

### ANEKDOTES BETREFFENDE SAMMY MARKS

Daar bestaan talle anekdotes oor Samuel Marks en sy verhouding met sy vriende, onder wie president Kruger en generaal Koos de la Rey. Nie alles berus op waarheid nie, maar die meeste is wel tiperend.

Bekend is die storie dat president Kruger aan die Joodse gemeente in Johannesburg slegs die helfte van die grondoppervlak wat ander kerke vir kerkbou ontvang het, wou toestaan, omdat die Jode slegs die helfte van die Bybel - alleen die Ou Testament - as Heilige Skrif aanvaar. Die storie is egter onwaar, die Joodse gemeente het dieselfde grondoppervlak van die ZAR-regering as ander kerke gekry. Miskien is wel waaragtig dat Kruger die sinagoge geopen het met die woorde: In die naam van die Vader, die Seun en die Heilige Gees.

Vermaaklik is die anekdotes oor die omgang van Marks met Kruger en De la Rey. Mendelsohn wy 'n vol hoofstuk aan die betrekking tussen Marks en die president en skryf onder meer op p.91 van sy biografie van Marks:

"Kruger clearly enjoyed Marks's company - the lively, 'slim' argument, sometimes bordering on the insolent, the cross-fire of argument-clinching illustrations from their favourite text, the Bible, and the banter about Marks's supposed wrongheadedness.

"Sam, there is one thing I would very much like to do before I die."

"What is that, President?"

"I would like to make a Christian of you."

"No, President, if you could do that you would have to banish me from the country, for a converted Jew is not good."

'n Ander verhaal betref 'n snelheidswedstryd tussen die president en Marks van Pretoria na Warmbad. Kruger sou aan Marks gesê het: "Sam, as jy eerste in Warmbad sal aankom, sal jy president word, en as ek eerste daar sal kom, sal jy Christen word." Marks sou geantwoord het: "President, ek kan geen Christen word nie, want 'n bekeerde Jood deug nie."

Johannes Meintjes skryf in "De la Rey - Lion of the West, A biography" (Johannesburg 1966, p.324-325) oor die vriendskap tussen Marks en generaal De la Rey: "In Cape Town the dining room common to both Senate and House of Assembly was the meeting ground where members and their guests met informally ... De la Rey and Sammy Marks usually occupied the same table .. There was always much laughter when the two men came together. They made each other a gift of a Bible and said that now they had two Sabbaths to observe."

'n Bekende, maar twyfelagtige anekdote, deur Mendelsohn vertel op p.vii-viii van sy biografie, betref die replika van die ou Griekse beeld sonder arms van die Venus van Milo. Marks sou die replika in Europa bestel het en by die spoorwegmaatskappy wat hom die replika in Pretoria afgelewer het, gekla het dat die beeld stukkend afgelewer is en dat die arms bowendien soekgemaak is. Hy het toe skadevergoeding verlang. Dit is beskou as bewys van Marks se onkunde van kuns of wel van sy slimheid om skadevergoeding te eis waarop hy nie geregtig was nie. Dit is in elke geval 'n ongeloofwaardige anekdote.

## TOER LANGS SAMMY MARKS-HERINNERINGE IN EN BY PRETORIA

Op 7 Mei 1908 het die tak Pretoria van die Stigting Simon van der Stel 'n bustoer gereël waarop die talryke geboue en ander herinneringe wat deur Samuel Marks nagelaat is, besoek is. Leier van die toer was Robert C. de Jong.

Hieronder volg die toerprogram met 'n nuttige opsomming van Sammy Marks-herinneringe en 'n lewenskets van hom.

Die redakteur van "Pretoriana"

### Program

09:00 Departure from Burgerspark Hotel

09:45 Eerste Fabrieken

The site of Pretoria's first factory complex: a liquor distillery. Operations commenced in 1883, and it was also known as "Hatherley Distilleries". Sammy Marks was one of the founders, owners and also the driving force behind this enterprise. In due course jam, preservatives, sauce and meat extract were manufactured as well, and since 1896 also glass bottles. The factory closed down shortly after the Anglo-Boer War.

11:00 Swartkoppies: tea and guided tour

Sammy Marks's grand mansion, which together with the outbuildings of his former model farm is run as a museum by the National Cultural History Museum. The oldest part of the house dates from 1882. The design of the house has been attributed to the Dutch architect De Zwaan.

13:00 National Zoological Gardens: picnic or kiosk lunch

14:00 National Zoological Gardens: Sammy Marks Fountain

Donated to Pretoria by Sammy Marks. Manufactured in Glasgow and erected on Church Square in 1906. In 1910 it was moved to the Zoo. It is still there.

14:45 Old Synagogue

Pretoria's first Jewish congregation was founded in 1890. The synagogue was erected in 1897-1898 with generous aid from Sammy Marks who donated the bricks and electric lights.

15:30 Sammy Marks Building and Kynoch Building

The Sammy Marks Building has also been known as the Gundelfinger Building, and later as the Metro Cycle House. It was designed by De Zwaan, and erected for the firm of Lewis and Marks in 1903-1904. The shops were rented to various businesses. The Kynoch Building is one of Pretoria's oldest buildings, and

was erected between 1876 and 1884. For many years it housed an arms and ammunition dealer.

16:00 Back at Burgerspark Hotel.

