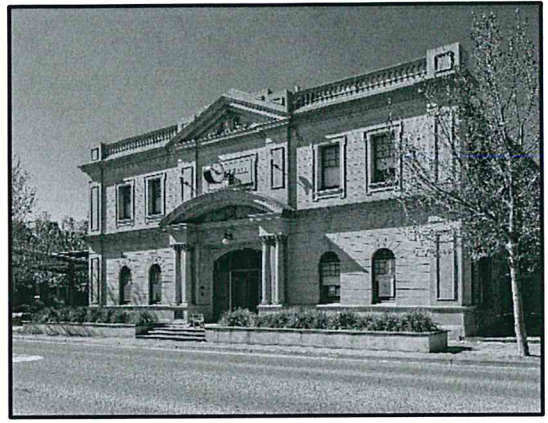


CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

WINTER - SPRING 2017



Frederick William Knappstein

[contributed by Heather Brown]

Photograph: courtesy Clare Regional History Group

It was a great pleasure to unexpectedly come across a photograph of my late grandfather, Frederick William ('Fred') Knappstein, in Artlab Australia's Paper lab where it was in the process of being conserved. The photograph of Fred Knappstein in army uniform forms part of a World War One Honour Board belonging to the Clare Regional History Group. It led me on a journey to discover more about a grandfather whom I had never known.

Fred had been born in Clare on 1 May 1891 to Joseph Herman and Ruth Knappstein. Army records reveal that, as a young man, he enlisted for military service with the 3rd Light Horse regiment in May 1916. While Fred was an excellent horseman, he was also a proficient driver, as a local newspaper article refers to his skills in swerving to avoid a serious accident shortly after he enlisted¹. Fred was duly assigned to the role of a driver with the 3rd Light Horse regiment. National Archives records show that he served in a number of locations in the Middle East including Cairo, Moascar, Zaitoun, Shellal, Kantara and Abbassia and was involved in the end stages of the famous battle of Beersheba².

After the war ended, Fred returned to Clare, working in the Stanley Wine Company, initially as a cooper, and later as a wine maker. His son Noel³ recalls that he was the only employee who was licenced to operate the winery's steam-driven equipment, and that to maintain his licence Fred had to operate the steam train on a journey from Clare to Spalding and back every six months. Fred married Myrtle Florence Gill and they later became parents of five children: Betty, Brenda, Douglas, Noel and Judith. Fred was a good organiser; he became a prominent businessman and an active member of Clare's sporting and social community. He was secretary of the Clare Agricultural and Horticultural Society for seven years. In this role the annual Clare Show always featured as a highlight for the community⁴, however the role also involved organising a range of associated activities such as the annual Arbor Day ceremony in which students of Clare Primary School planted trees on the showground site⁵. [continued page 2]



¹ 'Accident' *The Northern Argus* Friday 9 June 1916, p.5

² National Archives of Australia World War 1914-1918 B2455, Knappstein Frederick William

³ Noel William Knappstein.

⁴ 'Clare Show Society' *The Register* Saturday 19 May 1928, p. 16

⁵ 'Arbor Day' *The Northern Argus* Friday 12 August 1938, p.7

[from page 1] Apart from the Agricultural and Horticultural Society, Fred actively participated in a broad range of local community organisations. (to p2) He was secretary, vice president and later president of the Clare sub branch of the Returned Soldiers and Sailor's Imperial League. He was also a member of the Clare Freemason's Lodge and Oddfellows' Lodge as well as the South Clare Football Club⁶ and the Clare Bowling Club.⁷

Fred's son Noel and his daughter Betty⁸ can still vividly recall their father's skills as a horseman as he enjoyed practising 'tent pegging' on horseback at the local drill hall. Fred had acquired this skill during his time with the 3rd Light horse regiment, where 'tent pegging' was widely used as a military training exercise. On the battle field this involved mounted soldiers 'riding through an enemy camp in a pre-dawn raid, [and] removing the pegs which held the tents in place, with the tips of their sharp spears. Foot soldiers could then attack the enemy as they struggled to get out from under the collapsed tents'⁹.

