

CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021



IN 1952 THE ADELAIDE NEWS FEATURED STORIES ABOUT SEVERAL COUNTRY TOWNS INCLUDING CLARE. THE FOLLOWING IS JUST ONE OF THE CLARE STORIES.

Names mean lot to “Jimmy Scales”

The best spot from which to take a panoramic picture of Clare township is a pretty wooded hill behind Main Street.

Everyone in Clare with one exception calls it Billygoat Hill. The exception is a man who lives right on the hill, 84 year old James Scales. He’s lived at Clare for 50 years, and he calls it “Dempsey’s Hill”. “Just because someone saw some billygoats grazing round here years ago a lot of human billygoats started calling this place Billygoat Hill” says Mr. Scales.

“It was Dempsey’s Hill all the time I was driving a coach from Clare to Blyth early in the 1900s and to me it will always be Dempsey’s Hill.” Names mean a lot to Jimmy Scales. He believes once a thing has been given a generally accepted name it shouldn’t be fiddled round with. That’s the policy he always adopted in the 15 years he was studmaster at famous Wolta Wolta, birthplace of many SA turf champions.

Wolta Wolta Stud is very near Clare township and it’s very dear to Jimmy Scales heart. He loves horses and he loved his work there. Round the living room of his home on Billygo- sorry, Dempsey’s Hill are colored pictures of race finishes at Morphettville and Victoria Park showing Alinura, Ducal and Medarlin leading home the fields. But back to names. Take Medarlin, a racehorse of just a few years ago. Jimmy Scales said he named Medarlin the very first time he saw her. She was a pretty little foal and she went straight to Jimmy’s Irish heart. She went to back away from him when he first came near her and Jimmy said soothingly, “now steady on me darlin steady”. The

little filly was always “me darlin” to Jimmy and when time came to register her name it was too easy.



AT 84. Mr. James Scales is one of Clare's oldest residents, but certainly not too old to grow outside vegetables. He is a former studmaster of Wolta Wolta stud for racehorses.

Ducal, a brilliant sprinter was bred at Wolta Wolta and also was Alinura who gets Jimmy's vote for the greatest of them all. Jimmy an authority on blood lines still takes an interest in racing, a sport he has followed for 63 years. Since he retired from his job at the stud he has spent most of his time breeding prize pumpkins and trombones in the big vegetable plot in his backyard on Dempsey's Hill. He has seen Clare grow in the past 50 years and he's young enough in

mind to recognise that it is a better town now than it was.

“Never be fooled by old codgers who speak of the good old days” he says. “Those good old days were never as good as today. Life might be more hectic now, and more dangerous but it's a better life than when I was young.”

Jimmy looks back with mixed feelings on his days as a coach proprietor. He used to drive his own Cobb and Co. type coach from Clare to Blyth on a daily return service for 22 years. Those were good years because Jimmy averaged a net profit of £5 a week, a first class return in those days. (*Adelaide News*, 6 Aug 1952, p14)

CRHG COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Helen Perry

Vice Chairperson: Wendy Spackman

Secretary: Josie Hudson

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Recent Acquisitions

AUTHOR	TITLE	DATE
	EMMAUS TO WORLDS END - A HISTORY OF THE ROBERTSTOWN COUNCIL AREA	1986
BEHN, EC & BEHN, HC	THE BEHN FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA 1858 - 1979	1979
KROEHN, GERTA	THE DESCENDANTS OF CARL AND CAROLINE SCHULZ IN AUSTRALIA	1985
	AND MEMORY LIVE FOR EVER. THE FAMILY OF THOMAS COWLEY IN AUSTRALIA	1990
PRIOR, H & I	PRIOR FAMILY HISTORY	1986
PFITZNER FAMILY	THE PFITZNER STORY	1975
O'DONOHUE, AM	THE McDOUGALLS	1984
DRECKOW, BETTY	HILLS, VALLEY AND PLAINS - HISTORY OF THE EUDUNDA DISTRICT	1985
EY, ANNA VICTORIA	EARLY LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS IN STH AUSTRALIA	1986
BEHN, VIOLA	REFLECTIONS OF "ECKERVILLE"	1979
REED, TOM	MY ARMY DAYS - THE SECOND WORLD WAR DIARY OF TOM REED	1945
NICHOLLS, John et.al.	REFLECTIONS OF CAMERON - LOCHIEL & DISTRICT 1869-2019	2019
STAGG, W	STAGG OF TARCOWIE 0 DIARIES OF A COLONIAL TEENAGER	1887
SEMPLE, CAROLYN	LUCAS FAMILY MEMOIR	2021
DE CRESPIGNY, MARY	THE ADELAIDE ESTABLISHMENT - THE 1878 DIARY OF A PROVINCIAL LADY	1987
LORD, PETER	125 YEARS OF THE ADVERTISER	1983
FORD, T	THE MASTER BUTCHERS CO-OP FIRST 100 YEARS 1905-2005	2005
BESANKO, WW	HISTORIC TEROWIE - A PICTORIAL HISTORY	1977
WILMINGTON CENTENARY COMMITTEE	BEAUTIFUL VALLEY - A HISTORY OF WILMINGTON & DISTRICT	1976
PENNA, R	FERTILE VALLEY TO OPEN PLAIN - NANTAWARRA & BEAUFORT DIST	1982
McDONALD, R	AUSTRALIA'S FLYING DOCTORS	1994
READER'S DIGEST (SYDNEY)	MILESTONES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY	1980
SMITH, R	CURIOSITIES OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	1998
DURDIN, Joan	Vera Searle - Royal College of Nursing SA (Oral History Chapter) - transcript of interview	1992
WILSON, John	Photos and slides	

