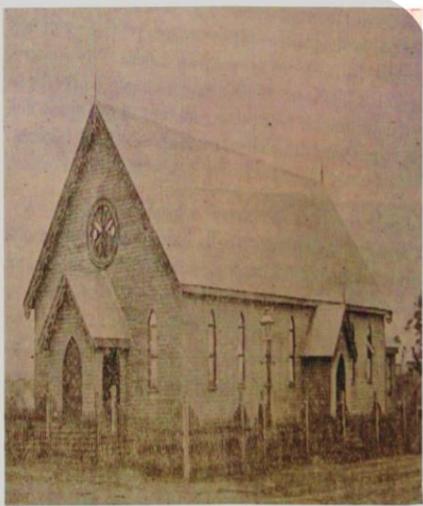


November 2019

No.93 I.S.S.N 1035-334

GYMPIE GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Gympie Family History Society Inc.



St. Peter's Anglican Church Gympie, 1869-2019



Anglican Parish of Gympie
Invites you to celebrate
150th Anniversary of our Church
1st September, 2019 at 9:00 am
In St Peter's Church
Corner Lady Mary Tce & Amy St Gympie
We'd love for you to join us for this special Celebration
of Thanksgiving to be presided by The Right Reverend
Jeremy Greaves, Bishop for the Northern Region.

RSVP:
Phone: 07 5482 2629
Email: anglican.gympie@bigpond.com
Find us on the web or Facebook by typing
"Anglican Church Gympie"



Celebrating 150 Years of Worship

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Editorial

Welcome to this edition of Gympie Gazette. It is that time of the year when we stop and think just where has this year 2019 gone, and more importantly, how has it gone so quickly. It has been quite a successful year with our club branching out in a few different directions. Our GFHS Facebook page, ably administered by Denise and Conny continues to be our face in the Social media world.

Members contributions are as usual greatly appreciated, particularly those with local interest. We have received some member's family stories and all loved reading them. Everyone has a story to tell- you can share your ancestors with us all. For our new members this is a good way to introduce yourselves to our society. As in all good publications, our Gazette is not immune to editorial typos with page 11 of Gazette no. 92 telling the story of Returning the Medals to the family of Gunner A.J. **GRIMSON**. With apologies, this family name should read **GIMSON**.

In this edition of Gympie Gazette, we have given you variety, with subjects ranging from Lighthouse keepers, a lovely family story of growing up in Gympie, Church history, plus an intriguing story of why there was no convict in the Head family. All with connections to our area. Enjoy your read.

In the meantime, from our Gazette, have a lovely Christmas with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year and leave you with an Irish Blessing.

“May you never forget what is worth remembering or remember what is best forgotten”.

VB.



Back Room Banter (or Society snippets)

Our back room continues to be the nerve centre for discussions of all things genealogical, plus a myriad of other subjects as well. It really is the area where family relationships/connections are discovered, and in some cases where the proverbial brick wall has been given a good nudge. With DNA being very much flavour of the month in genealogical circles, the DNA workshops run by our librarian Pam are always enjoyed and well attended.

The monthly social luncheon days continue to grow in popularity with new members joining in. This has proven to be a lovely way of meeting our respective spouses and friends during the year while supporting the many and varied eating places we are blessed with throughout this wonderful Cooloola region. Many 'tall tales and true', along with some questionable jokes only add to the camaraderie of the day. The 'Silky Oak Tea Gardens' will be the final for this year on 29th November.

Cemetery Crawls at the Two Mile cemetery continue to generate a lot of interest, and have been well supported. Our final crawl for this year, an Armchair Crawl, will be in a slightly different format and venue at our society rooms at 2pm on Saturday 23rd November. This crawl will honour some of the people buried in unmarked graves. Depending on interest in this format, this type of crawl could be run at different times to our regular March, June and October dates for the Two Mile cemetery.



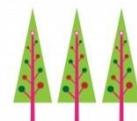
The Local History Room of Gympie Regional Library was a fitting venue on November 7th for the launch of the final book in our series, Gympie's Great War 1917-18. This has been a mammoth undertaking, one we as a society are very proud of.

In this edition of Gympie Gazette, we have our very own version of '**Who do you think I Am**'. Clues will be throughout the magazine for this brain teaser. We look forward to your comments. **Clue no. 1.** **In**

my younger years I was a member of a team consisting of ten people, and for a short time I was the leader"

Also, as next year is the 40th Anniversary of the formation of our Society, we hope to celebrate in style so put your thinking caps on and let the organising committee know of any suggestions you may have in mind. **(Saturday, 20 June 2020. Details at a later date)**

Keep the dates of our Christmas festivities in mind- we would like to see a good attendance of members at these events as it is a lovely way to finish our year.



