

CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2011

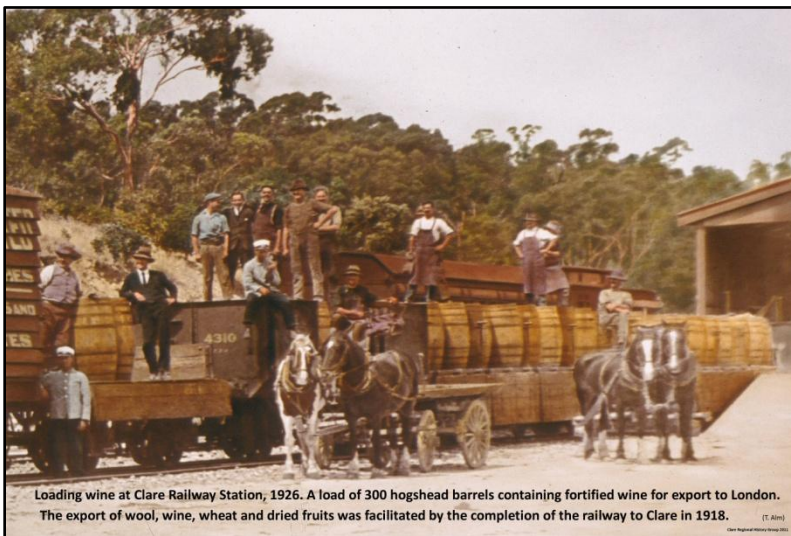


LOOKING BACK AT HISTORY'S HIGHWAYS

After hundreds of hours of work, research, conversations, computer searches and following up leads, Clare Regional History Group's major photographic project, "History's Highways" is completed and ready for the big unveiling. This will happen on November 24, at the Clare Town Hall, almost a year after the group decided to undertake this massive project.

The project has been partly funded by a History SA grant of \$3,000 as part of the celebrations of 175 years of settlement. It explores the way that transport has affected the development of Clare - an all-encompassing topic that reaches into every aspect of life.

This theme was chosen deliberately to reach out to the wider community, getting everyone involved in the project - either as sponsors, or more importantly, searching through their own photograph albums to find photos that could be included in the exhibition.



Loading wine at Clare Railway Station, 1926. A load of 300 hogshead barrels containing fortified wine for export to London. The export of wool, wine, wheat and dried fruits was facilitated by the completion of the railway to Clare in 1918. (T. Allen)

Group curator Helen Perry and member Sue Wurst were the movers and shakers behind the project, which has also been well supported by other group members employing their own areas of expertise to bring the project to its magnificent completion.

Initially, Helen and Sue planned to divide the past 175 years into 30 year blocks, allocating five or six photos to each block. However, heartened by the overwhelming support of sponsors who contributed more than \$5,000 to the project, they were able to broaden the scope of the project to explore practically every aspect of transport. This ranged from World War One ambulances purchased by the community to the recently

developed Clare Valley aerodrome, farm machinery to kids in billy carts - **if it had wheels, it was considered!**

The resulting collection of more than 40 large scale photoboard provides a fascinating glimpse not only into the past, but also the present, which is tomorrow's history. Although some photoboards feature just one large scale picture, others explore a particular theme and might include up to eight photographs.

Each of the nine gold sponsors were encouraged to compile their own photoboard covering how transport was important to their business, resulting in a montage of pictorial histories of some key industries, including quarries, earthmoving contractors, rural enterprises and tractor and motorbike dealerships. Each gold sponsor will be presented with a copy of their own photoboard as a memento of their involvement with the project.

(continued over page)

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

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Changes in the constitution were made last year to enable local businesses to support our activities by way of an annual membership. Through a direct mail membership drive, we are delighted to welcome the following corporate members to our Group and acknowledge their contribution and support of our ongoing activities:

SC HEINRICH & CO PTY LTD
TAYLORS WINES PTY LTD
NORTHERN ARGUS (NORTHERN NEWSPAPERS PTY LTD)
MACE ENGINEERING SERVICES PTY LTD
JIM BEST FORD
LIONS CLUB OF CLARE
MID NORTH MOTOR COMPANY
HR SANDERS
BENNETT'S HAIR FASHIONS
CLARE VALLEY RACING CLUB

Please support these businesses!

LIFE MEMBERSHIP (CAT. B)

An additional constitutional change at the AGM in August enabled individuals who have a long-term view to supporting the History Group to pay a once-off lifetime membership fee.

