

# CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER  
AUTUMN 2012

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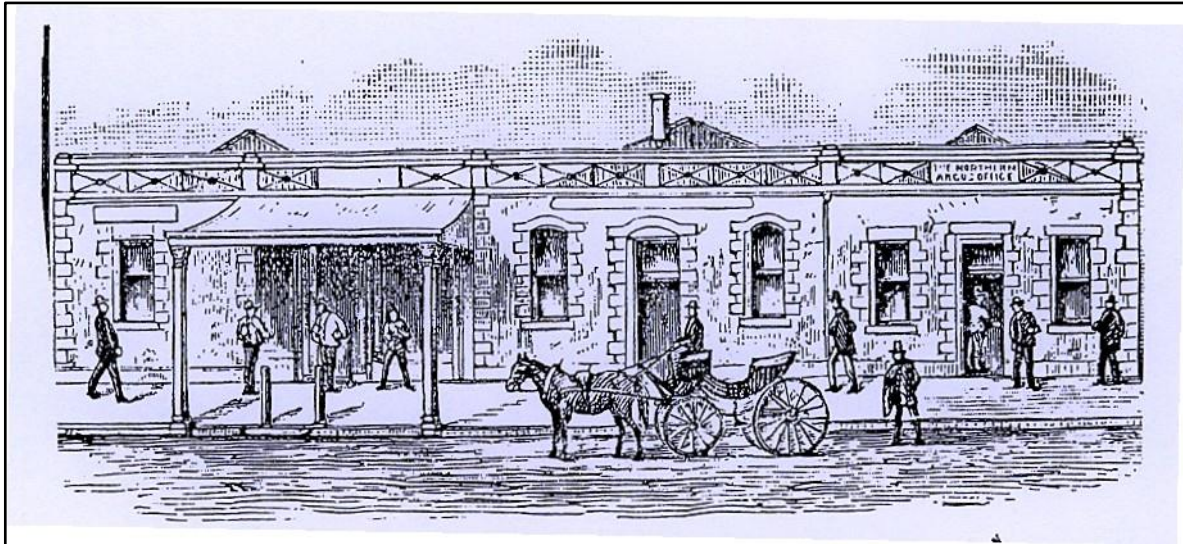


## MARKING HISTORY

To celebrate History Month, on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May a further ten markers will be unveiled on buildings, mainly in Clare's main street. These buildings comprise the three existing hotels, the sites of three former hotels, Ford's Billiard Saloon, the Savings Bank of SA, Northern Argus offices and Enterprise Brewery.

In addition a large interpretive sign will be erected in Ennis Park to commemorate the site of the Clare Mills.

Inside this newsletter you will find history and photos of the hotels and Billiard Saloon. Details of the other sites will be included in the future.



A sketch of the former Northern Argus offices,  
now Northern Music Centre and Langdon's Shoes.

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### STOP PRESS

The History Group has been successful in obtaining a \$2,000 Community Asset Grant from Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council to assist in the purchase of a compactus.

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

The May 1<sup>st</sup> episode of ***Who Do You Think You Are?*** was thoroughly enjoyed by many locals, members and friends and favourable comments have come in from all over Australia.



Michael O'Loughlin, former AFL footballer, grew up in Adelaide and has a fascinating collection of forebears with strong links to significant events in our State's history. A comprehensive display, with photos from the filming, is currently on view at the History Collection.

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Thanks to Committee member Jill Clarke for this contribution, found in the *Kadina Country Times*, 20<sup>th</sup> March 1920.

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Greens Plains, March 10<sup>th</sup>  
Mr. Peter Allen writes:

#### OUR GLORIOUS PIONEERS

1. Could but these early pioneers  
Collect their late remains,  
And come up through the missing years  
And see once more these plains,  
Where they with splendid youth and strength  
Were first to break the soil  
And spend the days to their full length  
In hard and weary toil!

2. For work then was with all ones might;  
No eight hours ee'n for sleep  
'Twas daylight saving then alright  
Till stars began to peep  
They cleared their land by sheer hard graft  
And pushed the single plough;  
Sowed seed, broadcast by elbow craft  
And reaped it anyhow.

