

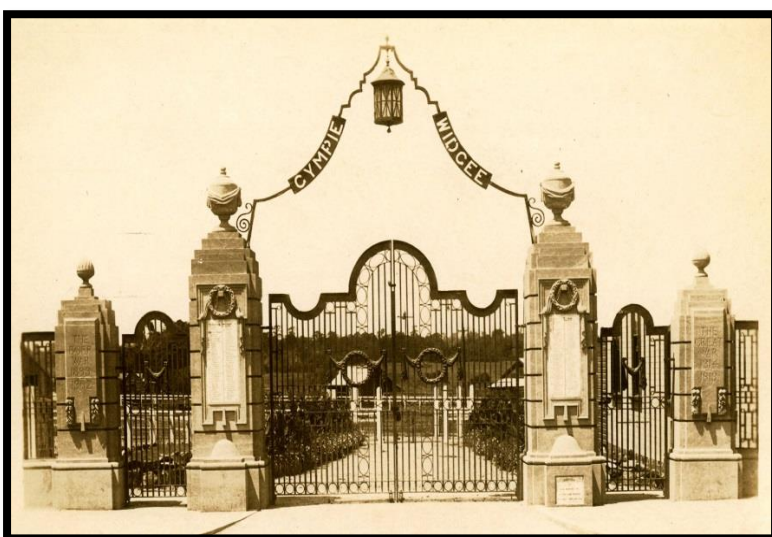
November 2020

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# GYMPIE GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Gympie Family History Society Inc.



Gympie-Widgee District

Fallen Soldiers Memorial Park Gates

Mary Street Gympie

1920

Normanby Hill  
Remembrance Park  
World War Two  
Vietnam Memorial



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**Editorial:**!!- What a year 2020 has been, certainly a year like no other. Who would have thought at the beginning of this year we would have to spend periods self-isolating at home, only venturing out for essential items, due to this COVID19 virus. We are sure you will agree that 2021, hopefully, will usher in some progress in stemming the tide of this virus that has disrupted every facet of our lives. The search for a vaccine is gaining momentum, but we shall still have to be very vigilant. Unfortunately we had to cancel our first two cemetery crawls due to restrictions on gatherings, but our October crawl was quite successful- a big thank you to our President Wendy for taking over as our Crawl convenor. Cemetery Crawl dates and events for 2021 will be finalised at the Planning meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our monthly social lunches were another casualty of COVID restrictions. After the restrictions were eased, our October lunch at the Mt. Pleasant Hotel was very well attended, so much so that we decided to have another (the last for the year)- this time to Lindols Macadamias Farm café at Goomborian. Please let us know your suggestions for the coming 2021 regarding venues etc. These get-togethers are great for our respective partners to get to know the full group and feel part of our Society.

The Election of Officers at our AGM in September resulted in a change of leadership, with President Robyn Dahl taking a well-earned break from all things genealogical. Wendy Flikweert was duly elected President and Graham Juler Treasurer. In this issue of Gympie Gazette, we have given you topics ranging from the very interesting life story of long time member Marjorie Head, the effects of a much earlier pandemic on the Gympie region, a glimpse into the lives of two women, well deserving of the title Pioneer and a very different description of that war time staple for soldiers, Bully Beef.

Christmas wishes to all as we say goodbye to 2020, leaving you with an "Irish Christmas Blessing"

*"May you be blessed with the spirit of the season  
which is peace,  
The gladness of the season which is hope,  
And the heart of the season which is love."*

**VB. & VT.** ✓



*Our rooms at 1  
Chapple St. will  
close on Friday  
December 11<sup>th</sup>,  
re opening  
Wednesday,  
February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021*

