

# CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER  
WINTER 2011



## CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP MAKES ITS MARK ON LOCAL BUILDINGS



Council CEO Roy Blight unveils a plaque on Clare Town Hall, watched by History Group members, Sue Wurst, Chairman Gerald Lally and Curator, Helen Perry.

The Clare Regional History Group has progressed its aim of increasing the profile of local heritage buildings with the unveiling in May, 2011 of nine historical markers as part of History SA's History month celebrations.

The project has been the "baby" of Clare Regional History Group chairman, Gerald Lally and curator Helen Perry for some time. They identified suitable buildings, with preference given to those featured on the established Clare Historic Walk. Helen and Gerald researched the long and colourful histories of the significant buildings while working closely with the building owners, local council, heritage advisor and plaque manufacturer.

The project culminated in a "parade of honour" up and down the main street of Clare as Group members were joined by building owners or their representatives walking from building to building. As each plaque was unveiled by selected group members or owners, a cheer went up from the crowd who then had the pleasure of hearing the history of the building. The metal historic markers are discreetly displayed on the buildings or specially built stands. Although funded by the Clare Regional History Group, such was the community support for the project that many owners paid for their own plaques.

Buildings included in the first round of historic markers were:- Clare Town Hall, ANZ Bank, National Bank, Clare Courthouse, Clare Institute (now Clare Public Library), Mill Street Cottage (now Jackson Pledge Goodwin Accountants), the Salvation Army Citadel (now Bennett's Hair Fashions), the former AMP building (now Employment Directions) and the former Clare Town Hall.

Following the successful unveiling of the plaques, members, owners and interested members of the public returned to the History Room for refreshments.

The project was a great success and members are keen to prepare another set of markers, possibly focussing on past and present hotels and churches. Watch this space for more news about this exciting project!!

*We are building a Collection of written and photographic items of historic value to Clare and region*

# **NEWS FROM THE GROUP**

A summary of the year's work is given in Chairman Gerald Lally's Annual Report, which is reproduced on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter. The following includes the latest news from the History Group.

## **Historic Markers**

A successful unveiling ceremony was held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Research has commenced for another ten plaques to be placed in May 2012. So far, the buildings chosen to be marked are the three existing and three former hotels in Clare's Main Street, the former office of the Northern Argus and the old mill. The next part of the process is to identify and approach building owners for their cooperation in the project.

## **Gerald receives SA Genealogy & Heraldry Society's Family History Award 2010**

Fellow volunteers were thrilled to learn of Group Chairman Gerald Lally's success, celebrating his latest publication "Five Brothers – the family of Alexander and Elizabeth Chigwidden 1839 – 2010". This book was the joint winner of the T T Reed Award for the best family history book of 2010.

Gerald's award, certificate and the book are on display in the History Collection.

## **Who do you think you are?!!**

In May a film crew from Perth came to Clare to film part of a segment for the next series of the SBS television program, *Who do you think you are?* The celebrity to be featured in the first episode of the next series has a link to our area through their forebears in the nineteenth century. The programme is planned to be aired in November.

<b>Meeting dates</b>
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Committee – Thurs 27 Oct  
Committee & Christmas event – Thurs 8 Dec

## **History's Highways Project**

14 of the 30 to 40 photographic panels have been produced by Stanley Studios and are on display in the History Collection. Work continues in selecting the photos and captions for the remainder. All but four of the panels for our sponsors have been completed.

The official launch of the project will be held in the Clare Town Hall on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November. It is planned to have the photographic display open to the public, particularly school students during the day, with a reception in the early evening. All members are welcome.

## **SPONSORS**

This project would not have been possible without the huge support from our community. We are pleased to acknowledge their financial contribution and ask our members, in turn, to support them.

### **GOLD**

Anama Holdings  
Bungaree Station  
Clare Quarry  
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council  
HR Sanders  
IJ & J Denton  
Pink's Mitre 10  
SC Heinrich & Co

### **SILVER**

Mid North Motor Co.