The following Pretoria buildings, with which Sammy Marks had something to do, once existed:

Miriam Marks Jewish School (corner Vermeulen and Beatrix Street)

Lewis & Marks Building, Church Square (today First National Bank)

Market Building, corner Church and Van der Walt Street (today Strijdom Square)

#### Short biography of Sammy Marks

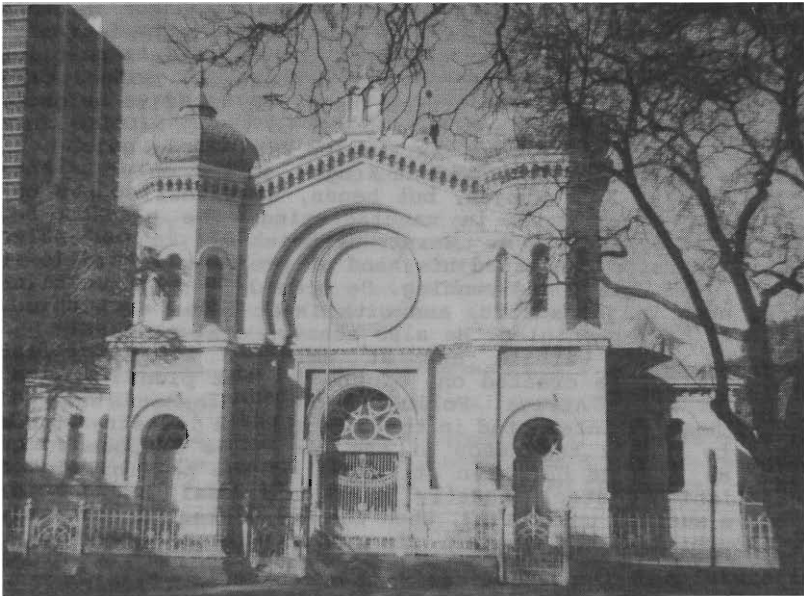
Samuel (Sammy) Marks was an eminent South African industrial and agricultural pioneer. Born in Neustadt-Sugind, Lithuania, in 1843, he emigrated to England at the age of sixteen, where his first industrial efforts comprised the finishing of certain types of knives in Sheffield. In 1868 Marks reached the Cape, where he spent his earlier years as a "smous". In Kimberley he attained early success and at one stage financed Cecil Rhodes.<sup>1)</sup> With his cousin, Isaac Lewis, who followed him to South Africa, he set up the firm of Lewis & Marks in Barberton, and then moved to Pretoria. With his headquarters at the famous Zwartkopjes Estates, he gained the lasting friendship of President Kruger. He not only set up a model farm at Zwartkopjes, but began, at Hatherley nearby, the first experiments in manufacturing, the place being appropriately known as Eerste Fabrieken. Possessed of enormous vision, he tried his hand at projects as varied as brandy, jam, glass and canning. He opened up the first coal mines near Viljoensdrift, and with Isaac Lewis established the town of Vereeniging. He also started coal-mining on the Highveld near Witbank and at Belfast. At Maccauvlei (Vereeniging) he created one of the largest plantations of trees in South Africa. Following the Anglo-Boer War, he became heavily interested in the cold storage industry at the Cape, to supply the needs of the Rand mine compounds. As early as 1896 he had been attracted by the possibility of establishing a steel industry in the Transvaal, but did not achieve success until 1913, when the Union Steel Corporation of South Africa started its first blast furnace at Vereeniging. Appointed a senator after Union (1910) he exerted a powerful influence in the lobbies, and was in close personal touch with Generals Botha, Smuts and De la Rey.

Sammy Marks married a young woman, Bertha Guttman and was survived by two daughters and four sons. He died on 18 February 1920 and was buried in Pretoria.

---

<sup>1)</sup> This statement is the responsibility of the author (editor).

Zwartkopjes model farm  
 Eerste Fabrieken (Hatherley Distilleries)  
 Lewis & Marks (business enterprise)  
 Coal mines at Vereeniging, Witbank and Belfast  
 Imperial Cold Storage (ICS) and Rand Cold Storage  
 Union Steel Corporation (USCO),  
 Miriam Marks Jewish School, Pretoria  
 Synagogue, Pretoria  
 Kruger Statue, Pretoria  
 Zoo Fountain, Pretoria  
 Jewish Land Settlement Association of South Africa (1911)  
 Chairs of Hebrew at the universities of Cape Town and the  
 Witwatersrand



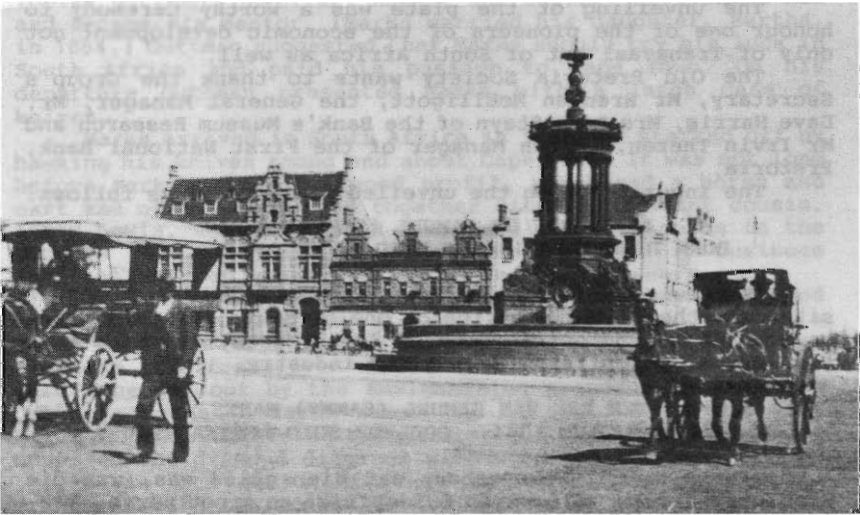
*Die eerste Joodse sinagoge (Grieks vir godsdienstige byeenkoms) aan Paul Krugerstraat oosy in Pretoria-Sentraal, voltooi in 1898. Die argitek is tans onbekend – vergeet. Die boustyl is Neo-Bisantyns, oorgeneem uit Rusland, land van herkoms van die Litouse Jode, onder wie Samuel Marks. Die gebou het later gedien as gereghof en is tans opslagplek van die Nasionale Kultuurhistoriese Museum. Die verdien in die hoofstad Pretoria 'n waardiger bestemming.*

*Foto: C. de Jong 1992*



*Hoofdingang van die plaashuis Zwartkoppies van Samuel Marks by Pretoria. Dit is nou huismuseum van die Nasionale Kultuurhistoriese Museum te Pretoria.*

*Foto: C. de Jong 1984*



*Die Sammy Marks-sputfontein op Kerkplein in Pretoria. Marks het die fontein aan die stad Pretoria geskenk ter vervanging van sy vroeëre geskenk: 'n standbeeld van president Kruger. Die fontein het van 1907 tot 1913 op Kerkplein gestaan en is toe verplaas na die dieretuin weens heraanleg van Kerkplein. Dit staan daar nog.*