#### **Gympie War Memorials.**

#### **Normanby Hill Remembrance Park.**

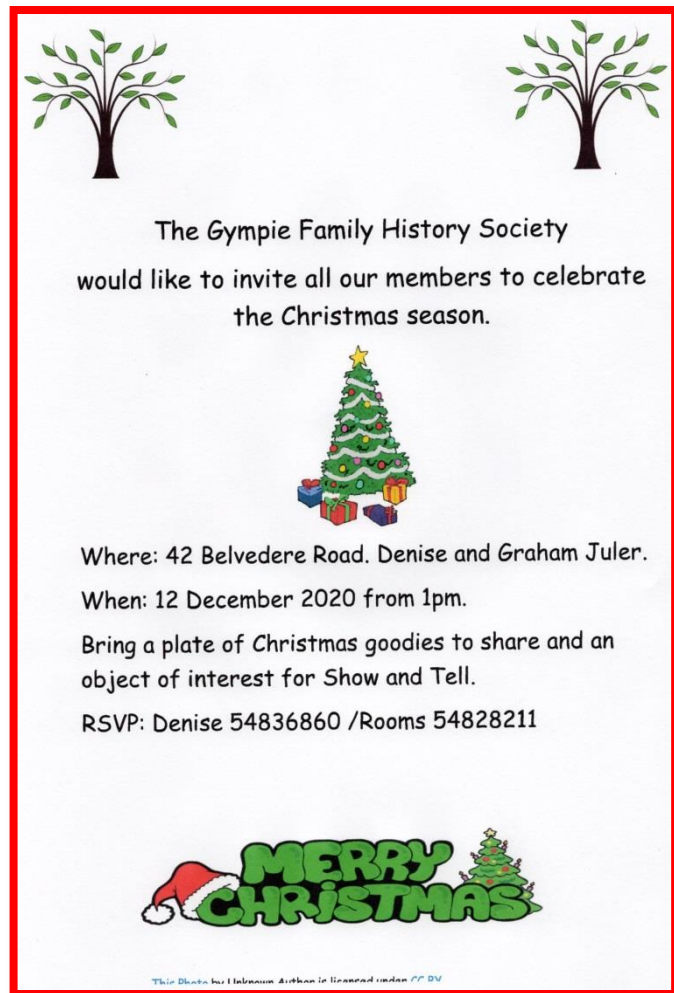
Normanby Hill Remembrance Park was officially opened on January 26<sup>th</sup> 1996 by Councillor A.D. McClintock, Mayor of the Cooloola Shire Council. It was constructed as part of the Australia Remembers programme which commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the cessation of hostilities of World War Two, 1939-1945 and was envisioned and designed by members of the Australia Remembers Committee, Gympie. There are 155 trees planted in the park. Each tree planted is in memory of those servicemen from the Gympie area who died on active service during World War Two. To commemorate those men, a plaque is placed at the foot of each tree with their name and other relevant details inscribed.

The Australian Flag and Queensland State flag fly here continuously.

**(Cover photo courtesy of Mal Dodt.)**

#### **Memorial Gates.**

These gates were unveiled by Edward, Prince of Wales, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. 1920. They pay tribute to one hundred and sixty seven servicemen who died in World War one and two who died in service or were killed in action in the South African (Boer) War. Their names are inscribed on two large pillars facing the main street of Gympie- Mary Street. **(Cover photo taken from "Then and Now", Gympie Regional Council. Photographer Unknown.)**





**Our Marjorie**. I was born in Westminster, London, at a hospital opposite the Houses of Parliament. We lived in Lambeth Rd until my brother and I were evacuated to Newbury in Berkshire at the beginning of WW2. We had four different billets before we were able to get together with our mother. The house where we were living in London was bombed and we never returned to London as a family. I had attended seven schools by the time I got to high school and it became my eighth. In my last year at school I did a student exchange with a French girl. She spent Christmas with us in Newbury and I spent Easter with her in Paris.

I returned to London when I left school and lived with my grandmother, who had remained in Lambeth Rd all through the war. Not having any qualifications, apart from my School Certificate, I found work in a hobby and toy shop in New Oxford St. As well as working in all three of their London branches I also worked on the company stalls at The Ideal Homes Exhibition and at the British Industries Fair where I demonstrated treadle fretwork machines, and sat all day making wooden jigsaw puzzles.

A keen Girl Guide I joined a Sea Ranger Crew in London. Many a Sunday was spent rowing on the Thames at Putney. I met my Australian husband in February 1952, the week that King George died. Wearing black armbands our Ranger crew went to help at a party for handicapped Scouts where we met a group of noisy Australian Rovers, including my husband Phil. We only had a brief time together before he returned to Papua New Guinea where he worked as a wood machinist/carpenter.



I queued for hours to see the "lying in state" of the King at Westminster, then walked home alone across Lambeth Bridge and down Lambeth Rd at 3am in the morning. In June 1953 I joined a group of friends, to watch the coronation procession. As we emerged from the underground at Charing Cross at midnight they announced that Mt Everest had been climbed. The place went wild. We camped on the kerb in Regent St for the drizzly night, with sleeping bags, sandwiches etc. It was 2pm. The following afternoon before the procession and the Queen passed us, but it was worth it.

I spent most of the next year working two jobs to save enough money for three months on the continent. In July 1953 a friend and I and our bicycles left Dover for Ostend. We cycled and hitch hiked (with and without our bikes) through eight countries in Europe, staying mostly in Youth Hostels, with the odd night in a barn, a bus stop halfway up a mountain and on a railway station. We cycled over 2000 miles and I celebrated my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in Rome with a visit to the Vatican City. Back in Newbury I got a job as a trainee tracer in the drawing office at the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Research Station, and I joined the local Sea Rangers





. Meanwhile Phil and I had been corresponding (a letter took six weeks then). He proposed by letter, I accepted by letter and in July 1954 I sailed from Tilbury on the "Strathnaver" for Melbourne. I flew to Sydney, caught the Burns Philip ship the "Bulolo" to Moresby and we were married in the Ela Protestant Church a week later, having not seen each other for two years. Phil was the leader of the Rover Crew and our reception was held in the newly built Rover Den. I took over a company of local Sea Rangers. Later after our children arrived I ran a Lone Guide company (by correspondence) with girls living in isolated areas in Papua New Guinea. Phil worked for the Papua New Guinea government as a wood machinist/carpenter and I found work in the office of an insurance company, learning to type as I went. My desk was alongside a large window with a wonderful view overlooking the busy harbour where I could watch the coastal trading vessels come and go and the seaplanes from Australia landing.