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT TAMINGA HOTEL
13 AUGUST 2021

The Covid 19 virus still continues to be felt throughout the country and South Australia, which continues to be a devastating period in world history.

Like the rest of the country the Clare Regional History Group has been affected by Covid, but we continue to function with unknown certainty. Here are some of the main activities and events we have been able to hold over the past 12 months.

After experiencing the closure last year of the Collection, due to issues with the ceilings, then a lockdown, we were enthused to have the copy camera operating again in the small room next to the kitchen, however once set up we encountered problems with the camera. At that time, we were asked to vacate the room, as Council required the area for their backup computer system. We have very recently purchased a more modern and compact scanner and are slowly familiarising our way through the new digitalizing process.

Since the last AGM we have been only been able to open to the public on Friday afternoons from 1 – 4pm, and 2nd Saturdays from 10am – 1.00pm, due to lack of membership. In December last year we weren't able to hold our bimonthly meeting due to lack of a quorum.

An issue which continues for us is tenure over the use of our space in the Town Hall. Since 2006, when we moved over from the library, we have had no formal lease agreement with the Council. In April/May Clare and Gilbert Valley Council engaged a consultant to review the use of all the spaces of the Town Hall, with Helen and myself meeting with the consultant explaining the background of our Group and our priorities such as the installation of a lift, as previous members and present have discontinued their involvement, due to the stairs up to the Collection. A public survey was conducted, as yet we are to hear any results or comments regarding this exercise.

We held two activities for History Month of May. A successful book sale was conducted in the Hall foyer where we raised over \$400 and guest speaker Max Slee from Adelaide, visited to give a talk on John Hill. John Hill was an explorer, a discoverer of several local rivers and the first European to explore the Clare Valley. Max gave a very interesting and enlightening presentation, which was supported by locals and a number of others from outside the district.

We are grateful to the Clare Library for undertaking any cataloguing that is required, which was previously conducted by some of our members. Items from the Collection are put on their 'One Card' system and used by all public libraries throughout South Australia.

In mid-June we were disappointed relinquish the original Clare District, Births, Marriages and Death Registers to State Records. The acquisition of these old Registers occurred throughout the State. The Clare Registers had been a terrific resource to us over so many years, I remember first using them when they were held in the old Police Station next to the library. Fortunately, these volumes had been indexed by our members, although not with all details from the certificates. The Registers will eventually be made available to the public at State Records.

Just this month the final 18 month period of The Northern Argus, 2019-2020 was bound in Adelaide. This volume has now been added to all the others, certainly a treasured resource, giving us a complete set from 1869 through to 2020.

Our next project is the finalisation of the reprint of Bob Noye's publication, Clare – A District History, with an added 7 chapters, 1975 - 2010. This has been an ongoing project with unforeseeable delays, however with the indexing left to be completed the new book will be available within the next month or two with hopefully a book launch.

Jon Ruwolt has been enthusiastically renewing our webpage, thank you Jon for your continued and valuable input.

We all have other things occurring in our lives and can't always commit the time to the Collection, so I thank you for whatever time you can provide. I believe this is going to be a huge challenge for us in the very near future, will we be able to open every Friday with such low active membership? Other volunteer groups are finding similar problems as our helpers age and aren't replaced.

