

Pretoriana



HERDENKINGSUITGAWE

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

1948 — 1978

VAN DIE GENOOTSKAP OUD-PRETORIA
OF THE OLD PRETORIA SOCIETY

Prys 25c Price

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BURO VIR HERALDIK

NAMENS DIE RAAD EN DIE BURO
VIR HERALDIK word hierby krag-
tens subartikel 2(d) van artikel drie
en paragraaf (a) van artikel
veertien van die Heraldiekwet, 1962
(Wet Nr. 18 van 1962), gesertifiseer
dat 'n wapen
geregistreer is vir die

Genootskap Oud-Pretoria

soos aan die heraldiese regterkant
hiervan geïllustreer en hieronder
beskrywe as die volle en uitsluitende
eiendom van genoemde liggaam.

Wapen: Gevierendeel: 1ste, in rooi,
in liggende eland op 'n los grond
van natuurlike kleur; 2de, in sil-
wer, in man op 'n perd van swart
wat deur 'n dubbel gekanteelde
rooi poort gallop; 3de, in groen,
in Kaapse huis met gewel van
natuurlike kleur; 4de, in rooi,
twee skuinsgekruipte vere en
daarbo die V.O.C.-monogram,
alles silwer.

Wapenspreuk:

PRAESENS IN PRAETERITO

J. G. L. ...

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REDAKSIONEEL / EDITORIAL

DIE GENOOTSKAP OUD-PRETORIA 1948 – 1978

Die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria is op 22 Maart 1948 gestig. Twee-en-twintig Pretorianers onder die aanstigting van Dr. W.H.J. Punt het byeengekom om sake in verband met die bewaring van die bakens van die verlede van Pretoria te bespreek. Hulle het tot die besluit gekom dat die tyd ryp was om 'n liggaam in die lewe te roep met die kragtige leuse

“ONS BESKERM DIE VERLEDE IN DIE HEDE”

Daar word hulde gebring aan hierdie stigterslede van die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria. Hulle name verskyn elders in hierdie uitgawe wat die dertigjarige bestaan van die Genootskap herdenk. Ook word hulde gebring aan al die ampsdraers wat die stigters se werk voortgesit het en die Genootskap uitgebou het tot 'n sterk historiese vereniging in die hoofstad van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika. Ook hulle name verskyn in hierdie dertigjarige gedenkuitgawe.

PRETORIANA

Volume I No. I of Pretoriana appeared in September 1951. The Editorial Board consisted of Miss J.H. Davies, Dr. F.J. du T. Spies, Dr. J. Ploeger and Mr. J.C. Vlok. We bring honour to this first editorial board. Appreciation and sincere thanks also to the Editors of all the subsequent 72 issues of Pretoriana, making a total of 73 issues over a period of 27 years. The names of the consecutive editors are also published in this Commemorative Issue of Pretoriana, as well as an Index of all the articles that appeared over the 27 years.

NEWSLETTER / NUUSBRIEF

The Newsletter of the Old Pretoria Society under the kind editorship of Mr. Tom Andrews and of which Nos. 1 – 15 appeared to date, is a welcome publication, keeping the members well informed of current activities of the Society. The Index of this Newsletter appears in this issue.

Die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria en Pretoriana word opgedra aan die toekomstige geslagte.
The Old Pretoria Society and Pretoriana are hereby handed over to the future generations.

(N.A. Coetzee)
Redakteur/Editor

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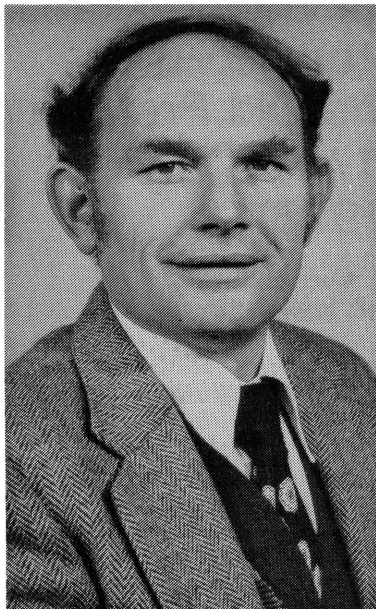
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1976—78

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Dr. H. M. Rex
Redakteur van Pretoriana vir 11
jaar (1957—60, 1962—66, 1975—
76).

Boodskap van die Burgemeester van Pretoria

Dit is vir my baie aangenaam om by geleentheid van sy dertigjarige bestaan 'n woord van hartlike gelukwense aan die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria oor te dra.

Gedurende hierdie dertig jaar het die Genootskap 'n heel besondere bydrae tot die kultuurerfenisse en -lewe van ons stad en sy inwoners gemaak.

Deur middel van sy mondstuk, "Pretoriana", het daar vir baie jare gereelde rubrieke verskyn wat waardevolle inligting ten opsigte van geskiedkundige gebeurtenisse, persoonlikhede, plekke en allerlei ander interessante wetenswaardighede aangaande Pretoria, bevat het.

Verder het die Genootskap steeds 'n wakende oog gehou oor geboue en plekke van historiese betekenis.

Gereelde toere, vergesel van gidse wat lede van die Genootskap is, het baie van die belangrike geskiedkundige plekke en gebeurtenisse weer in 'n mens se geestesoog laat herleef.

Pretoria is 'n stad wat 'n heel besondere rol in die geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika gespeel het, en nog speel. Ek weet dat die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria steeds sal streef om daardie rol in herinnering te hou en op die stewige fondamente van die verlede 'n mooi toekoms te bou.

Graag wens ek die Genootskap alles wat mooi is toe vir die jare wat voorlê.

RLD W.F. BOSHOFF
BURGEMEESTER VAN PRETORIA

JOHN ROBERT LYS

17/1/1829 – 14/8/1880

The “Pioneer of Pretoria” – A man of whom
it could be said “He loved much”!

(By Angela P. Makin)

John Robert Lys was born in the Channel Islands on the 17/1/1829. He was the second son of John Stephenson Lys, the Anglican Rector of St. Anne, Alderney. He was descended from a Huguenot family, who left France after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes and went to Britain in 1685, a branch from Hampshire settling later in the Channel Islands.

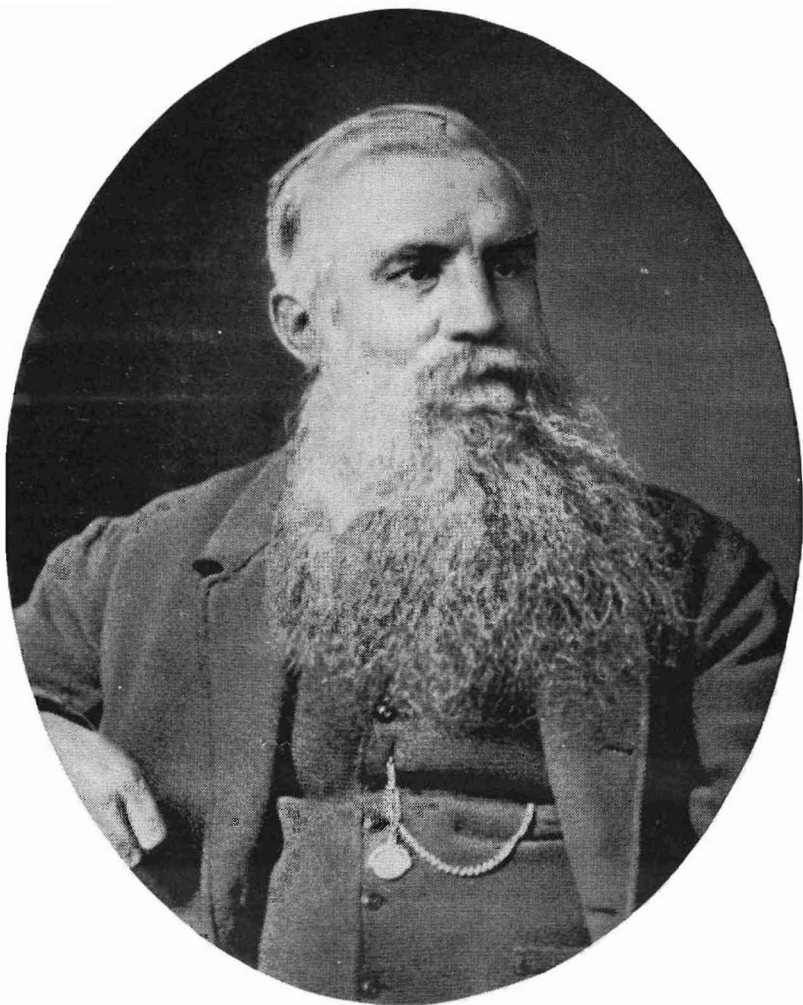
John Robert Lys was taught privately and then at Christ’s Hospital, London. The influence of his teachers, his cultured and religious parents and an open-air life helped to produce an educated, public-spirited and God-loving man who, not only knew the Bible, Shakespeare and the Classics intimately, but loved what he knew. So that his love of reading and the Classics prompted him to found the first library in Pretoria with a gift of books and the use of a room in his house on Church Square.

His natural love of God and his deeply religious up-bringing caused him to hold the first Anglican Church services in his house until a more formal abode for the English Church in Pretoria was obtained. (I believe that there is a plague to this effect on St. Albans English Church in Pretoria.) What I do know is that there was inscribed underneath his photograph in the Library of Pretoria these simple, yet impressive lines

“He was a generous and public-spirited man, working for the advancement of the Transvaal and living in the hope of a United South Africa.”

John Robert Lys’ passionate love of nature, geology and sport, especially horses, inspired him to start the first thoroughbred stud farm in the Transvaal importing his stock with a friend a Mr. Erasmus. Moshesh sent ponies regularly to him from Basutoland, receiving presents in exchange and there were always 2 to 4 hacks and 6 carriage horses in the stables on Church Square.

Of his many loves, the sea held pride of position. John Robert Lys’ son, Godfray was to describe his father and Uncle, John Robert’s younger brother Lieut. Vincent Lys – (killed at Hlobane in the Zulu War) – thus. “My father was a sailor. He never lost his love of the sea and his sea roll. When he and my Uncle Vin used to walk across the Square, they used to roll the bump as if on the deck of a ship. I just loved watching them as a little boy.”



JOHN ROBERT LYS
17.1.1829—14.8.1880
Pioneer of Pretoria

Among his list of loves was a hearty love of music. Combine this with a fine baritone voice, the ideal time for indulging this talent before the advent of the Movie and T.V. and you get numerous evenings when “the Sea Captain” could lead the singing of rollicking sea shanties with zest and enjoyment.

But most important of all was his great love of adventure which had brought John Robert Lys to South Africa in the first instance after having sailed to North America and the West Indies. He conducted a trigonometrical survey in the Cape in 1850, farmed for a bit near Harrismith, and then one memorable month in 1855 he went on a shooting trip into the Interior.

I love to imagine that glorious high veld evening when he first saw tiny, baby Pretoria. Picture, if you will, then, that wonderful highveld evening, crisp and tingling and special with one of our celebrated Transvaal sunsets staining the sky above the Magaliesburg a patriotic British red, watch the figure of a tall, well-built, heavily bearded man, sitting easily in the saddle with his hunting rifle slung over his shoulder, canter up the last rise and gaze down over the handful of houses along the Apies river below. A dog barks far away, there is the sound of chickens going to bed and the lovely Transvaal wood-smoke smell drifts up to him. At that moment something in his heart must have leaped up and urged him down the rough track to the houses below – some huge sense of anticipation and fulfilment, for John Robert Lys had finally come home.

I think that possibly the time and the place must always bring forth the man, and nobody could have been more suited to the time of 1855 and the place of infant Pretoria than he who was to be fondly called “The Father of Pretoria” by its inmates. Public spirited to the nth degree – (the family motto is “*Non sibi sed patria*”) – he was to start everything in Pretoria. You name it, he started it. We’ve already seen that he started the Library and the Anglican Church and breeding thoroughbred horses, we will also see how he started the Masons – (becoming the first Master of the Masonic Lodge Aurora in 1873) the Pretoria Club to whom he donated a billiard table, horse-racing in Pretoria, served on the first School Commission, became the first English-speaking member of the Volksraad, which he served with total dedication, and found the first large lump of gold.

But I’m jumping the gun a bit, it is still only 1855 and he has bought at Daspoort, a farm which later was to become the Pretoria Portland Cement Company, and he has started a trading business with his wagons going down to Durban and later up North. Using his trigonometrical survey chain, part of his equipment as a Naval officer, he helped Pretoria’s first Landdrost, du Toit, to lay out what is now the centre of Pretoria and in 1859 President Pretorius rewarded him by granting him the site on the South Eastern corner of Church Square, and here he built his house “The Eyrie”.



MRS. OLIVIA SELINA LYS
October, 1896

President Pretorius and John Robert Lys became close friends and John Robert was to support him in the Volksraad against the Kruger faction.

“The Eyrie” was a spacious, thatched, gabled house, where he lived as the first, and for a time, the only, British resident in Pretoria. With his business prospering and a nice home, he could think of marriage. So he sent to England to ask his fiancée, Olivia Selina Fry to come out and marry him. She came out by sailing ship and the journey took three months. She must have been very sure of herself and of him – imagine having three months of having nothing else to do than to wonder if you had made the right decision! The ship was the s.s. “Waldersen” and there were cows, sheep and poultry on board. Her son Godfray was to say of the journey – “to the end of her life, my Mother disliked the smell of tar, it reminded her of the “Waldersen” and she was not a good sailor.”

They were married in 1859 and it is very difficult to think of her as looking anything other than remarkably like Queen Victoria – as a family photograph shows her – but, I suppose that when they were married by the Bishop of Natal in Durban she must have been full of fun, being Irish. Olivia Selina Lys started the first hospital in Pretoria. Certainly she had an 18” waist and auburn hair and was so small that she could fit under her huge sailor husband’s arm. Godfray said “I have seen my Father pick her up like a child and I have heard her expostulate – “Oh Robert, it’s so undignified.”

After being guests of the Governor in Government House, Pietermaritzburg, they set out for their honeymoon under the huge African stars while they made their way through the unpolluted, game-teeming wastes to their home in Pretoria. We can imagine what that journey must have meant to the newly married husband and Nature lover. His son, Godfray, once said: “Well I have had the best of this country – when I was in my prime I rode over it from North to South and it was unspoilt by man. My Father and I have waited something like 20 minutes while a herd of Springbok have jumped across the road. I have chased a Springbok outside Pretoria and killed it with my stirrup iron. Now I regret killing anything, but then it was for the pot.” These words give us a little inkling of what the two newly-weds must have seen on that sweet, adventurous journey towards their new life together.

In “The Eyrie” the French and English furniture brought by Olivia Selina Lys and her pretty ornaments stood in the lofty, well-beamed rooms against the elegant blue French wall-paper, embossed with gold fleur-de-lis (the family crest). The wall-paper and board floors were a new innovation in Pretoria and must have caused quite a stir. The well-appointed house became the focal point of political and social activity in Pretoria. As there was no hotel in Pretoria in those days, Mr. and Mrs. Lys entertained many prominent visitors such as Sir Theophilus Shepstone, Sir Bartle Frere, General Colley,

who was killed at Majuba, Sir John Swinbourne, who was interested in mining, Herbert Rhodes, brother of Cecil Rhodes, Rider Haggard and many other explorers, soldiers, missionaries, politicians and travellers. Sir Charles Tucker, and General Buller and Sir Owen Lanyon were amongst their oldest friends and Thomas Baines painted for John Robert the lovely picture of early Pretoria which now hangs in the Africana Museum in Johannesburg. It depicts a typical high-veld Summer afternoon with a thunder-storm boiling up over the South towards Johannesburg and Godfray with his white horse, Sailor, in the foreground on the kopjie where the Union Buildings stand today. In the background are the handful of houses making up Pretoria.



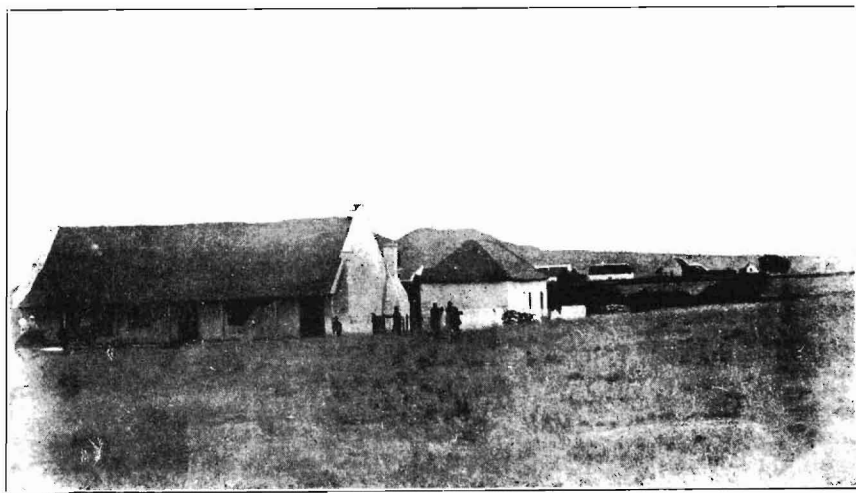
MAJOR ROBERT OLIVER GODFRAY LYS

It is always something of a shock to discover just how up-to-date the Old Days were – like finding that the Ancient Romans had a Stock Exchange and traffic problems just like our own. So it is a little amazing and amusing to discover that along with all those English titles the “Illustrated London News”, “The Times” and “Punch” were regular arrivals at “The Eyrie”. It was a very British corner of Church Square, because floating over the house on Sunday afternoons flew the first Union Jack ever to be seen in the Transvaal, and on the 24th May every year a royal salute of 21 guns was fired from the little brass cannon, purchased from the Portuguese Government in Mocambique, to honour Queen Victoria’s birthday. Those days were happy, non-racist days, so the salute was paid for by subscription of John Robert Lys’ Boer friends.

The first stitches the baby daughters sewed were those constructing small flannel bags to hold the gunpowder for the cannon and Godfray said: “When I was big enough to stand next to a gun I joined my Father in firing the Royal Salute of 21 guns. Between each shot I sponged the gun – being the powder monkey. I also used to break the flag when the first charge was fired.”

Godfray leaves us a lovely description of “The Eyrie”. He was to describe his happy home like this. “We had a very happy family life in the old bungalow on the centre of Church Square. (Where the Standard Bank stands today.) There was the usual large yard with stabling for a dozen horses. The house and gardens were surrounded by a brick wall. Beyond this there was an orchard, flower garden and beautiful lawn – the pride of my Dad’s heart. There was a thick rose fence enclosing the flower garden – this rose never seemed to be out of bloom. It was the double pink bloom that no old Pretorian will ever forget. The water, almost as strong as a Scotch burn, used to run down two sides of the garden. As is the way with everything connected with one’s childhood, I still think there never was such fruit as grew in our orchard, nor have I seen such flowers. There were always wild pets round the place, springbok, duika, stembok, koodoo and even a lion cub at one time. I remember a hartebeest and young white-tailed gnu – most of them were shipped to different zoos when full-grown.”

