

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



Newsletter 54– May-June 2021

Location: Ground floor – Two storey Community Arts Building Western Plains Gallery, Cnr. Gipps and Wingewarra Streets, Dubbo.

Opening hours: Tuesday 1.00-4pm, Thursday 1.00-4.00, Saturday 10.00-1.00pm

Society webpage: www.dubbofamilyhistory.org.au

Society email: info@dubbofamilyhistory.org.au

Postal address: PO Box 868, Dubbo. 2830 NSW

Society phone no: 02 6881 8635 (during opening hours)

Management Committee

Linda Barnes	68878284	martinandlinda@gmail.com	President/Librarian
Lyn Smith	68850107	baretsmiths@bigpond.com	Vice President
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Cathy Thompson	0492855952	caths714@outlook.com	
Colleen Braithwaite			

Management Committee Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11am in DDFHS Library. Members are welcome to attend these meetings, or simply contact any of the committee listed above if you have anything you would like discussed at the meeting.

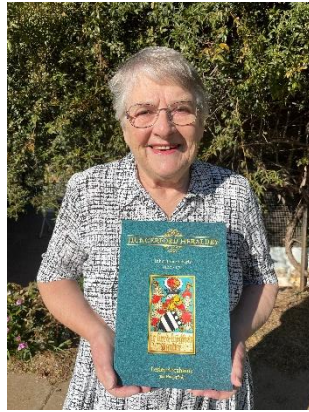
Newsletter Information Please share any interesting information, news of an interesting website, or maybe a breakthrough with your family history, with other members. Contact Kathy Ph.68825533 or email kathyfurney47@gmail.com if you have anything that can be shared. We would love to print your item as it is exciting to hear about our members' research.

Website and Facebook Check out the website and Facebook regularly as there is often useful information on them. Regular updates, with information for our members, are being made to both, and always 'like' and 'share' our Facebook page where Lyn has lots of interesting snippets.

Society News

Already the middle of the year, with the family history society settling into a routine for opening hours and working bees in our rooms. If you are interested in being involved in the working bee on a Saturday afternoon, please contact Linda Barnes 6887 8284, email martinandlinda@gmail.com With covid, we are still working with signing in, social distancing, and the time between usage of rooms. This means we are still only opening Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The society is happy to advise that we will be recommencing the popular **“Share Your Story” on Friday 18th June**. This will feature our committee member **Lesley Abrahams** who recently launched her new publication **“Hungerford Heraldry - History & Inheritance Charts 1160-1711”**. Her book was officially launched on the 3rd May 2021, to coincide with the anniversary of the investiture of Walter, 1st Lord Hungerford on 3 May 1421, as Knight of the Order of the Garter. Invitations will shortly be going out to attend this event, so make sure you keep the afternoon free to hear about this fantastic venture undertaken by Lesley to write her book.



Librarians were recently treated to a tour of the Local Studies room at the cultural centre. Simone Taylor is in charge of this area which is specific to Dubbo matters. Simone is more than willing to share any information she may hold, with any researchers coming into our rooms. Her business card is available in our rooms.

Don't forget about our Vincent Studio photograph collection. If you find something in the index, you can arrange to have a look at the actual photo before purchasing it. However, this can only be accommodated by attending our rooms on any of the following days, the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday and the 2nd and 5th Thursday plus the 4th Saturday when our officers in charge of this are volunteering in the rooms.

John Gilbert Engineer Story (Con't) A letter John received from the RAAF Directorate of History Services - Air Force, dated 26th January 2020 confirms his presence by stating unequivocally that JBG was the “lead Australian bombardier in attacks on Japan in 1945”. Whether this was based out of the Philippines or Okinawa, and involved attacks on the Japanese mainland or just coastal shipping, can probably never be known now that John has died. His former American squadron, the 65th, operated from the Philippines until the middle of July, and then from Okinawa after the 23rd July, so it is certainly feasible that he may have re-joined them temporarily for a handful of raids. Unfortunately, we will never know. Back in Townsville (late July or 1st August) John was offered promotion by the RAAF to Flight Lieutenant and the position of Bombing Leader of all Australian bombers in Borneo. The role there was to disrupt enemy shipping in the South China Sea, once again with the aim of blockading Japan and forcing her to surrender. At that time, it was assumed by everyone that the War was likely to last at least another one to two years and that Japan would probably have to be starved into submission. No one, except for a few key senior people, could have had any inkling that two atomic bomb blasts would shortly put an end to the war much sooner than that.

3....

John flew from Townsville to Morotai (an Indonesian Island) on the 2nd to the 4th August, via Cooktown, Cape York, Madang, Hollandia & Mokmer (on the Indonesian Island of Biak). On 22nd August 1945 he then flew Morotai to Balikpapan (Indonesia) via Tarakan where he joined the 82 Strike & Reconnaissance Wing HQ, but of course by then, on the 15th August, 1945 Japan had surrendered.