3. While crops were growing they went elsewhere  
To earn an honest 'bob'  
Just what the work they didn't care  
The'yd tackle any job.  
When times were bad they didn't fret,  
Nor strike or loaf about  
The good things that they couldn't get  
They Simply went without

4. They had no swiftly moving force  
To help them on their way,  
At best maybe a working horse,  
Spring cart or bullock dray,  
And yet for calls of any sort  
They always were found game

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And yet the distance long or short  
They got there all the same.

5. Now their descendants rush along  
On petrol driven things  
Like "Johnny Walker" going strong,  
And hoping next for wings.  
The scythe, the sickle, and the rake,  
With other methods slow,  
Chap'd hands, bung eyes and work backache  
Are things of long ago.

6. They sit down now to plough the land  
Sit down to reap the grain  
And should a man be forced to stand  
He soon sits down again  
They till the fields with wide spread gear,  
And bag the ripening corn  
In one act with a harvester  
By horse or tractor drawn.

7 What would a shady pioneer  
Think of such carryings on  
That is if shades can see and hear  
And note what's being done  
They sure would see a mighty change  
Since they were round here last.  
But would they think it passing strange,  
Or think it passing fast?

8. Might not they to each other say -  
"Theres too much noise and fuss.  
It was not like this in our day;  
This is no place for us.  
These chaps know how to move things though;  
They've quite transformed the plain  
We'd better get a move on  
And get back home again"

9. And if a shade could wipe an eye  
Or feel emotion keen,  
They would, or maybe heave a sigh  
For things that might have been  
And dodging cars on the down grade  
These pioneering braves.  
With less of sorrow than of shade  
Would creep back to their graves.

<b>Meetings and Events</b>
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Thurs 21 June @ 4pm

Committee meeting

For many years, Clare's residents, visitors and passing travellers were served by six hotels – 5 on the western side, and one on the east. The History Group is commemorating these sites with an interpretive sign on each site, as part of SA History Month. Here follows a brief history of each hotel, the earliest of which being the Traveller's Rest, where Clewers Carpets stands today.

## **TRAVELLER'S REST HOTEL (1846 – 1878), STANLEY HOTEL (1878 – 1921)**

The first hotel licence in Clare was granted in 1846 to John Ryan, who was both publican and postmaster at the Traveller's Rest Hotel. The first Presbyterian wedding in Clare was conducted in the hotel in 1855, when Jessie McKenzie, daughter of the then publican William McKenzie, married John Rose. One hundred and fifty guests were accommodated in the large dining room.

A near tragedy occurred in 1870 when a Russian guest at the hotel, Joseph Anthonieff, severely hacked his room-mate, John Luckhurst Smith, with a tomahawk. After apprehending the offender, Trooper Neynoe made Anthonieff walk bare-footed down the main street to the cells on the sharp, newly-laid, unrolled, metalled surface as a punishment. The villain was gaoled for life. The victim survived to later serve as Clare's town clerk for many years.



The name of the hotel changed to the Stanley Hotel in 1878. The hotel was de-licensed in 1920 and the building demolished in 1923.

## **CLARE INN (1848 – 1864), COMMERCIAL (1864 – 1958), TAMINGA (1958 – now)**



This was the second hotel opened in Clare. It was known in 1849 as the Clare Inn and was a two-roomed house and skillion (lean-to) on one acre of land. The first licensee, policeman Dennis Kenny, had held a storekeeper's liquor licence from 1847.

Fortnightly stock markets were held at the Clare Inn in 1854, and a horse-drawn coach service ran daily in 1858, between this inn and Gawler, with stops at Stockport, Riverton, Auburn and Watervale. In 1857 it was assessed for rates by the District Council of Clare as "Clare Inn, stables, stockyards, twenty nine acres, fenced".



The Clare Inn hosted famous explorer, John McDouall Stuart on his journey north in 1859 when he became the first man to lead an expedition from south to north across Australia. This feat later led to the construction of the Overland Telegraph line.