*Foto afkomstig van T.E. Andrews, GOP*

**UNVEILING OF A PLAQUE IN HONOUR OF SAMUEL MARKS IN THE  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK ON CHURCH SQUARE 26, PRETORIA**

In 1993 the chairman of the Pretoria Historical Association, Dr. N.A. Coetzee, suggested to the Board of the First National Bank to place a plaque in honour of Samuel Marks in their premises on Church Square at Pretoria on the site where the firm of Messrs Lewis and Marks had their office. The Board complied with pleasure. The text of the plaque, initially suggested by Dr. Coetzee, was added to and streamlined by the Bank's Communication Division and Museum staff, in conjunction with an outside artist. The bronze plate was placed in the Foreign Exchange Department in the Bank's office building, looking out on Church Square, which is steeped in history, and on the statue of President S.J.P. Kruger, donated by Marks to the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek. There the bronze plate is safe against vandalism and theft.

It was unveiled in a ceremony on 23 March 1994, at 17:30, which was attended by Mr R.B. McElligott, the Group's Secretary, Mr. D.M. Harris, General Manager of the Northern Transvaal Region, other senior Bank employees, committee members of the Pretoria Historical Association and the press. Speeches were delivered by Mr D.M. Harris and Dr. N.A. Coetzee in reply. The text of Mr. Harris' speech is based on research done by Mrs. Anna Steyn, assistant curator of the Bank Museum at Johannesburg and follows hereafter.

The unveiling of the plate was a worthy ceremony to honour one of the pioneers of the economic development not only of Transvaal but of South Africa as well.

The Old Pretoria Society wants to thank the Group's Secretary, Mr Brenden McElligott, the General Manager, Mr. Dave Harris, Mrs Anna Steyn of the Bank's Museum Research and Mr Irvin Theron, Branch Manager of the First National Bank, Pretoria.

The inscription on the unveiled plate reads as follows:

**IN HONOUR OF SAMUEL (SAMMY) MARKS  
BORN LITHUANIA 1844 - DIED SOUTH AFRICA 1920**

The Lewis and Marks building, which was situated on this site, was the Pretoria office of one of South Africa's great personalities and entrepreneurs, Sammy Marks. He was a true pioneer in agriculture, mining and industry.

**TER ERE VAN SAMUEL (SAMMY) MARKS  
GEBORE LITAUE 1844 - OORLEDE SUID-AFRIKA 1920**

Die Lewis en Marks-gebou, wat hier geleë was, was die Pretoria-kantoor van een van Suid-Afrika se groot persoonlikhede en entrepreneurs, Sammy Marks. Hy was 'n ware pionier in die landbou, mynweese en nywerheid.

### **Sammy Marks Project**

De Nationale Bank, First National Bank's main predecessor, opened for business in temporary premises on Church Square on 15 April 1891. The Bank purchased an erf on the western side of Church Square from A.H.N. Nellmapius and then ran a competition for architects in "The Press" newspaper, requiring the submission of plans for the bank building to be erected on the erf. Mr Emley of Emley and Scott, architects, won the first prize of £100. The building contract was awarded to Mr John Kirkness who constructed the bank and the mint buildings for an amount of £14 627. Business was conducted from the new premises as from 15 May 1893.

In 1902, after the Anglo-Boer War, the Bank changed its name to the National Bank of South Africa Ltd. By 1914 the National Bank had taken over the National Bank of the Free State, the Bank of Africa and the Natal Bank. The premises on Church Square continued to house the Head Office of the enlarged National Bank. In 1914 the building was renovated and in 1921 the old mint premises were converted to accommodate the Accounting Department and part of the Pretoria Branch.

### **Sammy Marks**

Sammy Marks was reared in the orthodox Talmudic traditions of a small, East European, Jewish community. He emigrated to Sheffield, England, before age eighteen, where Tobias Guttman, jeweller, hawker and cutler, befriended him and became his mentor. (Marks married his daughter, Bertha, in 1884.) Guttman suggested that Marks should try his luck in South Africa and paid his passage to Cape Town. On his departure Guttman presented Marks with a large case of knives.

Marks arrived in South Africa in 1868 and started off by hawking his knives round and about Cape Town. It was not long before Marks had made a good profit, purchased a horse and cart and other goods, and together with his distant cousin, Isaac Lewis, who had joined him, peddled their goods in the suburbs of Cape Town. This was the start of a business association that would last for more than 50 years.

With the discovery of diamonds in Griqualand West and Kimberley, Marks and Lewis moved northwards and set up a store in Kimberley. They soon became involved in the gem business itself and even worked their own claims. When they were squeezed out by the amalgamation trend, Marks and his partner purchased farms along the north bank of the Vaal River in 1881. Utilising the plantations on these farms, they supplied the diamond diggings with wood and fuel.

Lewis and Marks started operating in the Eastern Transvaal with the advent of the Barberton gold-rush of the 1880's. They were launched into their first major enterprise through their shareholding in the famous Sheba Gold Mining Co, probably the most lucrative property in the Transvaal at that time.

Marks recognised the potential of the gold discoveries on the Witwatersrand and formed, with Lewis, one of the "big ten" syndicates, African & European Investment Co, operating from Johannesburg, in the early 1890's. Marks, however, was not a gold-mining financier, his primary interests were agriculture, livestock, coal, forestry and manufacture. On his farm, Hatherley, to the east of Pretoria, he and his partner launched a series of new industries - Eerste Fabrieken. There was a glass factory, a tannery and boot factory, fruit and meat-preserving plants, a brewery and distillery and a brick and tile works.

The Vereeniging Estates Ltd. was one of the most important interests of Marks and his partner. They supplied the Witwatersrand gold fields with fuel from the vast coal reserves and the mines with wood from the extensive forests under their control. There were also milling facilities and grain elevators. The clay used for the brick and tile works was found on the property in nearly inexhaustible amounts.