As part of his demobilisation, he joined an 82 Wing Detachment at Morotai between the 8th and 30th October. Finally, he was flown from Morotai (Indonesia) to Laverton (Vic) via Darwin on 30th-31st October 1945. This was the end of John's operational days with the RAAF.

Back in Sydney John sought to gain matriculation to Sydney University to study Civil Engineering. This was approved and under the Government's Reconstruction Training Scheme, John and the University were funded to undertake this degree.

John was discharged from the RAAF with rank of Flight Lieutenant on the 23rd February 1946. He graduated from Sydney Uni in 1950 and rejoined the DMR in Parkes that year, initially as a Draftsman but then in July as a Professional Engineer. In January 1951 he joined Orange City Council as its first Deputy City Engineer, and in March 1953 was accepted for the position of Municipal Engineer at Dubbo. *And the rest, as they say, is history.*



The photo on the right has the notation: Liberator R72.46. Ferried from Amberly to Tocumal by F/L Wright and Self as Navigator. (Passed over Parkes 1600hrs, 3 Aug 1944).

No doubt John mentioned flying over Parkes as he was born there in 1923. His father, Thomas "Charlie" Gilbert, was 43 when John was born, and a veteran of three wars - the Boer War and Boxer Rebellion with the Royal Navy and Gallipoli/Western Front with the AIF. Charlie Gilbert won the Military Medal at Pope's Post on Gallipoli and was promoted to both Sergeant and Acting Sergeant Major in France before being invalided home with various war injuries. *(The war service history of Charlie Gilbert would be an interesting story in itself).*

By the time John reached high school age his father was in his mid-fifties and in failing health. Charlie's invalid pension was tiny and John left school at 15 to support his parents financially. He gained a Draftsman's position at the DMR in Parkes against 100 other applicants from all across the Central West, and then studied privately at home for his Leaving Certificate, which he passed in 1939.

This is the final instalment of this article relating to John Gilbert. Again, thank you to Stewart McLeod for writing this article and making it available to us to use, and to the Gilbert family for their consent to the story.

Irish births registers for 1920, marriage entries for 1945 and 1970 death have been added to the Irish Genealogy website www.irishgenealogy.ie

4....

Tasmanian FHS - Lilian Watson Family History Award for 2021 Don't forget about this award for a book dealing with family or biographical history with significant Tasmanian content. Please see the website www.tasfhs.org where there is an entry form, and further information. The competition doesn't close until December 2021, so maybe we have a member who could enter.

Bogan Gate a town rich in history In October 2022 Bogan Gate will celebrate its 125th anniversary. Graeme Hunter is the chairman of the Bogan Gate 125 years Celebrations committee for this event next year. As part of this Graeme is looking to compile a third book on the town's history. Towards this end he is looking for untold stories from surviving older generations who would have many tales of early life in Bogan Gate. These could relate to the importance of the railways in the early days, the drovers passing through, or a personal experience of growing up in the area. If you have any photos or stories, please contact Graeme by email graemehunter444@gmail.com

UK Family Tree magazine for **April** has many interesting articles. A lengthy coverage of DNA testing presented by Michelle Patient is in there, together with an article covering the many the websites available to help with your family research, particularly when starting out. The **May** issue of this magazine also has an article relating to "Unlock the story of your Genes" published by DNA adviser Karen Evans. These monthly magazines are well worth reading while you are in the Family History rooms.

National Records of Scotland have recently added thousands of volumes of historical records from 1559-1900. These cover millions of pages from the kirk session and other court records of the Church of Scotland, containing details of key events in communities across the country. Access and explore the records at: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/virtual-volumes
Another Scottish website www.scottishindexes.com recently added over 100,000 prison register entries. This website has a vast array of indexes which may be helpful if you are researching your Scottish ancestors.

Find My Past in partnership with the Family History Federation, recently added 3.4 million **burial records** to the National Burial Index. All the data was collated from the burial records of Anglican parishes, nonconformists, Roman Catholics, Quakers and other cemetery records within England and Wales. They have also published a vast new collection of **Australian passenger lists** from 1826 right up to 1972. Although 1972 seems very recent to most of us, it is actually nearly 50 years ago!!

Best Genealogy Websites Have you ever wondered which website is the best for family history? Well, check out the best family tree sites as surveyed and recommended by My Heritage in their on-line magazine Family Tree. You can find the information by looking at the following site: [A Comparison of the Big Four Genealogy Websites \(familytreemagazine.com\)](http://familytreemagazine.com) This is only one of the many popular topics covered in this on-line magazine, you may even consider joining and then you will get all the information provided.

Heraldry The interesting topic of coats of arms is covered in an article by Mike Bedford in the May edition of the UK Family Tree magazine, which is held in our rooms. Rather relevant with our "Share Your Story" in June, covering Heraldry & Inheritance.

Wellington Museum Please note that the Wellington Museum is moving from its current premises on the corner of Warne & Percy Streets. It closes on the 31st May and will re-open in the Old Police Station, hopefully in August. Any enquiries can be sent to oxleymuseum@gmail.com

