South Australia’s History Festival is an annual Statewide event exploring South Australia’s history, and promoting historical collections, places and stories.

**Clare events for the History Festival**

- Welcoming all who wish to visit and use the resources of the History Collection every Thursday & Friday 1.00 – 4.00 pm
- Holding a book sale on Friday 3 May 2019, 10am – 3pm
- Installing a plaque at Maynard Pioneer Park to celebrate our inhabitants & early settlers on Sunday 26 May 2019

**Brinkworth History Group** is researching the families who donated stained glass windows that can be seen at the museum (like the one pictured below), which was formerly the Brinkworth Catholic Church. Family names on these windows are Coffey, Culleney, Cummins, Maloney, Malycha, Walsh, and Father Ryan. If you have any information, anecdotes, old photos or memorabilia about these families, please contact Fred Adams on 0437 378 891 or Barbara Groom on 0427 462 023.

The Book Launch will be held on Sunday 5 May at 2.00 pm at the Museum (very northern end of Main St Brinkworth).
**DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?** by Helen Perry

Do you keep a diary that is ok to share? Do you jot down your experiences and observations? I firmly believe that ‘we all have a story in us’ and here I will give some examples of simple writing by everyday folk that record our local history in a remarkable way.

In looking back, we don’t just rely on academic text books and formal interpretations. The on-the-ground accounts of people at the time are invaluable.

In the summer of 1850-51 entrepreneurial newspaper owner John Stephens engaged ‘Old Colonist’ to undertake an extensive journey of South Australia’s settled districts. The accounts of these wanderings were published in Stephens’ two newspapers - the daily *SA Register* and its weekly companion *The Observer*. Thomas Wilson, born in London in 1787, was ‘Old Colonist’, and had arrived in the colony in 1838 with his wife Martha and their younger children. At the time of his explorations of the state Wilson was nearing his mid-60s, after a career as a solicitor\(^1\).

Passing through our area, Wilson recorded:

> From Clare to Penwortham, the survey increases the beauty of every step. The wood assumes an appearance of consequence, and the white and red gum-trees are seen of a fine large size, and of handsome forms, interspersed occasionally with the shea-oak. The hills are now beautifully timbered on both side, and the road the whole way along it romantically pleasing. About four miles from Clare is ‘Woodlands’, the residence of Mr J Jacob, who has a good house and garden, which is reached by a turning on the right of the road towards Penwortham, along a fine diamond flat, and up an opening in the range\(^2\).

Wilson’s account is invaluable, not that he was an expert or long-time local of this area, but because he was here at a documented time, and wrote what he saw.

In 1984 and again in 1986, local Win Johnson collected and wrote down the recollections of Clare residents in her books *Clare Cameos* and *Cottages and cameos of Clare*\(^3\). These books contain the stories of over 70 elderly people, many of whom were the grandparents and great grandparents of current residents. By collecting and publishing these stories, Win gave a voice to many who would not have been able to pen their own recollections.

Within *Clare Cameos*, Lady Frankie Hawker wrote her own account of ‘Life on Bungaree Station in the 1940s’:

> In 1940 there were nine families living in houses near the homestead, and their living conditions were rather primitive. There was no mains electricity. In the homestead we had electric light (but not power), but in the cottages there were only lamps and candles. The hot water for washing and bathing came from the wood-fired copper, the

---


\(^2\) YELLAND, EM (Ed.) *Colonists copper and corn in the Colony of South Australia 1850-51*, 1983

\(^3\) JOHNSON, Win (Comp.) *Clare cameos*, 1986; JOHNSON, Win (Comp.) *Cottages and cameos of Clare*, 1988
cooking was done on a wood stove and the ironing with Mrs Potts irons heated on the stoves, while the usual method of keeping food cool in summer was to use a water-cooled Coolgardie safe. I was lucky enough to have a kerosene refrigerator, but that was not without its problems. It was a poor start to the day to go to the kitchen to fetch the baby’s 6am bottle, only to find that the refrigerator had gone out, and the whole kitchen was covered in a film of carbon black which had to be cleaned up before one could start work.

