each plus p&h **B** for 3 booklets (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# 164520546 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”

GFHS Library hours: Wednesday 9.30am-2pm. Friday 9.30am-12md. Saturday 1pm-4pm.

Ph. 07 54828211