So far, two people have availed themselves of this opportunity to make a significant contribution. We welcome Life Members Liz Smart of Crystal Brook and Tracy Maguire of Martindale Hall. Thanks to you both for your vision and support of our work.

Historic Markers

At the October Committee meeting, a short list of buildings for recognition in May 2012 was agreed upon. The owners of these buildings will shortly be contacted to seek their cooperation. Research has been undertaken and photographs identified for possible inclusion on plaques at these sites.

Who do you think you are?!!

It is now expected that local filming of a segment for the next series of the SBS television program, *Who do you think you are?* will be aired early in 2012 and will comprise the first episode of the new series. Filing was conducted by a Western Australian film crew last May at locations in Clare and Auburn.

Meeting dates

Committee & Christmas event – Thurs 8 Dec
Collection closes for 2012 – Thurs 8 Dec
Collection re-opens for 2012 - Thurs 2 Feb

History's Highways Project

The official launch of the project will be held in the Clare Town Hall on Thursday 24th November.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 9.30am to 7.00pm. It will incorporate old cars and motor cycles in Ennis Park and a china display in the BJ Long Function Room. Local history book and CD ROMs will also be available for sale. School classes are booked in to view the exhibition and school children not involved in this way are encouraged to visit outside school hours with their families.

(Cover story continued)

“The extra finances also enabled us to include photographs that evoked an emotional response from us - we worked on the theory that if we loved the photo, so would other people,” said Sue. “We also tried to include a story about each photograph to increase its appeal.”

As a result, the Group's computerised photographic collection has grown considerably after people in the community responded to appeals in the local paper, *The Northern Argus*, for transport-related photographs. In conclusion, Helen and Sue are excited that the Group now has a wonderful resource that can be displayed in the community.

“What is in a name, a rose by any other name would smell as sweet” may have been true in Shakespeare's time, but for anyone researching family histories, name changes can add complexity to an already complex search.



Having just attended my first family reunion as a married onlooker, I was amazed to learn how a family name can undergo so many changes just within one generation, but that was the fate of the Bennier family who migrated to Australia in 1844.

Family patriarch John (Johann) Bennier's name was recorded in several ways- **Banneier** (perhaps in deference to his French heritage although he was born in 1809 in Wismar, Mecklenburg Schwerin, Germany; **Bannier** on the passenger manifest of the *Skiold*, the ship that conveyed them to New Zealand; **Bennier** and **Benier** on his arrival in South Australia; **Bener** on his council rates and some of his children's birth certificates; and finally, **Benear** on his death certificate.

These distortions of family names were not uncommon when officials were faced with illiterate foreigners who often spoke with heavy accents, but it makes compiling family histories an even greater challenge.

Equally convoluted was the way that the family ended up in South Australia. The family were originally lured to emigrate as part of the New Zealand Company's efforts to establish a colony in New Zealand under the guidance of Colonel Edward Gibbon Wakefield. The company planned a settlement of 201,000 acres but surveying errors and the subsequent lack of land resulted in many German migrants being left homeless.

Passage was then found for the family to travel to Hobart on the whaling schooner *Sisters* but the family was discouraged from settling there because of its proximity to transported prisoners. Several sympathetic business people and residents collected enough money to pay their passage on the *Palmyra* to Adelaide, where they were welcomed by a large group of Germans who had heard of their plight.

After a short stay in Glen Osmond, the Benniers moved to the predominantly German settlement of Klemzig, then on to Tapley's Hill, before finally settling on a rural property at Morphett Vale. Later in life the family built or had built for them their last home in Reynella where John and Dorothea died.

On 16 April 1864, after 20 years of residency in South Australia, John Benier became an Australian citizen.

Their 12 surviving children grew and flourished in their new homeland and took very seriously the catch cry of the time, “Go forth and multiply”, marrying and establishing their own homes throughout the state.

Of local interest were brothers Charles Bannear and Henry Bennier, who both settled around Riverton and Saddleworth.

When Charles took up land at Saddleworth, the clerk of the Lands Department wrote out the name on the title as Bannear and it was easier for Charles to change his name by deed poll than to have all the titles altered. Henry was luckier and retained a consistent spelling of his name and he farmed property near the town of Belvidere. Their youngest sister, Eliza also lived at Riverton for some time.