I have mentioned before John Robert Lys’ love of the classics, which stemmed from his education and up-bringing and resulted in his being fluent in French and Latin. His knowledge of Latin gave rise to an amusing incident. Baby Pretoria was a lovely, friendly village where the charlatan could ply his trade on the unsuspecting inmates, with the result that many so-called “Doctors” moved in to fleece the simple pigeons. One of these hired rooms, decorated the walls with an imposing collection of so-called “Certificates”, which were duly passed by the Republic’s officials, to whom, I’m afraid, the Latin meant as much, or as little, as Sanskrit, and, rubbing his hands, prepared to make a fortune. Unfortunately for him, John Robert Lys



THE LYS HOMESTEAD IN PRETORIA

This building was formerly the site of the Grand Hotel and is now that of the new Standard Bank of South Africa. When this house was built the site was worth about £10. It was purchased a short time ago by the Standard Bank for £80,000.

dropped by and went into his rooms. He had but to take one look at those "Certificates" to see that they were bits and pieces culled from quack recipes, introductory prayers and similar seemingly learned efforts. Half-an-hour later the "Doctor" was hurriedly making his way to the Orange Free State! One wonders if he had better luck there.

John Robert Lys' only son was born in "The Eyrie" on 22nd June, 1860. Robert Oliver Godfray Lys was a greatly loved man from that day to the day of his death in 1936. He was a totally noble, loyal and honest man, who lived at peace with all men, because he was at peace with himself. In the early days of Johannesburg when sharp business practices and expediency were the order of the day – (if possible, more than nowadays,) there was a saying – "Lys' word is his bond". And that was enough. He must have been a great joy to his parents, certainly he was a credit to them. That his Father loved him dearly is plainly seen from the many references to Godfray, or Bunny, as his Father called him in John Robert Lys' diaries. These diaries are amazing documents, faithfully written up each night by their owner before retiring, no matter how late the hour may have been. Here the climate of each day was faithfully recorded, together with business transactions, events of note and so on. Unfortunately every political allusion was carefully cut out by his widow after his death in 1880. But from the diaries emerges a vivid picture of the life in

early Pretoria and the noble character of the writer. He loved his family – I told you he was a “Man who loved much” – and one extract taken at random from the diaries, proudly says: “My son, Godfray, is a great favourite with everyone.” He loved his two daughters dearly, too. And in the diaries is faithfully recorded their first riding lessons, etc.

John Robert Lys was asked to stand for the Volksraad by his Boer friends. He represented Pretoria District from 1863 to his death in 1880. Night after night there appear in the diaries the words, “bed 2 a.m., 3 a.m. 1,30 a.m.” as this conscientious and dedicated member of the Volksraad worked on the Republic’s business. He was especially anxious that the Republic’s national debt be reduced by the full exploitation of its mineral wealth. In 1863 John Robert must have been serving on the Finance Committee of the Volksraad, because in his diary appears this marvellous passage about the presentation of the budget of £20 000. About the debate he said: “The amount of nonsense talked and the ignorance shown was delicious.” And later: “The Budget still going on. Very few members of the Raad understand the meaning of the estimates.”



Kerkplein Pretoria met die Lys Huis (middel) nadat aanbouings aan die regterkant aangebring is. Let op die klok van die eerste Kerk op Kerkplein (afgebrand 1880).

John Robert Lys served on many Volksraad commissions. When his friend, O'Reilly of Maquassi, discovered the first diamond on the Vaal River in 1869, John Robert was asked by the Raad to proceed to the place of discovery with President Kruger in order to delimit the boundary lines between the Cape, Free State and Transvaal. He served on other boundary commissions involving the Portuguese, the Free State and the Rolong on the Western Border. He went to Swaziland, too, when Amaswazi, the chief died, in order to settle the boundaries between the Transvaal and Swaziland and to help choose the next chief. His son, Godfray, went along as a member of the Pretoria contingent of the Commando that went to make a demonstration of force to the Swazis. He was only 13 at the time, but he was from the time he could walk a fantastic natural rider. On riding, Godfray has said,

“My first recollections are of riding in front of my Dad’s saddle, and later when I could bestride him, riding a donkey.” Now there’s a wonderful story about this donkey. Olivia Selina Lys was wild keen to obtain a donkey for her children to ride, but this was extremely difficult in those days. Evidently it was easier to get money out of the Reserve Bank than to obtain a donkey. But . . . the Lys family was a very well-dressed family, their clothes coming from overseas or up from Durban twice a year and John Robert Lys sported a very smart frock coat, which a certain to-be-world-famous person greatly coveted and for which he offered a young ass. In due course the bargain was made to the satisfaction of all parties concerned, and as both coat and donkey were cherished with fond care, their years were many!

Godfray continues: “My next steed was a mule, who bucked me off whenever he wanted to. I shall never forget my joy when four ponies arrived from Basutoland and Dad said one of them was for me. Later when my Aunts arrived from England to live with my Mother – (they were Olivia Selina’s step sisters and the one was to marry Harry Struben and the Other, Alan Broderick) – they were given my Basutho pony to ride, so I asked for the colt which was coming from Heidelberg. When he came, he proved to be snow-white and was promptly called “Sailor”. – (This was the pony immortalised by Thomas Baines.) – Now my wanderings really started. I used to ride away to farms to visit friends and spend weekends. All this mainly, I am sorry to say, to get away from my tutor who could not ride.”

“My earliest remembrance is of horses. I grew up with them and they have always been my best friends. Riding makes one hungry, and that reminds me of a farm we used to pass where the old miser of a farmer would neither sell, nor give away his fruit. So Allen Broderick, Frank Austen, John Fisher and I organised a raid on his orchard one day. We dug under the fence and got into the vineyard. There our clothes helped us considerably – as little boys of those days wore white sailor blouses which could hold an astonishing amount of fruit when well and truly packed in. Unfortunately, we forgot to allow for our

added firth when scrambling back under the fence, and the grapes became pulp on the other side. The last man nearly got caught, but we manfully pulled, and got him through. I think I was the only one who did not get whacked for the state of my clothes.”

But there was a time when John Robert Lys had to whack his darling son, and that was when he put pepper in one of the family’s slaves, Dinah’s snuff box. It is interesting to hear what Godfray has to say about their slaves. He writes . . . “Our slaves, whom Dad got from their chiefs were Frolic, Nicky and Boozie. They were paid a few shillings regularly and got a heifer each every year. Old Frolic took quite a large herd of cattle away when Dad died. The girls were Dahlia, Dinah and Nora. They were like part of the family and refused to be liberated when we wanted to free them. Dinah used to take snuff and well do I remember putting pepper in her snuff. Rather more well I remember what I got for doing this!”

With the Lys store situated behind his house, the children would have often run across to see the arrival of the wagons returning from trading trips to the North. Laden with wonderful tusks of ivory – Pretoria was the ivory-clearing house of Africa – karosses, ostrich feathers, lion and other skins, horns, cream of tartar in the pod, and bearing instructions from John Robert Lys to bring back any minerals of interest, their arrival must have always given rise to excitement, especially when a few crude gold ornaments were brought back or small quantities of alluvial gold and once, oh such joy! some tiny soft leather bags actually filled with nuggets of all sizes.

John Robert Lys was a keen amateur geologist who had personally conducted many prospecting expeditions in different parts of the country until his study had become a veritable museum, filled with gold quartz, silver and leadore and many other precious and base metals. He had personally discovered lead in Marico, and in return for his services to the Republic, he was given by President Pretorius the first mining charter ever to be issued in the Transvaal, which entitled him to go anywhere throughout the Republic and prospect at will.

A mining company was formed, receiving its concession from the Volksraad in April, 1860, and was called the Transvaal General Mining Company. The intention was to mine lead – always much in demand for bullets – but the company was a failure and was dissolved in 1865. The unsettled political conditions had made it difficult to attract development capital, and to recruit both skilled and unskilled labour.

In 1866 John Robert Lys had another shot at forming a mining company, this time called the South African Republic Mining Company. Their concession this time allowed them to mine lead, copper, iron and tin but not

diamonds or precious metals. In return no other company would be allowed to operate for five years. Despite this helpful concession, I'm afraid this company also folded through lack of capital, although some copper was produced, but little more.

But always, despite his mining ups and downs, John Robert Lys had complete faith that there was gold in the Transvaal. Because he had personally discovered a large, fat bit of the main reef, which he called pudding stone, and which remained in his study for many years.

Attached is a copy of the article – “*The Story of the Golden Vlei*” which appeared in “*The Sun of South Africa*”, February, 1934. This also shows the map of the location of Lysvlei.

THE STORY OF THE GOLDEN VLEI

HISTORIC SITE NEAR GERMISTON

By Dr. William MacDonald

It was towards the close of a warm summer's day in the year 1867 that two wagons could be seen moving slowly along the Old Pioneer Road that led from Pietermaritzburg, in Natal, to Pretoria, the Capital of the South African Republic. A few hours before this little caravan had passed through the tiny hamlet of Heidelberg, and even now was toiling painfully along the matted grass-grown track that crossed the high and cool plateau, marked on early maps as the Witte Waters Rand. The foremost vehicle, which was about half a mile ahead of its companion, consisted of a light spring American wagon capable of holding four passengers. It was drawn by eight sturdy mules whose general aspect betokened a long and arduous trek, made irksome by torrential rains, flooded rivers and almost impassable roads – all of which had greatly retarded the progress of the little party on their 400-mile journey from Pietermaritzburg to Pretoria.

A Hardy Pioneer

On the box-seat of the wagon and holding the reins that guided the eight tired mules, sat a sturdy, broad-shouldered pioneer with a big sombrero, a long bushy beard, and clad in a serviceable suit of corduroy. In his belt was stuck a formidable looking pistol, while an old type of muzzle-loader was strapped upright and ready at the right-hand side of the driver's seat. Beside this hardy pioneer, who was urging the mules forward by calling each one by its name, sat a diminutive and wizened Bushman, who smote the atmosphere with an immense resounding whip which, nevertheless, never once descended upon the bodies of the animals, because Kleinboy knew that if he struck the mules unnecessarily, he would incur the ire of his master, who could not bear to see any animal misused.

The Farm of the Three Fountains

Behind the box-seat sat four passengers, comprising a big game hunter, a missionary and two traders, who were journeying into the interior of the "Dark Continent". But the outstanding personality in this little veld ship, ploughing its way through a vast ocean of grass, was undoubtedly the retired naval officer on the box-seat – Lieut. John Robert Lys, R.N., formerly of the British Navy, and later the first Englishman to represent Pretoria in the Volksraad of the Republic.

"We must hurry!" he exclaimed, "because there is likely to be much water in the vlei of the Three Fountains (Driefontein) and dusk is coming."

With those words he cracked the great whip and the mules sped forward, and soon the light wagon was swaying perilously in the muddy water of the vlei. At last, the passage was safely effected, and a camp was immediately formed on the north bank of the swamp. Meanwhile, trekking slowly over the nearest grassy ridge came the second part of the transport, namely, a long hooded wagon drawn by eighteen oxen, and having large stocks of wooden boxes roped together, containing groceries, biscuits, liquors, powder-flasks and arms of all kinds.

Bogged in Ant Bear Hole

Presently a message was dispatched to the driver of the trek wagon instructing him to cross the vlei before sunset. And so, half an hour later, eighteen weary oxen plunged heavily into the slimy black turf bog. And now, under the raucous cracks of whips, and sustained by the encouraging yells of the native escort, the bullocks made a herculean effort, and the transport wagon moved slowly forward.

But just at this moment one of the front wheels slid into an unseen ant bear hole which had been covered by the water, and the heavily laden wagon shivered with the shock and stuck fast hopelessly. However, Pioneer Lys, late of Her Majesty's Navy, was never at a loss under any adverse circumstances.

“Roll large stones against the sunken wheel!” he called out to his native boys, who raced to an outcrop of stones lying nearby on the dry veld, carried them into the swamp and laid them around the wagon wheels. Now, as Kleinboy, the little bushman, was staggering under the weight of a large veld stone, suddenly the rays of the setting sun lit up the exposed face of the rock.

“Pas op (Stop), Kleinboy!” shouted the Pioneer. “Bring die klip hier” (Bring that stone here). The astonished Bushman carried the stone up to the camp and set it down beside his master. Lys turned over this piece of veld rock, and found it to be of a curious formation, being dotted here and there with greyish-white pebbles that made it look like an almond pudding. Lys rolled a piece of gunny sack around the stone and deposited it in the old naval kist which he always carried about with him. He then returned to the edge of the vlei, and instructed the natives to get the oxen to make a stronger concerted effort. This was done, and the front wagon wheels, finding support in the vlei stones, rose triumphantly and lifted the wagon out of the slimy ant bear hole and pulled it onwards across the swamp.

That night, when a bright summer moon lit up the gleaming star-studded sky, Pioneer Lys sat tranquilly smoking a pipeful of Magaliesberg tobacco,¹ while a quiet smile lit up his genial countenance. For he had noted that Kleinboy's curious pudding stone showed streaks of “colour”, and where it came from there were likely to be many more. But for the present he kept to himself the secret of the golden vlei. On reaching the homestead at Pretoria, he carefully examined the stone and, having satisfied himself by panning that it was gold-bearing, accorded the unbroken portion of the rock a prominent place in his extensive geological collection.²

And in the days to come, over many a camp fire, prospectors and traders used often to talk of the year of the great floods; and so in due course Government cartographers and other map makers, remembering the tale of Pioneer Lys and his two wagons being bogged on the farm of the Three Fountains, in seeking to safeguard future travellers, named and laid off the exact locality of Lys' Vlei.³

The coming of Carl Mauch

About a week after John R. Lys had returned to Pretoria, the eminent German traveller, Carl Mauch, arrived at the Lys Homestead. He was a big, burly man with a sandy-coloured beard, jovial countenance, and a hearty boyish laugh. Robert Lys and Carl Mauch soon became very friendly as both

were engaged in geological investigations.* Thus it happened that Pioneer Lys told the German geologist about the curious pebbly gold-bearing stone which he had found at Lys' Vlei. Mauch was greatly interested in what Lys told him, and expressed a desire to visit that locality. Accordingly, next morning Lys spanned his light wagon and eight mules and drove Mauch to Krafts farm² (Driefontein) on which stood Lys' Vlei.

The Search for Gold

Lys and Mauch collected some specimens and panned out gold at the side of the Vlei (Lys Vlei), and then journeyed westward to Kromdraai – Grobler's farm – where they also panned out some more gold and then returned to Pretoria. In talking over this momentous trip, Major Godfray Lys told the writer that he remembers, as if it were yesterday, Mauch saying to his father (John Robert Lys) that he was certain the Witwatersrand would prove to be a very rich goldfield.*

1) Henry Hartley, the South African Pioneer, trader, gold seeker and big game hunter, and founder of the Magaliesberg Tobacco Industry, trekked up from the Bathurst district, in Cape Colony, to the Transvaal in the year 1841. He acquired from the Government the farm of Thorndale, situated forty-seven miles south-west of Pretoria, which remained the home of the Hartley family for over ninety years.

2) President Pretorius granted the first gold prospecting rights in the Transvaal to Robert Lys for his services to the Republic.

3) Now the property of the Witwatersrand and Primrose Gold Mining Companies whose crosslike mynpacht takes in Lys' Vlei.

*Curious enough, ten years later the same words were repeated to J.R. Lys by Mr. Armfield, who came out to South Africa from Australia as a consulting geologist and mineralogist on behalf of the Transvaal Government.

It may be asked if Lys and Mauch did discover gold on the Witwatersrand why was it not followed up by a gold rush to the Rand as actually happened nineteen years later. The explanation is simple. In the first place neither Lys nor Mauch had sufficient means to prospect on a large scale. Secondly, to reach the Witwatersrand at that time situated as it was so far from the sea coast, entailed a very expensive journey; while the cost of transporting heavy mining machinery was almost prohibitive. Again, although the Witwatersrand was happily situated in a healthy country, much of the intervening country was periodically swept by malarial fever, horse and cattle sickness; while the Transvaal was then encircled by savage tribes, and the early settlers had frequently to go into "laager" in order to protect themselves against the hostile natives. Nevertheless, the search for gold continued steadily from the Tati region on the Bechuanaland border to the Eastern Districts of the Transvaal.

Armfield – Australian Geologist

It will be remembered that on 12th April, 1877, Sir Theophilus Shepstone, Her Majesty's Special Commissioner, annexed the Transvaal to the British Crown. At that time the Transvaal was in a state of complete bankruptcy, with an empty Treasury, as well as being greatly embarrassed by all hostile attitude of Sekukuni and Cetewayo. Shepstone, searching for some means to increase the revenues for the Colony, came to the conclusion that the only thing to put the country in a sound financial condition would be the discovery of gold. Accordingly, he consulted with Robert Lys and asked his advice. Lys recommended that Shepstone should apply to the Australian Government for a highly qualified geologist to report on the gold potentialities of the Transvaal. And so in due course the Australian geologist, Mr. Armfield, arrived and was taken by Pioneer Lys to look at Lys' Vlei. Armfield panned out some rocks in a spruit at Driefontein, and found good gold. Lys then took him to the top of the watershed, above what is now known as Orange Grove, and here also Armfield panned out gold. Having satisfied themselves that there was gold-bearing rock over an area of approximately ten miles, namely, from Driefontein to Orange Grove, the two men then drove over to Grobler's farm at Kromdraai, and in the streams on that property they again found satisfactory samples of alluvial gold.

Armfield Goes North

It may now be asked why Armfield did not continue his search for gold on the Witwatersrand. The answer is that he had already made certain contracts with Button, Edwards and Glynn to prospect for gold in the Northern and Eastern sections of the Transvaal. Consequently, he bade farewell to Robert Lys, promising that he would return as soon as possible and continue his investigations on the rocks of the Rand. Armfield then trekked northward to the Selati country, contracted blackwater fever on the Murchison Range, and died before he had time to prepare his report on the gold occurrences of the Witwatersrand. Speaking of the strange manner in which the gold-bearing reefs of the Witwatersrand seem to have eluded the early pioneers, Major Godfrey Lys said to the writer: "I believe that had Armfield been spared to return and complete his report on the Witwatersrand, these fields would have been opened up several years earlier. But the discovery of gold at Eersteling, Selati, Ohrigstad, Pilgrims Rest and Barberton all tended to take men's thoughts away from the Rand. And so the world's greatest goldfield lay unrevealed until the coming of Fred Struben, whose supreme confidence in the gold-bearing potentialities of the Witwatersrand, together with his steadfast perseverance in the face of great discouragement and innumerable obstacles were at last destined to be rewarded, and won for him the proud title of being the real discoverer of the Gold Fields of the Rand.

