

# **CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER**

***SPRING 2020***



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BENTLEYS HOTEL, CLARE**

**6 AUGUST 2020**

This will be the shortest Chairman's report in our Group's history! What a terrible past 12 months it has been for the Clare History Group.

Since June last year our History Group Collection in the Town Hall has not been open to the public, firstly due to structural issues with two roof beams. Unfortunately, as tenants of the building we were not consulted as to when the reinforcing of the roof was to take place and as a result half of our resources were relocated, in no particular order, to the western side of the room when the carpet was rolled back so the engineers could locate the bearing wall under the floorboards.

It was only in late February we were allowed back into the room, once the two pillars were put into place and the carpet relayed. We were in the process of commencing to put some sort of order into the dusty and disorganised assets when the Covid-19 virus raised its 'ugly head' around the world, including Australia. Lockdowns occurred and most public buildings were closed, including our Collection.

Events we had planned for History Month in May were cancelled or delayed, such as our new History Walk of Clare. Originally this was produced by the Lions Club of Clare back in the 1980s, but in recent times have decided not to continue with the production. There was an option for us to take it on board and reproduce a more modern and updated version, which Helen Perry took on enthusiastically, primarily with the assistance of David Spackman, with input from other members.

The new Z card format of the Clare History Walk was successfully launched last Thursday night, 30 July, at the Clare Visitors and Information Centre. Special thanks must go to Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council for their \$3,000 Grant contribution to the cost of this project with the remainder \$2000 coming from our general funds.

Late last year we and other libraries/history groups were notified by State Records that they wished to have the return of the original District Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths, Clare being one of them, held by us for many years. As we had no access to them due to the restoration work on the ceiling, we were unable to have them returned.

Fortunately, earlier this year, State Records reviewed our situation and we can now digitally scan our volumes before their eventual return. This is now our major project, which is very time consuming

but an extremely worthwhile resource to have. Many thanks for those of you who have assisted with this project along the way and into the future.

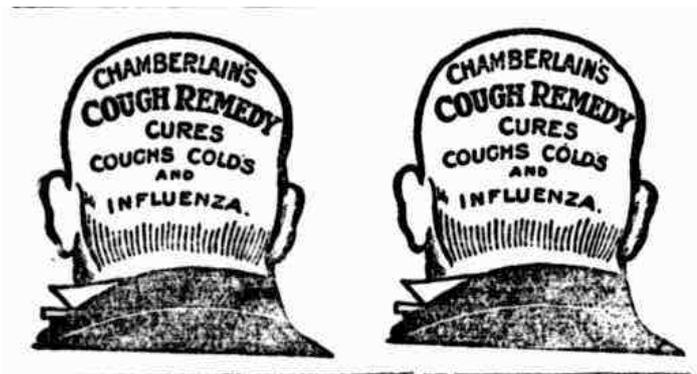
Our member Jill Clarke has for many years devoted many, many hours in digitally copying a huge volume of borrowed resources, but unfortunately has had to resign due to health issues. Your dedication to this task has not gone unnoticed Jill, thank you so much.

The reprint and additional chapters to the Clare - A District History publication is still in our minds and being worked on, when time allows. Val Tilbrook has generously contributed financially to this project, which is very much appreciated by the Group, as we missed out on the History SA Grant of \$5,000 last December.

To all members, especially for your patience and understanding over the past 12 months, thank you. Hopefully in the very near future we will open to the public once more, following Department of Health guidelines, all be it, probably at reduced opening hours, due to lack of active membership.

To the Clare community, thank you for continued support given in any way to the Clare Regional History Group over the past year.

Gerald Lally  
Chairman



Northern Argus 1912

### **PIONEERING DOCTOR**

Dr Otto Wien Smith found that a common disease of that day was caused by hydatids. He operated on a number of cases of hydatids, mostly on a kitchen table. He wrote a thesis on hydatids which he sent to the Edinburgh University. The University granted him a degree of Doctor of Medicine and in 1899 he journeyed to Edinburgh to receive the degree.

He held the position of surgeon of the Clare Casualty Hospital (now our Museum) from 1878 until he retired in 1920.

He was one of the founders with Joseph Hermann Knappstein and Magnus Badger of the Stanley Wine Company in Dominic Street, Clare. He was bought out in 1914.