The name changed to the Commercial Hotel and by 1876 it was undergoing extensive re-building and re-alignment under architect, Thomas English. It provided accommodation for nine guests and had five permanent 'beds'. For the benefit of traders it had a weighbridge in the yards. In 1921 the upper storey was added to provide eleven bedrooms, bathrooms and a drawing room. A new wing, with 12 bedrooms, two bathrooms and toilets, was added in 1927. Extensive renovations were carried out in 2008.

The current name of this hotel, *Taminga*, is an aboriginal word meaning *white gum*.

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**SHAMROCK & THISTLE HOTEL (1854 – 1871), FORD'S HOTEL (1871 – 1920)**  
**- now Edwards arcade of shops – Chemplus, Open House etc**

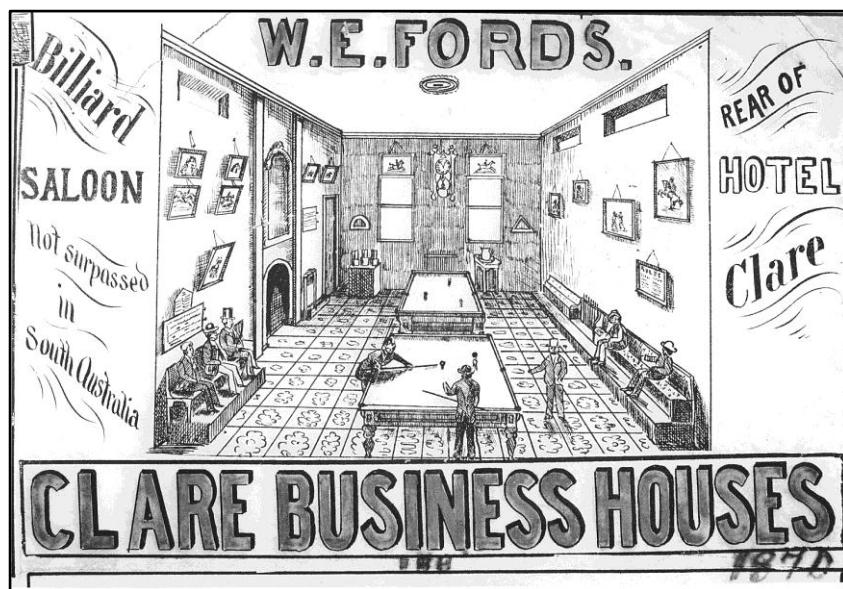


The original Shamrock and Thistle Hotel opened in 1854, with Henry Gregg as the first licensee. In the early days a "Gregg Street" ran between the Main Street and the River Hutt. The hotel featured two adjoining premises, one serving as a hotel and accommodation, and the other, the largest entertainment room in Clare. In 1859, the first 'telegraph instrument' was installed in the hotel, thus linking the town with the rest of Australia. Guests could hire buggies and horses from the hotel, which, from 1870, was also a stop for the daily coach to the Farrell's Flat rail station.

William Edward Ford became the licensee in 1871 and changed the name to Ford's Hotel. He upgraded the hotel to include a bathroom and a separate billiard room located to the rear. After being licensed to 26 different publicans, this hotel was closed by the Licensing Board in 1920.

H. McDonald & Son occupied the premises as a residence and general drapery until 1980 when it was demolished to make way for the buildings comprising Edwards' arcade.

### **FORD'S BILLIARD SALOON (now RSL and Community Centre)**

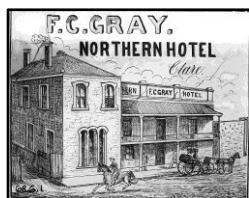


This building has had a great variety of functions over the years. The original 13 x 6.4 metre structure was erected as a billiard room in about 1877 by the publican of the adjacent Ford's Hotel, William Ford. It was fitted with two Alcock Number 3 tables set on special stabilising foundations, with each table illuminated by four double-burner lamps. There was 'costly pier glass above the mantel and elegant cedar forms with horse-hair bottoms and backs' for seating. In August 1877, seventy people watched as 'noted knights of the cue', Messrs. White and Albers, gave a demonstration of their billiard skills.