Our long serving President Margaret Long (2011-2018) did not seek re-election at our AGM. We acknowledge the wonderful service she has given to the Society over the years and were very happy to appoint her as our very first GFHS Inc. Patron. (*ED. She still reigns supreme in the Back Room*). Photo: (. Margaret Long with incoming President Robyn Dahl.)



This year has seen the completion of the Gympie's Great War series of books. The society members should be very proud of the production of six books of outstanding interest and quality. The Rattler Railway Company, who owns the building that we use, has been approached to assist with some refurbishments, namely floor coverings and interior paintwork. This would brighten the interior no end and lift everyone's spirits. With the successful outcome of a number of grants in the past year, upgrades have taken place to our signs and some of the very used and worn out equipment. The next grant round starts in February 2020, soon after our return from the summer break so I am calling on all members to give some thought to what we might need to replace in the future. Big or small, all ideas will be welcome so drop your ideas to the secretary.



My vision for the coming year is that the Society will continue to grow in numbers and stature. The online presence of the web page and Facebook will enhance the work that we do and provide a regular form of self-advertising and contact with the wider community. The number of interested people who frequent these sites is steadily growing, taking the Gympie Family History Society to new areas and people all the time. With

the festive season fast approaching, and on behalf of the newly elected committee for the coming year, I wish members and potential members a safe and happy holiday.

Robyn Dahl President

Gympie Family History Society Christmas Party

Will be held on Saturday, 14 December beginning 1pm.

At 42 Belvedere Road, Veteran.

Please bring a plate of goodies to share and your Christmas Spirit.

RSVP Denise: 54836860

Rooms: 54828211 (During opening hours or leave a message on the machine.

Clue No. 2 Practice was each Saturday afternoon on the oval where we were put through our routine. These days trying to remember a routine would be hard, but in those days, it was much easier.

The First 150 Years

(A snapshot of Anglican History in Gympie 1868/9 – 2019)

By early 1868, the Primitive Methodists, had a building they called The Diggers' Bethel. It was close to the corner of Nash Street and Channon Street, apparently tucked in somewhere near the present RSL car park is. The Diggers' Bethel was small, of timber slabs and had no glass windows.



This sketch appeared in "The History of Maryborough and Wide Bay and Burnett Districts from the year 1850 to 1895" compiled from original sources by George E Loyau, published in 1897. (Courtesy State Library of Queensland). Most denominations used the Diggers' Bethel until they had their own buildings.

The Anglicans had a block of land on Palatine Hill. The John Oxley Library has this photograph taken from Calton Hill, (below left) of a view of

Gympie ca 1870, with a church on a hill in the background right. It seems that the church in this picture is the first St Peter's.



In October 1868 tenders had been called for the building of this church; it was to cost two hundred and ninety pounds, with sixty pounds to be spent on seating. The architect was to be paid two Guineas, (two pounds two shillings).

The then Maryborough Police Magistrate George Faircloth, came to lead prayers in the new church in early January 1869.

In February 1869 Rev George Danvers came from Maryborough for worship, perhaps a celebration of the Eucharist. The first Rector, Henry Campbell was believed to be enroute to

Gympie at that time. The parish became a formal entity.

The early clergy in the Brisbane Diocese were a remarkable lot. They were very often from wealthy, upper class or even aristocratic families. They were extremely well educated, all of them possessing

Bachelor degrees, and some of them also having Masters from Oxford or Cambridge, to which they added their studies in theology. A few had also managed a Doctor of Divinity, and a couple had science degrees or qualifications. Frequently they were possessed of private means and a regular income from their accumulated family wealth.

An average English parish was usually small in its area and easily visited in horse and buggy. In Australia these men spent much of their lives in the saddle. Early records of many parishes including Gympie, record what we would now have to regard as epic endurance riding, not just occasionally, but week after week. Gympie priests on horseback went out beyond Kilkivan, past Mt Mia to Blacksnake Range for example. They rode as far to Noosa. *One priest who came to Gympie reported to his first parochial council that he had just completed three weeks of calls in which time he had visited two hundred and sixteen homes.*



He set himself the schedule of three and a half days a week visiting in Gympie itself, and three and a half days a week getting to farms and camps in more remote parts of the parish.

Not surprisingly, the rigours of early ministry in the Gympie area took its toll. Some priests lasted for only a few months, before returning to England, or moving to more 'settled' and established parishes in other places. In one period of 20 years, it appears that there were 22 such appointments and departures.

And it wasn't just the horse-back travelling, the earthen floor rectories, the vermin or the other privations of living in a rough and tumble mining town. It's fair to say that some of the early parishioners and parish councillors could be described as 'born-again belligerents'. They were a challenging lot!

For many years Gympie was virtually divided into two; St Peter's in town proper and St Andrew's at Mt Pleasant. Although they were in fact one entity, they often functioned independently of one another – a little bit of 'them and us'.