### **BRONZE**

Clare Model Engineers Inc  
Clare Valley Toyota  
Springbett's Deliveries

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT SEVENHILL HOTEL, 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2011

2010/2011 has been a very busy year for active members of the Clare Regional History Group, who freely give of their valuable time.

As this year is South Australia's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the State Government, through the History Trust of SA, offered community groups and organisations the opportunity to come up with projects that would emphasize aspects of the State's history. Sue and Helen willingly offered to come up with a project that we could pursue and in December we were successful in securing a \$3,000 Grant. As you are all aware our project is called "History's Highways", which involves a series of at least 30 large-scale photographs and accompanying text, depicting various forms of transport in the Clare region. We envisage this project to be concluded by November with an official display and launch. This project has aroused much interest in the community and we thank the many family businesses who have donated financially to it. On behalf of the Group I wish to sincerely thank Sue and Helen for their time and input into this project, also Ron for his catering and other members who have been involved as it nears completion.

Another project undertaken this year which has now come to fruition has been the placement of historic plaques on several historic buildings in Clare which was completed in May for S.A. History Month. Once again Helen and Sue were involved in the research and the wording for these plaques. It was pleasing to see such a good crowd of interested residents follow along the path as the plaques were unveiled. Thank you again Helen and Sue, Graham for arranging the signs and collection of and to other members who were involved in any way with this project. On behalf of the Group I would particularly like to express my thanks to many of the landowners who contributed financially to this project. It was unexpected and very much appreciated. During the next 12 months we envisage to continue this project, acknowledging the history of further sites and buildings within the township.

History Month also saw the opening of historic *Wolta Wolta* homestead on Sunday 1st May as a fundraiser for the Group in collaboration with the Clare National Trust Museum. We are very grateful to Robert Parker for opening up his home to the large number of visitors and I would like to thank the ladies and friends of the History Group who prepared the splendid afternoon tea.

As well as having the Collection open on Thursdays we have visitors coming outside these hours. One visiting group this year was a large contingent of 50 visitors from Adelaide, many of who were Irish or of Irish descent. They spent the day visiting several locations in the Clare Valley with emphasis on the Irish connection and visited both our Collection and the Museum. Late last year we also hosted Lady Teviot from England who spoke about family research and answered a variety of questions.

Local resident, John Koch, approached Helen re researching the soldiers listed on the World War 1 Memorial Gates. Helen did a terrific job with this and handed the photos and information to John, who with the assistance of his family, showed a DVD display of these soldiers on the morning of Anzac Day. This was very well received from the large crowd in attendance and may be extended for next year's dawn service.

... CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (continued from page 3)

Several months ago we purchased a second hand camera from Committee member Bill O'Malley and with a laptop on loan from Helen, we can digitise many of the old books and documents we hold in the Collection. This is an ongoing project and one that is very beneficial to the Group and visitors.

Our seasonal newsletter is under the directorship of Helen who does a great job in co-ordinating its content and is always after articles, suggestions and assistance from members.

Moving forward, one of next year's activities is Burke and Wills Recovery Re-enactment Expedition which is proposed to occur in early December 2012. A small committee has been formed from members of the Clare Regional History Group, Mt. Horrocks Historical Society and Rhynie Progress Association to organise a programme for the re-enactment, which people will hear about more as things develop.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council for their ongoing support and The Northern Argus who support us with publicity with many of our projects throughout the year

Our valued active members have been undertaking ongoing projects on their own over the past twelve months, showing their expertise to further the betterment of the Collection, so it continues to provide a great resource for the town. Bill has been undertaking ongoing cataloguing of books and microfiche in the Collection. Carol Semple continues to index The Northern Argus and is now up to approximately 1985 as well as undertaking some research on the WWI and Boer War Soldiers. Jill Clarke has been indexing Council assessments and using the digital camera to copy Council scrapbooks. After a number of years, Allison Tilbrook has this year completed the huge job of indexing the Clare District Birth Death & Marriage registers and since then has been using the digital camera, researching and filing. Win Johnson has been researching Ngadjuri Lodge and putting together a record of its history and is researching the history of the local hotels for Stage 2 of Historic Plaques. Margaret Springbett is completing card entries for church records and using the digital camera. Norma Schell is typing and involved with the card index. Coralie Haysman has been going through the Pattullo Land History and replacing all the pins with archival clips and involved with local newspaper cuttings. Paul Tilbrook is often at hand with the computer and photographic jobs. Val Tilbrook, our very reliable Secretary, does a great job and is the main welcomer to the Collection on Thursdays and assists with the many personal research enquiries. Sue Wurst is enthusiastic about the Group and often takes the lead with suggestions and is always dependable when it comes to hosting an event along with husband Ron. Helen Perry, our competent Treasurer for many years now, makes sure all the accounts are paid and books balance. In her role as Curator, Helen is our back bone, finding ongoing jobs for our volunteers, oversees the tasks at hand and is often thinking of ways to improve the Collection.