It is of interest for me to recall the fact that twenty years after my father showed Carl Mauch the gold on Lys' Vlei I opened up the Main Reef Series on the same spot in May, 1887.

Finally, I might add in order to illustrate the prevalent ideas at that time of what constituted characteristic gold-bearing country, I remember an old and experienced prospector saying to me: "Gold will never be found on the Witwatersrand. It is far too healthy; gold is only found in low-lying malarial districts."

* * * *

Godfray never forgot his Father's conviction of gold somewhere in the Witwatersrand, and later with his Struben Uncles was to crush the first ever lump of gold found by George Honeyball via George Walker. He and the Strubaens had erected their 5-stamp Sandycroft Mill next to a sparkling stream about half a mile away from the Confidence Reef and were crushing all the gold-bearing rocks they could lay their hands on when Honeyball arrived with that wonderful bit of rock on a momentous day in February, 1886. As a follow-up to John Robert Lys' search for gold for all those years and as a tribute to his faith in the "Golden Witwatersrand", I think it is fitting that we should have Godfray's account of the occasion . . . As a prelude to Godfray's account, I must tell you that Honeyball has persuaded Walker to show him the place where he literally stumbled over the outcrop of the Main Reef and he, in his turn, has broken off another lump and has set off post-haste to Struben's Mill. Like everybody who knew Godfray, he was impressed with his bonhomie and courtesy and was looking for him on that Sunday. First of all, however, he found Fred Struben in the little cottage erected next to the mill. He showed him the lump of rock and asked him if it was gold-bearing. Struben took the chunk of rock and after examining it closely said it was merely a piece of pyrites. "Where did you get it?" he inquired bluntly. "But I'll pan it" he continued "and will tell you if it contains gold." His question had, however, annoyed Honeyball who put the lump of rock in his pocket and walked moodily away. Down by the spruit he came across Godfray, who was in his shirt-sleeves and busily engaged in attending to the mill. His gay and cheery greeting mollified Honeyball, who dived once more into his pocket and drew out the lump of rock. Godfray says . . .

"By Jove," I said. "That's gold."

"Then I paused, for in the flash of that moment, I seemed to see Karl Mauch and my Father and Arnfield, and many others all seeking gold, and I found myself repeating Fred Struben's words that had brought me all the way from Maritzburg – "thousands of men and millions of capital" – and there we were completely down and out, still searching for a payable streak, crushing

tons of poor stuff all our money gone, and insolvency staring us in the face. And suddenly a moody-looking fellow crashed down the path from nowhere and shoves right under my very nose the loveliest bit of banket I had ever seen. I felt myself trembling from sheer excitement.

“Do you think it’s the real stuff?” queried Honeyball, doubtfully.

“Man alive”, I said impatiently, “don’t you see how rich it is? But let us pan it and I will show you the gold.”

“Honeyball hesitated, and started to explain how Walker had first found the Reef, but I cut him short and asked him straight out what he wanted for his information. Then having agreed to pay him £5 for showing me the spot, we at once proceeded to pan out the piece of rock. In my excitement and anxiety to make a thorough test, I spilt a few shillings worth of mercury, but we soon got a fine bead of gold. And then I knew for certain that Honeyball made a great strike . . .”

Well that was it and Godfray and the Strubens went on from strength to strength, which is another story.

Meanwhile back to John Robert and those peaceful pre-gold and precarious days. Or were they that peaceful? Here is an extract from the diaries, written in 1873 describing a trip to Natal. “Had my first experience of the civility of Natal drivers, as we were caught in a narrow place and only saved a din by managing to keep my temper.”

It’s hard for us to imagine those slow, bumpy trips by wagon, but I feel sure time was not as accelerated as it is today and certainly the travelling wagons were very comfortable. Evidently they were very large and comfortably appointed with the hood lined with green baize. They were drawn by a large span of picked oxen, the pride of all concerned. A smaller wagon, also with a good span was used for carrying sleeping tents for the men, cooking utensils etc. and brushwood for lighting fires around the outspan at night. A wagonette with a four-in-hand was used as an “avant coucheur” to the farm houses en route. There were also two extra riding horses. So it was a formidable convoy that set out.

Besides the journeys to Natal, there must have been some to Delagoa Bay, because John Robert Lys was tremendously keen to get the British Government to buy the port at Delagoa Bay. Together with his friend MacCorkindale, he urged the British Government, through Lord Carnarvon, to buy the port from the Portuguese Government for £40 000. When this appeal was turned down, he tried again through his old friend Sir Theophilus Shepstone to get something done, but this was also unsuccessful. One could burst into tears at the thought of the unfortunate results for South Africa

arising from the British Government's refusal to listen to John Robert Lys and buy Delagoa Bay. Just think of what might have been – but, no, it doesn't bear thinking about.

John Robert Lys was not only very alive to any financial benefits which he could see to the Republic, but also to what could be done for the best politically. He was always anxious that the Government should be conducted in a more progressive spirit, so that he welcomed Pres. Burgers' election in 1872 as the prelude to a more enlightened rule.

Before the Sekekuni Wars, Paul Kruger, Snyman and Schoeman tried to depose Martinus Wessels Pretorius and make one of them President. John Robert Lys saw trouble ahead and realized that they must look for an educated candidate. He went down as one of a deputation to ask Brand of the Free State to be the President of the Republic, but Brand saw complications ahead and would not accept, so another candidate popular with all had to be found and they decided on the Rev. Thomas Francois Burgers. He was elected by a large majority.

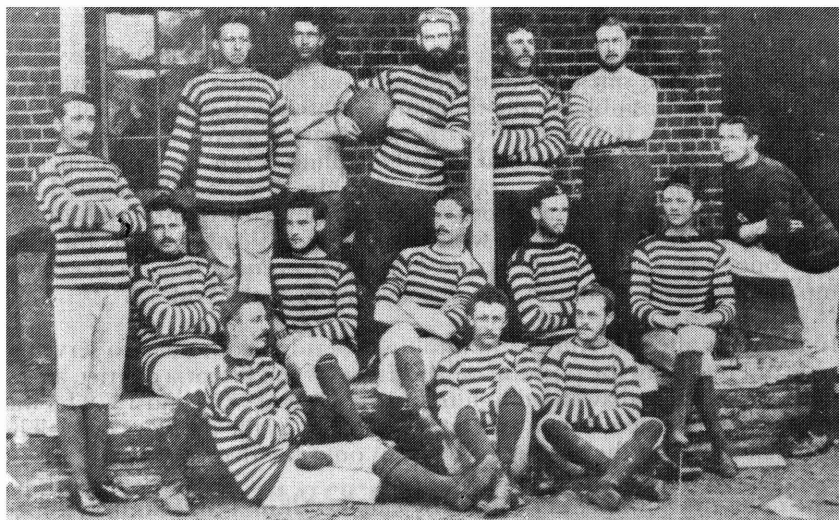
Before the Transvaal was annexed, President Burgers went to Europe and raised a loan of gold. One of the conditions on which the loan was raised, was that a similar amount of green backs – local government bank notes – were to be destroyed. John Robert Lys was put in charge of the burning of these notes and about £50 000 worth were destroyed by burning them in the oven which Delia used to bake the bread in. On this occasion she had a baking ready and put it in and baked it at the same time, and said that her bread was worth £50 000!

We forget today just how real was the threat of hostile African tribes surrounding the Republic. During the Sekekuni campaign, when the Boer forces had retreated from Sekekuniland, a report reached Pretoria that Sekekuni was advancing on the town and that his vanguard had reached Bronkhorstspuit. It was, therefore, decided to fortify some centre in Pretoria where the women and children could take shelter at night. The site selected was the Pretoria Club, and a sandbag redoubt was built before the entrance. The Club, however, was very unpopular with the ladies of Pretoria at that time and they protested very strongly against the site. So strongly, indeed, did they protest that another site had to be chosen and the verandah of the Lys store was then converted into a sandbag fort for the purpose.

Oh that verandah, what pageants of history it must have seen! On the grass in front of it were played the first cricket and football matches of the Pretoria Cricket and Football Team. A photograph taken of them in 1876 shows them in their striped jerseys and moustaches and somewhat self-conscious air as befitting the very first forerunners of the cricket and rugby Springbok greats. Godfray is among them and many of the well-known names of Pretoria.

Then there was the reading of the proclamation of the Annexation of the Transvaal by the British, by a horribly nervous Mr. Melmoth Osborne and the hoisting of the Union Jack by Ryder Haggard. April 12th, 1877 was a lovely day and from the verandah of the Lys store yet another important historical ceremony could be witnessed. There were only about 50 people in Church Square, probably just as many as those who would watch the parade of captured Native Chiefs and their indunas held in the “triumphs” of the Boer forces. And at the end of the ceremony a bigger Union Jack than John Robert Lys’ was floating in the blue sky, and afterwards I bet everyone went home for tea or coffee.

John Robert Lys was a Lieutenant in the Pretoria Volunteers and the first commander of the Artillery Corps, The Dingaans Battery, founded in 1875. Nearly thirty years later, his son Godfray was to be the first commander of a regiment – the Lys Volunteer Corps, which came into being in March, 1904. Later the Lys Volunteer Corps was to be known as the Transvaal Horse Artillery.



PRETORIA'S FIRST RUGBY TEAM (1875)

Back : Julius Jeppe, Bousfield, A. Roberts (captain), Henry Nourse, Stephens.
 Middle: J.T.A. Shepherd, Danny Smithers, Kitwell, Higgenson, Godfray Lys,
 Palmer. Front : Davis, Swart, Juta.

At the outbreak of the Zulu War, Godfray joined the Intelligence Department and was eventually attached to the Flying Column under Sir Evelyn Wood. The Flying Column was composed of three numbered companies, a Naval Section with Gatlings, the Border Horse under Col. Weatherley, the Kimberley Horse under Col. Redvers Buller, and Uys' Scouts, under the great Piet Uys himself. There were lots of skirmishes and then there was the engagement at the hill of Hlobani. Godfray was not present at this engagement, but his Uncle, Vincent Lys, John Robert's sailor brother mentioned earlier, was there. He and Col. Weatherley and Piet Uys were killed. There was a great wall of dead Zulus around them and Col. Weatherley's body was found holding his son, Rupert by the left arm, and one assegai had killed them both. A remnant of the men escaped and Godfray describes the ensuing battle of Kambula in the following words . . .

"We had to leave from Kambula with all the available men, to rescue all we could. We saved many lives and many heroic deeds were done. (At Kambula Cecil d'Arcy won his V.C. and Col. Butler for saving one of his men.) Next morning at crack of dawn we saw a huge Zulu impi in crescent formation coming towards us to attack our laager. We saw them coming towards us over the horizon like great black ants. As they came nearer, we could see their full war regalia of feathers and shields and their marvellous physique.

"No one who has heard a Zulu charge will ever forget it. The rattle of the assegais against the shields, and then a murmur swelling to a great war cry, while the ground trembles under the stamp of thousands of feet. Their object was to surround us in the shape of the two horns of an ox. No horse could stand the shaking of the ground and the yelling. Even my "Cartouche", whom we had bred and I had trained and ridden from a colt, decided that home was the best place and it took me all my time to try and stop him. We mowed down their front ranks with volley fire and gatlings, but they got round one side and into the cattle kraal and eventually it took several companies to drive them out. We defeated them at the end . . ."

In the years after the Annexation, John Robert Lys continued to serve the people of Pretoria in the position of landdrost for the Pretoria district, a post which Shepstone had awarded to him in 1878. But in 1878 and 1879 he was plagued by a persistent cough and he was worried by the memory of a fall he had sustained from the rigging of his ship onto the deck below.

The Zulus, meanwhile, were finally defeated at Ulundi, and Godfray joined Russel's column and marched with them back to Sekekuniland and stayed with them there until Sekekuni was defeated. Then he was appointed Sir Marshall Clarke's A.D.C. Clarke was the High Commissioner for the Northern Districts, whose duty was to settle the Sekekuni nation. This took about 18 months and then one sad day Sir Owen Lanyon came up on a tour of

inspection and brought the dreadful news that John Robert Lys was very, very ill, and gave Godfray leave to return to Pretoria to see his Father. He immediately rode his charger from Spelonken to Blaauberg and then on to Marabastad, where he bought a little mare from an army friend, as by now his horse was totally exhausted. From there it was 24 hours ride for him to Pretoria. But although he had ridden as he had never ridden before and had taken only three days over the journey, he was too late for John Robert Lys passed away on the 14th August, 1880.

John Robert Lys, the beloved Father of his family was greatly mourned by that family. John Robert Lys the beloved Father of Pretoria was also greatly mourned by all his friends, both Boer and British. Perhaps in a way it was a good thing that his brave heart failed when it did, and he was not forced to see either of the two Anglo-Boer Wars, because, although he never really understood the aspirations of the Boers, still they were always his good friends, and those two dreadful Wars would surely have broken his heart.

“He was a generous and public-spirited man, working for the advancement of the Transvaal and living in the hope of a United South Africa.”

Written by Angela P. Makin, the great grand-daughter of John Robert Lys, using family documents, letters, magazines, Godfray Lys' Memoirs and books in my possession.

JOHANNESBURG.
9th June, 1978

GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF WRITER

- a) John Robert Lys X Olivia Selina Fry
- b) Robert Oliver Godfray Lys X Phyllis Bruce Taylor
- c) Philippa Olivia Lys X Francois Oscar Ivan Brickman
- d) *Angela Philippa Brickman* X Ian Derek Makin

DIE ERASMUS-KASTEEL MAG NIE VERDWYN NIE

(deur Ben Cronje)

Pretoria word tans weer met die moontlikheid gekonfronteer dat een van sy historiese landmerke dalk die prooi van tegnologiese vooruitgang gaan word. Pas nadat die stof in verband met die wesfasade van Kerkplein, vir die huidige, gaan lê het (gelukkig nie die wesfasade se stof nie), is die slopingsgevaar aan die oplaai oor die bekende Erasmus-kasteel op die suidoostelike uithoek van Pretoria.

Toe die Transvaalse Provinsiale Administrasie twee jaar gelede aangekondig het dat hy 90 hektaar van die plaas Garsfontein, waarop die Erasmus-kasteel staan, onteien het ten einde onder andere 'n nuwe hospitaalkompleks daar te bou, het Pretorianers met 'n skok tot die ontdekking gekom dat hierdie sonderlinge ou landmerk ook in die pad van die uitdyende stad beland het. Stemme het van oral opgegaan om te pleit vir die bewaring van die ou gebou. Op 'n vergadering van die belastingbetalers van die aangrensende Elarduspark, Wingatepark en die Waterkloof-landbouhoewes, is 'n eenparige besluit geneem dat die Administrateur versoek sal word om die huis te red. Sedertdien het dié aangeleentheid op die agtergrond geraak nadat dit bekend geword het dat 'n inter-departementele kommissie aangestel is om die saak te ondersoek en daar moontlik sprake is dat die hospitaal elders gebou gaan word. 'n Finale besluit is egter nog nie geneem nie. Die Transvaalse Werkedepartement se standpunt is dat indien die hospitaal wel op Garsfontein gebou gaan word en dit nie anders kan nie, die gebou wel gesloop sal moet word. Onder die omstandighede is dit noodsaaklik dat Pretorianers en ander bewaringsbewuste Suid-Afrikaners kennis neem hiervan en betyds sal walgooi teen enige moontlike stappe wat die Erasmus-kasteel se einde kan beteken.

Toe Pretoria nog nie 'n halfeeu oud was nie en Groenkloof, Waterkloof en Garsfontein die name van uitgestrekte plase was, is die eerste soorie van die Erasmus-kasteel se fondasies op 'n hooggeleë plato van die plaas Garsfontein van Jochemus Johannes Petrus Erasmus afgesteek. Sedertdien het hierdie merkwaardige gebou 'n onafskeidbare deel van Pretoria se landskap geword en het hy 'n besondere plekkie in Pretorianers se harte gekry.



Kyk 'n mens terug na die geskiedenis van die Erasmus-familieplaas, dan vind jy dat dit baie moeilik is om vas te stel wie die oorspronklike eienaars van die plaas Garsfontein was. In 'n inspeksierapport van plase om Pretoria wat in Augustus 1841 gevoer is, word aangedui dat die plaas "Garsfontein" behoort aan Susara Johanna Bronkhorst. Daar word ook beweer dat die plaas in die Erasmusfamilie se besit gekom het toe Cornelia Erasmus in 1852 met Jacobus Rademeyer getrou het. Dokumentêre bewys bestaan dat Karel Jacobus Erasmus in 1892 die bakens van die plaas afgepen het. Daar kan egter met redelike sekerheid aangeneem word dat hy die plaas voor hierdie datum reeds besit het. In die familiebegraafplaas wat 'n entjie van die opstal geleë is, is die grafies van twee seuntjies, albei genaamd Daniel Jacobus Elardus Erasmus, wat respektiewelik in 1888 en 1889 gebore en oorlede is. Twee ou opstalle wat voor die herehuis gebou en bewoon is, is ook nog te sien. Ongelukkig verskaf die rekords in die Aktekantoor nie duidelikheid oor die oorspronklike eienaars van die plaas nie. Die storie word vertel dat Karel Erasmus die plaas Garsfontein van 27 000 morges in besit gekry het deur 'n spoggerige fluweelbroek en 'n gesoute perd daarvoor te betaal. Of hierdie storie enige waarheid bevat is nie seker nie. Hoe dit ook al sy, Karel Erasmus en sy erfgename het in besit gekom van 'n plaas wat uiteindelik miljoene rande werd sou wees.



