

F. W. Beezhold Jr. is in Hilversum getroud met Petronella Maria Swart wat hom deur al die jare in Nederland en Suid-Afrika trou bygestaan het tot met haar oorlye in Maart 1966 in Pretoria. Uit die huwelik is twee kinders gebore, 'n dogter, Adriana Petronella, wat as hoofteatersuster verbonde is aan die Andrew McColems-hospitaal in Pretoria, en 'n seun, Frederik Willem III, wat in Johannesburg as 'n bedryfspsigoloog werksaam is.

Vir 'n groot gedeelte van die veertien jaar waartydens die druk van „Pretoriana” deur die Victoria Drukkery behartig is — vanaf 1952

tot op datum — was mev. E. M. Joubert die drukkersassistente wat mnr. Beezhold op 'n getroue en bekwame wyse bygestaan het.

As die redakteur wat vanaf die begin van 1957 tot op datum ongeveer 26 van die 52 uitgawes van „Pretoriana” versorg het, wil ek namens die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria my waardering en dank teenoor mnr. Beezhold uitspreek vir die voortrefflike wyse waarop hy „Pretoriana” gedruk het. Mag die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria nog vir baie jare van sy deskundige diens gebruik maak.

H. M. REX.

## JOAN HOSKYN DAVIES

Lid van die Eerste Redaksieraad van „Pretoriana”.

Member of the First Editorial Board of "Pretoriana", 1951/52.

**D**IE huidige Hoofargivaris van die Kaapse Argiefbewaarplek, mej. J. H. Davies, onderskei haar op verskeie punte van alle amptenare wat tans in die Suid-Afrikaanse Staatsargief werksaam is. Eerstens is sy, omdat sy op Robbeneiland gebore is, een van die weinige „uitlanders” onder die argiefpersoneel. Dan het sy haar akademiese kwalifikasies aan die Rhodes Universiteit op Grahamstad behaal—die enigste oud-student van dié inrigting onder die argiefpersoneel — en tans beklee sy die hoogste pos waarin enige vrou nog in die Suid-Afrikaanse argiefdiens aangestel is.

### *Lewensloop en Opleiding.*

Joan Hoskyn Davies is op 2

Desember 1909 op Robbeneiland gebore waar haar vader, dr. T. S. Davies, indertyd 'n geneesheer was. Haar skoolopleiding het sy by die volgende skole geniet: Tot st. V by die „Robben Island Public School”, van st. VI tot VIII by die „Ellerslie Girls' High School” in Seepunt, Kaapstad, en st. IX en X by die „Girls' High School” in King William's Town.

Aan die Rhodes Universiteit het sy die B.A.- en toe die M.A.-graad met die proefskrif, „Palgrave in Damaraland”, wat in die Argiefjaarboek 1942(ii) gepubliseer is, verwerf.

### *Argiefloopbaan.*

Wat haar argiefloopbaan betref,

kan die volgende genoem word: Sy het op 15 Julie 1935 as Argiefassistent gr. II onder dr. Graham Botha begin werk. Met die verskuiwing van die argiefdiens se hoofkantoor na Pretoria in 1944, het sy saamgetrek. In Pretoria was sy aanvanklik aan die Transvaalse Argiefbewaarplek verbonde maar in 1957 is sy in beheer gestel van die nuutgestelde Skakelafdeling, 'n seksie wat vandag as Seksie Rekordbeheer bekend staan. Hierdie laasgemelde pos het sy beklee tot in 1962 toe sy na Engeland is waar sy vir ongeveer vier jaar lank die pos van Argivaris vir Bronnenavorsing van die Suid-Afrikaanse Staatsargief beklee het. In April 1966 het sy na die Republiek teruggekeer om haar huidige betrekking te vul.