William Ford left Clare in 1878 and after his death in 1898, the billiard room was purchased by Miss Anne French who used it as a dress-making establishment. Its next use was as the Clare High School from 1921 to 1925.

In 1946 it was given to the Clare sub-branch of the Returned Servicemen's' League by returned World War I nurse, Sister Elizabeth French, to use as clubrooms. Another large room, toilets, an office and kitchen were added. The RSL continues to use the building, but in 1992 it became a Day-Care Centre and community meeting rooms under the outreach program of the Clare Hospital.

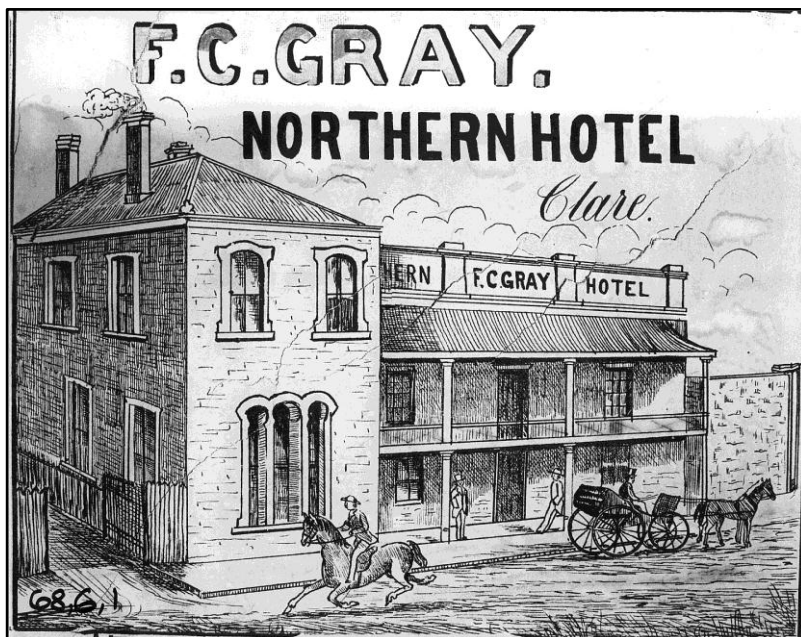
### **NORTHERN HOTEL (1861 – 1938), BENTLEY'S HOTEL (1938 – present)**



The only one of Clare's six hotels to be built on the eastern side, Bentley's Hotel creates an imposing stone presence on the southern approach to the main street. This hotel was built by Jack Spratt in 1861 and extended 106 metres along the main street with a depth of 61 metres. It was 'a two-storeyed edifice, four rooms above, four rooms below with a bar room attached'. It became a well-known rendezvous for bullockies and teamsters.

The first licensee was Henry Catt, followed in 1869 by owner and licensee, Henry Robert Bentley. The Bentley family then ran the hotel for 69 years, during which time they made many additions to the premises. The second storey was extended in 1874. More accommodation, including hot and cold water and a sewerage system, was added to the northern side in 1926. By 1938, Bentley's Hotel had forty two rooms and outbuildings.

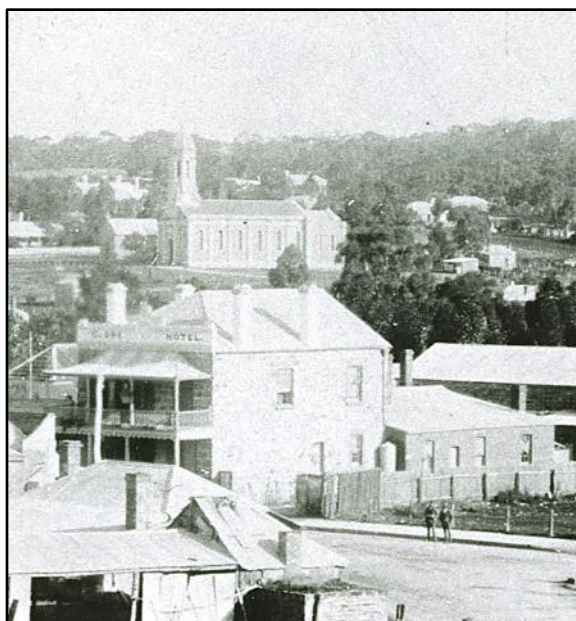
After the demolition of the stone structure on the northern side in the 1960s, a building of two-storeyed motel units was added. To restore its original appearance, the façade was sand-blasted in 1993. Eight years later, the rear of the hotel was demolished, then re-built and modernized, with its continuous curved bar the longest in Clare.