Another church building, St Jude's was built at the Two Mile in 1885 but was destroyed by a cyclone only five years after it first opened – it was never rebuilt. Over the years, other churches came and went. The Parish Paper of August 1947, shows a list of regular services being held at St Peter's Gympie, St Andrew's, Mt Pleasant, St John's Pine Street, St George's Wolvi, with Goomboorian, Cedar Pocket, Chatsworth, Glastonbury, Mooloo, Neusa Vale, Warawee, Lower Wonga, Wilson Pocket, Jones Hill, Lagoon Pocket and Widgee; no longer on horse-back perhaps, but very demanding of clergy nevertheless.

The second St Peter's built in Lady Mary Terrace, was opened on January 1st, 1888 – the brick (former) parish hall stands on the site. From the beginning the pseudo-gothic wooden structure was considered inadequate, and even the addition of imitation buttresses did little to make it more appealing to the eye. That said, people came to love the place, and it lasted up until the present and third St Peter's was opened and dedicated in 1954.

The longest servicing rector was the Rev'd J.H. ('Pop') Steer. Appointed in 1934, he died suddenly, in harness, in 1947. It was largely his drive and enthusiasm that saw this present day St Peter's built.



St Peter's, standing on the corner of Amy St., and Lady Mary Terrace.

(Photo)

A Sesquicentenary Booklet is in the process of being compiled and published and will contain a wealth more detail of clergy names, notable events etc., and will make for some quite fascinating reading.

Contributed by Rev'd Kevin Lewis, from material that has been researched and compiled by Tricia Brook.

(Ed: Twenty six rectors and four locums have served St. Peter's since the Rev. Campbell took that first service in Gympie's Church of England on Palatine Hill 150 years ago.)

Cemetery Crawl dates for 2020

11 March, 10 June, 7 October.

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

Please bring a torch and good walking shoes are essential.

Clue No. 3. Competitions were held about once a month in our town as well as away.



LIFE & JOURNEY OF LYNNE WILSON

(Getting to know Lynne Wilson)

I was born on 2 November 1943 at Braeside Hospital in Blythe Street Gympie (where the Christian Brothers College now stands). Given the name of Beverley Lynne Smith-Goodwin, I prefer to be known as 'Lynne'. I've lived in Gympie and the district all my life.



William & Claire
Smith-Goodwin

Being the eldest of the four children born to loving parents William James and Claire Alma smith-Goodwin (nee Swain), I was followed by siblings Philip James (29 March 1949-1 March 1970); Noela Claire (15 Sept 1948-) and Heather Maree (3May 1951-).

Life wasn't easy for my parents in those early years as I was born during World War 11. My father didn't see me until I was 6 months old. After the War he worked at several occupations to support the family. My mother also cared for my grand-parents and great grand-mother until their demise. For this reason and due to my mother's own ill health, I was frequently sent to stay with my paternal aunts.



My education was at the One Mile Primary and Gympie Intermediate High School. At 14 years of age I commenced my 5-year apprenticeship Hairdressing at the Canberra beauty Salon. My first pay was 30shillings (3.00) per week. After 6 years at the Canberra, I then worked at Len Davis Hairdressing Salon in Cooroy for 5 months. The Keith Jamieson and Don Birch families asked me to return to Gympie to manage their newly opened hairdressing salon (Corine Beauty Salon) which I managed for a further 5 years until my sister Noela took over the position of manageress having taken her through her apprenticeship.

I've always been involved with my church first attending Sunday School and Youth Groups at the Red Hill Methodist Church. This led to my being leader of Rays and Comrades before becoming District Leader for these groups for the North Coast district. When the Presbyterian and Methodist Congregations became the Uniting Church, I continued with youth work until the body couldn't keep up with the young people. I joined the Women's Church guild and was President for 2 years. This group of ladies is now known as the Friendship Group, of which I am still a member.

During my membership of the Gympie Junior Farmers Association (Later known as Rural Youth), I won a dressmaking and cooking completion and went on to the State Finals Brisbane.

I met my husband Douglas Bernard Wilson who was a farmer. What a changer for me from city to country life. I told him I would marry him only if I didn't have to milk cows and we had a septic toilet system. We were married at the Red Hill Methodist church on 12 November 1966.



Lynne and Doug. Engagement photo

We have two children, Martin Jon and Selina Ann. They were educated at Gympie south Primary and Gympie High Schools. Always keen to be involved during the 9 years of their education, I became a member of the South School Ladies Auxiliary. At their annual fetes I managed the sweet and cake stall for many years.

I became heavily involved with research and organisation of the Gympie South and District 100th Anniversary in 1985. From this followed a great interest and passion of local and family history which is a story within itself. As mothers often do, I became involved with my children's activities and interests- Selina in the Gympie Youth Music Society and Martin in Rural Youth.