Marks was a pioneer in agriculture. Needing barley for his brewery he imported high-quality seed and distributed it to the farmers in the Transvaal, encouraging them to grow it for commercial purposes. He also encouraged the planting of orchards in order to get supplies for his jam factories.

Marks had little interest in politics but was respected and trusted by Kruger as well as Rhodes. He donated the statue of President Kruger, sculptured by Anton van Wouw, to the government of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek. It was completed before the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War, but was only erected in Church Square many years later.

#### **The 1898 Sammy Marks "Tickey"**

President Kruger thought so highly of Marks that he once allowed Marks the use of the Transvaal mint for the production of 215 gold "Kruger tickeys". These "coins" were never legal specie but "pattern pieces". Nobody knows why Marks wanted the tickeys. One theory is that he wanted to have them made up into an unusual necklace for his wife. Another is that he intended having a large dinner party and wanted to give a gold tickey to each of his guests as a memento.

The 1898 threepenny dies were used to strike the coins. These dies can be seen in the Mint Museum. Many replicas and forgeries of the Sammy Marks "tickey" are in existence today.

#### **Marks and his Association with the National Bank of SA Ltd**

The firm of Lewis and Marks was the holder of 14 founders shares in the National Bank, First National Bank's major predecessor.

Ten of these shares were purchased by Lewis and Marks from William Robertson in February 1896, in London. Robertson had purchased the shares from the original holders, J.H. Schröder & Co. of London.

In March 1899 Lewis and Marks purchased 4 more founders shares from Robert Warschauer & Co of Berlin, the original



holders of these 4 shares had been the Berliner Handelsgesellschaft.

#### **Marks and his Association with the bank of Africa**

It is apparent from the records of the Bank of Africa, another important predecessor of First National Bank, that Marks had sent his brother Joseph to Barberton to attend to the firm's business in that town. The records show that Joseph had been issued with a Letter of Credit for an amount of £200, guaranteed by Marks, on 22 September 1888. The Letter of Credit was paid and returned to Marks on 25 May 1889.

In the 1880's the Bank of Africa, Barberton, leased premises from Lewis and Marks. Their building was one of the most imposing buildings at that time. It was a double storey built of brick and was situated in the hub of the business district on Market Square. The Sheba Gold Mine delivered their gold to the Bank of Africa, who in turn arranged for its shipment to England and the sale thereof in London.

#### **The Hon. Hugh Crawford MLC**

Hugh Crawford, a member of the Board and Chairman of the National Bank for 21 years, worked for Lewis and Marks at their Pretoria office on Church Square. From 1888 to 1905 he was Marks's right hand man. Crawford was highly respected and trusted by Marks. He also served as alternate director on some of the boards on which Marks served.

#### **First National Bank's Association with Sammy Marks**

Sammy Marks, one of South Africa's great personalities and entrepreneurs, has been associated with First National Bank for more than a century. The firm of Lewis and Marks were holders of founders shares, in the 1890's, in one of First National Bank's major predecessors, the National Bank of SA Ltd. Lewis and Marks dealt extensively with the National Bank, especially in regard to their Bills of Exchange business.

The Bank of Africa, another important predecessor of First National Bank, rented premises in the 1880's from Lewis and Marks in Barberton. This Bank handled the gold sales, in London, on behalf of Lewis and Marks who had a large shareholding in the Sheba Gold Mine at Barberton.

In 1940, First National Bank, which was known at that time as Barclays Bank (DC&O), purchased the historic Lewis and Marks Building, erected in the 1880's, so that they would be able to extend their Pretoria flagship premises at 206 Church Street in the future. But only in 1968 did the board of the Bank approve an extension on the Lewis and Marks site.

The extension was perfectly matched by the well-known architects Daneel, Smit & Partners. work on the extension was completed towards the end of 1972. Today, the extension houses, inter alia, the savings bank department, foreign exchange, the parking garage, etc.

### **First National Bank's Buildings at 206 Church Street, Pretoria**

By the early 1930's the Head Office premises of Barclays Bank (DC&O)<sup>1)</sup> in S.A. located at Pretoria at that time, had become very short of space. The old building on the western side of Church Square Pretoria had been occupied since 1893. The Board of the Bank authorised the purchase of erf 324 on the corner of Church Street and Church Square (eastern side of the Square), and the sale was concluded on 30 June 1934 for an amount of £92 073-8s-7d (inclusive of transfer fees).

### **Alexandra Building**

The erf had 110 ft frontage on Church Square and 234 ft on Church Street. The building located on the erf was the well-known Alexandra Building, which at the time of purchase belonged to the Transvaal Property & Investment Co. Ltd. Alexandra Building was 2 storeyed and built of brick under an iron roof. It appears to have been built in 1890 and was known at that time as Mortgage Building - it belonged to the Transvaal Mortgage and Loan Co. The name changed to Alexandra Building in 1905/1906, in honour of Queen Alexandra, wife of King Edward VII of England. Alexandra building was never occupied by the Pretoria Head Office and Branch of Barclays Bank (DC&O). The offices and shops were to let.

Gordon Leith, architect, was commissioned in November 1934 to draw up the plans for the new Pretoria Head Office and Branch. The plans were approved by the London board of the Bank towards the end of 1935 and beginning of 1936, after Leith had visited London. In June 1936 tenders for the demolition of Alexandra Building were called for. The main building was demolished, however, some of the shops fronting Church Street were retained and remained let.

The contract for the erection of the new Head Office Building was awarded to the builders Hoheisen & Co. Ltd. Their initial quote had been £176 500 but the final cost of the building amounted to £218 251-19s-10d. By December 1936 the excavation of the site had neared completion and building operations commenced in the new year. It took until 1939 to complete the building. Most of the Bank's departments moved in on 14 September 1939 and the rest on 30 September of that year when the sixth floor had finally been completed.

### **Lewis and Marks Building**

As early as 1940 the Bank was looking to the future in regard to possible extensions to the "new" building. It was decided that expansion would not be feasible on the Church street side of the building where the shops were located. The position of the lifts and the Church Street entrance made an alteration to the building on this site of the building, this would be well utilised at a future date, should extensions be required.