In her autobiography⁴, Win Johnson gives further insight into the impact of the war on country lives:

> We had been advised to move to the country⁵ so to the country we went. In early January 1946, with the large sum of £300 of deferred pay and the savings in our bank account, we went by train to Clare... to look at small properties. We had never even been to Clare on a visit...

> Finally we were taken to look at 40 acres on Bumburnie Road. This property was five miles west of the Clare township, in the dryer grape-growing area, towards the hills between Clare and Blyth. We were very inexperienced in the necessities of country life, so did not know to ask any of the important questions – about water provisions for humans and stock, the state of the fencing and how much superphosphate had been put on the property over the past five years. As time proved, there was no provision for water other than two worn tanks and one well with a bucket on a rope. The fences, because there was little stock on the property anyway, were patched up and inadequate and the soil was nutritionally poor.

> But there were the most beautiful, almost ripe, golden apricots hanging on the three apricot trees, lots of unripe grapes on the vines, and the promise of good crops of pears and peaches on the few trees.

> The thought of actually picking and using as much fruit as we wished was magic to we young people, who had been starved of such luxuries for all of our lives.

This simple factual account gives readers a unique insight into the conditions of the time and the reality of having to start a completely new life after the war. It also shows the limited diet of people growing up through the years of the Great Depression and the privations of World War II.

Another local who dared to put pen to paper and publish, is Burt Surmon, in his 2017 publication *On a Clare day – a vine change story⁶*. Burt tells an easy yarn, the story of his and Jeni’s move to the Clare Valley and their purchase of 36 hectares on a hill with a magnificent view at the northern end of Stanley Flat. Burt’s writing is less constrained by convention than the earlier writers I have quoted. Indeed, he regularly makes use of aliases to conceal the identity of locals he may have cast in a grey light. Burt does not pull punches “In any case, the agent who took us (to another property) … was much more interested in his mobile phone than in talking to us about properties.” [Ouch!]

But Burt provides a great look at the wine industry of the time, relating the achievements of local winemakers and other identities, the introduction of Stelvin closure and new grape varieties and the management of pests and trying conditions. They made many improvements to their property, including the planting of trees in conjunction with the organisation, *Trees for Life*:

> Another important consideration was that their canopies would leach the fumes from the air emitted by the machines regularly working our property. In line with this thinking we planted 500 trees each year for sixteen years until we ran out of space. Many species of birds flourish in them, lizards sun themselves on their branches, spiny anteaters track along their corridors as do the foxes⁷.

These have been but a few examples of having a go at writing. I found it hard to select which items to quote as there were so many “gems” from an historical point of view.

And then there is *The Three L’s⁸*, published in the 1880s about Clare society, where again there is a heavy use of pseudonyms to protect the innocent and not so ...

I think you have a story in you. Have a go – your great grandchildren, and our future residents, will applaud you.

---

⁴ JOHNSON, Winifred J. *Just as it was*, 2001, pp61-62.
⁵ due to Harry's lung condition
⁷ Ibid. p124
⁸ EIFFE, Patrick *The Three L’s Or Lawyers, land-jobbers and lovers* (1882)
Activities of CRHG Board Members

Our Board members are currently undertaking a range of history projects, which are outlined below.

RJ NOYE: Clare – a district history, New Edition

For the past few years, Sue Wurst and other Clare Regional History Group members have been working to update Bob Noye’s classic history of Clare. Most of the research was based on The Northern Argus and focusses on the time between 1974 to 2010. After an initial start with Helen Perry, Sue is now working with Gerald Lally to source and insert photos pertaining to the text, ready for the book’s publication later this year. To this end the pages of the latest edition of Bob’s book will be scanned enabling the two sections to be combined into one publication.

The compilation of the book has been hampered a little with a lack of access to more recent photos, with the introduction of the digital age limiting the number and diversity of photos we have in our system. Our inability to access Northern Argus photos for that time frame has not helped either. However, the addition of colour to the book more than makes up for these sourcing difficulties.

If any members have taken photos at any local event during that time frame of 1974 to 2010 - be it a school opening, show, special event or just visiting the many attractions around Clare, please consider emailing it to the History Group to be included in the collection for future reference.

clarehistory@internode.on.net

or contact Sue Wurst 0408 890 257

History of the Catholic Church in Clare area

Gerald Lally is writing a history of the Catholic Church in the Clare area. There will be an article detailing his progress in our next newsletter.