Karel Erasmus se seun, Jochemus Johannes Petrus, het die plaas geërf en was self 'n uithaler boer. In 1903 het hy oor die middele beskik om vir hom een van die merkwaardigste woonhuise in Suid-Afrika te bou. Daar word vertel dat sy vader, voor hy gesterf het, hom die opdrag gegee het om vir hom 'n "ordentlike" huis te bou. Dit het Jochemus wel gedoen. Die huis wat hy laat bou het, en wat op vroeëre kaarte van Pretoria aangedui is as Erasmus-kasteel, is sekerlik die enigste kasteel wat ooit in Suid-Afrika op 'n Boereplaas gebou is. Daar is in 1903 begin met die bou van die huis en dit is in die jaar daarop, ongeveer 12 maande later, voltooi. Die huis is met 'n groot plegtigheid ingewy. Die argitek van die huis was 'n Hollander, ene Van der Bemm. Die huis het 'n eg Victoriaanse styl: dit het 'n breë veranda aan drie kante van die huis wat pragtige houtreëlings en mooi versierings bevat; die dak word gekenmerk deur verskillende gebroke vlakke, is onsimetries, en word versier deur verskeie geweltjies en torinkies. Dit is interessant om daarop te let dat daar, sover bekend, geen ander huis in Suid-Afrika is waarvan die styl presies ooreenstem met dié van die Erasmus-kasteel nie. In hierdie opsig het die argitek beslis 'n oorspronklike werkstuk gelewer. Hierdie feit maak van die Erasmus-huis 'n des te merkwaardiger gebou waarvan die argitektoniese styl beslis uniek is. Die kontrakteur wat die huis gebou het, was 'n Italiaanse immigrant, G. Monbello. Dit het hom en agt blanke vakmanne plus 'n aantal swart werkers 'n jaar geneem om hierdie huis te voltooi. Die koste van die huis was £6 800 plus nog £400 wat later betaal is vir ekstras; voorwaar 'n enorme bedrag wat deur 'n boer in daardie dae vir 'n huis betaal is.

Die Erasmus-kasteel was nog al die jare een van Pretoria se bekendste landmerke waar dit op 'n heuweltjie langs die militêre pad ten suidooste van Pretoria pryk. Dit kan ook goed vanaf die oostelike verbypad gesien word. Die indrukwekkende gesig van die trotse kasteel wat oor die golwende landskap troon, is voorwaar 'n toneel wat die verbyganger nie maklik vergeet nie. Die onderste twee vlakke van die huis bestaan uit 17 vertrekke waarvan 6 slaapkamers is. Net die onderste twee vlakke word bewoon. Boontoe is daar 'n solder en nog hoër 'n platform wat met 'n leer bereik word en vanwaar trappies lei tot teen 'n stutpilaar hoog bo in die toring vanwaar 'n klein venstertjie op die hoëveldse landskap uitkyk. Die kombuiskompleks was vroeër heeltemal los van die huis gebou en het uit 'n kombuis, 'n maalkamer, 'n meelkamer, 'n spens, 'n kelder en 'n outydse bakoond bestaan.

Gedurende die veertigerjare het 'n ernstige teëspoed die Erasmusse getref. Die huis is ontruim en het baie verweer en agteruitgegaan. In 1946 is 'n Afrikaanse film gemaak waarin die bekende El Debbo en Frederick Burgers gespeel het, en waarin spooktonele verfilm is wat in die Erasmus-huis geneem is. Dit het die ongelukkige gevolg gehad dat die ou huis baie jare lank bekend geword het onder die naam "spookhuis". Dit is jammer dat hierdie statige ou

woning met hierdie naam opgesaal is. Tien jaar gelede het die huidige eienaar van die huis, mnr. Emus Erasmus, egter 'n bedrag van R35 000 gespandeer aan die restaurasie van die huis en vandag kan hierdie statige gebou inderdaad as 'n ware herehuis bestempel word waarvan die gelyke in Suid-Afrika baie skaars is.

Die oorspronklike plaas, Garsfontein, het 'n belangrike rol gespeel in die ontwikkeling van groter Pretoria, veral met betrekking tot die woongebiede in die suidoostelike gebiede. Die woongebiede Erasmusrand, Waterkloofrif Uitbreiding II, Elarduspark, Wingatepark, Constantiapark, Morelettapark, Garsfontein, ens. is uitgelê op grond wat oorspronklik deel van Garsfontein was. Mnr. Emus Erasmus het Erasmusrand self ontwikkel. Hy, sy vrou Ramona, en hul seun, Carel, is na alle waarskynlikheid die laaste Erasmusse wat die ou kasteel sal bewoon. Klein Carel, in standerd vier, verteenwoordig die vierde geslag wat in hierdie sonderlinge gebou woon. Mnr. Erasmus, wat tans die groot huis van die Provinsiale Administrasie huur, is reeds besig met die bou van 'n nuwe huis, ook op 'n deel van die oorspronklike plaas geleë ten weste van Waterkloofrif Uitbr. II, vlak langs die Delmaspad. Die huis, wat weliswaar nie die sonderlinge argitektoniese styl van sy voorganger het nie, is eweneens 'n baie groot huis. Dit bestaan uit 3 verdiepings, het ruim vertrekke en 'n hele aantal interessantheide wat dit miskien in ander opsigte ook 'n merkwaardige woning maak. Na verwagting sal hierdie huis, wanneer dit voltooi is, mnr. Erasmus meer as R170 000 uit die sak gejaag het.

Die vraag wat bewaringsbewuste Pretorianers vandag vra is: wat gaan word van die Erasmus-kasteel? In hierdie stadium is daar nog geen duidelikheid in hierdie verband nie. Die moontlikheid is nog sterk dat die hospitaal hier opgerig gaan word en dit sal meebring dat daar nie in hierdie stadium reeds gesê kan word wat van die ou huis gaan word nie. Daar sal alle pogings aangewend word om die huis te bewaar, maar totdat die beplanning voltooi is, kan 'n finale woord in hierdie verband nie gespreek word nie. Mag ons hoop dat ons owerhede op die hoogste vlak sal besluit dat hierdie gebou nie gesloop sal word nie. Indien die Erasmus-kasteel wel bewaar sou word, ontstaan 'n verdere vraag: wat gaan daarmee gedoen word? Leegstaan kan dit nie. 'n Moontlikheid is dat dit as kantoor-akkommodasie gebruik sal kan word. Ek wil egter graag voorstel dat dit as 'n museum ingerig word. Samewerking tussen die Transvaalse Provinsiale Museumdiens, die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria en die Stadsraad van Pretoria kan die moontlikheid realiseer om hier 'n museum met as tema die geskiedenis van Pretoria tot stand te bring. So iets sal nie alleen 'n sierraad en toeriste-aantreklikheid vir Pretoria en Transvaal wees nie, maar sal ook reg laat geskied aan hierdie historiese gebou en les bes die geskiedenis van die hoofstad van Suid-Afrika wat helaas nog nie vir die inwoners van Pretoria en Suid-Afrika iewers sigbaar gestel is nie.



Besoek aan die Erasmus-kasteel deur die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria
5.11.1977

THE POST OFFICE IN PRETORIA

by Mervyn Emms

Curator Post Office Museum, Pretoria

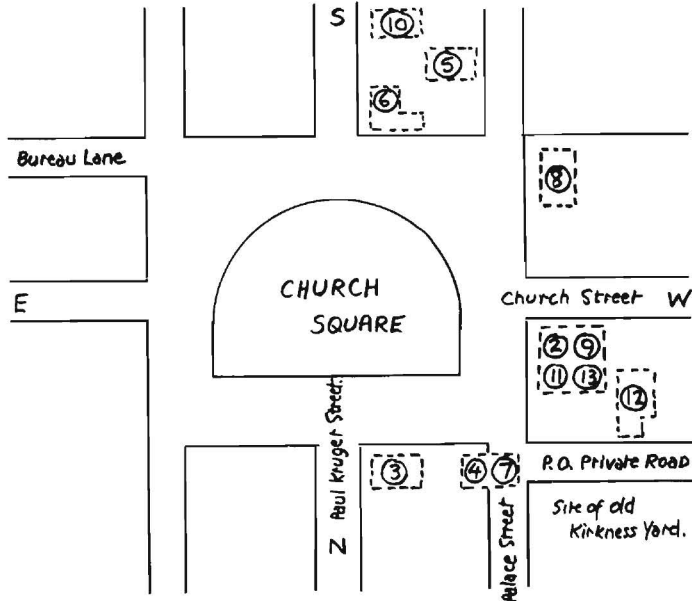
Today the north-west side of Church Square is entirely taken up with buildings belonging to the Post Office though originally only one of them was built as a Post Office. The buildings in question are the present Post Office erected in 1910, the old National Bank building erected in 1890 and now used as the Post Office Parcels Office, the old Mint Building erected in 1903 (at rear of Old National Bank) and the Old National Bank Chambers Building functioning at present as the headquarters of the as yet unopened Post Office Museum and finally although just off the square is the old Bank of Africa Limited in use at present as the insured parcels section downstairs and housing Engineering maintenance staff upstairs.

Although the Post Office has grown to encompass all of these buildings it has been a gradual process and a multitude of moves have been made over the years. There are no positive office records so much of our knowledge of precisely where the post office was housed at any particular time is often based on speculation, hearsay or deduction. Let us however consider all of the relevant speculation as well as the known facts, so that we may at least gain some idea of the location and evolution of the post office in early Pretoria.

The first semblance of any official post office dates back to 20 September 1848 when the Volksraad sitting at Ohristad decided to appoint "Post Kaffirs" to carry the official mail. Before this there was a total lack of any organised postal facilities and mail was dependent on the good will of travellers or special messengers had to be sent.

In the early years postal duties became the responsibility of Field Cornets or where landdrosts existed it was handled by the landdrost or more to the point the landdrosts clerk. The Volksraad sitting at Lydenburg decided on 27 May 1850 to set up a regular letter post and this was arranged to operate between Lydenburg and Potchefstroom via Renosterspruit en Suikerbosrand. The costs of the service were met by voluntary contributions, the contributors being allowed free postage. Non-contributors had to pay for each letter at a prescribed tariff.

1 Plan of Church Square — separate caption attached.



The establishment of Pretoria

Although it was not until 1855 that the name Pretoria was fixed by a resolution of the Volksraad sitting at Potchefstroom, nevertheless by 1854 it had become a “church place” that is a general gathering place for the “nagmaal”. This was held on the farm “Elandspoot” which had been bought by Commandant General Marthinus Wessel Pretorius with the object of founding a central town where the Volksraad sessions could be held. By August of 1854 the first church was in the course of erection in the place later to become Church Square.

Post up until this time would have been handled through the agency of Andries van der Walt who was the local veldkornet. He had settled on the west bank of the Apies river as early as 1844 and in fact his was one of the farms bought for the future town. His house stood in the immediate vicinity of the house of Jan du Preez, later known as “Jess Cottage” and situated near the present Railway Station.

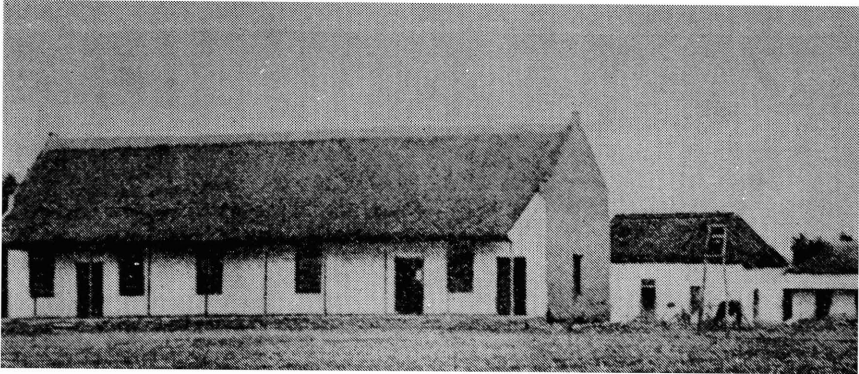
SITES OCCUPIED BY G.P.O. PRETORIA

- 1 1844—circa 1855 House of Andries v.d. Walt near station.
- 2 Circa 1855 House of Phillip Bronkhorst (on present P.O. site).
- 3 1857—1862 Landdrost's Office (House built for M.W. Pretorius Komdt. Generaal).
- 4 1862 School building erected 1859 and used as Landdrost and Post Office in 1862.
- 5 Circa 1863 Building on Raadsaal site. Erected 1859/60.
- 6 1866 Possibly housed in wing of Raadsaal.
- 7 1870 Old School Building. Erected 1859.
- 8 1872 Building of van den Hove. Later to become the South African Hotel.
- 9 1874 Austin Building (on present P.O. site).
- 10 1886—1887 Temporary premises in old Gaol.
- 11 1887—1909 New single storied P.O. Building.
- 12 Temporary premises in Old Mint Building, entrance via Harkness Yard.
- 13 1910 Existing building still in use.

His house has the honour of being the first house erected in Pretoria and technically it can be said to have been the first post office, since Van der Walt handled the mail.

There is some evidence pointing to the fact that Phillip Bronkhorst whose house was one of those that sprang up around the church on the square acted, possibly unofficially, as landdrost. Dr. G.S. Preller in fact actually lists him as Pretoria's first landdrost. His house was on the site of the present Post Office on the north west corner of Church Street and it appears this became the focal point for the little mail that existed. Possibly he simply carried out the then simple postal functions on behalf of Fieldcornet Van der Walt, because his (Bronkhorst's) house was so centrally situated.

In 1857 Pretoria became the official seat of Government but due to various reasons this only became finally effective in 1860, however, the first Landdrost Andries Francois du Toit was appointed from 1857 and the post now became his responsibility.



- 2 The little building behind the first Raadsaal building is believed to have functioned as the Post Office in about 1863. Note the bell and donkey which were probably used for announcing the arrival of mail and the transportation of mail respectively.

Phillip Bronkhorst, shortly after relinquishing the postal duties to Du Toit, left the town to stay in the country and the official seat of the post office now became the Landdrost's office.

In 1856 a house had been built as a dwelling for Commandant General M W. Pretorius, but it transpired that he was never to occupy this house. It was here that in 1857 Du Toit set up as landdrost and also as the official responsible for post. Pretorius incidentally continued to live in Potchefstroom and shortly after 1860 when the Government headquarters were finally moved, he was deposed. The position of this house was on the site of the existing Palace of Justice. It occupied two erfes but the house was built on the Eastern Erf.

Pretoria's First Postmaster

Although Pretoria was officially included in the Postal Route from 1857, nevertheless it was actually not until March 1859 that Landdrost du Toit was finally able to introduce a regular post. This post left Pretoria every Wednesday and Potchefstroom on the return journey every Saturday. Four to six "post kaffirs" were used for this service. Andries du Toit remained as Landdrost until 1859 when he was succeeded by J.J.P. Prinsloo and at the same time J.G.C. van Leenhof was appointed as landdrost's clerk. Postal matters were now out of the direct charge of the Landdrost as Van Leenhof was also appointed as the first Postmaster of Pretoria from 1860.



- 3 The Diamond fields Post Cart outside the Post Office Pretoria in about 1872. This building originally the house of Van der Hove, later became the South African Hotel.

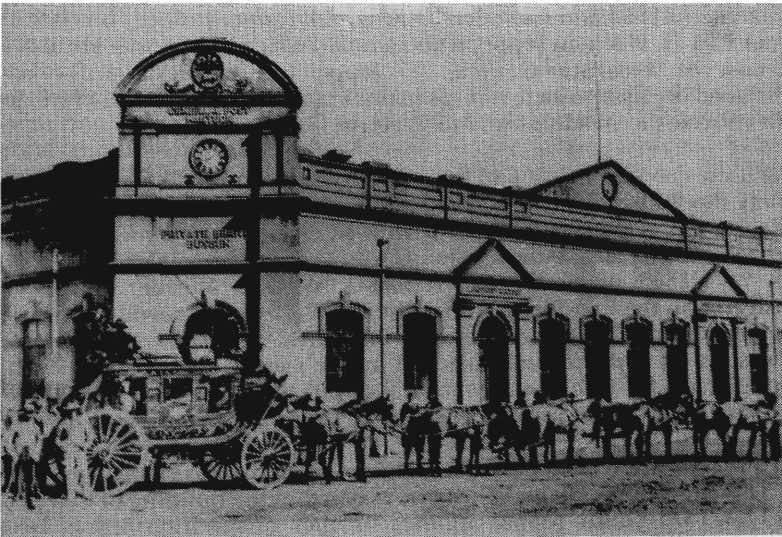
The post office remained in the Pretorius house until 1862 at which time the house became the parsonage. On the erf on the western side of the Palace of Justice site, about where Palace Street now runs, a school building was erected in 1859 and in 1862 when the Landdrost and the Post Office had to be moved it was temporarily placed in a section of this school building. Whether the Post Office also moved into the school building at this stage is uncertain. It is possible that although the first Raadsaal was erected around 1866, that nevertheless there was a previous building on the Raadsaal site just behind the position of the first Raadsaal. A descriptive article on Pretoria in the Cape Argus for 1868, refers to a small building on the old Raadsaal site. In 1859 a contract was given to F. Botes to deliver stones for a government building so it would appear possible that such a building was erected and that if so government offices including the Post Office could have been here up until 1866.

A picture of around 1870 shows a view of the 1st Raadsaal as viewed from the north west. Just behind it and on the western side is a small thatched roof building with a bell mounted outside and a tethered donkey. It is thought possible that this was the post carrying donkey referred to in contemporary literature and that possibly the bell was used to inform the public when the post was sorted. So possibly this was the Govt. Building erected from the stones delivered in 1859 by F. Botes.

The appointment in 1860 of J.G.C. van Leenhof as Postmaster of Pretoria resulted from a resolution of the Volksraad who had condemned the amateur and part-time postal system and decided to appoint full-time postal officials. Herman Jeppe, a former postmaster of Swellendam in the Cape, and Rustenburg in the Transvaal, assumed duty on 23 July 1859 as Postmaster of Potchefstroom and from 9 August 1859 was appointed the first Postmaster General of the Transvaal. (His actual title at the time was "Postmeester" van den Z.A.R.). His salary as Postmaster was about R18 per year but this was raised to approximately R40 (300 rixdollars) when he embraced the additional duty of Postmaster General.

It is worthy of mention that the total revenue for the Transvaal Post Office at the end of 1859 was about R86 and at the end of 1860 it had risen to R300.

During these early years, the post was uncertain and irregular and the cause of considerable dissatisfaction. There were no interterritorial postal arrangements and thus for example, letters to the Cape Colony were simply delivered across the frontier to the nearest Post Office (Colesberg) where they had to be paid for.



4 The Zeederberg Mail Coach shown in front of Pretoria Post Office. This building was erected in 1887 and demolished in 1909.

In 1858 Andries du Toit, complained that the newspapers sent via Rustenburg were a month old on arrival and were in such a tattered and filthy condition that the recipients were reluctant to handle them.

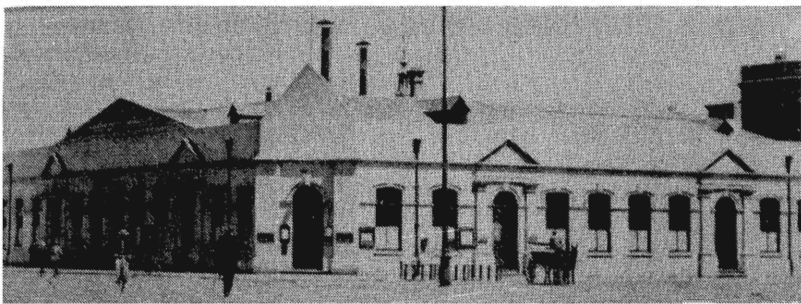
The pressing problem was trying to find reliable "post kaffirs". They were expected to carry the heavy post, plus their blankets and food and frequently to swim flooded rivers without damage to the post.