Phil was a foundation member of Port Moresby Apex Club, the first service club in PNG and it became a big part of our life. About 1956 localisation was beginning and after a lot of hard study Phil was able to transfer to the accounts section of Public Works. Our first child Philip, was the last baby born in the old Port Moresby hospital in 1958, on the day they moved to the new hospital. In 1959 we took six months long service leave and travelled to England and back by ship. Back in PNG we were transferred to Rabaul where second son Christopher was born, in an old building with tar paper walls and a tin roof. We were transferred back to Moresby when he was 20days old! One new baby, one toddler, one houseboy and us, and most of our household goods were left on the tarmac at Rabaul airstrip! TAA had just taken over from Qantas and there was a mixup about our excess baggage. The only household items I had was a teapot and some cutlery, and the house had no phone and no curtains. Kind friends came to our rescue.

Back in Moresby life returned to normal and we became involved with many things. Church, the YWCA, the YMCA, Apex, the children's sporting activities etc. I did typing at home for the A N U Moresby campus and typed a card for every candidate for the 1964 election, the first universal election in PNG. We were lucky enough to be among the official guests at the opening, which was held in the building which had been the old hospital where Philip was born. In the next few years I worked in a bakery, at the Girl Guide artefact shop, as church secretary and at the YMCA craft department. My last job was as a tour guide, running day and half day tours for people on cruise ships. These tours included the Bomana War Cemetery, where I assisted people to find graves of loved ones, the start of the Kokoda Trail, a visit to a rubber plantation, Koki market and the Chinese trade stores, where I literally had to drag people out of them in order to get back to the ship on time.

Our children attended local schools for their primary education but by the 1970's we realised that their future would be in Australia, and sent our boys to boarding school in Brisbane. We were fortunate again to have seats for the official Independence ceremonies in Port Moresby in September 1975. Despite all the doom and gloom it was a joyous occasion. Independence brought great changes as the Papua New Guinea government took over from the Australian government.

With heavy hearts we finally left PNG in December 1976 and settled at The Gap, Brisbane. Phil worked at the Kelvin Grove teachers college in the accounts section for a year then we bought a swimming pool in Rockhampton. During our time in PNG Phil helped run the YMCA swimming classes, their swimming club and was a swimming official at the South Pacific Games in Tahiti in 1971 and Guam 1975. In Rockhampton we ran learn to swim classes from babies to adults, held water therapy classes for various handicapped groups, water aerobics and had a swimming club.

We moved to The Dawn in 1986 and became involved in the lovely Gympie community. Phil had a couple of part time jobs and in 1988 I became an Endeavour residential supervisor. In 1990 we went overseas for 5 months visiting family and friends. A month after we moved from the five acres at The Dawn to a town house in the middle of Gympie we had our first grandchild, we now have four. Our last trip overseas was in 1998 and Phil's health declined from then on. He developed Alzheimer's disease and eventually had to go into care. He was in Winston House for 6 years.

In Gympie I have lived in one house in one town for the longest time in my life. Gympie has made me so welcome and part of a wonderful community. Gympie has become home, even though family are elsewhere. **Marjorie J.Head.**     **(ED. Marjorie's story in her words)**

**ED: Westminster Hospital.**     ( A brief history.)

The Westminster Hospital was established in 1717 as a charitable *society* ***"for relieving the sick and needy by providing them with lodging with proper food and physic, and nurses to attend them during their sickness and by procuring them the advice and assistance of physicians or surgeons, as their necessities should require"***. The Infirmary opened in a rental house in 1720 with 10 beds. By **1757** there were 98 beds and the site was expanded. In 1831 a new site opposite Westminster Abbey was acquired, and a new, spacious hospital built in 1834 with an initial capacity of 200 inpatients was opened. The hospital expanded over the years with the addition of a Medical School and Nurses accommodation. The first operation under a general anaesthetic was performed at the Westminster Hospital in 1847. One of the Dr's at the Westminster was Dr. John Snow, who was responsible for tracking down the source of the Cholera outbreak in Soho in 1854. He worked meticulously on tracking down all those who became infected to discover any common link between infections. ***(Fast track to 2020, our current pandemic and our current track and trace for COVID19 infections)***



This building remained open until 1939, when a new and enlarged hospital was completed at St. John's Gardens. This new build was hit by bombs in 1940, and suffered more damage from a nearby landmine in 1941, but continued to operate through the war years. Westminster Hospital remained at St. John's Gardens until 1993, when this 5<sup>th</sup> version of the hospital closed, and re-opened as the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital on Fulham road. The Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, opened in 1986, now occupies the site of the hospital building opposite Westminster Abbey. **Ref: 1. Lost hospitals of London. 2. Some of this text has been adapted from "A Brief History of the Westminster Hospital Tercentenary 1719-2019" by Prof. Paul Aichroth.**

## **The Influenza Epidemic in Gympie.**

The Spanish flu is considered second only to the “Black Death” plague pandemic in overall mortality



rates.