As well as farming, the family was also involved in building. Charles and his son William built several houses and shops in Saddleworth which are still standing today. The name Bannear has another claim to historical fame by way of Alby (Albert Edward) Bannear who had a passion for local history, an amazing collection of facts and photographs and for 40 years wrote a column for *The Northern Argus* as its longest serving contributor. Bannear descendants continue to live in the Clare and Gilbert Valleys including Thelma Wurst (nee Bannear), her sons, Ronald and Andrew, and grandson, Andrew Pleukhahn.

The Bennier-Benier-Bannear family reunion attracted about 350 descendants from throughout Australia as well as New Zealand and the United States of America, showing just how far the family tree has spread in the 167 years since Johann and Dorothea first stepped onto Australian soil.



Thelma Wurst (nee Bannear) at her 90th birthday with children Christopher, Graham, Andrew, Marlene and Ron.

The reunion also marked the launch of the latest family history, compiled by Marc Bennier. This publication drew on research and publications by Vernie Lynn from New Zealand in the 1950s to 1970s and the first Australian Bennier family history book by Judith Pech in 1980.

The history of the Ngadjuri Lodge Trust

Experienced local author and History Group Patron, Win Johnson, has been researching the history of Ngadjuri for a few years. She lived there briefly on her return from Adelaide to Clare. Win has used extensive resources including the knowledge of Ngadjuri committee stalwarts such as Neil Jones, Northern Argus back copies, Council records and scrapbooks and the Pattullo land history. The work is ready to put into book form and Win will also incorporate some photos and news cuttings to tell the story of this innovative housing project for Clare's senior citizens from 1967 until the committee was disbanded in 1986. We hope details of the publication will be available for our next issue.

You are invited to 'BACK TO FARRELL FLAT' 28 & 29 January 2012

Gerald Lally

This event has been planned to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Farrell Flat Institute, which has just recently had its interior completely renovated for the upcoming event. Several hundred past residents, friends and visitors are expected to attend this event.



Laying of the foundation Stone of the Farrell Flat Institute 29 January 1912

Saturday 28th January, 2012

Registrations & photographic displays	11:00am onwards
Afternoon Tea	2:00pm onwards
Official Welcome	3:00pm
Book Launch	3:30pm
Old Style Dance	8:00pm – 12:00am

Sunday 29th January, 2012

Morning Tea	10:00am
Fly Over (Clare Valley Flying Group)	11:00am
Street Parade	11:00am
B-B-Q Lunch	12:00pm
Conclusion	2:00pm

A brief history of Farrell Flat

The history of the Farrell Flat township commenced with town allotments surveyed in 1870. The railway passed through the area on its way to Burra in 1869. Although there was no town prior to 1870 there were numerous farmers living in the district. The rail terminus became a focal point for the transport of wool, merchandise and livestock from the farms and nearby station properties, with over 74,000 sheep railed through the station in 1883. Coaches frequently made the trek from Clare to collect passengers before the Clare to Riverton railway opened in 1918.

Q: Why do men's clothes have buttons on the right while women's clothes have buttons on the left?

A: When buttons were invented, they were very expensive and worn primarily by the rich. Since most people are right-handed, it is easier to push buttons on the right through holes on the left. Because wealthy women were dressed by maids, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right! And that's where women's buttons have remained since.

Q: Why do ships and aircraft use 'mayday' as their call for help?

A: This comes from the French word m'aidez - meaning 'help me' -- and is pronounced, approximately, 'mayday.'

Q: Why are zero scores in tennis called 'love'?

A: In France, where tennis became popular, round zero on the scoreboard looked like an egg and was called 'l'oeuf,' which is French for 'egg.' When tennis was introduced in the U.S., Americans (mis)pronounced it 'love.'

Q: Why do X's at the end of a letter signify kisses?

A: In the Middle Ages, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfil obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

Q: Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called 'passing the buck'?

A: In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility of dealing, he would 'pass the buck' to the next player.

Q: Why do people clink their glasses before drinking a toast?

A: It used to be common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest to pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host. Both men would drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would only touch or clink the host's glass with his own.

Q: Why are people in the public eye said to be 'in the limelight'?

A: Invented in 1825, limelight was used in lighthouses and theatres by burning a cylinder of lime which produced a brilliant light. In the theatre, a performer 'in the limelight' was the centre of attention.

Q: Why is someone who is feeling great 'on cloud nine'?

A: Types of clouds are numbered according to the altitudes they attain, with nine being the highest cloud. If someone is said to be on cloud nine, that person is floating well above worldly cares.

Q: In golf, where did the term 'Caddie' come from?