Sadly Fred died unexpectedly of a brain haemorrhage just before Christmas on 21 December 1938 at the age of 48 years. It was fitting that, on the following Arbor Day on 1 September 1939 at the Clare showgrounds, Fred's two young sons Noel and Doug carried on their father's legacy by planting trees in his memory.



*Doug and Noel Knappstein (foreground) planting trees in memory of Fred Knappstein September 1939
Standing: L to R, Otto Knappstein, Fred Barrett (RSL), Alex Knappstein*



School children from Clare Primary School present at the Arbor Day planting of the memorial trees at the Showground, September 1939

Photographs: courtesy Betty Schmidt (nee Knappstein)

The trees remain to this day as nature's memorial to a man who contributed so richly during his time – not only to the Agricultural and Horticultural Society - but to the wider business, sporting and social fabric of Clare's community during the early 20th century.

Heather Brown

Granddaughter of Fred Knappstein and daughter of Doug Knappstein E: hkbrown@optusnet.com.au

Acknowledgements [Please refer to the back page for Heather's references]

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following people and organisations for their information and access to historical materials.

- Clare Regional History Group and Helen Perry
- Artlab Australia and Senior Paper and Photographic Conservator Jodie Scott
- Betty Schmidt (eldest daughter of Fred Knappstein)
- Noel Knappstein (youngest son of Fred Knappstein)
- National Archives of Australia,
- National Library of Australia and State Library of South Australia

⁶ 'South Clare Football Club' *Blyth Agriculturalist* Friday 15 April 1921, p. 2

⁷ Obituary: 'Mr Frederick William Knappstein' *The Chronicle*, Adelaide Thursday 5 January 1939, p. 16

⁸ Noel William Knappstein currently resides in Sunbury. Betty Schmidt currently resides in Sydney. Fred's other daughters Judy Addison and Brenda McMurtrie currently reside in Adelaide. Fred eldest son, Doug Knappstein, died in 2007. His wife, Myrtle Florence Gill, died in 1967.

⁹ Australian Tentpegging Association (ATA) <http://www.tentpeggingaustralia.org/>

GUM CREEK SCHOOL REUNION: 15th October 2017

Contributed by Carolyn Semple (nee Lucas)

Plans for this party are going ahead. The historic marker is at the sign manufacturers and Jack Kleinig is working on the site to enable a fun-filled picnic at the school.

We hope that you will be happy to bring some lunch, chairs and drinks. We will provide shelter, tea and coffee, water, cake and slices. Weather permitting we will also provide a sausage sizzle. If the weather really lets us down we will arrange for the lunch at a nearby shed.



Anyone with connections to the school and locality, or interest in Mid North history, is welcome. Please bring your families and give the young a chance to see what school life was like in '*Times Past*.' Also if you have any photos and documents relating to the school bring them to share.

We are hoping to produce a small booklet about the school and we would love you to bring a short account of your best and worst times at school. It need not be too long, a page or less would be most welcome.

Programme for the day is as follows:

11.30am Gather at the school for the unveiling of the historic marker.

12.30pm Settle down for lunch. Tea, coffee and cake (perhaps sausages!) from 1pm onwards.

3.30pm Wind-up of festivities for those with a long drive home- others can carry on until dark.

It would be helpful to know approximate numbers for those attending to:

Carolyn Semple: email esemple@rbe.net.au or phone (08) 8842 2664

or Jack Kleinig: phone (08) 8892 3012 or 0428 331 667

WHERE OR WHAT IS KUODO?

[A contribution from John Wilson who is presently researching the history of the Riverton to Spalding railway, to be published as a book, *The Riesling Railway*, for the centenary of the line in July 2018.]

Some time back I had written a couple of pages about the Clare Show trains. I subsequently tackled the Clare races trains, and found that they will consume 6 or 7 pages of the book. I was concerned that the Clare Show coverage was a bit unbalanced, and set out to see what else I could find about the Show trains. My digging uncovered a bundle of train notices for the Clare show trains from 1949 to 1961.

The 1952 train-notice had a hand-written notation, advising that all future Clare Show special trains should stop at “Kuduo”, and pick up a “T.O. Book” to take to the Showgrounds. That is the “Train Order Book”.