History of the Howard Brothers, Goombargana NSW

Helen Perry grew up on her mother’s family farm at Goombargana, New South Wales, 70 kms west of Albury, and has been researching the history of the area since 1971. Recently, descendants unveiled a plaque at the Goombargana Cemetery to commemorate 150 years since John Howard and his brothers selected land in the area. Over 100 descendants attended the unveiling and as part of the ceremony Helen chose 19 family members of appropriate ages to represent the members of the original party of 19 who left Springton in April 1868 and travelled by bullock dray over eight weeks to reach the Albury district.

A copy of the sign follows:
THE HOWARD BROTHERS

Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land I will show you. (Genesis 12:1)

Celebrating 150 years

IN 1839 John and Elizabeth Howard and their sons, John, William, George, and Charles Dallam sailed from London to Adelaide, South Australia, on the Hookey. John Sr. was a baker and purchased a shop in Bowden where he continued his trade. Two daughters—Elizabeth Jane and Harriet—and another son, Harry Harrison, were born to the family. John invested in a land grant of 60 acres at Woodside in the hills east of Adelaide and, with his elder sons, bought several 60 acres sections at South Werribee, north of Springton.

However, South Australia’s land laws were restrictive, and farmers were struggling due to the effects of long-lasting drought. The New South Wales Crown Lands Act of 1861, named for Premier John Robertson, permitted free selection of up to 320 acres of Crown land, requiring that a deposit of one-quarter of the purchase price be paid after survey and that the property be held for three years.

John Howard Sr. took a trip during 1862 to inspect land at Albany. He returned with a favourable opinion, and in April 1866 left South Werribee with his brother William, then his wives Elizabeth and Caroline and families, and youngest brother Harry to assist. John and William each selected 100 acres, and Harry selected 380 acres, at Goomburanga. Charles Dallam and Mary Ellen Howard and family travelled over in 1869 and John and Sarah Howard followed them in 1873. Sisters Elizabeth (Betsey) and Sarah Howard remained in South Australia.

The original Howard properties were Caramina (John and Elizabeth), Tanala (William and Caroline), Woodside (George and Sarah), Fairfield Grange (Charles Dallam and Mary Ellen) and Woodside, then The Oaks (Harry Harrison and Sofia). All five brothers and their wives were buried in this cemetery. Descendants continue to farm in the Goomburanga district at Caalgarrack, The Cedars, Tower Hill, Fairfield, Northwood and Pheonixreef.

Numerous SA farmers had already moved to the Albany area by the time the Howard families made the trek. William and Elizabeth Shipard had taken up land at Busswool, Bunburyannah and were known to the Howards, having owned property at Mount Pleasant near Springsong. It was with them that the wives and families took refuge on their arrival, while the men and older sons made the necessary accommodations at Goomburanga.

Also a farmer from Mount Pleasant, Robert McGeown took up the first selection of the Goomburanga Run in 1864, immediately south of the church. Dry Plains was farmed by Robert’s family until the late 1960s.

MY FATHER

William and Uncle John Howard left South Australia in April 1866; we came 1200 miles. We travelled with two wagons and two spring horses. The letter were for the families and the wagons were for the things they brought with them, and for those who were driving to sleep in. Father and Uncle used to put up tents for the families to sleep in at night. My uncle, Harry Howard, drove Father’s wagon as he came with us.

We left Rockford, our home in South Australia, and were travelling about eight or nine weeks, and reached New South Wales in June or July (date of departure forgotten).

Our Sundays were spent in Sunday School in the morning, and service in the afternoon. We used to learn verses from the Bible and hymns from our Sunday School hymn books which we brought from our Sunday School in South Australia, and we enjoyed it very much. It is a good thing for children to be brought up to go to church and Sunday School.

We used to sit on logs as we had no seats. These were seven children in my father’s family; a baby of nearly six months, and Uncle John’s family were seven children. They and their wives were Baptists.