On 13 May 1919, The Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette ran the headline:

**“INFLUENZA STILL SPREADING: FIRST DEATH IN GYMPIE”**

For country districts, the effects of the epidemic were quite different. Four and half thousand local men had enlisted for service during the war, leaving farms and vital infrastructure either short staffed or closed. Elderly men and women along with wives and children attempted to keep farms and businesses running hoping these would be viable when the men returned. Gympie and the surrounding communities were ill equipped to handle the epidemic as it spread like wildfire through the district and rushed into the farming centres. Dr. Macleod, local general practitioner, intimated that the influenza appears to have taken a more serious turn in Gympie judging by the cases he observed. Dr. Pennyfather Ryan, who was the Government medical officer, estimated that there were 60 or 70 cases in the towns of Imbil and Kandanga.

The effects of the epidemic were severely felt in local businesses. The Gympie Railway Station was the business hub of the town, transporting produce and goods all along the east coast. It was reduced to being run by apprentice clerks as 57 of the staff were off duty and one porter was staffing the platform. As a result, local farmers had great difficulty getting their goods to city markets and deliveries of urgently required supplies were delayed. At the Post Office, the centre of communication for the town, nine officials were reported ill, so work was being carried on with difficulty. In a time when households relied on home delivery, there were no deliveries from businesses such as bakers and butchers therefore there were shortages of vital food and supplies in the town and surrounding districts. In an unprecedented move, Gympie chemists were given permission to open from 7pm to 9pm on weeknights to cater for the sufferers of the influenza.

While the results of the pandemic were devastating to all Australia, country districts suffered in distinct ways. Without medical infrastructure which existed in the cities, medical treatment was hampered.

The loss of life following the war had left farms and business short staffed and undermanned to be now hit again by labour shortages which would reverberate in the district for years. Local businesses, where the focus of supply was different from the cities, were under great pressure with some forces

to close leaving the town depleted of important services. A final factor was country towns did not have a system of public transport to expedite travel to seek medical attention or to purchase necessary goods and farm supplies. **Denise Juler.**

**AVOID INFLUENZA,**  
FRESH SUPPLIES OF PURE DRUGS, DISINFECTANTS, ETC.,  
—AT—  
**Walsh's Pharmacy.**  
RECOMMENDED—  
NYAL'S NASAL BALM—1/6. For Throat and Nose.  
FORMALIN THROAT TABLETS, Mint Flavoured—2/-. 50 in bottle.  
Invaluable for Children, as a Preventive of Flu, Diphtheria etc.  
PURE ITALIAN LUCIA OIL—1/ and 2/.  
CASTOR OIL, Pure Medicinal—1/ and 1/6.  
KRESOLYO (LYSOL)—1/.  
ACETYL SALICYLIC ACID TABLETS (ASPIRIN)—2/.  
PURE EUCALYPTUS OIL, CAMPHOR, CYLLIN DISINFECTANT,  
Etc.  
**E. P. WALSH, M.P.S.**  
PHARMACEUTICAL AND ANALYTICAL CHEMIST,  
Phone 17. MARY STREET, GYMPIE. F282

**Sources:** 1. [trove.nla.gov.au](http://trove.nla.gov.au)  
2. Gympie Regional Library.  
3. National Archives of Australia.

## **Bully Beef**

Here I sit and sadly wonder, Why they sent me Bully Beef  
Why the living, jumping thunder, I should bear such awful grief?  
Did I ever in my childhood, Cause my parents grief and pain?  
Did I ever in a passion try to wreck a railway train?  
Have I been a drunken husband? Have I ever beat my wife?  
Did I ever, just for past-time, try to take my neighbours life?  
If I haven't, then I tell you, It is far beyond belief  
Why they sent me greasy, sloppy, Undeciphered Bully Beef  
Bully Beef, by all that's mighty, Streaky, strangely Bully beef  
I'd sooner face a thousand Jackos, Than half a tin of Bully Beef...

-Tpr W.H.Johnstone (?)

8<sup>th</sup> ALH, AIF (AWM PR 84/049)

(Taken from "The Happy Warrior". This special book is a collection of poetry from Australian (and some New Zealand) soldiers and their families and spans from the Boer War to the peacekeeping efforts in East Timor. Some poems date back to 1900.)



Obituary: 16 January 1954.