The Clare show movements were interesting. The special train would arrive from Adelaide, and unload passengers. In 1949 it had stopped at Hamley Bridge to load horses for the Show, and they had to be unloaded too. The empty train would proceed to Clare, where the engine would connect to the other end of the train, and then running tender-first take its train load of locals down to the Showgrounds. Once that was done the whole train pushed backwards to Clare. From 1950 the Clare Show trains were hauled by ‘750 class’ engines that were too long for the Clare turntable. These engines uncoupled from the train once back at Clare, and ran “light-engine” to Spalding where they could turn on the triangle.

Commencing 1954 the train-notice for the Clare Show included a stop at Kuodo (Clare Cottages). That arrangement continued up to 1961. Note the spelling. I assume that whoever made the notation on the 1952 train-notice was wrong.

I was curious to find out what Trove had on Kuodo. There was one mention in *The Northern Argus* of 6 October 1954 when the SAR’s General Traffic Manager announced train arrangements for the 1954 Clare Show. (Trove generally does not cover years after the mid 1950s.) Google was no help.

Another curiosity is the pattern of these railway stops starting with K and ending with O. There was Kooramo at the Hubbe Road crossing near White Hut which dates from 1924. And there was Kanipo, where the horse-platform was used from 1939 to 1946 for unloading horses for the Clare races. Kanipo was a name that was never officially used by the railways.

There was an interesting rail movement associated with the 1949 Clare Show and that related to the Friday evening railcar from Riverton which connected with the Broken Hill train from Adelaide. Evidently large numbers were anticipated that were above the capacity of the railcar and its usual trailer-car. An extra trailer-car was attached. Riverton locals were used to the railcar failing to make the curve and grade after leaving the station, and it was common for the railcar to reverse and then have another go. History does not tell us whether that railcar with its two trailer-cars made it to Clare on time on that Friday in 1949.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RAILWAYS

CLARE SHOW

SATURDAY, 20TH OCTOBER, 1945

SPECIAL TRAINS

will run on 20th OCTOBER, as under:—

DOWN		UP	
Adelaide	dep. 6 45 a.m.	Clare Showgrounds	dep. 5 30 p.m.
Riverton	arr. 9 01	Riverton	arr. 6 40
“	dep. 9 18	“	dep. 6 55
Clare Showgrounds	arr. 10 28	Adelaide	arr. 9 00
Clare	dep. 1 00 p.m.	Clare Showgrounds	dep. 1 19 p.m.
Clare Showgrounds	arr. 1 06	Clare	arr. 4 55

CLARE to SHOWGROUNDS—6d. RETURN

Spalding	dep. 4 50 a.m.	Clare	dep. 10 55 p.m.
Clare	arr. 5 40	Spalding	arr. 11 47

WEEK-END EXCURSION TICKETS

will be issued to Clare on 20th October, available for return until 22nd October, 1945.

FARE | ADELAIDE TO CLARE | **12s. 4d.**
and RETURN

This notice may be used for all the above special trains and the goods trains in any case in which the goods train is used for the purpose of the above special train.

SEND YOUR SHOW EXHIBITS BY RAIL

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT SEED RESTAURANT, 24TH AUGUST, 2017**

It is my pleasure to present to you the Chairman's Report for 2016/17. Our small band of active members has once again had a very busy twelve months, which I will outline.

Clare Cemetery Signage – This has been an ongoing project for about 18 months and we have slowly been working towards its conclusion. As well as updating the headstone photos to 2016, we have also been transcribing the newer burial details to that period. Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council has very kindly allocated \$8,000 in their budget to complete this project, which is to cover in the ends on the small shelter shed allowing us to erect appropriate signage of all the names, dates and locations of those buried in the cemetery. It is envisaged that this will be completed sometime this coming spring. Special thanks to Helen for coordinating this project and other members who have assisted.

In October last year, Bicycle SA toured through the mid-north, staying overnight on two occasions. Our group along with the Town Hall Management Committee waited on tables and washed dishes and for this, both organisations received \$500 each.