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### GLOBE HOTEL      1870 – 1920

The Globe Hotel opened in 1870 on the site of Julius Victorson's store. The opening of farming land brought a marked increase in travellers, so there was a need for more accommodation.



Daniel O'Leary became the hotel's first publican. The Globe was the fifth hotel in Clare's main street and operated until 1919. It was closed by the Licensing Board in 1920 following an inquiry into the operation of six hotels in the space of 549 metres in Clare's main street. The Board revoked the licenses of three; the already closed Globe, Stanley Hotel and Ford's Hotel, leaving Bentley's, Clare Hotel and Commercial (later Taminga) to continue to trade.

The former Globe Hotel building was used for a range of commercial outlets including Dalgety's, which was managed by a local mayor, R.G. 'Bob' Phillips. Bob's large black dog, **Big Red**, was a friendly feature of the shop.

The building was demolished in 1986 to make way for two shops – now Day's Meats and Stanley Studio - Kodak.

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#### CORNER POSITIONS FOR HOTELS

In 1871, many hotel patrons were drivers of loaded waggons pulled by up to twelve bullocks, or heavily laden drays with ten horses harnessed to them. It was advantageous to all that the hotel had good stabling and plenty of turning room nearby. The three Clare hotels that survived could all offer this amenity.

**A History of Ngadjuri Lodge Trust** by Win Johnson (2011) \$10

**The story of Bungaree Station** by Rob Linn (2011) Illus. \$10

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



**The annual reports of Rotary Club of Clare 1964 – 2011 (DVD) \$20** Limited release

**TIMES PAST – a pictorial history of Farrell Flat** by Gerald A. Lally (2012) **\$30 194pp.**

**“A walk with Laurel” a walking tour of the buildings and families of Farrell flat from the memories of the period 1929 – 1939** by Laurel Mickel (nee Mickel) (2012) **\$5.**

**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). 50 articles published weekly in *The Northern Argus*. **\$15.00 (\$12.00 members)**

**THE CLARE I REMEMBER** by J.J. ‘Boss’ Simons. 13 articles published in *The Northern Argus* in 1944, describing the Clare of Simons’ boyhood in the 1880’s and 1890’s. Fully indexed. **\$15.00**

**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 & E.J. Schmaal (1980) **\$8.00 (Recently reprinted)**

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

**FROM WHERE THE BROUGHTON FLOWS** by Maurice B. Keain (1976) A history of the Spalding district **\$15.00.**

**MARRABEL AND DISTRICT – The Legend of Curio – a history of Marrabel & district** **\$25.00**

**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**

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**South Clare Sports Club – Celebrating 50 years of success 1960 – 2010** by Gerald Lally et. Al. (2010) **\$20**