Mrs. Hannah Brown.

A Tin Can Bay woman who was affectionately known as "Grannie" to residents there, passed away on January 7, the day of her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was Mrs. Hannah Maria Brown. Mrs. Brown was closely associated with the pioneering of Tin Can Bay and saw it grow from a small fishing village to a progressive township.



Mrs. Brown, who lived at Tin Can Bay for 23 years, met with some serious setbacks during the early days of the township. They were often stranded by flooded creeks as there were no high bridges. She had to wait for days in some instances for her son to get through with food and other supplies. Deceased was the first person to live permanently at the Bay. For weeks at a stretch, there was nobody at the settlement except several visiting fishing boats.

One week when there was not a single person at the Bay, she slipped and fractured several ribs. She bound herself up and commenced to walk to Gympie, 35 miles away. She met bullock drivers at Brown's camp who advised her to rest there, but she continued the journey. Creeks in the district were slightly flooded and she was covered in mud when she reached Goomboorian. Here she was fitted with dry clothes and conveyed to Gympie by car.

Mrs. Brown was born in Corpusty, Norfolk, England, and married at Newbiggin, Northumberland, on Jan 22, 1876. She came to Australia in the sailing ship, "Scottish Wizard" with her husband and infant son. They landed at Maryborough on January 22, 1882, and immediately came to Gympie to live. Her place of residence for many years was Crescent road. While there she had as boarders, Mr. Tom Dunstan and his father. Because of her pioneering status, Mrs. Brown played a leading role in official ceremonies in the Tin Can Bay district. In 1936 she opened the new bridge over Tinana Creek, in those times the roads in these parts were deplorable in wet conditions and cars were often bogged. In June last year, she and Mr. Zac. Skyring, the two pioneers of the Bay, led the township's Coronation Procession to the school. Here they planted a tree which will be known as the Coronation tree. In July last year she had the distinction of opening the new post office by handing over the key, buying the first stamp and posting the first letter.

Mrs. Brown was always a keen gardener and did her own household chores up to the time of her leaving the Bay through ill-health four months ago. Her husband predeceased her on September 3, 1924. She is survived by four sons, two daughters, 23 grandchildren, 49 great-grandchildren, 4 great-great grandchildren and one sister in England.

**Ed:** Hannah Maria BROWN (Grannie) was the daughter of John and Sarah Ann (nee Comer) Riseborough. Born at Corpusty, Norfolk in January 1858, and christened in the Parish church on February 28<sup>th</sup>, she was the second of six children born to John, an Agricultural labourer and his wife Sarah Ann. In 1876 Hannah had left the family home and moved north where she married Henry Brown at Newbiggin. Henry, born in Liverpool, was a labourer and the couple were living at

Shadforth in Northumberland when their son John Hannel was born in January 1881. Hannah gave her occupation as dressmaker in the 1881 Census. Migration to Australia followed with Henry and Hannah, along with infant son John passengers on the ship "Scottish Wizard" arriving at the port of Maryborough on January 27<sup>th</sup> 1882.



Henry and Hannah Maria were blessed with the birth of several more children when they settled in Gympie, where the family were farming at Veteran Road Gympie on the Electoral roll for 1919. Henry died on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1924 and was buried in the Gympie Cemetery, Corella road. (CEP-5-456) Hannah Maria died at the Lister Private Hospital Gympie on January 7<sup>th</sup> 1954, just two days short of her ninety sixth birthday and was buried at the Corella road cemetery the following day. (CEP-5-456).

Grannie Brown was a woman who accepted the challenges thrown her way and lived her life to the best of her ability. She was a true woman of her time.

**Ref:** Findmypast El Roll QSA. Immigration to Qld. Gympie Cemetery Trust. Ancestry. State Library S.A.

***ED: (The "Scottish Wizard" launched in Aberdeen, Scotland, August 1881. Sold to Italian buyers in 1900 and renamed "Pasquale Lauro" was torpedoed off the coast of France in 1916. There were no survivors. )***

### **The 1921 Census of England and Wales**

#### **Will be published online by Findmypast in January 2022**

[Findmypast](#) has been selected as [The National Archives'](#) commercial partner to make the [1921 Census of England & Wales](#) available online. The project will see findmypast capture digital images and transcribe the records in a way that will enable family historians across the globe to conduct meaningful searches of these important records when they are opened for the very first time.

Taken on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1921, the census consists of more than 28,000 bound volumes of original household returns containing detailed information on close to 38 million individuals. It provides greater detail than any previous census as, in addition to questions asked in 1911, the 1921 returns also asked householders to reveal their place of employment, the industry they worked in and the materials they worked with as well as their employer's name.

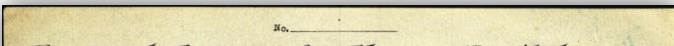
Those aged 15 and older were required to provide information about their marital status, including if divorced, while for those under 15 the census recorded whether both parents were alive or if either or both had died. The 1921 Census also included detailed questions on education, and was the first in which individual householders could submit separate confidential returns.