November saw members of the Pioneers Association of SA visit Clare, looking at some of the historic aspects of the Valley and we joined them for dinner at a local hotel. Both Helen and I looked through the former home of the Bruce family on Main North Road, owned by Council for the possibility of housing our Collection, but we found it unsuitable for our requirements due to various issues and concerns.

We met with Leanne Kunoth, the Manager, Governance & Community for C&GVC to discuss the Colours of Clare Project they have initiated. Leanne spoke about the Town Hall and we discussed at length what our future needs and requirements are, especially a much needed lift in the building. From that meeting, a letter was written to Council seeking a 21 year lease agreement on our area in the Town Hall, and the requirement of a lift. However, we are still waiting on direction and notification from Council.

After a well-earned summer break, the Group came back refreshed and invigorated to continue on our volunteer work of keeping history alive in the Clare district.

The main focus after the break was the planning of History Month in May. Many ideas came forth which included: History Book Sale, Railway Display, official opening of the Newspaper Reading Room, Cemetery working bee, unveiling cemetery signage, dedication of the Stan Scott Room in collaboration with the Friends of the Library and Town Hall Committee, supporting the Riesling Trail committee in unveiling interpretive signage at the Lennon Street trailhead and having our Collection readily open to the public. Thank you to all who assisted and supported these events.

Through the instigation of Dr John Wilson of Wilson Wines, the organization of celebrations for the Railway Centenary of Riverton to Clare railway line is underway. John is a passionate railway historian and several events, including a book launch, are in the process of being planned for July 2018. Several members meet regularly with John and other interested community members to keep up to date with its progress.

Sue has for some time been undertaking research for the supplement to the book *Clare – A District History* by the late Bob Noye, for the period 1975 – 2010. Sue has done a great job and has already presented several drafts for us to proof read. Currently she is progressing through the Collection photographs finding suitable ones to use in her supplement. Both Sue and her husband Ron must be congratulated for the catering they undertake for the History Group, when it is required throughout the year. (to page 6)

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT SEED RESTAURANT, 24TH AUGUST, 2017**

(from page 5) Carol and Euan Semple have completed the large task of sorting out the various volumes of the Northern Argus and almost a complete set are now housed in the downstairs Reading Room, providing easier access for visitors who cannot negotiate the stairs and want to carry out further research. Carol is now kept busy perusing and indexing the book, '*The Wakefield its Water and its Wealth*'.

Another large and ongoing project is the scanning of material in biographical files in the filing cabinets. Lyn, Jill, Helen, Peter Wood and new members Pam and Alison, have been progressing through these files and scanning, while Helen, Jill and Alison rotate, crop and rename the files to store on our computer network. Digitizing these files is the way many documents are now formatted and stored. Thank you to all, for your time and continued patience with this task.

Four large WWI soldier photo boards have been part of our Collection for over 30 years. They were received in poor condition, so were held in storage. During the past eighteen months the decision was made to have them professionally restored by Artlab in Adelaide. Through various Grants, namely Department of Veteran Affairs, Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council, Remembering Anzac Exhibition, History SA, Auburn/Clare & Districts RSL and the Clare Regional History Group, the total cost was just over \$12,000. These boards were recently completed and collected and at some stage in the future will be framed and hung, hopefully lasting another one hundred years for future generations to ponder over.

From time to time, we are approached by C&GVC with suggestions of naming roads or small housing developments. We appreciate Council's collaboration with these matters and thank them for the continued interest and support we receive throughout the year.

Our cataloguer, Bill O'Malley left Clare and our Group for the other nearby wine region. Bill's expertise and personality will be missed; we all wish him and Pam well in their future health and happiness.

Thank you to Val, our secretary and research officer, who performs a great role in the Group, writing up minutes, agenda, etc., as well as answering many of our enquiries. Val has a great memory of Clare, its surrounds and its people, for this we are grateful and appreciate your input.

Helen is the cement that keeps us all together with her enthusiasm and directorship role as curator, treasurer and newsletter editor. Helen is always generous with her time and energy to the History Group and for this it is very much appreciated.

Just recently, two new members have joined the History Group, Alison Butler in June and Pam Curran in July. Both Alison and Pam have moved to Clare and been involved in other history groups within the state, we welcome you both with open arms and look forward in working with you and sharing your interests in history.