To Val, Lyn, Gail, Jon, Josie, Helen, David B, David and Wendy thank you for your time and effort in opening the Collection on Fridays, and on the nominated Saturday mornings. You all play a vital role in serving the public and working behind the scenes to present a great asset to the town of Clare. Thank you all.

Gerald Lally, Chairman

COMING EVENTS

On Sunday 10th. October at 2pm a Cemetery afternoon will be conducted at the White Hut Methodist Cemetery, follow White Hut Road past the Golf Club and out towards White Hut. After the Riesling Trail crosses the road, turn left on Hubbe Road, following signs to Clare Valley Cabins.

Turn left onto Koorama Road and park on your right, off the road and adjacent to the main cemetery entrance gate.

There will be an address about the cemetery, its history and notable burials.

Also checking of headstones against 1980s transcription list.

Around 3pm we will relocate to the White Hut Gaelic Cemetery, Gaelic Cemetery Road, Stanley Flat. There will be an address by Graham Young and his son James about the cemetery, its history, notable burials and the work of the descendant group which maintains (and improves) the cemetery. Please bring your own picnic (thermos etc) chair or rug. Will conclude around 4pm.

Friday October 22nd. 6.30pm for 7pm Dinner at Little Red Grape Leasingham. Guest Speaker Darrin Bennett, "On Assignment with Linblad/National Geographic – a path less travelled, a photographic journey, travelling on board the expedition ship Orion, through remote destinations including Antarctica, the sub-Antarctic Islands, the Kimberley, PNG and Borneo." Numbers to Gerald on 0457 020 680 by Mon 18th Oct.

By mid-December we will hold the launch of the 5th. edition of **Clare – A District History** by R.J. “Bob” Noye. We are currently awaiting confirmation from the printer as to the release date.

Launch details will be sent to members, on our web page and Facebook.

This new edition has an additional seven chapters covering the period from 1975 to 2010. The book can be pre-ordered. It has a soft cover and retails at \$35.

Email clarehistory@gmail.com to let us know and deposit your \$35 to:

Clare Regional History Group

BSB 105030

Account No. 037104140

SUBS ARE NOW DUE!

The AGM agreed to keep them at the same level as last year.

Individual - \$25

Family - \$30

Corporate - \$120

Financial Life Member (and never pay again) - \$250

Email clarehistory@gmail.com to let us know and deposit your membership to –

Clare Regional History Group (banking details above)

AFTER 40 YEARS SON OF CLARE COMES BACK

By E.M. (“Bay”) Webb of the Melbourne “Herald”

(E.M. (“Bay”) Webb was born in St. Barnabas Rectory, son of Canon Webb and following his visit to Clare in 1947 this description of his visit was published in the Northern Argus)

A motorcycle roared past my window and somewhere a train whistled. I said to myself: “This is not Clare.” Nor was it the Clare I knew although it had points of resemblance. The two banks and the post office were of my day, and the Clare Hotel and Bentley’s were familiar, but the rest seemed to have disappeared.

I had a sudden panic. Perhaps I had dreamt it all and those early days had only been born in a fretful sleep. Did the people I remember ever really exist? And what were motorcycles and trains doing in the Clare where I was born, if I was really born there, which I began to doubt.

It was all confusing. I wanted to see Bob Davies walk out of the E.S & A Bank, or Fred Bleechmore standing outside his post office, or old Louis Victorsen walking into his shop. Where was George Harmer, and what was a Government Department doing in Tom Stacey's shop? Where were Tom Gillen and Jack McGillick, and hundreds of others, who made the life of Clare 50 years ago and more – Peter Paul Gillen, Bill Kelly, Tommy Reed, 'Tomahawk' Smith, old Jaeggi, Gus Harder and Charlie Harder, that mighty hitter who landed a ball over the sugar gums and on the Baptist Church, and Reg. and Boss Tilbrook to mention only a few.

And where were all the blacksmiths' shops? I never realised how much they made the life of Clare, with the cheerful clinking of their anvils until I missed them. I wanted to walk into George Spratt's forge as I had done a hundred times. Not until I snooped about the back street could I find exactly where it was.

There was no solid ground under my feet in this modern Clare until I saw the old familiar sign 'A Paetke & Son.' I went inside and talked things over with Henry Paetke, an old and valued friend and after that everything seemed to fall into place.

The last time I lived in Clare was 1908 and the Clare I knew had no telephones, no electric light, no radios, no motor cars. The horse and buggy days were about to disappear. Your modern young people must forgive me when I say that something dignified and leisurely went with them.