Authorisation for the purchase of portion of erf 323 with buildings, from the African and European Investment Co.

Ltd was given by the London Office of the Bank on 9 February 1940. Thus the Lewis and Marks Building was acquired by Barclays Bank (DC&O) on 19 April 1940 for an amount of £19 199-15s.

The Lewis and Marks Building appears to have been built before 1889 prior to either the Erasmus building which had been located to the right and the Alexandra Building which had been its neighbour to the left. As no extra accommodation was required by the Bank at that time the two-storeyed Lewis and marks Building was let. The tenants in December 1940 were as follows:

African and European Investment Co. Ltd

R.L. Frank (agent)

Garlicks Stores - they rented a storeroom

Harris Hardware

K.S. Plant (brokers agent)

Stegmann, Oosthuizen & Jackson (solicitors)

By 1945 the Pretoria Bank premises had already become congested and throughout 1946 planning and discussions took place to extend the premises over the Lewis & Marks site. Mr Gordon Leith had even been asked to prepare plans as well as a scale model of the proposed alternation which was shipped to the London Office. Nothing, however, materialised and the Head Office of the Bank was moved to Johannesburg in December 1959, which solved the accommodation problems for the immediate future.

It was only in November 1968 that the Board approved extensions to the 206 Church Street Building over the Lewis & Marks site.<sup>3)</sup> The extension, apart from office space and a mezzanine floor included a basement for parking and offloading of cash and enlargement of the ground floor banking hall. The full cost of the work was estimated at R1 340 000. The architects were the firm Daneel, Smit and Viljoen of Pretoria (this firm is now known as Daneel, Smit & Partners, and are still involved when work is done at 206 Church Street).

Tenders were called for early in 1970. The builder awarded the contract was Zijlstra Builders. Great care was taken to match the original building in style, finish and material. The extension was completed towards the end of 1972.

### References

First National Bank Archives:

Premises letters - London/S.A. 1927-1947

Minutes of S.A. Board Meetings 1930-1975

"Return" of Bank Premises R12's

Routine Advised 1939-1972

Photographs

**Books:**

"Young Pretoria 1889-1913" by Lola Dunston in collaboration with Dr Ton Dunston  
 Institute of Bankers Journals 1939/1940

**Other:**

Architects: Daneel, Smit & Partners Pretoria (Mr A Booma)  
 FNB Premises Division - Johannesburg - Mr Vermeulen

**References**

- 1) In 1926 the Barclays Bank DCO (i.e. Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), head office London UK, amalgamated with the National Bank of South Africa; the shareholders of the late Bank exchanged their shares in shares of Barclays Bank DCO which maintained the name of National Bank of South Africa as the second name of the South African institution, until it changed its name again to First National Bank of Southern Africa. (Note of editor of "Pretoriana".)
- 2) The amalgamation trend in the diamond business at Kimberley was initiated by the magnates Barney Barnato and C.J. Rhodes. Rhodes formed the monopolistic De Beers Company. (Editor of "Pretoriana".)
- 3) During the 50's and 60's the Barclays Bank, also named National Bank of South Africa, let part of their building on Church Square, previously owned by Lewis & Marks, to the Nederlands Boekencentrum. This bookshop was owned and managed by the Dutchman Dr. Jan Visser. His bookshop was a meeting point for Dutchmen in Pretoria and he was a character among them, owing to his beard and academic title of doctor. The Nederlands Boekencentrum was moved to a house in Arcadia in 1968 and was liquidated ten years later, soon after Dr. Jan Visser's death. (Note of the editor of "Pretoriana".)



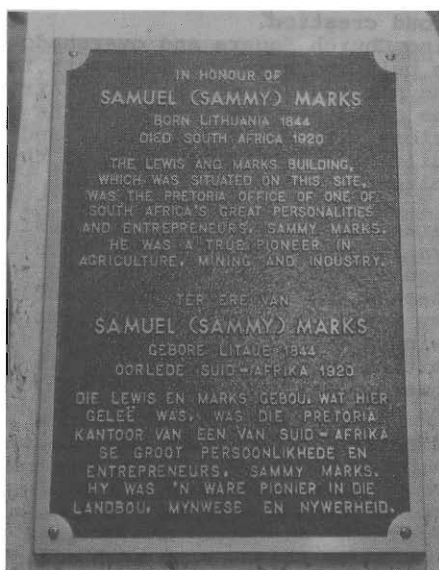
*Historical event on Church Square, Pretoria: parade of British troops for the C in C Lord Roberts on 5 June 1900 on the occasion of the occupation of Pretoria; in the background are from left to right Erasmus Building; Lewis and Marks Building (with white façade); Mortgage Building (later called Alexandra Building); entrance to Church Street East; "The Corner" (building). Marks did not see this parade, he was at Zwartkoppies.*

*Photo of T.E. Andrews, GOP*



Meeting for the unveiling of the Samuel Marks plaque in the First National Bank (FNB) on Church Square, Pretoria, on 23 March 1994. From left to right the Bank employees Mrs. Sua Smith, curator of the FNB Museum at Johannesburg - J.H. Gunn, Assistant manager FNB Northern Transvaal - I. Theron, Manager Pretoria branch FNB - Mrs. Anna Stey, Assistant Curator FNB Museum at Johannesburg - Brenden McElligott, Group Secretary of FNB.

Photo: FNB Museum



The Samuel Marks bronze plaque which was unveiled in the First National Bank on Church Square, Pretoria, on 23 March 1994.

Photo: First National Bank Museum, Johannesburg

### BESKRYWING VAN MARKS SE KANTOOR AAN KERKPLEIN

Marks het sy Pretoriase kantoor gevestig aan die ooskant van Kerkplein, die sentrum van die staatkundige en finansiële lewe in die hoofstad van die ZAR. Richard Mendelsohn gee op p.57-58 van sy biografie van Marks die volgende skilderagtige beskrywing van Marks in sy kantoor aan Kerkplein voor die oorlog 1899-1902.

Since the distillery and the other activities at Hatherley were so dependent on government support, it made good sense to be headquartered in Pretoria with the Boer legislators and civil servants close at hand.