In 1904 he had bought a De Dion car (one cylinder) registration number 2L, and this was the first car north of Adelaide.

Dr Otto took a great interest in the affairs of the town and district. He was the Medical Officer of Health for the Clare Corporation for many years. He became a member of the Corporation and was Mayor from 1922-25

With Mr I. S. Scott, he was instrumental in persuading the Education Department to start a High School in Clare and this was commenced in a small way in 1921.

He was a great reader and had a considerable library of medical books and general literature including works by Charles Dickens, Walter Scott and others. He was a lifetime member of the

Clare institute Library and acted as a temporary chairman on many occasions. For two years he was President of the Clare Caledonian Society.

With his brother, the late Alfred Alexander Smith, he was a promoter of the Clare and District subsidized hospital. This was opened in 1924 and he became its first Chairman.

As the Clare High School students increased in number the system of "houses" began and were named Wien Smith, Scott, Gleeson and Knapstein.

He retired in 1920 at the age of 75 and died on 20 May 1932 and is buried in the Clare Cemetery.

## A PIONEER FAMILY

On Sunday 6 October 2019, there was a gathering of the Butler family in Clare. The original Butler family, Patrick, Sarah nee Naulty, and their two sons came to Clare in the early 1840s. Patrick was a shepherd for Edward Burton Gleeson, firstly on his property, 'Gleeville' (now Beamont) and moved to Clare when Gleeson settled here.

As there was no church in which to celebrate Mass at Clare in the early and mid-1840s, the Butlers kindly offered their barn to the visiting priest, Fr Michael Ryan, with the first Catholic Mass held in the north in December 1844. Patrick was on the committee of men who instigated the building of a church for the Catholics of the Clare area, the first St Michael's, blessed and opened in May 1849.

Patrick became a leading man in the Clare community; he was treasurer on Clare's first School Committee in 1850, which was first held in St Michael's Church, became a Councillor on the first District Council of Clare in 1853 and remained a Councillor until 1871, serving a term as Chairman from 1859 to 1861 and was also judge of the local ploughing competitions. He built large stockyards on his Armagh property and the cattle of the district were mustered, drafted and branded there. He and Sarah went on to have eight more children on their property at Armagh.

### CRHG COMMITTEE

Chair : Gerald Lally

Secretary : Val Tilbrook

Curator & Treasurer : Helen Perry

Committee members : David Bond, David Spackman, Jon Ruwolt, Gail Weckert, Josie Hudson, Frank Nicholls

Newsletter Editor : David Bond

History Room is now open Friday 1pm—4pm

Second Saturday of the month 10am—3pm.

PHONE— (08)88424100





**Highclere Castle** made famous by the television series Downton Abbey is situated on a 5000 acre Estate close to the Hampshire Berkshire border in England. The Castle is only open to the public for short periods through the year and we were there on the second day of the summer opening in July.

The huge interest by the general public has enabled much needed restoration work to be undertaken.

Arriving early, we avoided the crowds and as you wander through the rooms, volunteers are present to answer any questions.

High Tea is a special treat that can be pre booked and takes place upstairs in the coach house commencing with a glass of champagne. A great way to conclude a fascinating tour of this historical building.





In 1864 a group of public-spirited citizens formed a company, 'The Clare Hall Limited Liability Company' for the erection of a town hall and assembly rooms. The company issued 500 shares at two pounds each and at the end of one month 300 of these had been sold. Seven prominent citizens became the Trustees. One of the Trustees, Dr A.E. Davies designed the building and the foundation stone was laid in May 1865 by the local Freemasons.

In October, before the completion of the building, it was leased to a travelling preacher who drew crowded assemblies nightly.

The official opening of the hall was celebrated with a grand opening with music by Schrader's band and attended by the local 'elite'. In August 1866 an exclusive banquet was held to celebrate the opening. Judging from the number of toasts proposed the 84 gentlemen consumed a large quantity of liquid refreshments. Mr E.B. Gleeson (Paddy) chaired the dinner.

