

Clare Regional History Collection

31 Old North Rd, Clare SA 5453

Hours: Thursday- Friday 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Admission: Free

Website: <http://www.chariot.net.au/~history>

Email: history@chariot.net.au

The Clare Regional History Group was formed in April 1984. It developed in response to a community-felt need for a Collection to house written and photographic materials relevant to Clare and the surrounding area. Since then, through fund-raising, book sales and a \$12,000 Bicentennial Grant, a range of equipment and software have been purchased to help ensure that written and pictorial history can be preserved and made readily accessible.

Previously above the Public Library, the Collection is now housed upstairs in the Clare Town Hall in Clare's Main Street. The History Group is a fully incorporated, autonomous body which provides the skills, labour and some funding to develop the History Collection as an extension of the Council-owned Public Library facilities.

The Group has gathered an extensive range of material, covering the history of Clare and the surrounding villages, even out some distance to surrounding townships. By interacting with other history groups in places such as Burra and Blyth, it has been possible to establish not only a wonderful collection about the building of a town and its surroundings but also much about the people of various ethnic origins who came to live and contribute to the growth of a lively community spirit.

The large range of material in the Collection covers such items of historical value as:

- * Clare's ***Northern Argus*** from 1869 to the present.
- * Original Births (1857-1922), Deaths (1857-1970) and Marriages (1857-1935) for the Clare Registration District.
- * ***The South Australia Register*** for the years 1836-1874.
- * Church, School and Council records from the earliest days of the settlement in the area.
- * A Cemetery Index of all known burials and headstones in the immediate vicinity.
- * The Abbott Index to names in ***The Northern Argus*** and other early SA papers.
- * The Pattullo Land History of Clare, detailing transactions for the area of the Hutt River Special Survey (1841-1990).

* Digger CD's for the the State Index to Births (1842-1928), Deaths (1842-1972) and Marriages (1842-1937) for the whole of SA.

Our local index extends beyond these dates slightly.

Development of the Group's own index of local material arranged by surname, subject and locality is in hand. The Collection includes an extensive library of books published about the area, as well as family and district histories.

History Group projects have included the reproduction of newspaper articles in a compact form. As an example, material extracted from ***The Northern Argus*** includes a series of 13 articles by John Joseph 'Boss' Simons, who had grown up in Clare and gone to Western Australia to a distinguished career. The History Group recognised the wonderful span of Clare's history which they contained, and these articles are now available in book form as ***The Clare I Remember - Reminiscences of Clare in the 1880s & 1890s***.