In closing, I wish to thank all our members for your valuable time, no matter how small or big your contribution is to The Clare Regional History Group, it is very much appreciated by myself and visitors to the Collection.

**Gerald Lally, CHAIRMAN**

11 Aug 2011

## CAN YOU HELP?

### LOCAL DEBUTANTES

A request from a visitor to the History Collection a few months ago has made us aware of how few photographs we have of deb balls. From the early 1960's through the 1970s, debutante and mini-debutante balls were held throughout the region and regularly featured in pages of the Northern Argus. The annual ball held in the Clare Town Hall was a particular highlight.

The photo to the right is of debutantes who were presented at the 1947 ball held in the Clare Town Hall.

If you have any photographs of debbs, we would appreciate the opportunity to scan them.



### FOUR MORE PICS TO FIND FOR THE WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL ARCH

When the research was carried out for the Anzac Day DVD, the Collection held photos of about 2/3 of the men. Several have come to light as a result of subsequent research and publicity. Can you help us to locate a photo of the following soldiers:

**No. 5028 Lance Corporal Maxwell Grant ALLAN :**

Born 1896 the son of Maxwell G.D. and Esther ALLAN (nee BARRETT), of Prospect, and later Gilberton. Grocer's assistant. Enlisted at Clare on 13 Dec 1915, 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. Killed in action in France 24 May 1917. Buried near Lagnicourt, Bapaume.

**No. 1660 Private Frederick Lancelot BRINKWORTH:**

Born 24 May 1891, in Adelaide, the son of Joseph William and Agnes BRINKWORTH (nee NELSON) Served in Egypt, Gallipoli and France as a signaller and despatch rider. Died of wounds, 1917, Bapoume, France

**No. 5003 Sapper Bartholomew Joseph CURRAN:**

Born 1879, Dungarven, Ireland. Mother Mrs Ellen Curran. Worked as a bootmaker in Clare, prior to enlisting in W.A. 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Tunnelling Company. Died of pneumonia in the field at Hersin Compigney, France, 22 Feb 1917.

**No. 5455 Corporal Gordon Wellesley WHITE:**

Born 9 Apr 1889 at Hallett SA, the son of Edward and Louisa WHITE (nee HART). Killed in action in France, 11 Apr 1917.

# ANOTHER SOLDIER OF WORLD WAR I

## THOMAS JOHN (JACK) MARTIN

1899 - 1917

### **A Family Connection**

Thomas Martin, or Jack as he was known, was the youngest child of Thomas and Anne Martin (nee Quinlan) of Armagh. Jack was aged two when his mother died and his father later remarried. He was educated at Armagh School before coming home to assist his father on the family farm at Armagh.



Jack later moved to Adelaide with his two older sisters, Maida and Nell. Maida supported Jack until she was able to find him a job as a horse and trolley driver for the West End Brewery.

At just 15 years of age, Jack stood over 6 feet tall and was of strong build. During the First World War, Jack received several white feathers, the symbol of cowardice, from people who felt he should be fighting for his country. He tried several times to enlist but was rejected on each occasion, due to his age.

The Brewery laid off many of its workers and once again Jack was pressured to enlist in the Army. He asked his eldest sister, Maida if she would speak to the Recruiting Colonel on his behalf. On this occasion he was accepted and enlisted on 28 August 1916, giving his age as 18 years when in fact he was aged 17. Jack joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the 48<sup>th</sup> Battalion and embarked for overseas.