The first Postmaster-General Herman Jeppe was succeeded by D.F. Steyn on 29/11/1861 and then H.S. Lombard who recommended that the postal headquarters be moved to Pretoria. This was approved in 1863 by which time J.G. Bantjes was the incumbent of the post. Bantjes who became P.M.G. on 10/11/63 resigned in September 1864 due to the inadequate salary and his successor John Lennox who was appointed on 26/7/1864 moved the headquarters back to Potchefstroom. Lennox was relieved of his post at Potchefstroom due to a dispute over paper money which at that time the Government was refusing to accept or honour. It is probable that when Lennox transferred to Potchefstroom the duties of Postmaster Pretoria would have fallen on the landdrost's office.

The President M.W. Pretorius had to assume personal control of the Post Office until he was able to hand over the responsibility to the Treasurer-General in Pretoria, H. van der Linden on 7/10/1866. Van der Linden was discharged in 1867 and succeeded by Friedrich Jeppe, younger brother of the former P.M.G. Herman Jeppe, who assumed office in Pretoria. He also held the post of Treasurer-General. F. Jeppe was responsible for having introduced the first postage stamps in the Transvaal in 1869. In 1871 F. Jeppe again moved the headquarters to Pretoria.

With the erection in 1866 of the 1st Raadsaal, certain Government Offices namely the Registrar of Deeds and probably Postmaster of Pretoria who at that time was also clerk to the Registrar of Deeds moved into the adjacent offices in the Raadsaal building. J.G.C. van Leenhof remained Postmaster up until 29/4/1869 when he was replaced by O.C. Weeber. Weeber was transferred to the Landdrost's office on 25/10/70 and accordingly the postal activities also transferred across. The Landdrost's office was at that time on the western erf of the present Palace of Justice's site in the building which had been erected in 1859 as a school. Readers will recall that in 1859 the landdrost's office was in the President's House on the adjacent erf.

From 1871 when F. Jeppe was transferred to Pretoria as Postmaster General and Treasurer-General, his office was situated in the building of C.I. Becker. On 17/1/1871 Julius Jeppe, another brother of Fredrich Jeppe, became Postmaster of Pretoria. In October 1871 the office moved to another building but its locality has gone unrecorded.



- 5 The Pretoria Post Office as it looked early this century. The original facade which included the clock and the Republican coat of arms has been removed as the stone work was crumbling and becoming a danger.

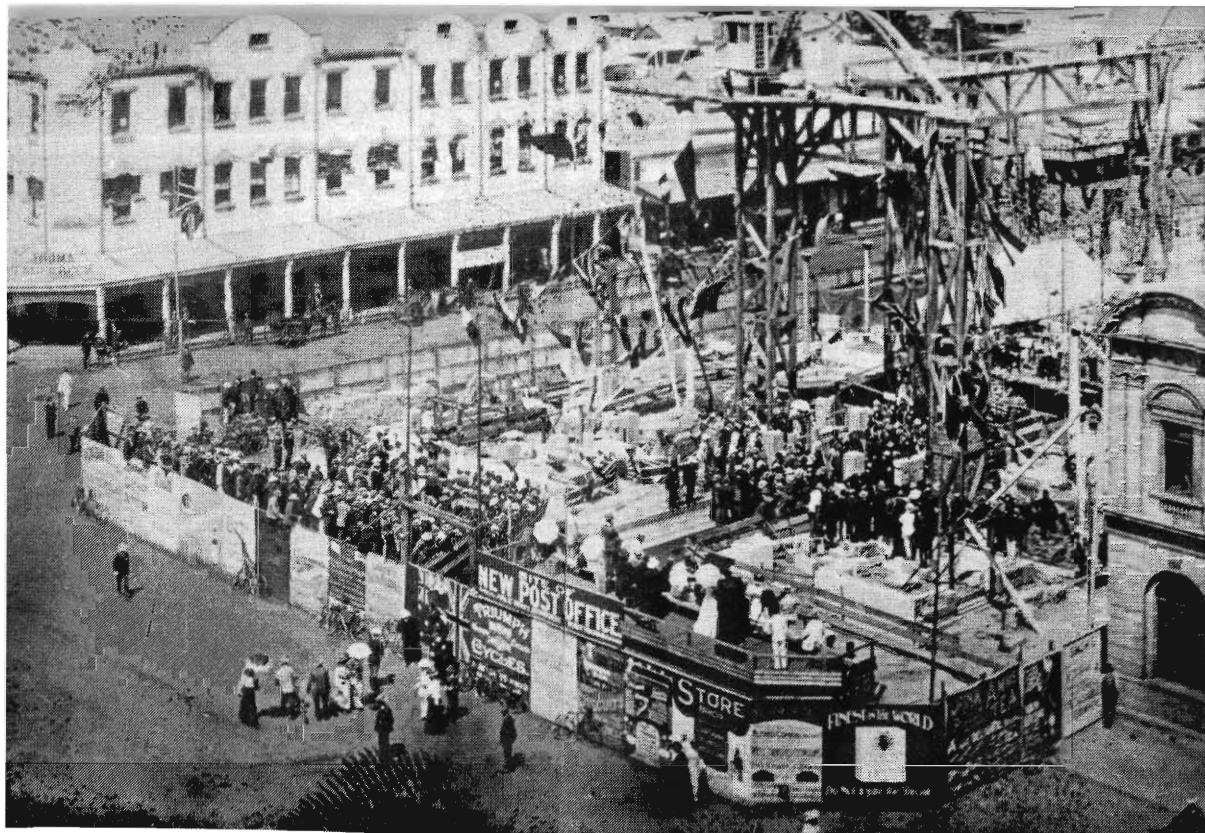
In 1872 the office again moved, this time to the building of Van den Hove on Church Square Erf 350 (Market Plein at that time). This was the building which later became the South African Hotel and it was situated on the West side of Church Square on the Southern section. This site had previously been the home of Dolf Jansen and later J.S. Schoeman. An excellent photograph exists of the Kimberley–Pretoria Postcard outside this building in 1872.

In March 1874 the posts of Postmaster General and Treasurer General were again separated and F. Jeppe took over the joint position of P.M.G. and Postmaster of Pretoria. Up until October 1874 when the post office and the landdrost's office were moved into the Austin building on the site of the present post office. Readers will recall that this was where Phillip Bronkhorst the first landdrost had lived. After Bronkhorst the property was owned by J.F. Schutte, then by Evans & Churchill and then by Willie Austin, a Portuguese smouse (trader), who previously had been there with his wagon, took over the original Bronkhorst's house as a store for his trade goods. It was this old store which was now renovated and enlarged to accommodate the post office and landdrost.

F. Jeppe was followed in 1875 as P.M.G. by J.A. de Vogel.

In 1877 the Republic was annexed to the British Empire. Between 1880 and 1881 A.W. de la Hunt held the post of P.M.G. but with the Transvaal regaining independence in 1881 de Vogel again resumed office.

In January 1885 de Vogel was drowned in the Crocodile river while returning from a postal inspection and Isaac von Alphen the last of the P.M.G.'s of the Z.A.R. took office. The posts of P.M.G. and Postmaster of Pretoria were again separated at this time.



6 The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the existing post office is shown taking place in this historic photograph. The stone was laid on 2 March 1910 by the Earl of Selbourne. The left corner of the National Bank Building is just visible on the right.

Meanwhile it had been decided to erect a new building on the site of the old Austin building and it became necessary to evacuate during the demolition and erection period.

Temporary premises were provided for the post office in a section of the old goal behind the Raadsaal, which had been built in 1866. Here the post office remained until completion of the new "Postkantoor" in 1887.

The new post office of 1887 was an imposing single storied structure, L. shaped and on the corner where previously the Austin Building had stood. It also embraced the Landdrost's office. We are left with an excellent description of this building in a newspaper of 1891 and this I quote below in full:-

"The above-mentioned building comprises not only the Post-office, but also the Telegraph-office, the Postmaster General's Department, the Civil and Criminal Landdrost's Courts, and the Civil Commissioner's Office.

The yard at the back gives room to the police barracks, the Charge Office, and the Fire Station, improvised into a barrack for the Kaffir police.

The building has a decidedly modern appearance, and occupies the most central position in the town. The edifice cannot be called solid. During a recent gale part of the galvanized iron roof was flapping up and down like the roof of a canvas tent.

SHANTY

In days of old, the Post-office operations were conducted in a thatched-roof shanty on the site of the present building. Afterwards the Post-clerks were shifted to the old goal where they remained until the new "Postkantoor" was completed. The "Postkantoor" boasts a clock with a white dial, black numbers and gilt hands. Above the Post-office is a flagstaff, and when the English mail comes in, usually of a Monday afternoon a black flag with the characters B.M. in white floats from the flagstaff, threatening to tear down the cornice whenever the wind is a bit fresh.

On entering the corner door you come full tilt against the tiers of "postbussen". The arrangements are peculiar. In the right wall are the letter and paper slides, below which stand baskets, which receive a steady stream on mail days.

The approach to these baskets in no wise debarred to the public, so that if you have slipped in a letter by mistake you may go and help yourself for all the authorities will say.

LOFT

A ladder leads to the loft where repose in dust the “great unclaimed”, and that they are great is shown by the fact that several boards in the ceiling are starting, and threatening to split.

To the left of the boxes is the Poste Restante, where exemplary courtesy is shown; still further is the money order and parcels, depot, where a collection of unclaimed photos of beauties are nailed to the panel.

The end of the building is devoted to the telegraph and telephone. The Landdrost’s Courts are roomy, neat buildings, and are considered to be worthy of the capital.”



- 7 The north-west facade of Church Square in 1899. The buildings left to right are : the old Post Office of 1887, the old National Bank and the National Bank Chambers Building erected in 1899. The Palace of Justice can be seen on the extreme right.

By around 1905 the Post Office had reached such a stage that the entire cornice had to be removed. Thus it is that later photographs shown the clock and rounded gable replaced by a simple triangular gable. The old building had served its purpose and was proving to be too small and dilapidated so a new Grand Post Office was planned. The architect was William Hawke who had also designed the Johannesburg City Hall.

Again during demolition and building, temporary premises had to be found and the Post Office, public section moved into the old Mint Building with entrance via Harknesses Yard which was just off the square in the North West corner. This new Post Office which is the one standing today had its foundation stone laid by the Earl of Selbourne, Governor of the Transvaal on 2 March 1910. The builder was W. Nottingham.

And so it is today that the Post Office on Church Square occupies the entire north-west section of Church Square on land where on and off since 1855 it has continued to function. Despite what decisions are made about the cluster of Post Office buildings existing on the north-west of Church Square, it is nevertheless pretty certain that come what may the Post Office will continue to operate on this site into the distant future.

BRITSE KRYGSGEVANGENES TE PRETORIA (1899–1900) MILITÊRE HOSPITALE

(deur Jan Ploeger)

Tydens die eerste maande van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog het 'n aantal Britse krygsgevangenes hul verskyning op Pretoria gemaak. Hulle is onderskeidelik na die Staatsmodelskool (offisiere) en die Pretoriase renbaan (Kerkstraat-Wes) oorgebring, terwyl latere kontingente op Waterval, noord van die Transvaalse hoofstad, gehuisves is.

In 'n skrywe wat op 6.3.1900 deur die sekretaris van die “Commissie Bewaking Krijgsgevangenes” (C.B.K.) aan die direksie van die N.Z.A.S.M. gerig is,¹ blyk dit dat tot 1.2.1900 ongeveer 2 420 Britse krygsgevangenes in die kamp of Waterval gehuisves was. Op die Pretoriase renbaan was 107 ondergebring, in die Staatsmodelskoolgebou was 100 offisiere en in die Pretoriase tronk nog ongeveer 36, waaronder 20 bediendes in gevangenisenskap. Altesame was daar dus, op die reeds genoemde tydstip, ongeveer 2 663 Britse krygsgevangenes in en naby Pretoria.

Met betrekking tot dié offisiere wat in die Staatsmodelskoolgebou in krygsgevangenskap vertoef het, is op 20.12.1899 die volgende opgaaf in “De Volkstem” gepubliseer:

Staf: Maj. Adye.

18 Hussars: Lt.-kol. Moller, maj. Greville, kapt. Pollock.

Royal Artillery: Maj. Bryant, Lte. Wheeler, Nugent, Moore, Webb.

1 Gloucester Regt.: Majj. Humphrey, Capel Cure, Wallace; kaptt. Duncan, Connor, Nisbet, Davy, Breul, Knox, Temple, Radice, Ingram, Short, Brasely, MacKenzie, Smith; lt. Hill, kwartiermeester-adj. Gray.

Royal Irish Fusiliers: Lt.-kol. Carleton, maj. Nunn, kapt. Burrowes, lte. Heard, Southey, Phibbs, McGregor, Kelly, Kentish, Kinnahan,² Jeurwine.

60 Kings Royal Rifles: Lte. Majendra en Martin.

Royal Dublin Fusiliers: Kapt. Lonsdale, lte. Le Mesurier, Garvice, Grimshaw.

Rhodesia Regt.: Lt. Haserick.

Gordon Highlanders: Kapt. Haldane.

Dublin Fusiliers: Lt. Frankland.

Natal Carbineers: Lte. Brockie, Gallway.

2 West Yorkshire Regt.: Maj. Hobbs.

Northumberland Fusiliers: Maj. Sturgess, kaptt. Fletcher, Morley, lte. Wake, Coulson.

Dorset Regt.: Lt. Radcliffe.

Royal Irish Rifles: Kapt. Weir, lte. Christie, Rodney, Maynard, Barnardiston.

Devonshire Regt.: Lt.-kol. Bullock; maj. Walters; lt. Smythe-Osbourne.

Essex Regt.: Lt. Bonham.

Royal Artillery: Maj. Forster; ltd. Bailward; lte. Holford, Buller, Berch.

21 Scotch Fusiliers: Kapt. Dick, Northey; lte. Christian, Rumbold, McConagher, Briggs.

Connaught Rangers: Lte. Ford-Hutchinson, Jones.

Die opgaaf van Feb. 1900

Op 12.2.1900 het dr. Jan Willem Boudewijn Gunning (Hilversum, Nederland, 23.6.1860. Pretoria 23.6.1913³) 'n lys van offisiere opgestel waarin, behalwe die reeds genoemdes, nog die volgende vermeld is:

1 Gloucester Regt.: Ltd. Bryant.

Royal Irish Fusiliers: Ltd. Holmes.

Army Vet. Dept.: Lt. Shaw.

Cape Police: Insp. Blythe, Onderinsp. Genlland.

Royal Artillery: Lt.-kol. Hunt.

S.A. Light Horse: Kapt. Fitzherbert.

12 Lancers: Lt. Tristan.

Coldstream Guards: Lte. Chandos, Pole-Gill.

1 Suffolk Regt.: Kaptt. Thomson, Brett.

6 Dragon Guards: Lt. Till.

1 Luffolk Regt.: Kapt. Grenfell, Lt. Wood Martin.

Royal Storse Guards: Kapt. Ricardo.

2 Lancashire Regt.: Kapt. Freeth.

4 Kings Own: Kapt. Carleton.

In 'n aanvullende lys, van dieselfde datum, vermeld dr. Gunning die volgende offisiere wat uit die hospitaal ontslaan is:

60 Rifles: Maj. O. Nugent, Lt. F.M. Crum.

Lancashire Fusiliers: Kapt. Elmslie.

Nog in die hospitaal:

Lancashire Fusiliers: Lt.-kol. Blomfield.

60 Rifles: Lt. Carbery.

S.A. Light Horse: Lt. Tarbott.

Staf: Maj. Adye.

1 Gloucester Regt.: Maj. Capel Cure.

Op bogenoemde lys kom tewens die name van die volgende lyfbedienendes van die Britse offisiere in die Staatsmodelskoolgebou op 12.2.1900 voor: 3094 Bones (*Royal Irish Rifles*), 7705 Bilcliffe (*60 Rifles*), 5628 Caffery (*Royal Irish Fusiliers*), 4094 McCaner (idem), 7613 Clough (*60 Rifles*), 3946 Cousins (*1 Gloucester Regt.*), 6120 Cullen (*Royal Dublin Fusiliers*), 4321 Davies (*Royal Irish Fusiliers*), 2017 Goslin (*5 Fusiliers*), 5250 Harris (*Royal Dublin Fusiliers*), 5506 Johnston (*Royal Artillery*), 1811 Middleton (*1 Gloucester Regt.*), 4125 Millgate (*18 Hussars*), 3486 Osborne (*Royal Artillery*), 4549 Padwich (?) (*18 Hussars*), 4342 Scougall (?) (*Royal Irish Fusiliers*), 4058 Shuttock (*1 Gloucester Regt.*), 4523 Vines (*1 Gloucester Regt.*), 4290 Warren (*Suffolk Regt.*), 4531 Whitton (*Royal Irish Fusiliers*).

Die nadraai van die ontvlugting van die offisiere

Die Staatsmodelskoolgebou het sy roem gedeeltelik te danke aan die geslaagde ontsnapping van die toenmalige Britse oorlogskorrespondent Winston S. Churchill.⁵ Daar was ewewel nog 'n tweede poging wat in dieselfde verband onderneem is en wat, in die loop van die jare, grotendeels in die vergeetboek geraak het.

Kapt. Haldane (*Gordon Highlanders*) en lte. Brockie (*Natal Carbineers*) en Le Mesurier (*Royal Dublin Fusiliers*) het in Februarie 1900, volgens sommige bronne altans, 'n ontsnapping à la Churchill beplan.⁶

Gerugte het in die Staatsmodelskoolgebou deurgedring dat die gevangenes binne afsienbare tyd na die nuwe kamp op die terrein van die huidige Dieretuin oorgebring sou word. Hierdie kamp, wat deur die Departement van Openbare Werke ingerig was, was op 7.2.1900 voltooi.⁷

Op 26 Februarie 1900 het die elektriese ligte van die Staatsmodelskoolgebou en die aangrensende terrein doodgegaan en, nadat die krygsgevangenes getel is, is vasgestel dat drie van hulle verdwyn het. Hulle, die reeds genoemde offisiere, het nie uit die kamp verdwyn nie, maar skuiling gesoek onder die vloer van die gebou. Daar het hulle, voorsien van kos, tot na die ontruiming van die Staatsmodelskoolgebou, gebly en op 13.3.1900 die hasepad gekies.