The Pretoria offices in the 1890s were in a modest building on the east side of an increasingly august Church Square. Beside Lewis and Marks the building also housed a firm of attorneys, Stegman and Esselen, whom Sammy Marks often consulted, and the office of the Selati Railway, a company that defended dubious concession to build a railroad in the eastern Transvaal by distributing 'spiders' - light carriages - amongst members of the Volksraad. Church Square, the Standard Bank had reported in 1890, was 'the centre of all the financial institutions in Pretoria'. Around the Square lay the Bank of Africa, the Natal Bank, the Standard Bank, the Netherlands Bank, and the National Bank, the South African Republic's proud creation.

Dominating Church Square and overshadowing Marks's modest office building were two monuments to the growing prosperity and pretensions of the South African Republic. These were the grand new law courts on the north side of the square, closest to Lewis and Marks, and the imposing government building on the south side of the square which housed the Volksraad chambers. Marks was thus just a short stroll from those on whose support his enterprises depended. Marks conducted much of his business in the street. Always informal, he often met people outside his office to discuss money, politics and the rest. As George Falcke, his nephew and long-time confidential secretary recalls, Sammy would take up "his familiar attitude just outside the window of his office, his two elbows wedged in the extremities of the window sill, his body leaning, and his one heel against the wall. He would hail people from all parts of Church Square and often assemble a large crowd in this manner.

**LEWENSKETS VAN DS. PIETER VAN DRIMMELEN  
1873-1919 (2)  
BESOEKE AAN ANGOLA EN LEWENSEINDE**

deur C de Jong

**Die Dorslandtrek**

Die lewenslot van Ds. Pieter van Drimmelen het vanaf sy ampsvervulling in Zeerust saamgevloei met die lewenslot van die Dorslandtrekkers wat hulle in Angola gevestig het. Hy het hulle driemaal, in 1910, 1914 en 1918/19 besoek vir hul geestelike versorging en by hulle gesterf; hy is tussen hulle begrawe. Daarom volg hier 'n oorsig van die Dorslandtrek en vestiging in Angola - beknopt, want daar is reeds veel oor dié gewilde onderwerp gepubliseer.<sup>1)</sup>

Tussen 1836 en 1855, jaar van stigting van Pretoria, het die Groot Trek uit die Kaapkolonie plaasgevind en is die Boererepublieke Oranje-Vrystaat en Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR) in Transvaal gestig. Na die Groot Trek van die Voortrekkers het nog verskeie natrekke uit die republieke na buurlande gevolg. Die bekendste daarvan is die Dorslandtrek tussen 1874 en 1890. Dit was die verste en omvangrykste trek en het uit Wes-Transvaal deur die Kalahari, Dorsland genoem, in Betsjoeanaland na Suidwes-Afrika en Angola gelei. Sestig jaar later, in 1928, het amper al die Afrikaners Angola verlaat en hulle in Suidwes-Afrika gevestig.

**Die trekgroepe**

Verskeie groot en klein trekgroepe het aan die Dorslandtrek deelgeneem. Onder hulle was drie hoofgroepe. Die eerste groep het onder leiding van G.J.S. (Gert) van der Merwe en Gert Alberts<sup>2)</sup> gestaan. Gert van der Merwe se vader Johannes Marthinus (Hans) het sy plaas by Bronkhorstspruit by Pretoria aan Guillaume van Niekerk uit die Kaapkolonie verkoop en hom as oudste trekker by sy seun aangesluit. Na hom is die eerste groep die Van der Merwetrekkers genoem. Die meeste lede was afkomstig uit Wes-Transvaal uit die omgewing van Rustenburg, maar verskeie vooraanstaande trekkers was uit die omgewing van Pretoria. Gert Alberts se plaas was Apiesrivier by Pretoria.

Hulle het sowat 'n jaar in laers by die Limpoporivier gestaan en na lang wag toestemming van hoofman Khama vir die trek deur sy gebied gekry.

In Mei 1875 het hulle die tog deur die Kalahari aangepak. Die tog is deur die leiers goed beplan en hulle het 11 gesinne sterk met 16 waens en duisende stuks vee sonder al te groot verlies aan vee aan die Meersrivier of Botlele aangekom, verder getrek na die Ngamimeer, daar 'n maand gewag op verlos van Namahoofman Andries Lamberts om tydelik by Rietfontein te kamp en 'n ompad na Ghanzi gevolg. Weens longsiekte het hulle daar drie maande gebly voordat hulle op 28 Januarie 1876 op Rietfontein aankom.

Die tweede groep het onder leiding van L.M. (Louw) du Plessis en Jan Greyling gestaan. Die groep was groot: 480 blankes met 128 waens, amper 2000 trekosse en veel vee. Die leiding was baie swak, die groep het in April 1877 in een



Sketsplan van die Trek (Dorlandtrek uit Transvaal na Angola) "soos die voël vlieg".  
 Met dank oorgeneem uit Andries Alberts, "In vreemdelingskap", Groblersdal 1990, p. 13.



klomp getrek, sodat in die watergate te min water vir al die mense en diere was. Na besonder swaar verliese en groot ellende het die groep aan die Ngamimeer gekom. Hulle het vandaar hulp aan die eerste groep op Rietfontein gevra en gekry in die vorm van 200 trekosse.

Die derde groep was klein, 40 mense met 8 waens onder die verstandige leiding van Johannes F. Botha. Hy het van Khama verlot van deurtog ontvang en sy groep met klein verlies na die Ngamimeer gebring.

Die meeste lede van die drie trekroepe, uitgesonderd die groep onder Jan Greyling, het hulle verenig by Rietfontein en daar amper twee jaar gestaan. Toe het hulle na Tebra getrek, hulle daar verenig met die oorskot van Greyling se groep, en noordwaarts na Leeupan getrek. Daar het hulle gereorganiseer, Johannes F. Botha as algemene trekleier gekies en die trekreëls verskerp. Die trek het die Okavangorivier gevolg, maar as gevolg van die vyandige houding van Ovambo's op die rivierbanke en van koors weggedraai na die Etoshapan en uitgekamp op Namutoni. Kommandant J.F. Botha het 'n groep verkenners onder Gert Alberts uitgestuur om die onbekende, droë Kaokoveld te verken. Alberts-hulle het verskeie oases aangetref en in hul verslag die oase by Otavi aanbeveel. Oor Okaukuejo het die trekkers na Otavi gegaan en daar 'n tydelike nedersetting met eenvoudige kliphuise aangelê en Rusplaas genoem.