**Tamsin Todd, CEO of Findmypast**, says: "this announcement is important for all family historians tracing their ancestors living in Britain in the early twentieth century. It provided a fascinating snapshot of how people lived and worked in the years following World War 1, and it's all the more important because there's no surviving census for the next two decades until 1951.

**Gympie Regional Libraries News.**

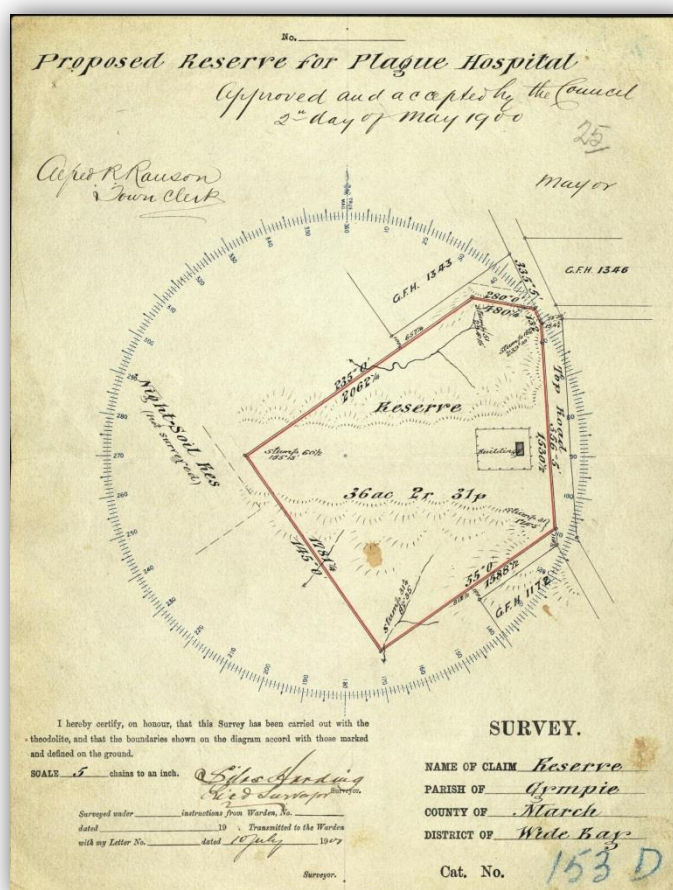
There are over 400 maps in the Gympie Regional Libraries map collection. They are fully catalogued and can be searched for on the library catalogue. The great news is that over 120 of them are fully digitised and can be downloaded directly from the library catalogue.

The digitised maps range from early street plans and road surveys to blue prints for subdivisions and allotments and also include designs for recreation reserves. It has been interesting to see the differences in the production of the maps. They range from hand drawn to professionally designed by a surveyor- some have been coloured in to show areas. A couple of the more interesting maps include the proposed aerodrome on Southside- complete with names of house owners nearby, the plan of the proposed plague hospital and the plan of the bathing sites along the Mary river.



We have made it easier for you to view the maps via the local history page on the library catalogue, or you can use the advanced search function and select local history maps in the Collection option. The curated local history collections include the digitised maps, Memorial Park, views from the top of the Town Hall clock tower or the entire Picture Gympie Collection- just to name a few and we will be adding more curated collections in the coming months.

Library staff can guide you if you need help and if you wish for higher quality version, we can send it to you by email or Drop box. The Local history curated collections page is at:



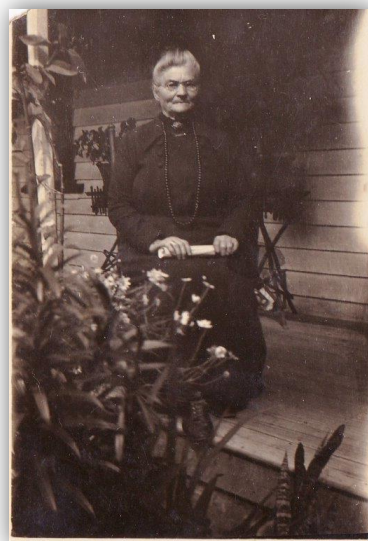
<https://gympie.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRNGEN/LOCALHISTORY>

With thanks to Lisa Ryan, Information Services Officer at Gympie Regional Libraries for this update on the wonderful Gympie Regional Libraries Library catalogue.