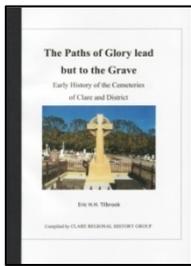
Sadly, on the 1 October 1917, Jack was killed in a trench at Passchendaele Ridge in France, while delivering Company dispatches. Like so many others at the time, Jack's family were devastated at the loss of their son and brother, none more so than Jack's sister Maida, who throughout her life never forgave herself for helping her younger brother to enlist.

His name is recorded at Ypres Memorial Cemetery, Belgium. R.I.P.

**Gerald Lally**

NOTE: Jack's story is also recorded in LALLY, Gerald A Naulty Family History – 150 years in South Australia 1846 – 1996, Clare, 1996

# BOOKS FOR SALE



**THE PATHS OF GLORY LEAD BUT TO THE GRAVE** a history of Clare Cemeteries by EEH 'Clarion' Tilbrook and Miss M Tilbrook (originally published in *The Northern Argus* in 1939) **Re-released with updated index \$20.00**

**CLARE CAMEOS** by Win Johnson (1986). 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Includes oral histories of our older Clare residents as interviewed by Win in the State's Sesquicentennial year. **\$15.00**

**TALKING HISTORY – Tales of Clare S.A.** by R.J. (Bob) Noye (2003). Comprising the 50 articles published weekly in *The Northern Argus*, prior to Bob's death in August 2002. **\$15.00 (\$12.00 members)**

**THE CLARE I REMEMBER** by J.J. 'Boss' Simons. A series of 13 articles published in *The Northern Argus* in 1944, describing the Clare of Simons' boyhood in the 1880's and 1890's. Fully indexed. Released Dec 1994. New print. **\$15.00**

**THE LAND HISTORY OF POLISH HILL RIVER 1842 - 1990** by William Pattullo (1991). Details the ownership history of 120 sections of land in Polish Hill River, to the edge of Mintaro township. **\$25.00**

**CARINYA 1956 - 1989 A Peaceful and happy home** Compiled by Marj. Ashby. **\$5.00**

**THE METHODISTS OF CLARE 1851 - 1977** by Win Johnson (1994). 124pp. Indexed. **\$12.00**

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

**HARD-YACKA - The story of a Mid-North town in South Australia** by Julie-Ann Ellis (1995). **\$40.00**

**MAGPIE CREEK JUNCTION a history of Brinkworth and district 1892 - 1992** (1992). Compiled by Brinkworth Centenary Book Committee. 233pp. **\$40.00**

**JUST AS IT WAS** by Winifred Johnson (2001) Tells the story of Win's life with humour & affection. 96pp including photos **\$18.00**

**BLYTH - a silo of stories 1860 - 1990** by Win Johnson (1991). A comprehensive history of the town and district of Blyth, including family stories, farming, community and sporting activities. Excellent photographs, many in colour. **\$45.00**

**CLARE - A DISTRICT HISTORY** by R. J. Noye (1998). Definitive history of the town and district. Includes photographs, sketches & maps. Essential starting point in Clare research. 231pp. 4th edition, with new index. **\$20.00 (\$15 - members)**

**BUNGAREE – Land, Stock & People:** History of Hawker family and Bungaree Station (1992). 230pp **\$45.00**

**CLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL 1879–2004** by Ro Wood & 125<sup>TH</sup> Committee (2004) **\$10.00**

**SADDLEWORTH - Hub of the Wheel** by Elinor A. Bellman (1995) **\$35.00**

**CLARE – A BACKWARD GLANCE** – by J. Haynes & J. Schmaal (1980) **\$8.00 (Recently reprinted)**

**HEAD OF THE RIVERS – Black Springs, Manoora, Waterloo** (1992) **\$25.00** Out of stock – available from author.

**FROM WHERE THE BROUGHTON FLOWS** by Maurice B. Keain (1976) A history of the Spalding district **\$15.00** Out of stock – available from author.