Die regering het 'n kommissie van ondersoek aangestel, maar niemand kon daarin slaag om die vraagstuk op te los nie.⁸ Verklarings van Inspekteur van Polisie F. Leffers, kampkommandant Rudolf Willem Jacobus Opperman en wagt Petrus Nicolaas Booyen, Theunis Johannes Kruger, Michael Frederik Thom, Nicolaas Jacobus van der Merwe, Jan Adriaan Erasmus, Hendrik Willem Johannes Visagie, Johannes Henderikus Schoeman, Gerhardus Johannes Erasmus en Abel Parker dui almal in een en dieselfde rigting. t.w. die vermoede dat die drie gevangenes, op die tydstip toe die

verligting van die gebou en die terrein gefaal het, naby die latrines (aan die oostekant van die terrein) oor die heining geklim en verdwyn het. Die feit dat 'n kassie tussen die latrines en die heining gevind is, het hierdie indruk versterk.

Op 15.3.1900 het die waarnemende hoofspeurder aan die Hoof Speurpolisie gerapporteer dat hy verskeie huise in die omgewing van die skool ondersoek het. In die skool is niks gevind nie en pogings om die voortvlugtiges op te spoor was vrugteloos. Speurder Donovan is, aan die begin van Maart, tussen die wagte geplaas maar ook hierdie poging om die geheim te ontrafel het misluk. Daar was nl. 'n vermoede dat een of meer van die wagte sou omgekoop gewees het, maar niks kon bewys word nie.

Die voortvlugtiges het daarin geslaag om by Komatipoort oor die grens te kom en later het verskillende skrywers hul sienings van die ontsnapping geopenbaar.

Militêre hospitale

Daar is melding gemaak van Britse offisiere wat hulle, ten tye van die opstel van presensielyste, in 'n hospitaal bevind het. Met hierdie hospitaal is die gebou langsaan die Staatsmodelskoolgebou, bekend as Bourke se hospitaal, bedoel.

Oorspronklik was dit 'n onderwysinrigting, bekend as die "Prospect Seminary", later het die gebou as een van die Staatstehuse, onderdak verskaf aan leerlinge van Pretoriase Staatskole.⁹ As Bourke se hospitaal is dieselfde gebou gebruik as 'n militêre verpleeginrigting vir gewonde en siek diensdoende burgers en Britse offisiere.

Britse militêre hospitale

Ten einde die leser 'n mate van gegewens te verstrek aangaande Britse militêre hospitale op Pretoria, volg hier 'n aantal besonderhede onderskeidelik ontleen aan die werke van Batts, Amery en die verslag van die Sentrale Britse Rooikruis. Batts noem die reeds bestaande Volkshospitaal, die gebou van die Staatsmeisieskool, die reeds bestaande George Bourke-hospitaal en die woonhuis van T.W. Beckett, in Arcadia.

Die Volkshospitaal sowel as die Bourke-hospitaal is deur die Britse militêre outoriteite oorgeneem. Die "Irish Hospital" het op 6.6.1900 op Pretoria aangekom en het op 14.6.1900 sy intrek in die pas voltooide Paleis van Justisie geneem. Lord Roberts het die formele opening van hierdie militêre hospitaal op 11.7.1900 verrig, nadat die eerste 83 pasiënte op 19.6.1900 opgeneem is. Op 25.6.1900 was daar 260, op 10.7.1900 365 en op 26.7.1900 500 beddens. 'n Deel van hierdie hospitaal, wat aanvanklik op Bloemfontein agtergebly het, het op 1.7.1900 per trein in die Transvaalse hoofstad aangekom.

Op 15.10.1900 het die personeel van hierdie hospitaal, wat deur lord Iveagh gestig was, na Engeland teruggekeer. Die 180 pasiënte is onder beheer van die militêre mediese owerhede geplaas. Muile, waens tente is aan die Regering verkoop, terwyl die beddens en hospitaaltoerusting aan die Regering geskenk en in die Paleis van Justisie agtergelaat is.

Die reeds genoemde hospitaal in die woning van T.W. Beckett was een van die hospitale van die "Imperial Yeomanry Hospitals"-groep wat sy ontstaan aan die werksaamhede van 'n aantal belangstellendes in Engeland te danke gehad het.¹⁰ 'n Takhospitaal is op 18.8.1900 te Pretoria geopen.

Die "Langman"-hospitaal was vernoem na mnr. Langman, die destydse ere-penningmeester van die "Portland Hospital". In April 1900 was hierdie hospitaal te Bloemfontein gevestig om in Augustus 1900 op Pretoria aan te kom. In Arcadia het hierdie eenheid, wat in November 1900 aan die Regering oorgedra is, onder leiding van kapt. Probyn, R.A.M.C. gestaan.

Die "Welsh Hospital", wat op 'n vrywillige grondslag in Engeland tot stand gekom en oor 100 beddens beskik het, het in Augustus 1900 in Pretoria aangekom met 200 beddens en is tot 15.11.1900 as 'n private hospitaal toegevoeg aan 2 Algemene (Militêre) Hospitaal en aan die Regering geskenk.

In totaal was daar 'n hospitaalpersoneel van 144 werksaam te Pretoria, terwyl die aantal pasiënte van 18.8.1900 – 30.9.1901 5 227 bedra het.

Met betrekking tot bogenoemde werksaamhede en die lê van die grondslae vir 'n deeglike organisasie het 'n Pretoriase kommissie, onder leiding van mnre. Murray Guthrie en Leigh Wood, belangrike aanvoorkomplekke verrig. Hulle het o.m. steun en medewerking van die firma Lewis en Marks, en vooraanstaande Pretorianers soos mnre. T.W. Beckett, Bourke, George Heys en A. Johnston verkry.

AANTEKENINGE

1. SS.2564 (Oorlog), waarin genoemde skrywe.
2. SS.2257 (Oorlog), waarin C.B.K. 235/1900, d.d. 12 Feb. 1900. Kinaham; lt. Barnardston (Suffolk Regt.), lt. Butler.
3. SS.2257 (Oorlog), waarin C.B.K. 235/1900, d.d. 12.2.1900; Sterftekennis nr. 22504. Dr. G. het later bekendheid verwerf as kurator van die museum en dieretuin van Pretoria. Tydens die A.B.O. was hy o.m. sekretaris van die C.B.K.
4. SS.2257 (Oorlog), waarin C.B.K. 235/1900, d.d. 12.2.1900. Die volgende siviele gevangenes het ook onderdak in dieselfde gebou gevind: Ds. Adriaan Hofmeyr, van Wynberg; magistraat Hilliard, magistraat E. Hignett (Zoeloeland). Oor ds. A. Hofmeyr o.m. "De Volkstem", 11.7.1899, 7.7.1899, 18.7.1899; "De Pers", 25.7.1899. Foto in "Black and White Budget", 9.6.1900, p. 317.

5. Sonder om hierdie feit te wil verkleineer, bly dit allereers 'n monument van die vooruitsiende beleid van die destydse Transvaalse owerhede om die peil van die destydse onderwys en onderwysersopleiding tot feitlik ongekeende hoogtes op te stoot.
6. Sien o.m. Rosslyn, p. 337. Ook A. Hofmeyr, pp. 221 e.a.
7. SS.2564 (Oorlog), waarin Sekr. C.B.K.-Staatsekr. Pretoria, 7.2.1900 (uitnodiging om barakke te besigtig). Soortgelyke briewe is gerig aan die Hoof D.O.W. (S. Wierda), drr. P. Veale en M.S. Lingbeek. Tewens: "The Pretoria News", 13.5.1955.
8. SS.2258 (Oorlog), waarin kommissieverslag onder C.B.K. 627/1900, Sekr.: C. Leenhof.
9. Tans die gebou van die Ontvanger van Inkomste, aan die noordekant van die Staatsmodelskool.
10. Gestig deur Lady Cresham en Lady Georgina Curzon.
11. H.J. Batts: Pretoria from within during the war 1899-1900. London, s.j. pp. 193-194; Amery, p. 534.

GEBEURTENISSE IN EN OM WONINGS VAN WELEER

(deur Johanna van Broekhuizen)

Die huise wat vandag vir die nageslag bewaar word as museums en dié wat alreeds afgebreek is, maar wat mens jou nog herinner uit jou kinderdae, was wonings waar families hul eie gebruike gehad het, en waar interessante gebeurtenisse plaasgevind het.

My ouers, Herman Dirk van Broekhuizen en Elsie Francina van Broekhuizen, gebore Eloff, en my oom Fanie Eloff, die beeldhouer, asook 'n huisvriend gedurende ons sewejarige verblyf in Holland voor die tweede wêreldoorlog, Dr. W.J. Leyds, gewese Staatssekretaris van die Z.A.R., het my heelwat uit die oudae vertel. En ek het ook sommige van die latere gebeurtenisse meegemaak.

Omdat dit deel uitmaak van die erfgoed van ons volk, deel ek u graag een en ander mee uit die skat van hul en my herinneringe.

1. Die Krugerhuis

In die woning van my oupa- en oumagrootjie, Paul en Gezina Kruger, was die huishouding al vóór dagbreek in rep en roer, want die President het klokslag vyfuur opgestaan. En sodra hy klaar aangetrek was het hy boekegevat. Die familie, gaste, die huishoudster, die koetsier – in kort, al die huisgenote – *moes* teenwoordig wees. Selfs die twee wagte wat voor die hekkie gestaan het, moes op die stoep voor die oop deur kom staan, sodat hulle ook die skriflesing kon hoor.

Al die huisgenote moes kant en klaar aangetrek wees vir hul dagtaak, die vroue met hul hoede op! Want daar staan immers in die Heilige Skrif, dat vroue nie met onbedekte hoofde 'n godsdiensoefening mag bywoon nie. Vir die kleindogters van die President, my moeder en haar susters, wat die modieuse pannekoekhoedjies op hul netjiese gekapte hofies gedra het, was dit 'n hele onderneming om betyds klaar te kom, wanneer hulle by hul oupa en oma gekuier het.



Poskaart: Den Deutschen Siegern Heil. Nebst Gott verdanken wir euch der Welt Freiheit. Segne Er euch vom Himmel.

Hoe besig hy ook mog wees, elke oggend het Paul Kruger 'n kort stukkie uit die Bybel vir sy huisgenote voorgelees. En van hulle het hy verwag: dat niks hulle moes weerhou om na die skriflesing te kom luister nie. Daar was slegs twee uitsonderings op dié reël, sy geliefde eggenote, toe haar gesondheid versleg het, en mense wat 'n ander godsdienstige oortuiging toegedaan was. Dr. Leyds het ons verseker dat Paul Kruger oortuigingsverskille gerespekteer het.

Die Bybel was die President se rigsnoer, en hy het dit beter geken as baie predikante, daarvan het beide Ds. Los en my vader getuig, nadat hulle beurtelings, gedurende sy ballingskap, kapelaan van sy huishouding was. My vader het my ook vertel: dat Paul Kruger hom soms met 'n heel oorspronklike uitleg van Bybeltekse verras het.

Dat hy veel wysheid uit die Bybel geput het, bewys die Salomoniese oplossings wat hy vir sy mense se probleme gevind het.

Toe twee broers hom kom raadpleeg het, oor die verdeling van hul erfgrond, het hy eers op karakteristieke wyse die probleem bepeins en toe uitspraak gegee: "Die oudste moet die grond verdeel en die jongste moet kies."



President S.J.P. Kruger

'n Blanke koetsier in sy diens – ek dink sy naam was Jan – het herhaaldelik die Here se naam ydelik gebruik. Toe die President eenkeer alleen in sy landau gery het, met Jan op die bok, het hy ineens hard uitgeroep: “Jan!” – “Ja, President?” Stilte. Toe die President 'n derde keer “Jan!” bulder, kon Jan sy ongeduld nie langer verberg nie: “President roep my dan die hele tyd, sonder dat President iets vir my te sê het!” – Rustig kom die antwoord vanuit die landau agter Jan: “So roep jy die naam van die Here die hele tyd, Jan, sonder dat jy iets vir die Here te sê het.” Dit was die laaste keer dat Jan die Here se naam ydelik gebruik het.

Daar was ook pret in die Krugerhuis. Die hoof van die huis het baie van 'n grappie gehou.

Sy oorsese reise het hom op die hoogte gebring van buitelandse gebruike in hoë kringe. Soms het hy met sy vrou gekorswel, deur speels haar hand aan sy lippe te bring en haar te vra: “How are you, madam?” – “Ag Paul!” het sy dan gesê en haar hand laggend teruggetrek.

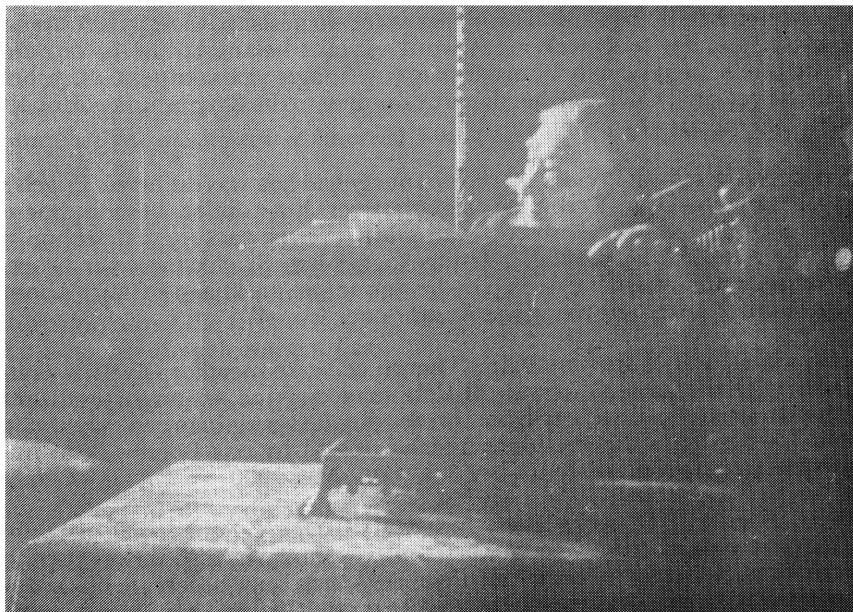
Kort na die installering van elektrisiteit in die Krugerhuis, het Paul Kruger 'n bekende poetsbakker die loef afgesteek. Hy het hom nl. gevra om die lig uit te blaas. Die man het geblaas en geblaas, vanselfsprekend sonder sukses. Vanwaar hy langs die deur gestaan het, met sy hand agter sy rug teen die skakelaar, het S H Edele net één blaas gegee . . . en die lig was uit! Vóór die gas van sy verbasing kon bekom, het sy gasheer die lig weer aangeblaas! Daarna het hy sy gas self dié wonder laat verrig . . . selfs sonder om te blaas.

Sulke goedige grappies het verligting gebring in 'n lewe swaar belas met verantwoordelikheid.

Paul Kruger het nooit na skinderpraatjies geluister nie. Toe een van sy ondersteuners, bedag op gunsbedinging, dié opposisiekandidaat vir die Presidentskap, Kommandant-generaal Piet Joubert, wou beskinder, is hy bars deur sy staatshoof tot orde geroep: "Ek wil niks teen my kommandant-generaal hoor nie!"

Wat min mense weet, is dat Paul Kruger swart opperhoofde in sy huis ontvang het soos hoofde van state, dus as sy kollegas. Dit het my moeder my vertel.

President S.J.P. Kruger



Dr. W.J. Leyds het vir my ouers en my 'n beskrywing gegee van 'n insident wat te Pretoria plaasgevind het, toe hy Staatssekretaris van die Z.A.R. was.

Hy het vertel dat hy een nag wakker gelê het, na 'n heftige meningsverskil met die President. En alhoewel hy groot agting vir die President gekoester het, was hy oortuig dat hy reg was en nie van standpunt kon verander nie.

Diep ongelukkig het hy homself afgeva: of hy dan maar moet oppak en terugkeer na Holland? Maar sy hart het warm geklop vir die Boerevolk, daarom wou hy bly en die Republiek dien.

Op daardie oomblik van vertwyfeling het die geklap van perdepotte die nagtelike stilte verbreek, eers vër en toe nader, om uiteindelik voor sy tuinhekkie tot stilstand te kom. 'n Harde geklop het hom uit die bed laat spring en na die voordeur laat snel. Voor die deur het die President gestaan.

“Ek is jammer, Leyds, jy had gelyk!” het hy nederig erken.

Weer eens bewoë het Dr. Leyds sy verhaal afgesluit met die woorde: “Het is om nooit te vergeten!”

Toe die oorlog met Engeland, wat al so lank gedreig het, 'n voldonge feit geword het, het die bejaarde President maar min geslaap, want hy het streng bevele gegee, dat hy gewek moes word vir elke belangrike berig van die oorlogfront. En terwyl hy homself snags op hoogte van sake gehou het, het hy koffie gedrink. Gevolglik het die huishouding in die Krugerhuis ook nooit heeltemal tot rus gekom nie.

'n Gebeurtenis wat Pretoria in rep en roer gehad het, was die eerste Engelse krygsgevangenis wat Kerkstraat afgemarsjeer het, onder berede Boere geleide. Oud en jonk het kom kyk. Mammie het vertel: dat sy gesien het hoe 'n opgeskote knaap die gevangenes uitgekoggel het. Skielik het haar broer, Kommandant Eloff, met sy sweep in die rigting van die knaap geklap en hom toegesnou: “Mens trap nie iemand wat onder is nie!”

My vader, wat 'n lid van Danie Theron se verkennerkorps was, was in Pretoria met die laaste sitting van die Volksraad, en is toe, as enigste predikant in die Hoofstad op daardie tyd, versoek om die verrigtinge met gebed af te sluit. Hy het langs die President gestaan, terwyl hy ons Boerevolk in hul worstelstryd aan God opgedra het. Dit was 7 Mei 1900.

Iets meer as drie weke later, het Paul Kruger gehoor gegee aan die dringende versoek van sy raadgevers, om sy woning vir 'n spoorwegkoets te verruil, teneinde uit die hande van die oprukkende Engelse leërs te bly, sodat die vryheidsstryd kon voortgaan. – Sy vrou, Gezina, kon hom weens



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gesondheidsredes nie vergesel nie. Oor die roerende afskeid tussen die twee oumense laat ons liewer 'n sluier val. Hulle het mekaar nooit weer gesien nie.

Vóór sy vertrek, het Paul sy vrou Gezina aan die sorg van hul oudste dogter Elsie Francina en haar man Frederik Christoffel Eloff toevertrou. 'n Opdrag wat my grootouers trou nagekom het, bygestaan deur hul dogters. Kort van tevore het hul reeds van Villa Francina te Eloffsdal, terug verhuis na hul dorpshuis langs die Krugerwoning, teneinde hul ouers van diens te kan wees. En nou was die geleentheid daar.

Na die Engelse besetting van Pretoria, was die Kruger- en Eloffwonings altyd oop vir ons eie mense, wat in nood verkeer het, of in rou gedompel was.