Well, I had a septic in the house we built on the farm at 7 Calico Creek Road, Calico Creek and never milked cows. However, I did do all the paperwork. Life was never dull. We employed a lot of people as we also commercially grew beans, tomatoes, cucumbers and peas. We worked long hours regardless of rain, cold or hot weather. Now I reflect and realise that whilst it was hard arduous work, it was a good life for us and rewarding.

After doing youth work, my life became involved with Aged Care from 1981 when I joined the Winston House Ladies Auxiliary until the facility closed in 2015. Of the 34 years' service, I spent 32 years as President. It was my responsibility for attending to monthly concerts and entertainment including Christmas, Easter and Birthday celebrations for residents along with regular visiting and outings. Our circle of volunteers also mended and adjusted clothing for residents and made new garments for the home. I made wonderful friends with this group of ladies. We still meet every month for morning tea.



Doug and I have been members of the Gympie and District Orchid society from around 1982. Whilst Doug's love of orchids has led him to become the Doctor for the orchids, I became their nurse as we still enjoy the orchids. God has given me the gift of the love of gardening and flowers. For decades' I have volunteered in doing the floral arrangements for the church and for people's special occasions.

Gympie has been my hometown. Just as my parents loved family history and local research, I feel I have inherited this same gene and retain my membership within the Gympie Family History Society. It was a big surprise when the rotary Club of Gympie-Cooloola named me as a Paul Harris Fellow on 4 July 2017 for my service to the community. Without the support of my husband, family and friends who have supported me I would not have been able to achieve what I have done voluntarily. I now have 4 grandchildren: Braeden Wilson, Talitha Ashleigh, Courtney Anna and Piper Adair.

Who knows where the remainder of my journey will take me from now?

(ED: Lynne's story in Lynne's words.)

Clue No. 4. We were always smartly attired, very competitive and referred to as the "Fruit Salad Army" because of the variety of colourful uniforms of the various teams. A mandatory part of each team's uniform was the white boots.

Why we don't have a convict on our family tree?

John **TUNE** WAS BORN IN Malta in 1727 and taken prisoner as a child by the Turks. He escaped to France, but was then captured by the English, joined their navy and became a sailor under Captain GEARY (later Admiral) when he was thirteen. A Roman Catholic he also changed his religion to conform to his new nationality.

At some stage he left the royal navy to try and branch out for himself (he admitted at his trial that he was “young and foolish”). He married Catherine **THOROWGOOD** in 1749 in Dover and they had several children, but only two were living, a boy and a girl, at the time of his capture. Obviously, his wife thought she could improve him and tried to teach him to read but he did not apply himself to this. She also tried to teach him “the principles of the Christian religion” and was able to have him confirmed by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Dover.

John became a privateer and the master of “The Young Eagle”. A privateer is a person or ship that engages in maritime warfare under a commission of war. A Letter of Marque authorised armed merchant ships to challenge any likely enemy vessel that crossed its path during the course of a commercial voyage. “their primary objective was to disrupt enemy shipping”. (Wikipedia)

However, in August 1758 John overstepped the mark and robbed a Dutch ship off the Kent coast, which was against the terms of his licence. His booty consisted of “3000 yards of linen and 38 rolls of painted oilcloth”. While attempting to land the stolen goods near Folkstone he was caught by customs officers and arrested.

It took two years for John's case to come to court but on 30 October 1760 he was tried at the Old Baily, London, convicted of “feloniously and piratically plundering (on the 5 August 1758) a Dutch ship” and attainted of piracy and robbery. His case was not helped when members of his crew gave evidence against him. The inclusion of the word “attainted” meant that he lost all his civil rights, all his property was forfeited and was then sentenced “to be hung by the neck until he be dead”



John **TUNE'S** death sentence had a disastrous effect on his wife; she went into a decline and died from grief, on 20 September 1759.

Convict John was imprisoned on the ship the Princess Royal before being moved to Newgate prison. It would appear that he did not take his situation very seriously as he was “rather negligent” and failed to attend regular church services in the prison. During this time, he was visited by a woman who purported to be his wife but was probably a prostitute. A visit from his sister-in law put a stop to that! For some reason it took two weeks for the death penalty to be carried out, which led John to believe that his sentence would be repealed. However, when he realised that death was a reality, he became more penitent.

On the Sunday before his execution he was made to attend church and listen to a sermon “while he was exhibited to a crowd and gaping congregation”. On the day of the execution, 8 December 1760, he was led to the gallows at Execution Docks on the Thames, in a procession led “by an officer carrying a Silver Oar symbolising the authority of the High Court of the Admiralty”, which had authority over maritime crimes.

The gallows were erected at low tide mark and a large crowd of onlookers gathered on the opposite shore, and in boats. After the rope was placed round his neck he had to listen to another sermon. He became quite remorseful and addressed the crowd, advising them to not act like him, saying “don’t do what I did, be honest or you will end up like me”.

John was thirty three when he died. His body was hung in chains until three tides washed over it as an example to other would-be pirates.