## Seventy Years in the One Home.

How many of us can say we have lived in one home for seventy years. This is the story of Irish lass Johanna McMahon who recently celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at "Rossmore", Jubilee Street, Monkland, the home she has lived in for seventy years. She was born in 1862 and baptised on June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Parish Church Clonulty, one of several children born to parents Cornelius and Catherine (Chidle) Hayes. Clonulty was a small village in County Tipperary, Ireland. In 1883 Johanna Hayes age 20yrs accompanied by her sister Ann 18yrs. left home and family in Ireland and arrived in Brisbane, November 1883. They were passengers on the ship "Duke of Buccleugh". Johanna continued on to Maryborough by steamer then on to Gympie by rail. *"Mary Street was just a line of tents, and there weren't very many shops. There were no roads in that time, just tracks weaving in and out, between the tents."*

Shortly after arriving in Gympie, Johanna met an Irishman from County Down, Arthur McMahon, who had been boarding at McSweeney brothers boarding house. They were married in 1885 by Dean Horan and went to live at "Rossmore" Jubilee Street Inglewood Hill where they lived all their married life. They were blessed with a family of five girls and one boy. In June 1952, the Irish lass Mrs. Johanna McMahon of Jubilee Street Monkland, celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. *"She has lived in the home she is now in for seventy years. Strong and active and still maintaining all her faculties, Mrs. McMahon does all her own housework and is keenly interested in current events."* Her birthday was a festive occasion, with all her family there. A large birthday cake graced the beautifully decorated table which was laden with good things to eat. Birthday cards, telegrams, phone calls and gifts made it an exciting event. *"Today, the same voices that echoed through the rooms of the old home for half a century will again be heard when the family re unites."*



Mrs. Johanna McMahon who passed away peacefully at her residence "Rossmore" on April 24<sup>th</sup> 1957 at the age of ninety four was one of Gympie's oldest and highly respected pioneers. The high esteem in which she was held was shown by the large gathering which paid respects at the funeral, which took place from the Crypt of the Holy Name Cathedral to Nudgee cemetery where she was laid to rest alongside her husband who predeceased her by twenty nine years.

***(ED: The story of Johanna (Hayes) McMahon was taken from newspaper cuttings in a scrapbook kept over a number of years by Mrs. Rose O'Connor, daughter of Johanna and Arthur McMahon. Both Johanna McMahon and Rose O'Connor were gracious ladies of the Monkland area, Gympie.)***

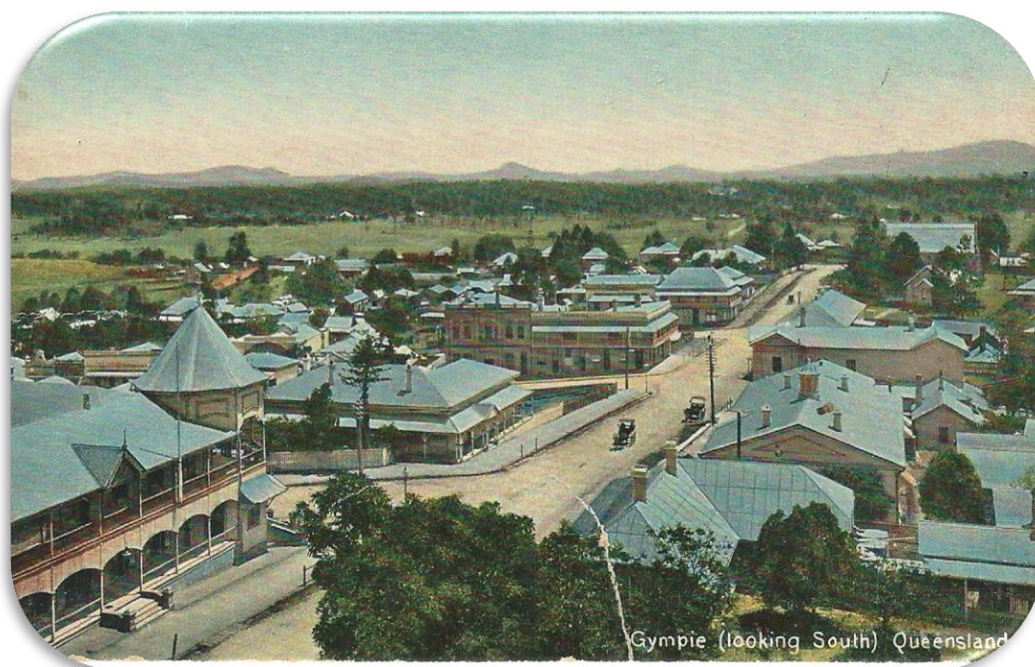


### Post card from the Past:

All of us have things in our possession usually passed down from ancestors and of which we have no knowledge. Unknown faces in photographs, postcards from unknown places and letters signed also by unknown people. These objects have been significant to our ancestors, so we keep them hoping one day to unlock their secrets. One such object, a postcard from Gympie, is in the possession of member Del Reid. Unsigned and undated it is a poignant note to a girl called Luie and has been transcribed exactly as it was written.