Wanneer hulle noodgedwonge op straat moes verskyn, het die familieledes van die President by die vyand verby gestaar, asof hulle nie bestaan het nie. Dit het Nettie en Ellie Eloff ook gedoen, toe 'n knap jong Britse offisier na hulle toe aangestap gekom het. Nadat hy hulle gewaar het, het hy baie stadig geloop en toe hy hulle bereik het, ineens in Afrikaans gefluister: "Nettie, Ellie, sê aan Mevrouw Kruger dit gaan goed met ons mense in die veld!"



Elsie Francina Eloff met die loshangende hare — later gehuud met H.D. Broekhuizen. Saam met haar suster Nettie Eloff, later gehuud met Bredell.

“Dankie Danie!” bang om die dapper Boereverkenner, Danie Theron, se teenwoordigheid te verrai, het die twee meisies skaars hul verroer, skaars hul stap vertraag. In ’n gebuete Engelse offisiersuniform, het die baasverkenner, Danie Theron, sy gevaarlike verkenningstog in die hartjie van die vyandelike besetting voortgesit, bly dat hy ’n boodskap van hoop aan tant Siena kon stuur.

Nege maande na haar man se vertrek, het Gezina Kruger se gesondheid vinnig agteruit gegaan. Eendag het ’n Engelse offisier sy verskyning by die Krugerhuis gemaak, met die opdrag om die Presidentsvrou en haar familie na ’n konsentrasiekamp te vervoer. Een van die Eloff-dogters het hom te woord gestaan en hom meegedeel: “My grandmother cannot travel . . . she is dying.” Die offisier het egter daarop aangedring: dat hy homself moes verwittig van die waarheid van haar bewering. Stil het sy hom voorgegaan na die sterfkamer, sag geklop en oopgemaak. In die deur het die Engelsman vasgesteek, gesalueer en weggegaan. Op 20 Julie 1901 is sy oorlede.

Die Eloffgesin is voor die keuse gestel om konsentrasiekamp toe te gaan of verban te word. Hulle het die laaste gekies en by Paul Kruger in die vreemde aangesluit.

Die Krugerhuis het ’n huis van herinneringe geword.

MEV EN DR VAN BROEKHUIZEN EN PRETORIA

(deur H.F. van Broekhuizen)

Al twee my vader en moeder het hulle bydrae tot die geskiedenis van Pretoria gelewer, maar elkeen op sy eie manier, daarom sal ek hulle afsonderlik behandel.

Mev van Broekhuizen: (Elsie Francina Eloff, 8.3.1888 – 8.9.1945).

Dogter van Frikkie Eloff en kleindogter van President Kruger het sy op die plaas van haar vader naby Pretoria grootgeword. Sy is saam met President Kruger in ballingskap waar sy my vader in Suide van Frankryk ontmoet het, toe hy as die President se predikant opgetree het. Sy is in 1904 in die Grootte Kerk in Kaapstad met hom getroud en het in 1907 saam met hom na Pretoria

teruggekeer. Sy het my vader getrou as predikantsvrou bygestaan, maar haar rol in die openbare lewe het eers met die uitbreek van die Rebelleie 'n aanvang geneem. Sy het die vroue van Pretoria georganiseer om hulp te verleen aan die gevange Rebelleieiers. Sy het ook 'n leidende rol gespeel in die organisasie van die vrouebetoging van 1915, en was een van die vroue wat die petisie aan die Goewerneur-Generaal oorhandig het, vir die vrylating van die rebelleieiers.

As Predikantsvrou het sy my vader vergesel op huisbesoek op die platteland, waar sy vasgestel het dat die aantal stiefmoeders groot was, weens die hoë sterftesyfers van die boerevrouens tydens kindergeboorte. Sy het besluit om iets te doen om beter mediese hulp aan boerevroue te verskaf.

Sy dien 'n beskrywingspunt by die Vroue Nasionale Partykongres van April 1918 in vir die oprigting van 'n hospitaal vir die opleiding van Afrikaanse meisies in die verloskunde. Hierdie beskrywingspunt is aanvaar en 'n afvaardiging is na die Administrateur gestuur om vir finansiële hulp te vra. Die Administrateur was simpatiek, maar het as voorwaarde gestel dat alle partye aan so 'n organisasie moet deel hê.

Op 31 Januarie 1919 verskyn in "Ons Vaderland" die aankondiging van die stigting van die Bond van Afrikaanse moeders. Die komiteede was die volgende:

Die Vroue Nasionale party: Mev van Broekhuizen (voorsitster),
Die Suid-Afrikaanse vroue-party: Mev Greenlees
Die Suid-Afrikaanse vroue federasie: Mev Preller
Die Helpmekeer beweging: Ds J.A. du Plessis.

In April 1920 word aangekondig dat die Moedersbond die huis van President Kruger gehuur het as sy eerste tuiste.

My moeder was altyd baie geheg aan die Moedersbond. Sy het die Moedersbond beskou as haar groot bydrae tot die verbetering van die lewe van die Afrikaanse moeder. Op haar graf staan: *Moeder van die Moedersbond.*

Dr. H.D. van Broekhuizen: (17.6.1872 – 4.8.1953).

Ds van Broekhuizen word op 10 Februarie 1899 as hulp-prediker onder Ds Bosman ingeseën. Op 10 Oktober 1899 sluit hy die laaste sitting van die Transvaal se Volksraad met gebed. Op 12 Junie 1900 keer hy van kommando af terug na Pretoria, weens die ernstige siekte van sy moeder, die volgende dag arresteer die Engelse militêre owerheid hom. Toe hy voor Generaal Maxwell die Engelse goewerneur van Pretoria verskyn, weier hy om die eed van neutraliteit af te lê en gaan vir tien dae tronk toe. Hy word op parool losgelaat en moet twee maal per week by Generaal Maxwell rapporteer. Na drie weke word hy uit Suid-Afrika gedeporteer.

Lord Milner laat hom nie toe om na Pretoria terug te keer nie. Eers op 24 Januarie 1907 kon hy sy pligte as predikant in Pretoria hervat. Ds van Broekhuizen het pionierswerk gedoen deurdat hy en sy jongeliede vereniging een van die eerste organisasies was wat op 10 Oktober 'n krans op die Krugergraf gaan lê het.

As voorsitter van die Afrikaans-Hollandse Taalvereniging rig hy in 1908 'n brief aan die "Volkstem". In hierdie brief kritiseer hy die Smuts onderwyswet skerp vir die verwaarlosing van die Hollandse taal. 'n Nuwe minister van onderwys is nodig. Op die "Boys High" Hoërskool word die Engelse taal en godsdiens in die Afrikaanse kind se keel afgedruk.

Ds van Broekhuizen was aktief betrokke by die Krugerherdenking op 10 Oktober 1914 in die Operahuis, waar 'n ernstige botsing plaasgevind het tussen die twee taalgroepe.

Op Sondag 11 Oktober het hy in sy preek oor die teksvers: "Trek niet op want de Here zal niet met u zijn", die Suid-Afrikaanse inval in Suidwes skerp gekritiseer.

Ds van Broekhuizen het aktief aan die Rebelle deelgeneem en het 18 maande in die Johannesburgse fort deurgebring. Weens 'n botsing met Ds Bosman en die kerkraad het hy op 17 Januarie 1915 sy bedanking as predikant by die kerkraad ingedien. Eers op 7 Augustus 1917 word Ds van Broekhuizen weer deur die Minister van Justisie toegelaat om 'n beroep van die Hervormde Kerk te aanvaar. In 1925 word Dr van Broekhuizen (hy het sy doktoraal in 1922 aan die Universiteit van Utrecht behaal) verkies tot Parlements lid vir Pretoria-distrik-suid. In 1929 word hy verkies tot lid vir Wonderboom. In 1930 speel hy 'n leidende rol in die loods van privaatwetsontwerp wat die Universiteit van Pretoria as 'n onafhanklike universiteit daargestel het. As bewys van waardering vir sy dienste aan die Universiteit en sy stryd vir die Afrikaanswording van die Universiteit, het die Raad van die Universiteit hom 'n Pierneefskildery geskenk wat nog in besit van my suster, mev E.F.E. van Huyssteen is. In Augustus 1933 aanvaar hy die aanstelling as Suid-Afrikaanse gesant in Den Haag.

In Pretoria het hy as vurige mens en kampvegter vir die Afrikaner se regte homself laat geld. As edelmoedige opponent het hy altyd respek afgedwing.

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Parlementêre debatte 1930.

THE ATTACK ON ROOIHUISKRAAL

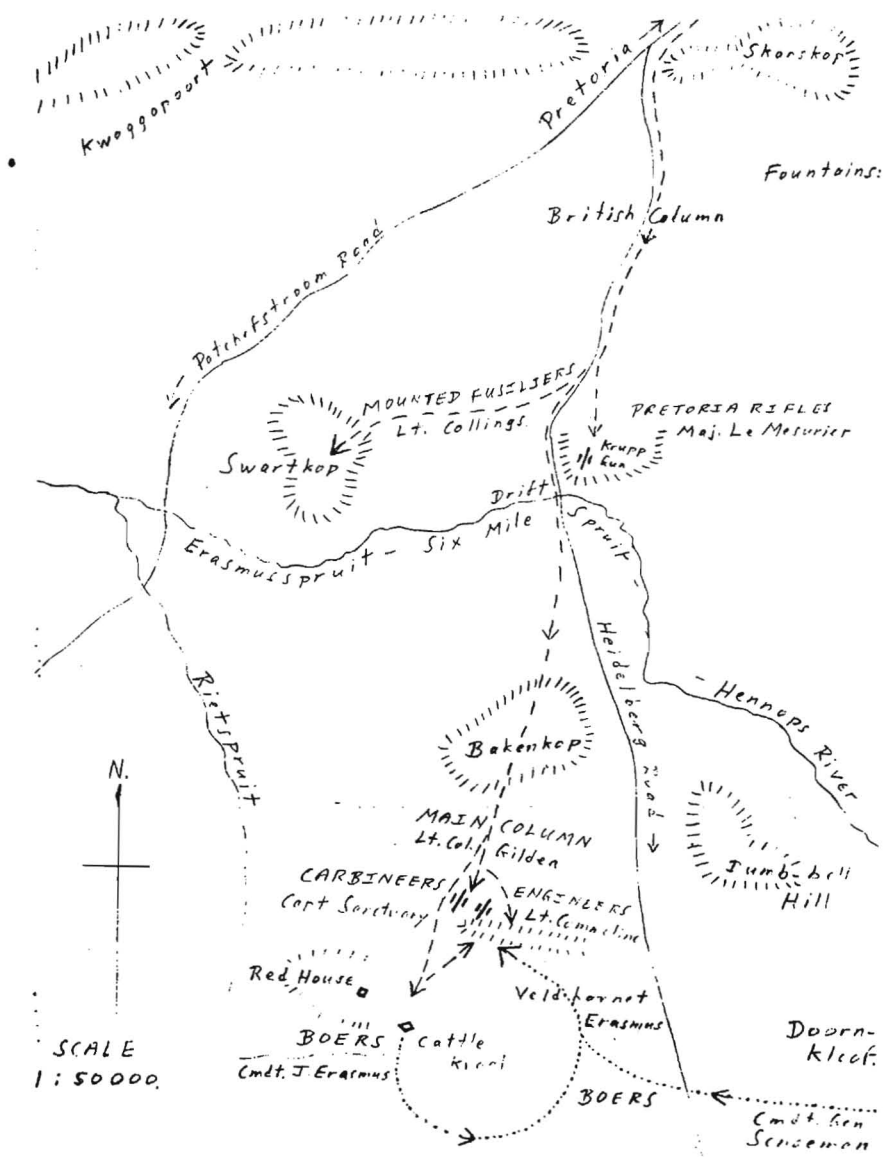
12th February 1881

(By D.G. van der Byl)

Nearly a hundred years have elapsed since the hundred-day siege of Pretoria from December 1880 to March 1881. There are therefore no veterans still surviving who can describe the events of that war. This account is therefore designed to throw a little light on the military actions which took place around Pretoria during the siege, particularly on the south side where urban development is now advancing apace and the Battlefield of Rooihuiskraal will soon be covered by roads and hundreds of houses.

During the siege the Administrator of Transvaal, Sir Owen Lanyon, was in Pretoria as were the Officer Commanding Transvaal District, Colonel Bellairs, and the Commander of the Pretoria Garrison, Lieut. Colonel Gildea. In command of the Boer Forces round Pretoria was Commandant-General H. Schoeman and the Boers at the Rooihuiskraal Lager were commanded by Commandant J. Erasmus.

The British troops were sent out of Pretoria from time to time to reconnoitre and forage. The first sortie, consisting of fifty men, was led by Lieut. O'Grady to the south of Pretoria on 28th December 1880 and a skirmish with the Boers took place on the Heidelberg road, two of the men being injured and one Boer killed. Next morning, 29th December, Lieut. Colonel Gildea led three hundred and thirty men with two mountain guns to the same area and, having crossed the Hennops River (also referred to as the Six Mile Spruit and Erasmusspruit), advanced and occupied a ridge (Bakenkop) three thousand metres beyond the river after driving the Boers off the hill with shellfire. The Boers then concentrated at the Red House, four thousand metres away. Shells were fired in the direction of the house and the cattle-kraal and the Boers then sought to remove their cattle whereupon Captain D'Arcy's troop moved forward to attempt to capture the oxen. The Boers fired from loop-holed walls to the rear of the house and wounded Captain D'Arcy and several others. Reinforcements, led by Captain Sanctuary, came up and checked the Boer fire thus enabling a comparatively orderly retirement to take place, but without the cattle and some of the men having lost their headgear.



BATTLE OF ROOIHUISKRAAL 12 FEB. 1881

On 6th January 1881 an attack was made on the Boer positions to the east of Pretoria at Zwartkoppies where seventeen Boer prisoners were taken and six of the attacking troops killed. On 16th January a sortie was made to the west of Pretoria with the object of destroying the Boer laager near the Elandsfontein Ridge; this was not achieved and two of the attackers were killed and eight wounded and two were awarded the Victoria Cross. On 23rd January a skirmish to the north of Pretoria, near Wonderboom, resulted in one soldier being wounded. The perimeter had thus been tested in all directions of the compass.

On 7th February the news reached Pretoria of General Colley's reverse at Laing's Nek which meant that the Relief Column's arrival in Pretoria must be considerably delayed. There was apparently a difference of opinion between Sir Owen Lanyon and Colonel Bellairs as to whether any further attacks on the Boers should be made before it was known that the Relief Column was nearing Pretoria. The views of the former prevailed and it was decided to attack the Red House Laager in preference to the Wonderboom position which had formidable natural defences.

Accordingly, at 2 a.m. on 12th February 1881, a column commanded by Lieut. Colonel Gildea and consisting of a total of some nine hundred men, a Krupp four-pounder gun and two nine-pounder field guns set out and, leaving the Potchefstroom road to the right, headed southwards along the Heidelberg road. Captain Sanctuary led the Carbineers across the Hennops River to the hill beyond (Bakenkop) whilst the Pretoria Rifles under Major Le Mesurier with the Krupp gun occupied the high ground to the left overlooking the drift and Lieut. Collings with mounted Fusiliers occupied the hill to the right (Swartkop). The main body of the column went forward to the position held by the Carbineers and Captain Sanctuary was then ordered to attack the large stone cattle kraal nine hundred metres to the south of the Red House. Lieut. Colonel Gildea followed the Carbineers with the main column now consisting of the two field guns and some one hundred and seventy men. This column halted in a good position amongst some thorn trees on a rise fourteen hundred metres from both the kraal and the Red House, the latter now lying to the right.

As dawn broke the Boers could be seen in occupation of the kraal. The Carbineers attacked and, as they came close to the kraal, they were subjected to intense fire from the defenders. Captain Sanctuary and several others were struck down and the Carbineers were beaten back to a position on the left of the main column whereupon the guns brought accurate fire to bear on the kraal (one report states that the walls were breached) as a result of which the Boers evacuated the kraal, but they did not retreat from the battlefield. They galloped away to the south under cover of 'dead' ground and circled round to the east where they were joined by reinforcements coming from the Doornkloof Laager situated a few kilometres to the east (where Irene now is).

The enlarged Boer force then moved northwards and westwards and, from the cover of some thorn trees, attacked the already mauled Carbineers on their left flank and in the rear. This counter-attack led by Veldkornet Erasmus, coming from such an unexpected quarter, caused the Carbineers to give way in their centre thus enabling the Boers to come within four hundred metres of the guns and the main column. Lieut. Colonel Gildea attempted to restore the situation by sending the Engineers, led by Lieut. Commeline, to the assistance of the Carbineers.

This was the critical stage of the engagement as the Boers were raking the main column with crossfire and, before the situation could be restored, Lieut. Colonel Gildea was shot in the buttocks and had to be placed on a wagon from which position he ordered Captain Dunn to effect a withdrawal which soon became an uncontrolled retreat as the mule-drivers, scared by the bullets whistling past them, began a headlong homeward rush. The driver of the leading wagon, on being threatened by an officer with a revolver, was forced to stop and thus the pace of the retreat was reduced and the column, with assistance from the Krupp gun above the drift, was enabled to cross the river without further attack from the Boers. The engagement ceased in this manner at 8 a.m.

The ambulance wagon had been left behind and was captured by the Boers. It was recovered the next day and returned with the wounded amongst whom was young D. Erasmus who had been seriously wounded and died the following day. Only one man was killed in action, but seventeen were wounded and half of these died including Captain Sanctuary who had been shot through both legs. This gallant Captain strapped a ramrod to his leg to support the broken bone so that he could continue the fight. Not one on the Boer side was killed. The Boers taken prisoner in the Swartkoppies engagement on 6th January were exchanged for the British wounded at Rooihuiskraal the day thereafter.

The overall result was thus a resounding victory for the Boers who, with about eighty men, firstly repelled the advance of some two hundred regular troops and then, by a spirited and well-conceived counter-attack, caused the retire order to be given to the entire forward column. On the British side the disablement of their Commander and the subsequent order to withdraw resulted in a panic which did not end until the column of some nine hundred troops had reached Pretoria in what may be described as a rout.

After the Rooihuiskraal engagement the British troops did not again venture out of Pretoria until the siege had ended on 28th March following the peace concluded after the Battle of Majuba which took place on 27th February 1881.

Perhaps the planners of greater Verwoerdburg will be able to preserve or reconstruct the stone cattle kraal in a park or other suitable place so that the battlefield will not disappear under the waves of the advancing metropolis; and perhaps this could be done in time for the centenary of the Battle of Rooihuiskraal on 12th February 1981.