John and Catherine’s daughter Elizabeth gave birth to James a “baseborn” son in 1774, three years before she married widower Edward **HEAD** in 1779. Although no record of a previous marriage can be found (and despite the presence of James) she is described on the marriage certificate as a widow. Elizabeth had another eight children with Edward **HEAD**. She was buried on 31 August 1828 at St. Mary’s Dover, when her age was given as eighty, although her baptism at St. Mary’s is recorded as being 21 October 1750.

John **TUNE’S** daughter Elizabeth, one of his and Catherine’s surviving children, was my husband’s great, great, great grandmother.

Source:

Head family researchers

London Newspapers

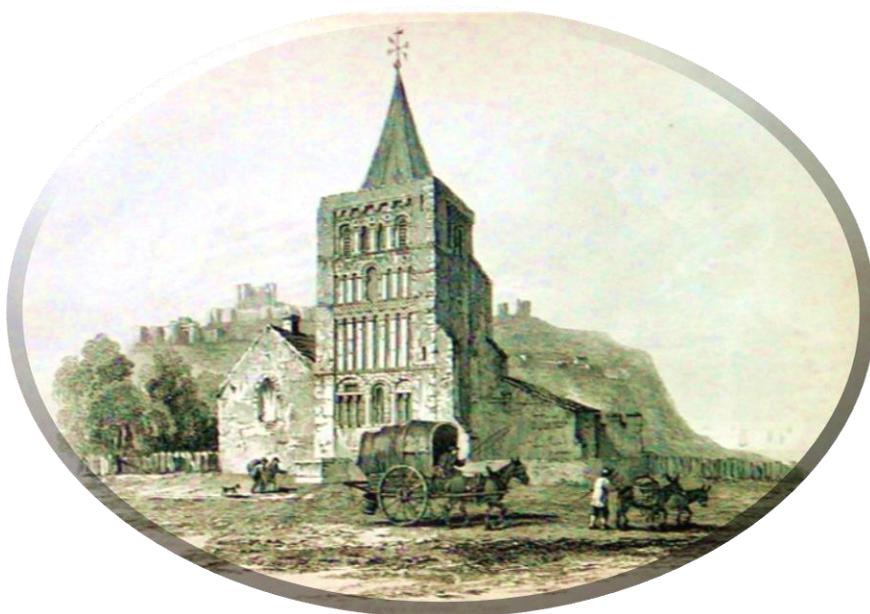
Old Baily Records

St. Mary’s Dover parish records

Research by A.J.Munday, UK and B.Clark, Qld.

Wikipedia

Marjorie J. Head.



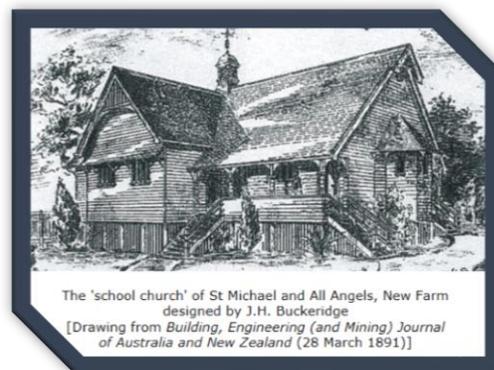
St. Mary's Parish Church, Dover. C1760

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.



Fashionable Wedding

Colonial Secretary's Daughter



The marriage of Mr. Thomas Hood Sym, manager of the Queensland National Bank at Gympie, to Miss Mary Winifred Tozer, eldest daughter of the hon. the Colonial Secretary, was celebrated at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, New Farm, at half-past 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon by the Rev. Manley Power, assisted by the Rev.

George Hall, of Gympie, officiating. Long before the appointed hour the sacred edifice was crowded to excess, many ladies being unable to find seats, Among the first guests to arrive were the bride's venerable grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. G.H.Wilson, of Ipswich. Soon afterwards came the bride-groom, accompanied by his best man, Mr. D.F.Reid, and punctually at half-past 3 the bride arrived, leaning on her father's arm, and looking very fair and sweet in her lovely bridal gown of white sicillienne, the skirt festooned with Brussels lace, caught with sprays of orange blossom and myrtle, a deep flounce of lace edging the basque and draping the bodice.