The statistics for the year up to end of June was 1,573 volunteer's hours worked by our members, with 277 visitors signing our visitor book, although occasionally some walk out without signing. I know visitors appreciate our assistance with their enquiries, with some staying an extra night in the Valley to pursue their interest in their family connection to the Clare Valley.

I thank all members of the Clare Regional History Group, especially those who give of their time on Thursday and Friday afternoons, corporate members or members interstate, your support is very much appreciated by me and the Clare Regional History Group.

Gerald Lally, Chairman

BOOKS & CDs FOR SALE

NEWLY IN STOCK:

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

THE OWNERS OF STANLEY FLAT 1836 – 1986 researched and compiled by **William Pattullo**. This item has been out of print for 30 years but has now been reprinted in July 2015. **\$30**

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

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 (\$15 - members)**

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

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

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

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

FROM WHERE I SIT A Collection of articles on chosen themes written over past times by Win Johnson **\$16**

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

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**

TALKING HISTORY – Tales of Clare S.A. by R.J. (Bob) Noye (2003). 50 articles published weekly in *The Northern Argus*. **\$15**

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**

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**

CARINYA 1956 - 1989 A Peaceful and happy home Compiled by Marj. Ashby. **\$5**

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

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**

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

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**

BUNGAREE – Land, Stock & People: History of Hawker family and Bungaree Station (1992). 230pp **\$45**

MAGPIE CREEK JUNCTION a history of Brinkworth and district 1892 – 1992 (1992) **\$50**

SADDLEWORTH - Hub of the Wheel by Elinor A. Bellman (1995) **\$35**

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

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

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

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) **\$35**

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

"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 Neill (nee Mickel) (2012) **\$5**

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

THE INCHQUIN STORY by Jean Schmaal. **\$5**

A QUIANT COURTHOUSE by Jean Schmaal, **\$5**

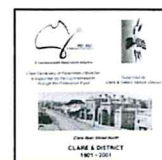
CD-ROMS

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**



CLARE REGIONAL HISTORY GROUP

CONTACT INFORMATION

Postal Address – PO Box 6 Clare SA 5453

Location – Clare Town Hall (upstairs)

Phone (08) 8842 4100 in opening hours

Web: www.users.on.net/~clarehistory

Email: clarehistory@internode.on.net

OPENING HOURS Thu & Fri 1 – 4pm

(If travelling some distance it is wise to ring and check.)

Out of Hours Opening Fee - \$20.00

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE!

The treasurer will be pleased to receive your offerings. At the AGM in August our subs were increased for the first time since 2001. Corporate members will be contacted by mail, families and individuals will be sent reminders in due course.

Annual subscription 1st Sep – 31st Aug

Individual	\$25
Family (two+ adults at same address)	\$30
Corporate (a commercial enterprise)	\$120
Life Member (Category B)	\$250

(A member who pays 10 times the set membership in one amount)

From the Northern Argus 1922:

CLARE BEACH PICNIC
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8th, 1922.

THE Committee reserve the right of reselling all Tickets ordered but not paid for and obtained from Mr. E. J. Scott by Saturday next, Feb. 4th, 1922.
D. MENZIES, Sec.

BEACH PICNIC.

ALL the BUSINESS PREMISES in CLARE will CLOSE on WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, for this PICNIC.

BEACH PICNIC
CONTRADICTION.

All the BUSINESS PLACES
WILL NOT BE CLOSED
On Beach Picnic Day, Wednesday, Feb. 8.

Frederick William Knappstein

[Contributed by Heather Brown]

References for the article on Pages 1 & 2

- 'Accident' *The Northern Argus* Friday 9 June 1916, p.5
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article97358266>
- 'Arbor Day' *The Northern Argus* Friday 12 August 1938, p.7
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article97776461>
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- 'Mr Frederick William Knappstein' [Obituary] *The Chronicle*, Adelaide Thursday 5 January 1939, p. 16
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- 'South Clare Football Club' *Blyth Agriculturalist* Friday 15 April 1921, p. 2 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article215162252>

Contributions to our newsletter are welcome. The closing date for the next newsletter is 31st October 2017.