### *Veelsydige Diens.*

Soos uit bostaande opsomming van mej. Davies se argiefloopbaan blyk, het sy 'n besonder veelsydige dienservaring gehad. Met haar diensaanvaarding en ook gedurende haar eerste jare in Pretoria, was argiefamptenare nog maar dun gesaai en was sy genoodsaak om van tyd tot tyd naastenby alle moontlike tipe werk te doen, d.w.s. van die fisiese aandra van dokumente vir navorsers tot die ordening en beskrywing van argiefgroepe. Wat laasgenoemde betref, staan onder andere die ordening en beskrywing van die Argief van die Kaapse Sekretaris van Naturellesake, die Maclear-Mann Papers (Kaapstad) en die Anderson-Papers (Transvaalse Argiefbewaarplek), tot haar krediet.

Mej. Davies se hoogtepunt in haar argiefloopbaan het sy ongetwyfeld

bereik met die uitbouing van die Seksie Rekordbeheer en met haar werk in Engeland.

Toe die Seksie Rekordbeheer ontstaan het, was die paaie waarlangs gewandel sou word, nog baie onbekend. Met die ontwikkeling van 'n projek soos hierdie was dit ook nie raadsaam om te eksperimenteer nie en alles moes deeglik beplan word. Dit was onder dié omstandighede waar die voormalige Robbeneilander haar krag en vermoë getoon het en saam met die Direkteur en Adjunk-Direkteur van Argiewe die leiding gegee het om die nuwe rig-



*JOAN HOSKYN DAVIES.*

*Foto/Photo: The Pretoria News.*

ting op 'n vaste fondament te plaas.

Haar werk as Argivaris vir Bronnenavorsing in Engeland het haar voor 'n nuwe uitdaging te staan gebring. Sy het wel 'n aantal jare voor haar aanvaarding van die oorsese betrekking 'n voorganger in Engeland gehad in die persoon van wyle mnr. F. A. Steytler, maar vir haarself was dit 'n nuwe en beteklik onbekende taak. Sy moes in hoofsaak ondersoek watter dokumente in die „Public Record Office” en by ander inrigtings vir die Suid-Afrikaanse Argiefdiens gereproduseer moes word en die reëlings vir die reprodusering en die oorplasing van die reproduksies na die Republiek tref. Net soos in die geval van die ontwikkeling van die Seksie Rekordbeheer het haar deeglike beplanning, volharding en meer bepaald haar geesdrif, grootliks tot die suksesvolle voortsetting van die projek gelei.

### ***Tracing material of S.A. historical interest.***

Die volgende interessante berig oor haar verblyf in Engeland het op 28 Februarie 1964 in „The Pretoria News” verskyn:—

Miss Joan Davies is a Pretorian who has an intensely interesting job. An archivist in the South African Archives, she is currently in London doing source research. Beginning with Colonial Office records, she is looking for all documents she can find which have a bearing on South African history.

When Miss Davies left school she went to Rhodes University and in 1935, armed with an M.A. she started work in the Cape Archives.

In 1962 she was sent to London by the Director of Archives, Dr. A. Kieser, and was given her the tremendous task of tracing material of South African historical interest. Her job is one that could conceivably never end.

She is concentrating on 19th century Cape history. She has lists of documents running hundreds of volumes which are to be micro-filmed for the Government Archives. The search through old dispatches from long dead Governors of the Cape, reports of commissions of inquiry and the great books so painstakingly copied out by clerks, has proved tremendously fascinating. “Sometimes I feel like a child in a sweet shop” says Miss Davies. “I find a reference to a journal or book which I feel I must investigate, and then something even more exciting comes up and I don't know which way to turn.”

Has she come across anything that will change South African history books? She feels that the pattern has been more or less set. Her work may fill in details here and there, and there may be a slightly different focus on some events, but she does not think that there will be any startling revelation. Asked if she could single out a particularly interesting discovery, Miss Davies smiled and said that she has proof that Colonial Office officials actually read the Governors' reports, contrary to the popular belief in Cape Town at the time.

She spends most of her time out of her office, of course, and has found the London Missionary Society a mine of information. The

Society's South African records begin in 1797 when Dr. J. T. van der Kemp was sent to this country. In a letter written soon after his arrival at the Cape, he said that if ever he made the trip again he would travel light. The passage in his letter — in Dutch — reads: "Ignorance caused me to burden myself with so much unnecessary baggage on the journey, and experience has taught me that if I journey again I should take nothing except a small Bible, a few school books and a knapsack of clothing."