I miss Johnny Edwards and his coach. I miss Henry Kimber coming out of his Mill white with flour. I would give a lot to hear Tom Gillen and Julius Victorson singing "England and Ireland's Own," as they did on many occasions during the Boer War.

I miss Dr. Otto and Dr. Fred Smith travelling about in their hooded buggies. And how glad I was to see intact the old building alongside the old town hall where Miss Hawker conducted her "Seminary for Young Ladies," and where I first went to school at the age of four. And I miss most of all those lovely days of childhood at the Rectory with parents and sisters and brothers, and my father ringing the old Church bell every week day morning at nine, one toll for every year of his life. I remember the burning of the New Mill and the first pneumatic-tyred bicycle that came to Clare. It was owned by A. Grad of the Federal Bootery, which was on the corner opposite the old mill and the new town hall.

That is enough of the old days, I want to say how beautiful is the modern Clare in spite of what is called progress, how fine and solid are the new as well as the old buildings. After the gimcrack structures I have seen elsewhere, their solidity is a pleasure to the eye.

And your air seems the finest I have known, perhaps because it was the first I breathed. My wife and I walked over the old Stepping Stones the other day, although no water flowed in the river. How well they have endured. I hope no modern crank will ever want to remove them. *(sorry, too late... editor...)*

I am harking back to the past again so I had better stop. I salute the new Clare, but cannot help loving the old. *(Northern Argus, 20 Mar 1947, p13)*

BOOKS & CDs FOR SALE

NOYE, RJ **Clare – a district history**, 2021 (5th ed.) \$35 Coming in time for Christmas shopping! Can be pre-ordered now!

ASHBY, Marj **CARINYA 1956 - 1989 A Peaceful and happy home**, (1989) CWA of SA Clare Branch, Clare, SA \$5

AUSTIN, Nigel **BOB ROWE – the great cattle trader** (2014) \$50

BELLMAN, Elinor A. (1995), **SADDLEWORTH - Hub of the Wheel**, (1995) Saddleworth, SA \$35

BOND, David **CLARE SHOW “A fine all round display” for 150 years** (2014) Clare SA \$33

Brinkworth Centenary Book Committee, **MAGPIE CREEK JUNCTION - a history of Brinkworth and district 1892 – 1992**, Brinkworth, SA. Recently reprinted. \$50

THE CIVIC RECORD 1836 – 1986, Wakefield Press 695pp. \$50

CROSS, Jack, **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**, (2016) Printak Pty Ltd, Adelaide, SA. 145 pages, illustrations, maps, portraits, facsimiles \$30

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

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

HAYNES J. & SCHMAAL, E.J. **CLARE – A BACKWARD GLANCE** (1980) \$8

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

Johnson, Winifred N.

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

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

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

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

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

A HISTORY OF NGADJURI LODGE TRUST (2010) \$10

JUST AS IT WAS (2010) The story of Win's life with humour and affection. 96pp including photos. \$20

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

CD-ROMS

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) \$5

CARDS FOR SALE

Local images on a blank card for your personal message \$3

LALLY, Gerald A.

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

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

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

TWO CHURCHES – Catholic faithful of the Clare Valley (2019) \$50

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

LINN, Rob, **The story of Bungaree Station** (2011) (illus) \$17

NEILL (nee Mickel), Laurel, **“A WALK WITH LAUREL” a walking tour of the buildings and families of Farrell Flat from the memories of the period 1929 – 1939** (2012) \$5

NOYE, Robert J. **TALKING HISTORY – Tales of Clare SA** 50 articles published weekly in *The Northern Argus* (2003) \$15

PATTULLO, William

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

THE OWNERS OF STANLEY FLAT 1836 – 1986 reprinted 2015 \$30

SCHMAAL, Jean

THE INCHQUIN STORY, Clare & District Branch, National Trust, (c1986) Clare SA \$5

A QUIANT COURTHOUSE (1987) Clare & District Branch, National Trust, Clare SA \$5

SEMPLER, Carolyn **“TO THE BEAT OF A DRUM” – Gum Creek School 1898 – 1957** (2018) \$20

SIMONS, J.J. ‘Boss’ **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 TILBROOK, M, **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, **Ngadjuri – Aboriginal people of the Mid North region of South Australia**, (2005) Meadows SA, SASOSE Council Inc \$40

WILSON, John

Bob's railway – turbulent political times in SA & a remarkable railroading dog, (2019) \$78

The Riesling railway (2018) Photographs, illustrations, maps, drawings, USB \$110