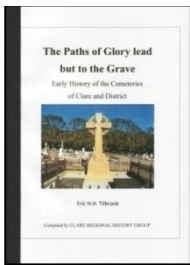
A: When Mary Queen of Scots went to France as a young girl, Louis, King of France, learned that she loved the Scots game 'golf.' So he had the first course outside of Scotland built for her enjoyment. To make sure she was properly chaperoned (and guarded) while she played, Louis hired cadets from a military school to accompany her. Mary liked this very much and when she returned to Scotland (not a very good idea in the long term), she took the practice with her. In French, the word cadet is pronounced 'ca-day' and the Scots changed it into 'caddie.'

Q: Why are many coin banks shaped like pigs?

A: Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of a dense orange clay called 'pygg'. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as 'pygg banks.' When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a container that resembled a pig. And it caught on.

Q: Did you ever wonder why dimes, quarters and half dollars have notches (milling), while pennies and nickels do not?

A: The US Mint began putting notches on the edges of coins containing gold and silver to discourage holders from shaving off small quantities of the precious metals. Dimes, quarters and half dollars are notched because they used to contain silver. Pennies and nickels aren't notched because the metals they contain are not valuable enough to shave.



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). 2nd 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 & 125TH 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**

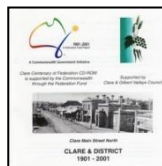
South Clare Sports Club – Celebrating 50 years of success 1960 – 2010 by Gerald Lally and others (2010) **\$20.00**

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

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

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:

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Email: 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

The Collection will be closed
from Fri 9 Dec 2011 – Wed 1 Feb 2012 inclusive.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

BOOKS

Kahn, Ali Ben *Mistletoe (Amyema miquelii) in the Clare Valley of South Australia*, 1993

Warner, Ray & Rose *Wineries & Wines of the Clare Valley* (22nd Edn.), 2011

Love, Andrew J. et al *Groundwater flow in the Clare Valley*, 2001
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council *Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council - Industry: Development plan amendment report*, 1998

McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants *Heritage Planning Seminar, Clare: Seminar handbook*, 2002

Blyth: St. Margaret's Church of England Baptisms 1877-1985 Marriages 1911-1981, 1996 (Indexed)

School Admission Registers: Sisters of St. Joseph, Clare (1921-1930 & 1935-1952) and Hilltown School (1915-1980)

Clare Regional History Group *Clare High School: Admission registers 1932-1981*, 1998 (Indexed)

PAPERS & Other

PIRSA *The Clare Valley – a fractured rock aquifer*, 1998 (& 1999 update)

“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

(also see Page 5)

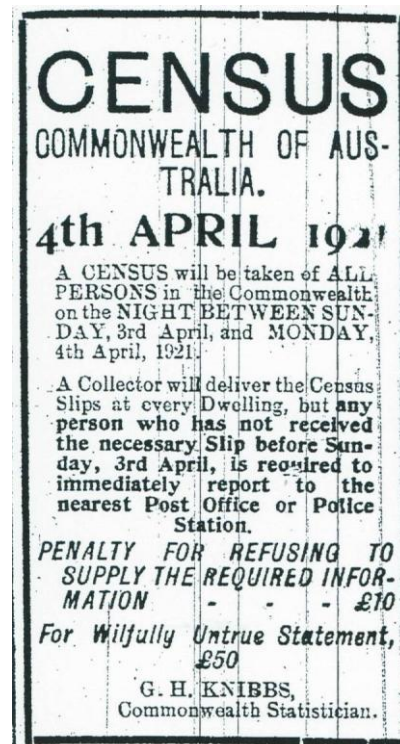
HOW FAR DID THEY LIVE FROM SCHOOL?

Recent visitors to the History Collection were trying to ascertain where a family had lived. While they suspected the family lived in the town, the School Admission Register showed that they lived 2 miles from the school. Then we read the fine print! (An explanation of all the data in the Admission Register is given on the first page.) Here it clearly stated that “...The distance from School is not required exactly, but to show whether the child resides within the compulsory distance....

“When the child lives under two miles from the school, enter 2, where they reside under three miles, enter 3...” etc.”

Thus, a child living down the road from the school, and within the town, might be shown as being two miles from the school. Confusing, but illuminating!

From The Northern Argus 1 April 1921, p2G.



CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOMED FOR
OUR SUMMER NEWSLETTER.

Please email them to hriperry@bigpond.net.au
by mid January 2012. Thank you!