For several years the old town hall had no piano and one had to be borrowed whenever one was needed. A small private company was formed 'The Clare Hall Pianoforte Company

(Limited)' with a capital of sixty pounds in one pound shares. By the end of 1869 the pianoforte had been purchased and a concert arranged when Dr Bain, one of the promoters and shareholders of the company, 'Officiated at the pianoforte for the best part of the evening in his usual excellent style.' In 1870 a concert made up of music, recitations and readings. Dr Bain was warmly applauded for his magic tricks and pianoforte playing.

The doorkeeper was very remiss as 50 or 60 locals gained admission without paying in the second part of the performances and created a disruption throughout the evening.

The old Clare Town Hall needed a new floor and proscenium, but the Clare Corporation already had a large bank overdraft. However, Dr Bain came to the rescue once again and in July 1881 it was ready for use. The generous doctor had purchased and had the proscenium erected at his own expense. A full set of scenery was purchased from the Port Adelaide Dramatic Society but, on arrival, did not fit well with the Clare stage. Mr John Fry, an eminent scenic artist was in the vicinity at the time and painted seven scenes for the Clare stage. 'Taken as a whole the Clare Town Hall now possesses one of the most complete sets of scenic appliances outside of Adelaide.' While here Mr Fry also completed painting the new proscenium and scenery for the hall in Auburn.

In 1887 the Clare hall finally received its new floor after much fund-raising. The first dance was a great success accompanied by an Italian string band. For their part in fund-raising the Clare Quadrille Company were granted free use of the Town Hall – for two nights! Weekly picture shows began in the Hall in 1911.

After many years of different uses it was decided that a new town hall should be built. The Corporation sold the old Town Hall and adjoining vacant allotment for 1600 pounds. It took some time to decide on the location of the new town hall but eventually it was decided on the site of the old flour mill in the centre of Clare Main Street on the eastern side.

# BOOKS & CDs FOR SALE

Ashby, Marj (1989) **CARINYA 1956 - 1989 A Peaceful and happy home**, South Australian Country Women's Association, Clare Branch, Clare, S. Aust. \$5

Bellman, Elinor A. (1995), **SADDLEWORTH - Hub of the Wheel**, Saddleworth, S. Aust \$35

Bond, David (2014) **CLARE SHOW "A fine all round display" for 150 years**. Written to celebrate 150 years of shows in Clare. \$33

Brinkworth Centenary Book Committee (1992), **MAGPIE CREEK JUNCTION a history of Brinkworth and district 1892 - 1992**, Brinkworth, S. Aust Recently reprinted. \$50

Cross, Jack (2016), **Two Crosses: Ephraim and Jack - a proletarian history**: including life in the unusual village of Armagh 1840 to 1910; as well as on Bungaree Station after 1860, Printak Pty Ltd, Adelaide, SA. 145 pages, illustrations, maps, portraits, facsimiles \$30

Dickeson, Helen (1993), **CLARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - a history 1856-1988** 120pp. Includes baptisms, marriages, burials, and extensive index. \$14

Ellis, Julie-Ann (1995), **HARD-YACKA - The story of a Mid-North town in South Australia**, Yacka Historical Group \$40

Hawker, Frankie and Rob Linn (1992), **BUNGAREE - Land, Stock & People**: History of Hawker family and Bungaree Station, Turnbull Fox Phillips, Adelaide 230pp \$45

Haynes J. & E.J. Schmaal (1980), **CLARE - A BACKWARD GLANCE** \$8

**HEAD OF THE RIVERS - Black Springs, Manoora, Waterloo** (1992) \$25

Johnson, Win N.

- (1988), **COTTAGES AND CAMEOS OF CLARE** by 100pp, illus. \$25

- (1986), **CLARE CAMEOS** Includes oral histories of our older Clare residents as interviewed by Win in the State's Sesquicentennial year. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. \$15

- (1991), **BLYTH - a silo of stories 1860 - 1990** A comprehensive history of the town and district of Blyth, including family stories, farming, community and sporting activities. Excellent photographs, many in colour. \$45

- (1994), **THE METHODISTS OF CLARE 1851 - 1977** 124pp. Indexed. \$12

- (2010), **FROM WHERE I SIT**, A Collection of articles on chosen themes written over past times \$16

- (2011), **A History of Ngadjuri Lodge Trust** \$10

- (2001), **JUST AS IT WAS** Tells the story of Win's life with humour and affection. 96pp including photos. \$20

Jones, Coralie (2014), **CLARE VALLEY, SA** A pictorial souvenir. \$20

Lally, Gerald A.