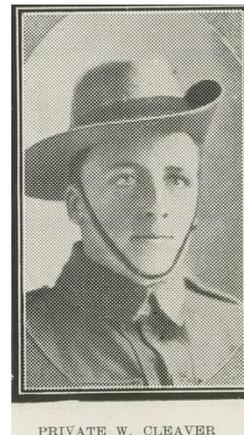
She wore a white tulle veil, not, however, enveloping her in the usual way, but fastened to a coronet of orange and myrtle flowers and falling back over the shoulders only. Seven bridesmaids followed the bride to the chancel steps—Miss Amy Tozer, who wore a very pretty and becoming gown of pale blue silk, trimmed with white D'Alenoon lace, and hat of drawn white chiffon, trimmed with white feathers, and the Misses Katie Darvall, Campbell, May Dighton, B.Airey, Gladys Ryan, and Josephine Stuart, costumed alike in very smart gowns of white silk trimmed with primrose mervelleux, and wearing small lace straw hats adorned with primroses and bows of white ribbon. All carried bouquets of yellow and white flowers and wore moonstone brooches presented by the bridegroom. The bride's beautiful bouquet was presented to her by Mr. McMahon, curator of the Botanical Gardens. Mrs. Tozer, mother of the bride, wore a pale lavender moire gown, with square collar and deep cuffs of Honiton lace, bonnet ensuite. Mrs. Anthony Darvall, sea green voile panelled with brocade, and trimmed with dark green velvet, gold bonnet, with sea green velvet. Miss Darvall wore summer muslin in a begonia tint, patterned with white and black tulle hat trimmed with buttercups. Mrs. Kerr, white pongee silk and white feather hat. Miss Pitts, a charming gown of a pinkish shade of helio-trope trimmed with soft ruches of the same, large white summer hat. Another pretty gown was a combination of heliotrope silk and voile. After the ceremony, the wedding guests, who were principally relatives, with a few very intimate friends, partook of afternoon tea, which on this occasion included a handsome bride cake, and many other dainties prepared by Mr. Baldwin, of the Parliamentary Refreshment Rooms, at Cadezo, the residence of the bride's parents. Mr. and Mrs. T.H. Symm left by the same evening's mail train for Sydney, where they will spend a week en-route to Tasmania, returning to Melbourne for the cup. The bride's travelling dress was of fine navy serge, the skirt opening at the sides, strapped across, and fastened with anchor buttons; nautical jacket, with gold anchor work in the collar, and she wore a low-crowned sailor hat with red and blue band. Among the numerous presents received by the bride was a piano, and several pieces of plate, the gifts of the Hon. Horace Tozer; a sapphire and diamond bracelet, gold curb chain bracelet and house linen, given by Mrs. Tozer; a case of valuable plate, sent from Scotland by the bridegroom's relatives; a handsome case of cutlery from the bride's grandparents, Mr and Mrs Wilson; a silver card tray from Lady Norman, and a marble clock from the Hon. Theo. and Mrs. Unmack.

Ref: Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld: 1872-1947), Wednesday 14 October 1891, page 4



CLEAVER, William (Bill)

William served through WW1 starting as Private # 627 before earning a promotion to the rank of Sergeant by wars end. Born on 8th November 1891 in Lewisham, United Kingdom his parents were Alfred and Elizabeth (nee REID).



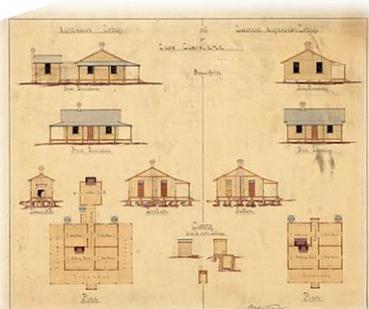
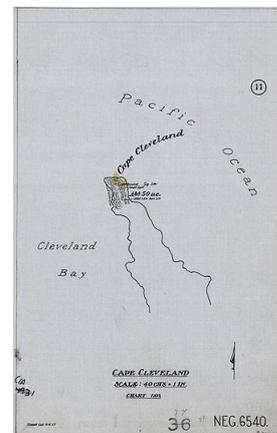
William, or Bill as he was known, worked as a labourer when he enlisted in Gympie at the very start of the war in September 1914. He did so along with two other British expats Cecil Dalglish and Alec Stephens and local lad Samuel Power who sadly lost his life in France during 1916. William served through Gallipoli and the Western Front with the 9th Battalion and was one of two Gympie men in the first pontoon boat to land in the Gallipoli darkness on that fateful morning in April 1915. The other man was Thomas Hellmuth who also returned home. Bill was wounded on 3rd May during the attack on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Following Armistice William remained in England on extended leave. As well as some of this leave being his 1914 entitlement, he was also granted paid leave to undertake a *“high class cooking and catering”* course at Princes Street Station Hotel in Edinburgh. The course ended at the end of October 1919 and he sailed for Australia aboard the troopship ‘Aeneas’ arriving in Sydney. William was discharged in Brisbane on 28th January 1920.

Soon after the New Year on 20th January 1921 William married Emily Eileen ROHDE of Cherry Street, Oakey, Qld. Emily was one of seven daughters and two sons of butcher Julius ROHDE and his wife Matilda Elizabeth Bertha (nee DORNBUSCH). It is unclear where the couple lived and how he supported himself and his wife for the next few years until his acceptance for training with the Commonwealth Marine and Lighthouse Service.