In the Society's records there are special sections on Livingstone and Dr. John Philip, and on Holland. Before they established their own Society, Dutch missionaries served through London.

Miss Davies, if she has the time, has many other leads to follow. She knows that the John Rylands Library in Manchester has Lady Anne Barnard's journal, and that there is much information in the British Museum about Baden-Powell, Balfour and Gladstone, who all left their mark on South African affairs. And there is the Rhodes House Library, Oxford, where there are boxes of documents on Cecil Rhodes, and other items of South African interest.

All this research will take many years and Miss Davies hopes that she will remain in London until she goes on pension in about 10 years' time. Then she wants to live in the Cape.

How does she spend her spare time? She has a passion for cathedrals and buys books about how they were built. She likes Exeter



*J. H. MIENIE*

Cathedral best, but thinks Canterbury is magnificent. Bath Abbey, which is not really a cathedral, fascinates her.

### ***Verenigingslewe, Vryetydsbesteding en Belangstellings.***

Aansluitend by haar amptelike aktiwiteite in die Staatsargief, kan vermeld word dat sy in 1960 'n stigterslid van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging van Argivarisse was en ook vir etlike jare 'n bestuurslid van die vereniging.

In haar vrye tyd het mej. Davies haar gewig veral op die volgende terreine ingegooi: In die eerste instansie was sy 'n besonder aktiewe voorsitster van die Pretoriase vroue-afdeling van dié vereniging en vir ongeveer 13 of 14 jaar lank lid van die vroue-afdeling van die vereniging se sentrale komitee. Dan was sy oor 'n lang tydperk sowel in Pretoria as in Londen 'n geesdriftige lid en medewerkster van die Church Women's Society van die Anglikaanse Kerk waarvan sy 'n lidmaat is.

Ook was sy vir 'n geruime tyd 'n bestuurslid van die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria. Tot in 1951 het sy as hulpsekretaris opgetree, was daarna vir twee jaar argivaris en vanaf 1954 tot 1959 een van die vier gewone lede van die Bestuur. In 1960, tydens die regime van dr. G. W. Eybers, was sy die eerste vrou wat die eer te beurt geval het om vise-voorsitter van die Genootskap te word.

Tans is sy 'n lid van 'n vereniging van vroeëre bewoners van Robben-eiland.

Wat belangstellings betref, vertel mej. Davies dat sy veral in *Africana*, ou geboue en die teater geïnteres-

seerd is. Sy hou die meeste van die Kaapse Argiefbewaarplek maar wil nie bra sê watter een van haar amptelike take haar belangstelling die meeste geprikkel het nie. Sy sê dat die besondere taak waarmee sy op 'n gegewe oomblik besig was, haar altoos op daardie tydstip die meeste geïnteresseer het.

J. H. MIENIE.

*Sekretaris, Genootskap  
Oud-Pretoria, 1963-64.*

*Met enkele wysigings en byvoegings,  
o.a. artikel in „The Pretoria News”,  
oorgeneem uit „Argiefnuus”, Jrg. IX,  
Nr. 3, Sept. 1966.*

*Mr. T. E. Andrews, Pretoria's specialist on South African place-names, writes appreciatively on the value of local historical societies and refers more specifically to the Old Pretoria Society and to . . .*

## MY INDEBTEDNESS TO PRETORIANA

**H**ISTORY is becoming a dead subject among the students of the world, perhaps because it is nearly impossible to keep pace with the fast changing events of today.

But not so with South Africa, especially Pretoria. We have a steady social and political history but a fast growing economy, bringing in thousands of new settlers filling the new townships laid out on our vast open veld around our cities.

New settlers with new ideas, new customs and new names. But what of the old names of pioneers, townships, streets and buildings? Lost in the dust of time and demolishers' mechanical shovels, or the whims of a new generation to have a change. This is as it always has been, but thanks to "*Pretoriana*" these changes are recorded in various articles by those who knew Old Pretoria.