- (2004), **HILL RIVER A Valley of History** \$30

- (2006), **A LANDMARK OF FAITH Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mintaro and its parishioners 1856-2006** \$35

- (2012) **TIMES PAST - a pictorial history of Farrell Flat** 194pp. \$30

Lally, Gerald, et al (2010), **SOUTH CLARE SPORTS CLUB - Celebrating 50 years of success 1960 - 2010** \$20

Linn, Rob (2011), **The story of Bungaree Station** (Illus) \$17

**MARRABEL & DISTRICT REVISITED** - additional material of the 'early days' at Marrabel \$25

Neill (nee Mickel), Laurel (2012), **"A WALK WITH LAUREL" ; walking tour of the buildings and families of Farrell Flat from the memories of the period 1929 - 1939** \$5

Noye R. (Bob) J.

- (1998), **CLARE - A DISTRICT HISTORY** - a definitive history of the town and district, including photographs, sketches & maps. Essential starting point in Clare research. 231pp. 4th edition, with new index. \$20 (\$15 for members)

- (2003), **TALKING HISTORY - Tales of Clare S.A.** 50 article published weekly in *The Northern Argus* \$15

Pattullo, William

- (1991), **THE LAND HISTORY OF POLISH HILL RIVER 1842 - 1990**. Details the ownership history of 120 sections of land in Polish Hill River, to the edge of Mintaro township. \$25

- (1986), **THE OWNERS OF STANLEY FLAT 1836 - 1986** reprinted 2015 \$30

Schmaal, Jean

- (c. 1986), **THE INCHIQIN STORY**, Clare & District Branch, National Trust, [1986?] Clare S.Aus \$5

- (1987), **A QUAINT COURTHOUSE** Clare & District Branch, National Trust, Clare S.Aus \$5

Simons, J.J. 'Boss' (1944), **THE CLARE I REMEMBER**

13 articles published in *The Northern Argus* in 1944, describing the Clare of Simons' boyhood in the 1880's and 1890's. Fully indexed. \$15

Tilbrook, EHH 'Clarion' and M Tilbrook (1939), **THE PATHS OF GLORY LEAD BUT TO THE GRAVE a history of Clare Cemeteries** (originally published in *The Northern Argus* in 1939) Re-released with updated index \$20

Warrior, Fred et al (2005), **Ngadjuri - Aboriginal people of the Mid North region of South Australia**, Meadows SA, SASOSE Council Inc \$40

Wilson, John (2018) **The Riesling Railway**, self-published, printed by Openbook Howden, St Marys SA 5042, photographs, illustrations, maps, drawings \$110

## CD-ROMS

**HEADSTONE PHOTOS FROM LOCAL CEMETERIES (CD Rom)** (2005) \$10



**THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF ROTARY CLUB OF CLARE 1964 - 2011 (DVD)** \$20 Limited release

**FEDERATION CD ROM** - history of the Clare & Gilbert Valley District for all computer buffs and their friends - a great gift idea! (2002) \$10



The Upper Wakefield District  
Assessment  
for the year 1856  
(Copied from the Council  
Assessment Book for that year).

- (1) Township of Auburn
- (2) East Auburn.
- (3) New East Auburn
- (4) Leasingham
- (5) East Leasingham
- (6) Watervale
- (7) District of Upper Wakefield—The rest of

Data obtained from the Assessment Book.

### **Auburn Primary School**

#### **Village Survey data, 1945**

This is one of two exercise books located among records at the school in Aug 2020. They contain hand-written research carried out by students of the school in the period 1945 to 1947 from original sources.

There is a complete transcript of entries in the District Council of Upper Wakefield assessment book of 1856, a summary of cemetery burials and excerpts from the first minute book of the council.

These exercise books will be transferred to State Records for permanent retention. A complete digital copy of each will be held at Clare Regional History Collection.