**THE INCHQUIN STORY** by E. Jean Schmaal. **\$4**

**A QUAIN COURTHOUSE** by E. Jean Schmaal, **\$4.**

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#### **CD-ROMS**

**HEADSTONE PHOTOS FROM**



**LOCAL CEMETERIES (CD Rom) (2005) \$10.00**



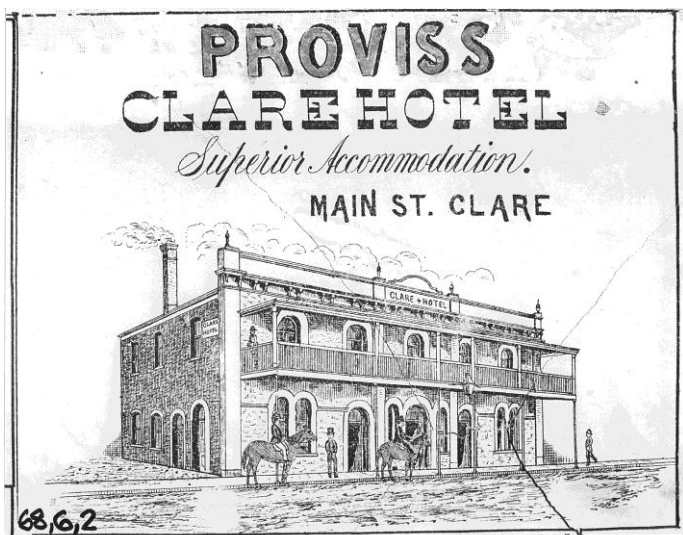
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**CD ROM - history of the Clare & Gilbert Valley District for all computer friends - a great gift idea! (2002) Special price \$10.00 (\$15 for 2)**

**Continued from page 6 ...**

### **CLARE HOTEL “THE MIDDLE”**

The land on which this hotel stands was in dispute in 1870. The owner, Joseph Fels, agreed to sell the parcel of land to Edward Smith who bought it knowing that there was provision included for a private road on the south side of the proposed hotel site.



Fels disputed the road provision claim, but Smith won the case, enabling him to build the Clare Hotel on a valuable corner site.

This impressive hotel was built in 1871 to the design of architect, Robert Rickham Page. Music was an early feature of these premises in which was installed a ‘sensational’ twelve-barrel organ. Brass band concerts were also staged, on festive occasions, from its full-width balcony overlooking the main street.

Travellers were offered well-ventilated rooms, best wines, spirits and ales, private dining and sitting rooms, billiards and good stabling. William Gosling was the first publican in 1871 for one year, when the

owner, Mr. Edward Smith, took over the licence. Smith was also a property developer in the fledgling town. He subdivided part of Section 85, south of Clare Primary School, and called it Luton. He named the streets for his four sons – Edward, Arthur, Jesse and Charles.

In 1874 the Clare Mail terminus was at the Clare Hotel.

#### **CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP Contact Information:**

**PO Box 6, Clare 5453**

**Location: Clare Town Hall (upstairs)**  
**Main North Road, Clare**

**Ph (08) 8842 4100 (Thurs only)**

**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**

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**Thursdays 10-30 – 4.00pm**

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

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

**Please note that the Collection is closed  
from mid December to late January.**

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**RECENT ACQUISITIONS**

**BOOKS**

Bell, Martin *South Australia at the 1996 Census*, 1997

Weidnehofer Architects *Heritage of the Yorke Peninsula – District Council of the Copper Coast*, 1998

Lally, Gerald A. *Times Past: A pictorial history Farrell Flat*, 2012

Neill, 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

Moore, Peter Thomas R. *Bright: My first 25 years of the law*, 2010

Murgatroyd, Sarah *The Dig Tree*, 2010

Howitt, Alfred, et al *Finding Burke and Wills: Personal reminiscences of Central Australia and the Burke and Wills expedition, with a glance at Benjamin Herschel Babbage’s 1858 expedition*, 2010

McCready, Donald W H *For Love They Faced the Wilderness: The story of the pastoral history of the Colac district*, 2008

McInerney, Monica *Lola’s Secret*, 2011

Linn, Rob *The Story of Bungaree Station*, 2011

Tilbrook, Kym *South Australia Through Our Eyes: 100 years of Country Press SA Inc 1912-2012 and the history of SA country newspapers*, 2012

Klingner, Rhonda *Malcolm McLean*, 2012

Klingner, Rhonda *Verran Families*, 2012

Simons, J J ‘Boss’ *The Clare I Remember – Reminiscences of Clare in the 1880s and 1890s*, 1994

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**CONTRIBUTIONS (however small) are welcomed for our Winter newsletter.**

**Please email them to [hrperry@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hrperry@bigpond.net.au)  
by early July 2012. Thank you!**

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