*'To my dear Luie,*

*Just a line to let you know that I am still alive. Happen to find you quite well I am glad to hear that little henery is gotten better. Dear Luie I will be in Laidley tomorrow with a mob of bullocks about 200 head we are driven them by road. Dear Luie I hope you have a good time while you are away with Henery. Luie I got the photo and letter from the shop. It is a nice photo of little Henry. I would like to have one of you Luie. I hope I will see you in Ipswich again I hope soon. Dear Luie address all letters to the One Mile Estate Ipswich. I must close with fond love from the boy you left behind hope to see you soon with very fondxxxxxxxxxxxx all for Luie.*



*Cemetery crawl and event dates for 2021 will be finalised at a Planning meeting on Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The first meeting for 2021 will be held on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1.30pm at our rooms at 1 Chapple St. Gympie.*



From the Research Desk.

This year, as usual, was a busy year for Inquiries. It seems with the onset of COVID and the subsequent lockdowns many people became interested in their family history. With wonders of technology, I was able to process requests through email and messenger. Many people used the online indexes on our website to search for references to their families which I was then able to trace for them. Of all the inquiries this year there are two standouts.

The first was from a lady in Sydney who commissioned a total of four research assignments to find her family story. What a find it was! On her maternal side she is descended from a Swiss Knight who in return for his services to King of England received a large estate which remains in family hands today. There is also a possibility that this knight is portrayed on the Bayeux Tapestry and is mentioned in the Doomsday Book. It is possible that the descendants, who settled in Gympie, may never have known this story.

Next step for this lady was to find out about her paternal side. Well it turns out the surname was corrupted over the years from a French name. Her ancestors were seafaring heroes much decorated and rewarded by the King. Their stories are recorded in history books and one has an entry in the Encyclopaedia Britannica. Several French war ships have been named after them and monuments recording their exploits exist to this day. I was able to send her copies of several oil paintings as well.

The second story is different and is an indication of how families may try to sanitize their history and lose the truth in the process. The inquiry came from a gentleman on behalf of his family wondering why an ancestor carried a hyphenated name when none of the rest of his family did. The family legend has it that while the family was coming to Australia, the father became ill and was put off the ship somewhere in North Queensland. The mother with her two children continued the journey finally to end up in Gympie. Believing her husband to be dead she remarried, and her son hyphenated his name to acknowledge his stepfather. This is a lovely story but unfortunately has no basis in fact. The truth appears to be that for whatever reason the mother came to Gympie with her two children. She did not however remarry but instead deserted her family never to be seen again. The children were raised by a local family under some sort of casual adoption that was possible and even prevalent in those days. The issue became more confused because the adoptive mother bore the same first name as the biological mother. The children were raised as children of the family without knowing the true story. Later in life, when the truth was discovered, the son hyphenated his name to acknowledge the family who raised him.

Who concocted the original wholesome story may never be known but it is a lesson to researchers to always cite sources and make sure the sources are official and sound. Having said that, do not dismiss family stories and legends as sometimes, like this one, they can contain a grain of truth.

Happy researching.

Denise Juler. Research Officer.

## **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

**\$40.00 Australia \$45.00 overseas**

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

***For Research Requests: Denise Juler is our very well-credentialed and enthusiastic Research officer who goes over and above in her response to the many and varied queries she receives; i.e.: family history, land records, house records, cemetery records etc.***

Email [research@gfhs.com.au](mailto: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 \$40 (or\$45 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 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. **Denise Juler.**

## **Publications for Sale.**

Gympie's Great War book series is now complete. The series comprises six quality books that will stand the test of time as a reminder of what the Gympie region experienced through the long challenging years of WW1. Each book in the series is \$30 . If you wish to order and pay by deposit, bank details are: BSB 633000 Ac # 164520546.

Just email [secretary@gfhs.com.au](mailto:secretary@gfhs.com.au) with your order and mail address.

## GYMPIE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC. OFFICE BEARERS 2020-21

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## CONTACT DETAILS AND MEMBERSHIPS

POSTAL ADDRESS	P.O.Box 767 Gympie Qld. 4570		
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STREET ADDRESS	Downstairs at the Old Ticket Office		
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CORRESPONDENCE	All correspondence P>O>Box 767, Gympie Qld. 4570		
EMAIL	<a href="mailto:secretary@gfhs.com.au">secretary@gfhs.com.au</a>		
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MEMBERSHIP FEES	Annual fees are due by 31 <sup>st</sup> August each year		
	Family membership \$45		
	(Two members of an immediate family residing at		
	The one address till 31 <sup>st</sup> August.)		
PRO RATA till 31 <sup>st</sup> August.	Dec-Feb	Mar-May	June-Aug
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP	\$40	\$30	\$20
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<b>LIBRARY HOURS</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
	<b>9.30-2pm</b>	<b>9.30-12pm</b>	<b>1pm-4.00pm</b>

GFHS Inc. Monthly Meetings are held the Second Saturday of each month at 1.30pm.

Location: 1 Chapple Street, Gympie 4570.

Phone: 07 54828211

All welcome.

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