L. J. Shipard, was only a girl of thirteen years, and my cousin George was also thirteen. We had our birthdays on the way over. He was a little over a fortnight older than I. Now I am the only one left of the family that came over. George Howard is the oldest of the other family, and he has a sister and a brother left of those who came over from South Australia. But we have brothers and sisters who were born here still living.

In South Australia we had a Baptist minister. He came from England, and his daughter, Min Bailey, was our teacher in the day school. She was a dear little woman, and wished us to remember all that she taught us. She gave George and me an exercise book and pencil to put down our stages and all that we saw on the way over which we did as well as we could and wrote to her afterwards.

It is 15 years since we settled in New South Wales.”

Back: Sarah Harriet, Harry Harriet, Elizabeth Jane (Betsey) and John Howard (front). Their brother George died at Goomburanga in 1882. (Source: Helen Perry)

Goomburanga Baptist Church, re-built 1906

(Sources: Church records)

MOUNT PLEASANT May 6.

There has been so little to attract attention since last wrote, that I am rather at a loss for news. The farmers are all waiting patiently for rain. Putting in seed is at a standstill in consequence of the dry state of the soil, even ploughing is stopped in many places. The Messrs. Howard, who have so long been farming on the flats, and who have been greatly impacted by all who knew them, started for Albany last week, going by way of Wellington, where they expect to reach their destination in five weeks. It will be remembered that Mr. Howard took a trip to Albany for inspection last year, when he returned with such a favourable opinion of that place, that his brothers were advised to settle there. (E. J. Smith, Tour: Albany 1876)."
New books and digitised records

RECENT ACQUISITIONS for 2018-19 Summer newsletter

BOOKS


BONNEY, Neville (1997) Economic Native Trees and Shrubs for South Australia. An informative read for those interested in growing Australian Natives that are suitable for their area.


HEATH, Margaret (2017) O’Grady Emigrants from Ardfert-County Kerry Ireland, 1854.

Eminent writers (1896) Men of History Presented to Miss Mary Hill, Prize for History & Dates. Guilford High School Clare, December 1891

McDOUGALL, Alison (2018) Chris A. Smith - Moving with the Times. The life’s work of the architect of Clare’s Town Hall.

BARRIE, Wayne (2018) The Sting in Reids Raid – an Australian true story with unbelievable coincidences. The author spoke at our AGM last August about this account of events during the Boer War.

A pictorial depiction of the Lavender Trail.


SMITH, Alex (circa 1930s-1950s) New Australian Home Carpentry Illustrated.

DIGITAL RECORDS
Lloyd Family Bible – personalised pages
Additions from vertical file – mainly biographical (there are now over 2,000 files in this folder which can be found at HistoryNAS/Photos/Newspaper articles/Biographical
DC Clare - Press cutting books (7) 1987 – 1998
DC Clare - Kickstart Management Committee minutes 1993-1994
DC Upper Wakefield - Assessment book circa 1868
DC Blyth – List of Bushfire officers
DC Hamilton - Assessment book 1871-1872 & 1951-1956
DC Hutt & Hill Rivers - Bush fire notice, 1922
DC Saddleworth – Valuations 1967, 1968
DC Saddleworth & Auburn – Valuations, 1971
Black Springs Cemetery - Lease records 1888-1981
Emu Vale Cemetery records 1864-1937
Saddleworth Cemetery – Lease receipts, 1928-1964
Riverton Cemetery – revised plan (from Riverton History Centre)
Auburn Methodist Church – Baptisms 1914-1966
Sevenhill Jesuit Centenary Scrapbook
DC Riverton – Minute books 1965-1994 (2 more to go!)
Clare scrapbook, 1971-1972 – Peter Watts, Clare HS
Many maps and plans relating to the area.