District Council of Upper Wakefield was formed in 1854 from the southern part of the District Council of Clare. It amalgamated in 1970 with District Council of Saddleworth to form District Council of Saddleworth & Auburn. In 1997 this council amalgamated with DC Clare and DC Riverton to form the current entity, Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council.

The District Council of Upper Wakefield contained the following townships and villages: Auburn, East Auburn, New East Auburn, Leasingham and Watervale.

Township of Auburn 1856

No. of Section	Name of Occupier	Name of Owner	Description of Property
Subd. 0 Lot 12, 13	Batts, William		1 acre fenced 1 R stone not roofed.
4 16	Cole, Joseph		1 Road fenced 2 R pine
4 2		Bennett, Jas W	2 Roads
2 15, 19	Bleechmore, Chas H.		1 acre
4 15	" " "		1 acre 2 rods fenced
6 15, 17, 18, 19, 20	" " "		6 acres fenced
6 17	" " "		" fenced, stone & 3 dwelling rooms, cellar.
6 15, 19, 20	" " "		2 2 fenced, 2 R stone cottage
6 17	" " "		" 2 stockyard
6 19	" " "		" 2 Rising Sun Public House
4 19	" " "		0 1 0 fenced
2 9, 15, 19	Braddock John		1, 2, 0 fenced pine cottage (1856 foundation of a 3 roomed house & shop)
4 5, 6, 10		Brannon, William	1, 2, 0
5 2, 3		Bull George	1, 0, 0
2 4	Whithead, Robert		0, 2, 0 fenced, pine cottage
2 4	Carrick, Patrick		
2 17	Jones, Joseph	Chapman, William	0, 2, 0
4 16	Cole, J. Stear		0, 1, 0 fenced, 2 R pine cottage
7 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	Corran Michael		4, 2, 0 fenced
0 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12		Dickson, John	1, 0, 0
0 2, 3		Rubank, George	1, 0, 0
2 12, 13	Thredgold, Wm J	Ferguson, Peter	1, 0, 0
4 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12	Field, James		2, 2, 0 fenced slab cottage, blacksmith's shop, garden etc.
0 5, 9, 10, 11	Hodges, George		2, 0, 0 fenced, pine cottage
2 6	Hodges, Frances		0, 2, 0 fenced pine cottage
2 2	Hodges, Thomas		0, 2, 0 fenced pine cottage

Slaughtering Licences

John Collins (of sect 320)  
 Jas N. Wearne Butcher of Auburn  
 Malachi Brain  
 John Browney

March 15<sup>th</sup> 1856 A letter was received from the Colonial Secretary stating that a description of the new Western Boundary contained in Council Memorial would be sufficient for the purpose of the Proclamation.

April 12<sup>th</sup> 1856 The rates charged by the poundkeeper per day for the sustenance of impounded cattle.

For every horse, mare, gelding	} 1/3 per diem
filly, ass, mule, bull,	
cow, calf etc	
For every ram, ewe,	} 3 " "
sheep, lamb or goat	
For every pig	6 " "

May 10<sup>th</sup> 1856 The Council met the Trustees of the District Cemetery and handed over to them the Trust Deeds of the Cemetery

May 26<sup>th</sup> 1856 Mr Wm Thredgold's tender (\$8 1/2) for making and fixing 2 folding gates to the District Cemetery was accepted.

June 7<sup>th</sup> 1856 His Excellency the Governor after careful consideration declined to alter

the present boundaries of the district

June 9<sup>th</sup> 1856 Publican's General Licence  
 Chas Wm Walton for a public house (then in course of erection) to be called "The Leasingham Hotel". Granted.

June 21<sup>st</sup> 1856 The rate adopted at a public meeting at the Council Chambers was on the basis of 6<sup>d</sup> in the £.

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1856 The council applied for the establishment of a local court & a police or a constabulary force within the district.

March 14<sup>th</sup> 1857 New Council consists of  
 Chairman Gavin David Young  
 Councillors John Brauer  
 John Cowled  
 Wm Clark Spicer  
 Francis Treloar

Same officers as of last year.

Publican's Licence  
 Chas Ansell, storeman, Adelaide, for the Prince of Wales Hotel at Waterdale

May 31<sup>st</sup> 1857 The clerk wrote to the Surveyor General re the dilapidated state of the road between Auburn and Saddleworth at the point