Hulle het daar besoek van handelaarjagters gekry wat hulle merendeels goed gesind was. Hulle was Axel Ericsson, Pieter Botha en William Worthington Jordan. Ericsson het 'n brief in 'n Kaapstadse koerant gepubliseer en daarin die aandag op die moeilike toestand van die Dorslandtrekkers in die Kaokoveld gevestig. Hulle het steeds algemene belangstelling ondervind en die gevolg was die organisasie van 'n amptelike en private hulpaksie. Oor Walvisbaai is per ossewa vir £ 5658 aan goedere na die trekkers gestuur.

Van veel belang was die optrede van die reisende handelaar William Worthington Jordan van Kaapstad<sup>4)</sup> wat die land goed geken het. Hy het hul belangstelling vir die Hoëveld in Angola gewek. Dit lê 1000 tot 2000 meter bo die see en het 'n gunstige klimaat met oorvloedige reën, met koel nagte en winters, sonder malariakoors. Daar was oorvloedige water, weiveld, bos vir houtkap, akkerbougrond en jagwild en die binneland was dun met swartes bevolk. Later is in Angola talle edele en onedele delfstowwe ontdek. Angola is in Afrika die gebied met die rykste en meeste natuurgawes. Dit was in die 19de eeu nog geheel onontwikkeld, maar veelbelowend.

Jordan was bekend met Angola en die Portugese taal en outoriteite en het 'n afvaardiging van Dorslandtrekkers na Mossamedes vergesel. Hulle het daar op 11 Augustus 1880 'n ooreenkoms met die plaaslike Portugese goewerneur onderteken en vestigingsregte en grond in Angola gekry. Die Dorslandtrekkers het met hul kuddes by die Ruacanawaterval oor die Kunenerivier gegaan en op 28 Desember 1880 in die streek Huila aangekom. Hulle het daar die dorp Humpata by die

hedendaagse stad Lubango gestig en die dorp São Januario genoem.

**Die natrekke<sup>5)</sup>**

Kleinere groepe het later die trekpad van die bovermelde drie groepe na Angola gevolg.

- (A) Die "Humpatatrek" in 1883 - Die groep van 7 gesinne het uit Transvaal vertrek omdat die ekonomiese toestand daar na die Eerste Anglo-Boere-oorlog 1880/81 sleg was weens droogte, veesiektes en lae landboupryse. Hulle het na die Ngamimeer en die Okavango getrek en dié rivier gevolg, 'n drif in die Kunene oorgesteek en in November 1883 met betreklik min lyding en verliese op Humpata aangekom.
- (B) Die trek in 1893 - Die Boere in Angola het hul familie en bekendes in Transvaal gunstige berigte oor dié land gestuur en in 1893 was daar weer 'n groep wat ontevrede oor hul toestand in Transvaal was en na Angola gegaan het. Die groep het ongeveer 40 gesinne met 1000 los beeste getel en het uit die streek by Mafeking oor Lehutu, Tsetseng en Ogli na Rietfontein getrek. Die groep van 40 gesinne het na Grootfontein onderweg baie dors gely, oor Namutoni na die Kunene gegaan, die rivier oorgesteek en in September 1894 op Humpata aangekom. Sommige van hulle het Bihé as eindbestemming gekies onder invloed van propaganda, in Transvaal vanuit Humpata vir vestiging in Bihé gemaak. 'n Kreupelgedig in die Pretoriase koerant "Land en Volk" van 1892 pleit vir trek na Bihé en is met toeligtig na die onderhawige artikel herdruk.<sup>6)</sup>
- (C) Die na-oorlogse, laaste trek - Die Tweede Anglo-Boere-oorlog 1899-1902 het die boere in Transvaal swaar verliese aan vee, oeste en opstalle toegebring en na die oorlog het 'n diep en lang ekonomiese depressie Suid-Afrika in 1903-1910 gekwel. Daarom het by talle Suid-Afrikaners die trekgees herleef. Uit Waterberg in Transvaal het in Junie 1905 12 gesinne met 14 ossewaens op pad na Angola gegaan. Die tog het via die Ngamimeer reg na die Okavango gegaan, die rivier oorgesteek en na die noordweste Angola ingetrek, waarby hulle veel aan koors gely het. Van Menange het een groep na Humpata en een na Bihé gegaan en daar in Maart 1906 aangekom.

**Die vestiging in Bihéland**

Sommige Dorslandtrekkers is spoedig na hul vestiging by Humpata teleurgestel in die gesondheid van die streek vir mense en huisdiere en in die afmeting en bruikbaarheid van die grond wat die Portugese owerheid aan hulle toegeken het. Verskeie van hulle, onder andere exleiers Louw du Plessis en Diederik Prinsloo, het terugkeer na Transvaal oorweeg en teruggegaan na Suidwes-Afrika waar hulle die kortstondige republiek Upingtonia gestig het. Ander boere te Humpata het elders in die uitgestrekte, ryk bedeelde Angola betere

vestigingstreke gaan soek en dié gevind op die Hoëveld van Middel-Angola, 1500 tot 2000 meter bo die see.

Dit het tot 1890 geduur voordat die vestiging in Bihé begin het. Van die Boere op en by Humpata het toe die helfte of meer hulle aangesluit by 'n militêre ekspedisie van Portugese na Bihé wat die streek wou onderwerp en 'n fortjie stig. 'n Groep boere het hulle gevestig te Hanja, Que en Catabellarivier. Hulle het daar 'n goeie bestaan gevind en in 1906 'n eie Gereformeerde gemeente met 'n eie leraar gestig.<sup>7)</sup> Die Boere te Humpata het in 1886 en 1892 afgevaardigdes na Transvaal gestuur om koloniste te werf. Die afgevaardigdes was in 1892 D.P. Black, 'n handelaar op Humpata, en twee Dorslandtrekkers, P.J. van der Merwe en J. Robbertse. Hulle het sukses gehad, want in die ZAR was die trekkees weer lewendig. Hierbo is reeds verwys na die natrek uit Transvaal na Humpata en Bihé in 1893. Die kolonisasie deur die Boere is met medewerking van die Portugese owerheid uitgebrei na Bihé in Midde-Angola.