William was accepted as an assistant lighthouse keeper around 1924. Not all stations allowed wives and families to live on the premises owing to the isolation and harshness of the environment. In those days supply orders were radioed to shore and delivered monthly by the small ship ‘KARUAH’. That is if the weather was suitable for unloading otherwise the ship left and did not return for another month. The ‘KARUAH’ serviced the majority of the Queensland coast at that time before a larger vessel was purchased in the 1930’s. North Reef Lighthouse, about 120 klm northeast of Gladstone, was a particularly hard place to live and only single men were allowed so that meant wives and family had to live on the mainland. The men lived in the Tower as North Reef was surrounded by water at high tide with only a small strip of sand visible at low tide on which the men could take any exercise. William was stationed here in 1932 as an assistant along with two other men when on 20th May a medical emergency arose. William was suffering badly from insomnia, so a distress signal was sent out and a launch dispatched. He was admitted to Gladstone Hospital for treatment. A pitfall of living in such a well-lit environment.

In 1933, at the time when his parents-in-law were celebrating their golden wedding anniversary, he and Emily were stationed at the Cape Cleveland Lighthouse near Townsville. Lighthouse keeper's tasks were to trim the wicks, replenish fuel, wind clockworks and perform maintenance tasks such as cleaning lenses and windows. The benefit of this posting was that the lighthouse had a telephone connection to Townsville and was within easy access to supplies. The Cape Cleveland lighthouse also served as an advance-warning centre for summer cyclones and the keepers would radio wind and sea conditions to the mainland while flying the red pennant to indicate a cyclonic event. The lighthouse played its part in WW2 surveillance. There were two families, each with their own cottage as seen in the plans and aerial view.



Bill was appointed as Head lighthouse keeper on Double Island Point, in 1934. In 1949 with over twenty years of service he became head lighthouse keeper at Cape Moreton. During his time there an incident occurred that caused quite a few moments of anxiety. In the book written by Stuart Buchanan titled *"The Lighthouse Keepers"* he describes the situation thus:

"One Light keepers' wife was renowned as a real troublemaker and one day she came running into the Head Light keepers cottage (Bill's) shouting 'Help me, he's got a gun'. Bills wife steered her into another room just as the woman's husband burst through the back door saying 'Where is she? I'm going to kill her'. A struggle ensued and Bill managed to take the gun away". (Buchanan, p106)

Lighthouse and Head Light keeper's residence, Moreton Island, ca. 1950 (State Library of Qld.)

So it seems that even though the lifestyle was remote it was not without drama. In the photo below the second cottage (out of shot to the right) was quite a way downhill from the Head light keeper's cottage pictured. A hierarchy existed for the location of the three cottages with the head keepers at the top of the hill, first assistant the next one down and the second assistant further down the hill).



Following Williams' retirement, he settled in Kelvin Grove, Brisbane. Shipping records show that he and Emily made two visits to England one in 1954 and then again in 1958 each time giving the same Packham address as the last address on English soil. A letter written in 1967 gave his address as 20 Gibb Street, Kelvin Grove and in that letter he was requesting access to his war medals.

William died in Brisbane on 25th July 1986, Emily on 8th June 1994 and their ashes are in a niche at the Albany Creek Memorial Park.

Robyn Dahl.

Sources: www.naa.gov.au www.trove.nla.gov.au www.ancestry.com.au www.slq.gov.au

The Lighthouse Keepers by Stuart Buchanan, 1994 (ISBN 0 646 18458X)