Opposite

an extract from GRIFFIN, Trevor & McCASKILL, Murray (Eds.) (1986) Atlas of South Australia p12
Books & CDs for Sale


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

Brinkworth Centenary Book Committee (1992), **MAGPIE CREEK JUNCTION a history of Brinkworth and district 1892 – 1992**, Brinkworth, S. Aust. Recently reprinted. $50

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

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

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


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

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

Johnson, Win N. - (1988), **COTTAGES AND CAMEOS OF CLARE** by 100pp, illus. $25 
- (1988), **CLARE CAMEOS** Includes oral histories of our older Clare residents as interviewed by Win in the State’s Sesquicentennial year. 2nd ed. $15 
- (1991), **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 
- (2010), **FROM WHERE I SIT**, A Collection of articles on chosen themes written over past times $16 
- (2011), **A History of Ngadjuri Lodge Trust** $10 
- (2001), **JUST AS IT WAS** Tells the story of Win’s life with humour and affection. 96pp including photos. $20

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

Lally, Gerald A. 
- (2004), **HILL RIVER A Valley of History** $30 
- (2006), **A LANDMARK OF FAITH Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mintaro and its parishioners 1856–2006** $35 
- (2012) **TIMES PAST** – a pictorial history of Farrell Flat 194pp. $30


Linn, Rob (2011), **The story of Bungaree Station** (Illus) $17

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

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

Noye R. (Bob) J. - (1998), **CLARE – A DISTRICT HISTORY** - a definitive history of the town and district, including photographs, sketches & maps. Essential starting point in Clare research. 231pp. 4th edition, with new index. $20 ($15 for members)
- (2003), **TALKING HISTORY** – Tales of Clare S.A. 50 articles published weekly in *The Northern Argus* $15

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

Schmaal, Jean - (c. 1986), **THE INCHIQUIN STORY**, Clare & District Branch, National Trust, [1986?] Clare S.Aus $5
- (1987), **A QUAINT COURTHOUSE** Clare & District Branch, National Trust, Clare S.Aus $5

Simons, J.J. ‘Boss’ (1944), **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 M Tilbrook (1939), **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 (2005), **Ngadjuri – Aboriginal people of the Mid North region of South Australia**, Meadows SA, SASOSE Council Inc $40

Wilson, John (2018) **The Riesling Railway**, self-published, printed by Openbook Howden, St Marys SA 5042, photographs, illustrations, maps, drawings $110

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
### UPCOMING EVENTS & GROUP CONTACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Friday 29 March**| Clare Town Hall Committee Quiz Night  
 in the Town Hall  
 $10 pp  
 Tables of 8 to 10  
 Book at Tim Si’s Terry White  
 Chemmart Pharmacy & at the door |
| **Friday 5 April** | CRHG dinner and guest speaker  
 To celebrate our 35th Birthday  
 Stephanie James: the impact of the Irish in South Australia  
 $30  
 Function Room  
 Clare Town Hall |
| **Friday 3 May**   |  
 New & Second Hand Book sale  
 Clare Town Hall  
 Author Scott Whittaker  
 ‘Railway hotels of Australia’  
 Clare Library  
 Tues 23 July 2pm |
| **Sunday 26 May**  |  
 9.30 am to 12.00 midday  
 Clerk’s Office, Clare Town Hall  
 Learning about InDesign book publishing program - 15 places  
 Presented by Dr John Wilson  
 Book through CRHG |
| **Sunday 26 May**  |  
 3.00 pm  
 Maynard Pioneer Park  
 Sign unveiling & refreshments |
| **Sunday 26 May**  |  
 Save the date  
 A Sunday in November  
 (date to be confirmed)  
 2.00 pm  
 Jazz & High Tea  
 Clare Town Hall |

### 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**

**CRHG Committee**
Chair: Gerald Lally  
Secretary: Sue Wurst, Val Tilbrook  
Curator & Treasurer: Helen Perry  
Committee members: David Bond, Alison Butler, David Spackman, Lyn Woods.  
Newsletter Editor: Vacant  
The committee meets bi-monthly, and the AGM is held in August.

**Volunteers Welcome**
The CRHG welcomes volunteers who have an interest in the past. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about helping to preserve the history of our area, and, in particular, if you have any of the following skills:
- research capacity and enjoyment of working with the public  
- good writing skills and/or competent computer skills  
- brochure and exhibition design abilities  
- website and Facebook design and management, and digitisation of records and displays  
- administrative skills.

We will help you learn about what the CRHG offers, and you are welcome to engage on a regular or project basis. All ages welcome. Contact us via email: clarehistory@internode.on.net

**Author Scott Whittaker**  
‘Railway hotels of Australia’  
Clare Library  
Tues 23 July 2pm