Nietemin mag ons die boere in Angola nie beskou as suksesvolle boere wat spoedig tot welstand gekom het nie. Daarvoor was die land nog te onontwikkeld. Hul bestaansmiddele was dieselfde as voor en tydens hul Dorslandtrek en eenvoudig. Daar was in Angola geen afsetmarkte vir akkerbou en tuinbouprodukte nie, afgesien van beskeie verkope aan kusdorpe en garnisoene. Die Boere het land- en tuinbou grotendeels vir eie behoeftes bedryf. Hoofmiddel van bestaan het die veeteelt gebly. Dit was die aandeel van slagdiere, trekosse en rydiere, begunstig deur afwesigheid van sommige endemiese siektes soos perdesiekte en ngana. Vee is geruil met swart stamme. Lewende vee en biltong kon oor groot afstande vervoer word en daarvoor was afsetmarkte.

Bykomende belangrike bestaansmiddele was die jag en sportryery. Daar was in die eerste jare volop jagwild. Later moes die wild veel verder weg gesoek word, maar dit was nog beskikbaar. Jagprodukte was waardevol en kon uitgevoer word of aan reisende handelaars verkoop word. Die Boere het spoedig met sportryery begin, want ossewaens met trekosse was by die inboorlinge en Portugese nie in gebruik nie, hulle het gewerk met karavane swart draers met laste op hul koppe. Die boere het in 'n groot behoefte aan vervoer voorsien en transport gery dwarsdeur Angola en na die buurlande, veral vanuit die sentraal geleë Bihé. Verder het die Boere die Portugese gehelp met aanleg van paaië, brûe en forte.<sup>8)</sup>

#### **Kerklike toestande onder die Dorslandtrekkers en Angola-Boere**

Die meeste trekkers was afkomstig uit Wes-Transvaal, veral uit die omgewing van Rustenburg, en Gereformeerd. Andere was lidmate van die Nederduits Hervormde Kerk, waarvan die meeste lidmate Transvalers was, of van die Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk, waarvan die meeste lidmate in die Kaapkolonie en die Oranje-Vrystaat gevestig was. Agterblywende geloofsgenote van die trekkers het steeds veel belangstelling in hul wel en veral hul wee getoon en gepoog

om hulle te help. Veral die Gereformeerde Kerk in en buite Transvaal was aktief met die stuur van besoekende predikante en hulpverlening, voor, tydens en na die trek na Angola. Ds. L.J. Louw van Rustenburg het die eerste groep in 1874 en die tweede groep in 1875 by die Limpopo besoek, gepreek en sakramente bedien en in die tweede groep drie ouderlinge en drie diakens bevestig. Amper alle trekkers het hulle by die aldus gestigte trekkegemeente van die Gereformeerde Kerk aangesluit. Ook ds. Jan Lion Cachet van die gemeente Philipstown by De Aar, voorheen van Rustenburg, het die tweede groep besoek, maar hy wou hulle nie vergesel nie. Pogings van predikante, onder wie ds. Lion Cachet, om die trekkers in die Kaokoveld te besoek, het misluk omdat hulle die gebied nie kon bereik nie. Eers na die vestiging te Humpata was dit moontlik om via die hawestad Mossamedes met hulp van Portugeuse outoriteite die trekkers te besoek. Hulle moes jare lank tevrede wees met besoekende predikante, hoewel hulle verskeie beroepe uitgestuur het. Hulle het besoek gehad van ds. Lion Cachet van Philipstown in 1881, ds. Dirk Postma van Fauresmith (OVS) in 1887-89, ds. L.P. Vorster van Philipstown in 1892, wat Humpata asook die boere in Bihé besoek het, ds. C.J.H. Vorster van Bethulie in 1894-97, na 'n onderbreking as gevolg van die Anglo-Boere-oorlog 1899-1902 ds. T. Hamersma van Philipstown in 1903 en ds. P.C. Snyman in 1907.<sup>9)</sup>

Sommige predikante se verblyf was langduriger, maar is beëindig deur ernstige siekte of oorlyde. Ds. Dirk Postma het 'n beroep aangeneem en was twee jaar op Humpata, maar weens 'n ernstige senu-instorting met ons onbekende oorsaak moes hy na Suid-Afrika terugkeer, waar hy herstel het. Die net so toegewyde ds. J.H. Vorster, vader van ds. L.P. Vorster, het by sy afskeidsbesoek aan Humpata in 1899 daar gesterf. Ds. P. van Drimmelen, oor wie ek hierna sal berig, het die Nederduits Hervormde gemeentes in Angola in 1910, 1914 en 1918/19 besoek en is in 1919 te Humpata oorlede.

Ds L.P. Vorster het in die verslag van sy besoek aan die Angola-Boere aan die algemene vergadering van die Gereformeerde Kerk berig oor ongunstige omstandighede vir die godsdienssin van die Boere:

- (a) lang afwesigheid weg van hul gesin en hul kerk weens transportryery en jag;
- (b) aanraking met ander blankes van ongunstige karakter en slegte allooï soos dikwels in kolonies aangetref word;
- (c) nabyheid van Rooms-Katolieke sendingstasies en bekeringsywerige missionarisse, merendeels goed opgeleide Jesuïete.

Sommige Boere het dié sendingstasies egter geprys. Andries Alberts skryf dat op die stasie te Humpata 'n mooi katedraal en godsdiensskool was, en ook 'n groot aantal nuttige nywerheidsbedrywe, elk behartig deur 'n monnik wat 'n meestervakman was. "Die Boere was van hierdie Roomse afhanklik. Hulle het ... op vriendskaplike voet met hulle verkeer" (p.115).<sup>10)</sup>