Gympie Times 14th Nov 1918

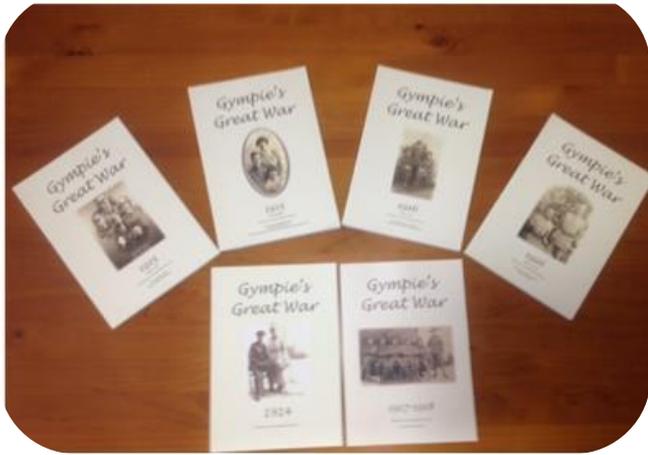
Peace Celebrations

A great procession and thanksgiving Service

All arrangements were made on Monday night as mentioned in last issue to fittingly celebrate the triumph of the Allies as indicated by the signing of the armistice by the German delegates at 6 o'clock on Monday morning. It was generally recognised that this act of surrender by Germany, though it did not at once mean peace, was the first definite step to peace and as such it was celebrated. A state of war was declared between the British Empire and Germany at midnight on 4th August, 1914, and after 1560 days of war, Germany acknowledged defeat, and it is somewhat of a coincidence that the British troops had reached Mons, the same spot from which they had been driven by the onrush of the overwhelming German army. After four years of the most devastating war, the world had ever seen, peace was in sight, and Gympie joined in the world wide celebrations. At an early hour on Tuesday morning, flags began to appear on all the flagpoles, improvised flagpoles were erected, citizens hung the Union Jack, the Australian flag, and the flags of the Allies from the verandahs of their residences, and merchants decorated their business premises in honour of the event. Never before has Gympie displayed such a wealth of bunting. Many of the flags looked as though they had braved the battle, and the breeze for many days, whilst others appeared as if they had been kept in hiding in some dark place where moths congregated and had only been brought out to honour the great occasion. There was a sense of joyousness in the air which could only come from peace, with victory.

THE MARCH TO THE PARK. The first public celebration was the march to Queen's Park in the afternoon, organised by the Mayor (Ald. R. Stitt). A dense throng congregated at the Town Hall, where the procession was formed and it marched, through the gaily decorated main thoroughfare to the Park. As the procession moved along, cheers were given by the onlookers and those taking part. The Gympie Municipal Band was at the head and a start was made from the Town Hall at half past 2 o'clock. Next in line came the returned soldiers, most of whom were in uniform, with Sergt. A. Glasgow at their head, then came the ladies of the Red Cross Society. The Cadets' 'bugle band was at the head of a fine body of cadets, numbering about 300, under the charge of Lieut. Bradford M.M., Area Officer, a decorated motor car with a fine tableau of Britannia followed, and then came the Town Clerk (Mr. A. R. Ranson), carrying Gympie's honour flag in the Seventh War Loan, with three bars and star, the Mayor (Ald. Stitt), Ald. Sedgman, Mr. T. Dunstan M.L.A., and Cr. Dunmall (Widgee Shire Council). The Fire Brigade reel was next, followed by a fine turnout of representatives of Friendly Societies in regalia, including: M.U.I.O.O.F., P.A.F.S.O.A., H.A.C. B.S, A.O.F., G.U.O.O.F., I.O.R., and A.O.D. Next in line was the Federal Band, with 'Bob Fad's' tin can band not far in the rear, at the head of twenty motor cars, decorated and filled with flag waving occupants. Many cars contained the assistants in the stalls at the recent Allies' City, arrayed in the picturesque attires, which they then adopted, and it lent a touch of colour to the moving scene which was most effective. At the rear there were numerous private vehicles, the whole procession reaching from the Town Hall to the top of Commissioner's Hill.





PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Gympie's Great War Book series is now complete.

The final book encompasses 1917/18 enlistments and happenings around the region. These are quality books that will stand the test of time as a reminder of what the Gympie region went through in WW1. Each book in the series is \$30. (Postage is \$14 for up to and including 3 books.

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Final Clue:
Who do you think I am?



GFHS Inc. would like to acknowledge the generosity of Mr. Tony Perrott MLA
Whose Electoral office has kindly printed this edition of Gympie Gazette.

Clue No. 5. As well as competitions we put on displays for local events, street parades and often provided a 'guard of honour' at the local theatre when special live performers were in town.



From the Research Desk. It has been a busy time for research since the last edition of the Gympie Gazette. Readers may be interested to know that our research is not only confined to families. Often through the investigation of a family story, it can extend to houses, buildings and significant events in the history of our town.

When we undertake a research project a file is opened, or our existing files are checked. It is well worth a visit to our rooms or an email enquiry to see if we have a file that could be of interest to you and your family. Below are families or persons researched so far this year so there will be a digital file well as a paper file to peruse.

Ebringham Albert and Jane; Brassington; Mellor; Caston; Chapple; Chippendale; Ruston; Brown David Rudolph; Fuchs family of Fernvale; Stokes John James Leonard World War 1; Lilley Mabel Frances; Neinert Marjorie Jean; Cox Mary and Charles; Nicholson; Radtke; Rail; Gibb; Tobin's Café; Wagenecht; Warren; Olney Mary and William; Wingy the Railway Cop.

Denise Juler Research Officer. research@gfhs.com.au

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

\$5.00 per name for lookups from our indexes published on the website.

For Research Requests:

Email 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: BSB 633000 Account# 164520546 and is with Bendigo Bank.** We ask that you confirm by email to 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. **Our research officer is Denise Juler.**

Clue No. 6. The year was 1962.

GYMPIE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC. OFFICE BEARERS 2018-2019

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immediate family residing at the one address)

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

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GFHS Inc. Monthly meetings are held second Saturday of each month, 2pm.

1 Chapple St. Gympie 4570 Ph: 5482 8211 All welcome