**MARRABEL AND DISTRICT – The Legend of Curio – a history of Marrabel & district** **\$30.00**

**MARRABEL & DISTRICT REVISITED** – additional material of the 'early days' at Marrabel **\$25.00**

**HILL RIVER A Valley of History** by Gerald Lally (2004) **\$30**

**A LANDMARK OF FAITH Church of the Immaculate Conception Mintaro and its parishioners 1856–2006** by Gerald Lally (2006) **\$30.00**

**FROM WHERE I SIT** A Collection of articles on chosen themes written over past times by Win Johnson **\$16.00**

**South Clare Sports Club – Celebrating 50 years of success 1960 – 2010** by Gerald Lally and others (2010) **\$20.00**

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## CD-ROMS

**HEADSTONE PHOTOS FROM LOCAL CEMETERIES (CD Rom)** (2005) **\$10.00**



**FEDERATION CD ROM** - history of the Clare & Gilbert Valley District for all computer buffs and their friends - a great gift idea! (2002) **Special price \$10.00 (\$15 for 2)**

## CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP

### Contact Information:

PO Box 6, Clare 5453

Location: Clare Town Hall (upstairs)

Main North Road, Clare

Ph (08) 8842 4100

Fax (08) 8842 4233

Web: [www.users.on.net/~clarehistory](http://www.users.on.net/~clarehistory)

Email: [clarehistory@internode.on.net](mailto:clarehistory@internode.on.net)

### Opening hours

**Thursdays 10-30 – 4.00pm**

(if you are travelling some distance, it is wise to ring and check)

**Out of Hours Opening Fee \$20**

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## NEW ACQUISITIONS

### BOOKS

Edwards, Marcelle *Mackinnon family – Scotland to Australia 1840*, 2010

Edwards, Marcelle *Johann Jakob AHRNS Descendants*, 2010

DC of Blyth Snowtown *District Council of Snowtown – Chairmen & Councillors 1888-1987*, c1987

Govt. of SA *Electoral Roll House of Assembly – Wooroora*, 1887

Murray-Darling Basin Authority *Guide to the proposed Basin Plan – Volume 1 Overview*, 2010

National Library of Australia *National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries*, 2005

Murray-Darling Basin Commission *The Darling*, 2004

Paterson, Roslyn M. (Ed) *Dressing of the Graves – A collection of the district's pioneers buried in the Kadina, Moonta & Wallaroo Cemeteries 2001-2007*, 2007

Historical Society of South Australia *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia – Number 35*, 2007

The National Trust of South Australia *Register of Historic Buildings*, May 1979

Nicol, Robert & Samuels, Brian *Insight into South Australian History Volume 1*, 1992

Num, Cora *Irish Research on the Internet*, 2011

Kapunda Branch of the Agricultural Bureau of SA *The Valley of the Light: Stories and images of Kapunda's agricultural industries*, 1994

### PAPERS & Other

Australian Council of National Trusts *Conservation and Restoration of Buildings*, 1978

## **"BACK TO FARRELL FLAT"**

28-29 January 2012

Do you or your family have a past or present association with Farrell Flat?

Join us for a weekend of celebration, for the Centenary of the Farrell Flat Institute Hall

For more details call (08) 8843 8028

email [gally3@bigpond.com](mailto:gally3@bigpond.com)

## **CLARE HIGH SCHOOL**

A celebration of ninety years of secondary education.

**28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Includes a walk through of Clare Primary and High Schools on Friday, and a black tie cocktail dinner at Clare Town Hall on Saturday.

For more information, please contact Clare HS:

**Ph 8842 2788**

[info@clarehs.sa.edu.au](mailto:info@clarehs.sa.edu.au)

This photo, possibly of the opening, of the Salvation Army citadel, has been purchased for our collection from the State Library of South Australia.



### **STOP PRESS**

**We are thrilled to learn this week of the renaming of Main North Road to Horrocks Highway! While we have willingly lent our support to the proposal, we acknowledge the commitment and energy of our friends at Mt Horrocks Historical Society who have worked long and hard to bring this proposal to fruition. Well done!**