The romance, the drama and the comical events of our past is found in the origin of our place-names recorded for future researchers in "*Pretoriana*". At the turn of each page the history of those people and the background to the origins of places and place-names are being unfolded.

An article in the "Sunday Tribune" of the 27/9/1964 refers to another article in "Africana Notes and News" by Anna Smith, Director of the

Africana Museum in Johannesburg in which she writes about the great increase of interest in recent years taken in Africana, not only in other countries by foreign universities and other learned institutions seeking to acquire books and objects relating to Africa, but more particularly in South Africa.

This trend, declares the erudite head of the Johannesburg Public Library, first became noticeable when local historical societies began to be established in many parts of the country. In some towns such a society soon started publishing a journal devoted to the history and antiquities of the vicinity.

There are societies in Pretoria, Simons Town, the West Rand, East Rand, East London, the Border and Port Elizabeth, and their journals such as the "*Pretoriana*" are being eagerly collected all over the country.

It is not surprising, she adds, "that other collectors wish to preserve these journals of local history containing information which virtually is unobtainable elsewhere.

"Family histories, information on local architecture, byways of local history, and accounts of visits to historical battlefields or cemeteries are frequently of general interest to historians in other parts of the country."

The article ends off with the following two paragraphs (which I have taken the liberty of changing very slightly to suit our environment): "The people are too modest about their contribution to Pretoria's heroic past, and to its progress and present prosperity. Pretoria is a gateway through which flowed a great many of the people who made that contribution.

"The citizens of Pretoria — and all of us — need to be reminded of this; and the enthusiasts of the *Old Pretoria Society* by their activities and



*T. E. ANDREWS*

their journal, are ensuring that what their forebears wrought is not forgotten."

"*Pretoriana*" has been an inspiration to many to delve into the past for the bits and pieces that may fit together and solve a historical mystery. In "*Pretoriana*" we have a mouth-piece to state a case and have it broadened until the picture becomes clear.

In my personal study in the origin of place-names, I am indebted to the many contributors for their articles on this subject but to name a few I must include C. J. Beanes, J. D. Bodel, A. M. Davey, R. Peacock, W. Punt, and F. J. du T. Spies.

My sincere congratulations to the Old Pretoria Society and to "*Pretoriana*", for the wonderful work done over the past fifteen years. May it go from strength to strength, doing a good job today for those who follow tomorrow.

T. E. ANDREWS.

## JOHAN CHRISTIAAN VLOK IN MEMORIAM

Lid van die Eerste Redaksieraad van „*Pretoriana*".  
Member of the First Editorial Board of "*Pretoriana*", 1951/52.

**M**ET die heengaan van mnr. J. C. Vlok, vermoedelik beter bekend as Oom Vlokkie, het Pretoria op 23 Mei 1966 een van die beste keners van die stad se verlede sien heengaan.

Mnr. Vlok was vir ongeveer nege jaar as joernalis werksaam op die redaksie van „*The Pretoria News*” terwyl hy na sy aftrede nog gereeld bydraes oor Ou Pretoria vir die blad gelewer het. In die uitgawe van 24 Mei is die verdienstes van die oorledene kortliks beskrywe in ’n artikel wat ek graag in sy geheel wil aanhaal:

### *City Historian J. C. Vlok Dies.*

Mr. Johan Christiaan Vlok (71), former M.P.C., one of the city's best known sportswriters and an old

Pretorian died in Pretoria early this morning after a long illness.

“J.C.” or Oom Vlokkie as he was fondly known among his colleagues and friends, was the son of Mr. A. C. Vlok and Miss Hannie du Toit, who came to Pretoria in 1888. He was educated at the Eendracht School and the Boys’ High School in Worcester.

In 1914 he joined the public service and from 1914 to 1915 he served on the staff of General Louis Botha. During the Second World War he was a member of the Civilian Guard.

From 1918 to 1922 he was a teacher and from 1930 to 1933 he represented Pretoria Central as South African Party M.P.C. In 1922 he joined the staff of *Die Volkstem*