Die Inwyding van die Delagoabaai Spoorweglyn

(saamgestel deur N.A. Coetzee)

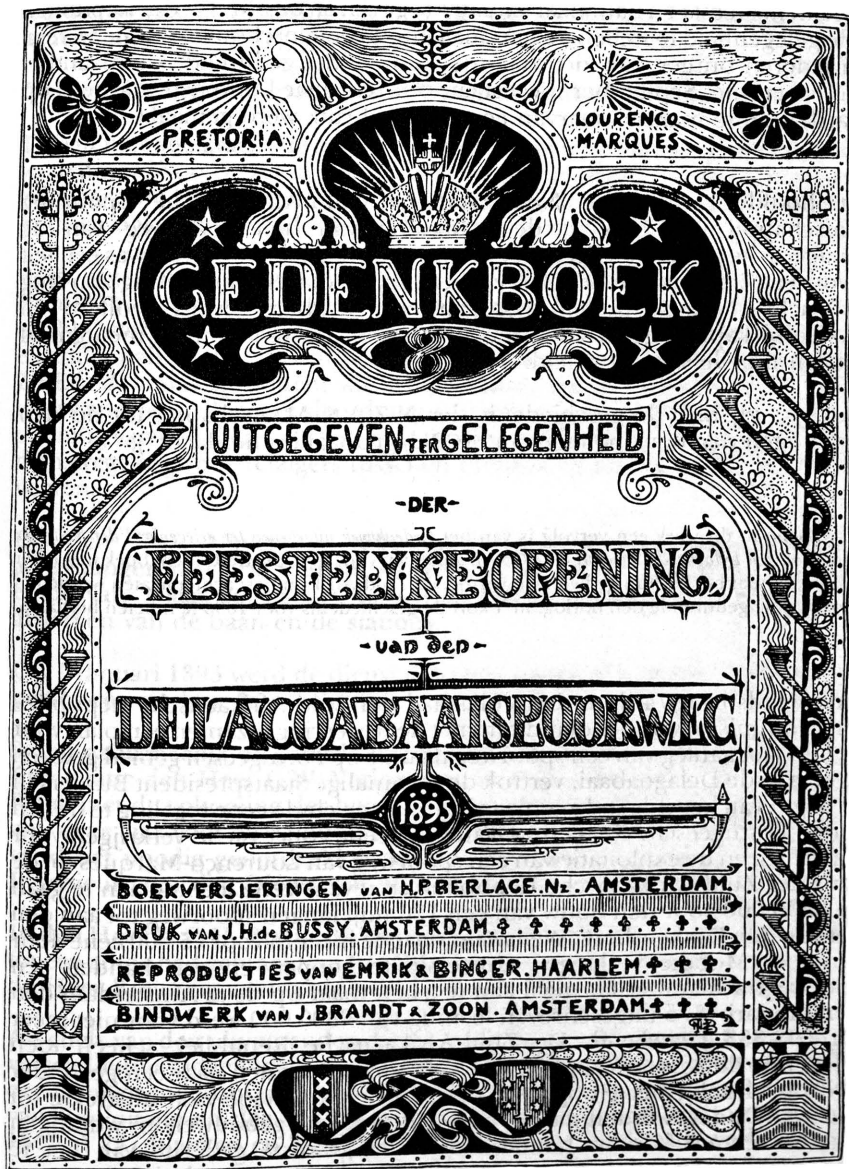
Inleiding (Geneem uit die Gedenkboek "In Memoriam N.Z.A.S.M.")

Toen, in die eerste helft van Juli 1895 Pretoria de op 1 Januari van dat jaar plaats gehad hebbende volledige opening van de Delagoabaai Spoorweglijn tusschen Lourenço-Marques en de Transvaalsche Residentie op schitterende wijze vierde, was de geestdrift, waarmede dit belangrijke feit in de geschiedenis der Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek werd begroet, algemeen en oprecht, niet alleen bij onze landgenooten, maar ook bij het meerendeel der Transvalers.

Op 8, 9 en 10 Juli was Pretoria in feestdosch gehuld. Uit alle Staten en Koloniën van Zuid-Afrika, en ook van vele landen buiten dat wêrelddeel, waren afgevaardigden van Regeeringen en Spoorwegbesturen op uitnoodiging van de Regering der Republiek te zamen gestroomd, en de meest hartelijke bewijzen van sympathie werden in die dagen gewisseld.

Vele extra treinen liepen ten gerieve der gasten en burgers naar Lourenço-Marques, om hun gelegenheid te geven met de nieuw geopende lijn kennis te maken, en ook Staatspresident Kruger bezocht deze voor de Republiek zoo bij uitstek aangewezen en gunstig gelegen haven.

Enkele Europeesche mogendheden, waaronder ook Nederland, hadden zich aldaar door een of meer oorlogsschepen doen vertegenwoordigen om te doen blijken van hunne belangstelling in de feestviering der Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek.



Om aan het feest een nationaal karakter te geven en de burgers der Republiek in de gelegenheid te stellen de nationale lijn in oogenschouw te nemen, werd aan iederen burger, die zich daartoe aanmeldde, gedurende de maanden Juni tot en met September toegestaan een reis naar Lourenço-Marques op staatskosten te maken, waarvan een druk gebruik werd gemaakt.

Het hoofddoel van de Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorweg Maatschappij was bereikt; de voltooiing van den Spoorweg van de Portugeesche grens naar Pretoria, Johannesburg en de Vaalrivier was een feit geworden. Zoo was dan het plan verwezenlijkt, tot welks uitvoering zoo lang en krachtig was gestreden, waaraan vele kostbare levens geofferd en aanzienlijk kapitaal gewaagd waren en aan welks totstandkoming menigmaal in arren moede was getwijfeld.

Kortelijks zij hier de geschiedenis der N.Z.A.S.-Maatschappij tot op den gewichtigen dag der opening van de Delagoabaailijn herdacht*).

*) Ofschoon dit werk een vervolg is van het *Gedenboek uitgegeven ter gelegenheid der feestelijke opening van den Delagoabaaispoorweg in 1895*, meenen wij voor hen, die dit Gedenboek niet meer bezitten, omdat het bij hun gedwongen vertrek uit Zuid-Afrika moest achtergelaten worden of verloren ging gedurende den oorlog, in 't kort de geschiedenis vóór 1895 te moeten herhalen.

Nadat reeds in 1874 door den Volksraad der Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek eene Commissie was benoemd om met de Regeering tezamen een plan voor te stellen tot aanleg van een spoorweg naar de op Portugeesch gebied gelegen haven aan de Delagoabaai, vertrok de toenmalige Staatspresident Burgers in het begin van het volgend jaar naar Europa, ten einde eene regeling te treffen met de Portugeesche Regeering, van deze eene concessie te verkrijgen voor den aanleg en de exploitatie van een spoorweg van Lourenço-Marques tot de grens der Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek en tevens eene leening aan te gaan van £300 000 voor den bouw van een 120 mijl langen spoorweg tot aan den voet van den Drakensberg. Weliswaar slaagde hij er in voor £5 000 eene door den heer Moodie verkregen concessie te koopen en een handels- en spoorwegtractaat met Portugal aan te gaan, maar op de te Amsterdam den 24en Januari 1876 uitgeschreven leening van £300 000 werd voor niet meer dan £93 833 geteekend. De Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek scheen toen gedurende de zomermaanden, deed verlangend uitzien naar een gezonder oord op of nabij het Hoogveld en toen de exploitatie zich uitstreckte tot Waterval-Onder, werden daar met spoed tijdelijke gebouwen en woningen opgetrokken en kon in Januari 1894 het grootste gedeelte van het te Lourenço-Marques gestationeerde personeel derwaarts verhuizen.

De dienst van den landingspier en van de douanen zal echter steeds de aanwezigheid van eenig personeel aan de haven vereischen.

Ook een locomotiefdepôt werd te Waterval-Onder ingericht.

Terwijl met alle kracht de aanleg van den spoorweg van het oosten naar het westen werd voortgezet, werd in 1893 ook te Pretoria de spade in den grond gestoken, om van daaruit in oostelijke richting het stoompaard te gemoet te gaan en ook van die zijde de exploitatie te beginnen.

Eerst tot Eerste Fabrieken, daarna tot Elandsrivier en vervolgens tot Bronkhorstspruit, strekte zich in den loop van 1894 de exploitatie uit en toen op 20 October van dat jaar de van beide zijden snel naderende spoorleggers, elkander nabij Balmoral ontmoetten en de laatste bout op 2 November door ZHEd. den Staatspresident was aangedraaid, was het niet mogelijk langer weerstand te bieden aan den drang van velen, om reeds vóór het voor de opening van den dienst vastgestelde tijdstip, 1 Januari 1895, een voorloopige dienstregeling voor reizigers tusschen Pretoria en Lourenço-Marques in te voeren.

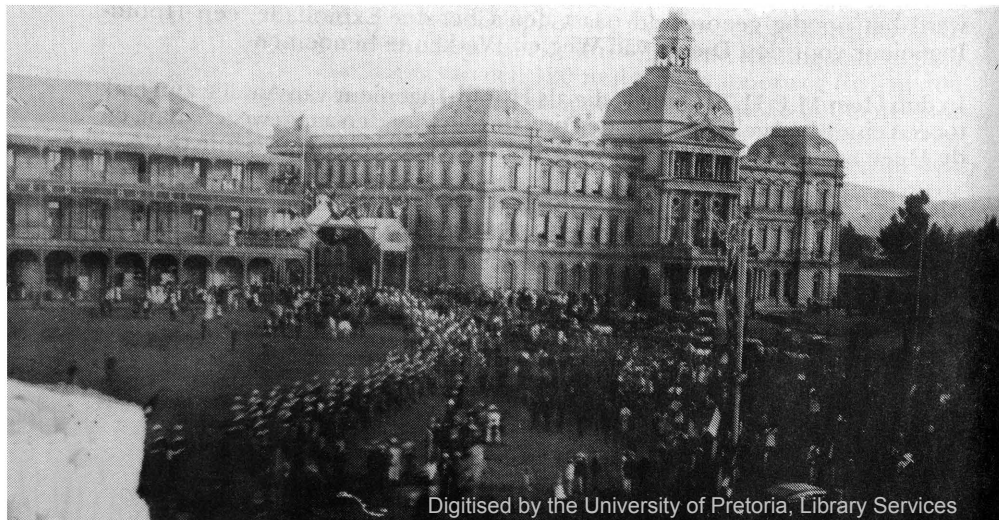
Op den 18^{den} November 1894 werd de voorloopige personendienst aangevangen met drie treinen per week in iedere richting en aldus tot het einde van 't jaar voortgezet, terwijl de laatste hand werd gelegd aan het afwerken van de baan en de stations.

Op 1 Januari 1895 werd de dienst definitief geopend met één dagelijkschen personentrein in iedere richting.

Stond aanvankelijk de geheele leiding der Exploitatie onder den Chef van Exploitatie den Heer C.W. Verloop en na diens overlijden den Heer C.L. Plate, met de voltooiing der hoofdlijn en de lijn naar Natal in het verschiet, zou deze taak voor de schouders van één persoon te omvangrijk worden, en werd het noodig geoordeeld naast den Chef der Exploitatie, een Hoofd-Ingenieur voor den Dienst van Weg en Werken te benoemen.

In den Heer M.E.H. Breuning, die als Hoofd-Ingenieur van Aanleg zijn taak tot een einde had gebracht, zag de Directie hiervoor den aangewezen man, en de Heer Breuning aanvaardde op 1 Januari 1895 zijn nieuwe functie.

Als chefs van den uitvoerenden dienst op de lijnen zijn, aan het hoofd van de verschillende afdelingen, te Johannesburg, Pretoria en Waterval-Onder, eerstaanwezende ambtenaren werkzaam, onder directe leiding van den Chef van Exploitatie en den Hoofd-Ingenieur. In het geheel zijn op 1 Januari 1895, 1 237 blanken en 3 302 kleurlingen aan de exploitatie verbonden.



Optog oor Kerkplein, Pretoria op 10 Julie 1895 vanaf die Spoorwegstasie na die Ou Marksaal vir die dinee tydens die inwyding van die Delagoaspoor. Die een foto is ongeveer 4.10 namiddag geneem, 2 minute voor die ander foto. Die koetse kan nog op die eerste foto gesien word.

Let op: Die Raadsaal met die Grand Hotel en die Ereboog tussenin. Die Z.A.S.M. wapen bo aan die vlagpaal met vlagwimpels as toevoeging tot die Vierkleur. Meintjies se prokureurskantoor (die doodkis) regs langs die Ou Raadsaal. Die Akkerboom waaronder vendusies gehou is, verder regs met daaragter Reck se Bar. Regs in voorgrond kan die groot ingang deur van die Kerk (die tweede Kerk) op Kerkplein gesien word. Dit is in 1904 gesloop.

HERINNERINGE VAN THEUNIS CHRISTIAAN DU PLESSIS (1875– 1958)

Die Inwyding van die Delagoabaaispoor

Ek het ook in Desember 1894 na Delagoabaai gegaan want ek was amptenaar en al die burgers het vry kaartjies gekry om die nuwe spoorweg algemeen bekend te stel. Die reis was voorspoedig. Langs die pad het een burger 'n glasruit in die trein gebreek, dit was net voor die grens en hy moes 500 reis betaal. Die man het hom amper dood geskrik toe hy die prys hoor, maar dit was maar net 10/-. Langs die pad het ons baie wild gesien, meestal seekoë in die Krokodil-, Elands- en Lebomboriviere. By Komatipoort het die trein lank stilgehou en het ons gesien hoe die kaffers deur die rivier loop, halflyf met stokke voel-voel. Daar het ons pragtige mooi wit Portugese nooiens gesien, soos on hulle later genoem het Portuganse. Toe ons oor die grens was in die Portugese trein het ons ons verwonder hoe vinnig die Portugese swart arnoster langs die trein kan hardloop. Die Portugese trein het vreeslik vinnig gery, die burgers sê toe die bloukele kan ry soos die wind.

In Delagoabaai aangekom het ons in die Burgerhuis tuisgegaan, waar veldbeddens voorsien was. Die gebou was spesiaal daarvoor opgerig en met beddens voorsien. Dit was 'n lang gebou. Die aand is ons dorp toe en by die kiosk gaan bier drink. Die volgende dag het ek dadels gekoop wat nog in 'n sakkie was, toegevleg met 'n soort biesie wat die wydte het van 'n duim. Ook het ek vir my nooi 'n woltjale gekoop om vir haar present te gaan gee. Die tjalie het 8/- gekos. Ek het vir my 'n swart ebbehoutkierie gekoop met 'n silwer kop wat in die Engelse oorlog weg is.

Ons het met stoombote oor die baai gegaan om aan die oorkant van die see te gaan swem. Ons ry toe met 'n tug en 'n paar bootjies. Die agterste bootjie het los geraak want dit was vasgebind met 'n sterk kabeltou. 'n Groot oorlogskip kom in beweging en was net op vaart sodat die water kloof en ons was reg voor toe die bootjie losraak. Op die boot was 'n klompie mense. 'n Vriend en aangetroude familielid van my was ook in die bootjie en het kennis gehad van met 'n boot te roei. Sy naam is Frans Roos. Die groot skip kom toe vinnig nader en byna was die los boot onder hom, want die mense by die stuurwiel van die skip kon nie sien nie, want die boot was uit sy oog onder die skip in. Die mense begin skreeu. Roos neem toe die roeispaan ewe koel en roei die boot onder die skip uit.

Ons het toe heerlik geswem, nie denkende aan die gevaar van haaië nie. Toe ek tuis kom op Rustenburg was my pak wolstof klere nog taai van die seewater. Die terugreis was voorspoedig.

Die President se verjaarsdag

Op 10 Oktober was dit die gewoonte van President Kruger om sy verjaarsdag te kom vier op Boekenhoutfontein, waar sy seun Piet en skoonseun Teunis Eloff gewoon het. Met een geleentheid onthou ek nog goed hoe hy vanuit Pretoria met sy Landau na Boekenhoutfontein gekom het. Die Landau spider had 'n geboë bak en deure met 'n verhoog voorop waar die drywer van die span blou perde gesit en met die lysels die perde bestuur het.

Die President en ander hooggeplaaste persone sit dan in die Landau. Gewoonlik ontmoet die burgers die stoet bestaande uit 'n aantal artilleriste met dieselfde kleur perde as wat voor die Landau trek op sekere bepaalde plekke langs die roete. Die ontmoetinge deur die burgers was dan met geweer, perd, saal en toom om Wolhuterskop, dan weer op Marikana, dan op Kroondal vir begeleiding na Rustenburg en verder vir die wegbring na Boekenhoutfontein. Op hierdie plekke word adressé voorgelees, saluitskote afgevuur en toesprake gelewer terwyl die President dan elke keer antwoord voordat verder gery word. Ek self was eenkeer op Kroondal. Daar het ons die President ingewag en 'n stoet gevorm vir die intog in Rustenburg. Die stoet vertrek daar met die vierkleur voor op die perdekommendo. Die vlag word gedra deur my broer Cornelius du Plessis, wat altyd 'n spogperd gery het.

Op Rustenburg aangekom word daar stil gehou waar die Grand Hotel nou staan (gestaan het), onder die koelte van die 100-120 voet hoë laning bloekombome. Daar is dan 'n verhoog waarop die President en ander hooggeplaaste persone met trappe opklim. Die verhoog moes hoog wees want etlike duisende mense is teenwoordig op die plein en almal wil die President sien. Die opklim van Oom Paul gaan gepaard met hoeras en loskruit sarsies. Ek self as skolier het die dag 'n adres moes gaan lees van die

jeug wat ons nou noem Jong Suid-Afrika. Ek was nie bang of bewerig nie, want ek het sterkte van Bo gekry. Ek het die adres voorgelees soos 'n predikant en hard sodat al die mense kon hoor. Die damejies wat die bosse blomme gedra het het saam met my opgeklim. Na ek die adres gelees het, het die President 'n pragtige toespraak gelewer met die woorde dat hy nog nie voorheen 'n adres van skoolkinders gekry het nie, en dat hy dit baie waardeer. Die ruikers is toe deur die skoolmeisies oorhandig en die President het dit self in sy regterhand geneem en die meisies bedank.

Daarna word die reis voortgesit onder luide toejuiging. Die perdekommando het hom vergesel tot op Boekenhoutfontein, waar ons hom afgegee het. Die terugrit Rustenburg toe was vol pret, ons het meeste reises gejaag.

Op 10 Oktober het almal weer na Boekenhoutfontein gegaan, waar ons afgesaal het. Dan het een vir een die President gaan geluk wens met sy verjaarsdag en vir elkeen was daar 'n kort woordjie.

Die volgende dag is die President weer op dieselfde manier terug na Pretoria, alhoewel dit nou 'n deurgaande reis was, sonder onderbreking.



F. W. BEEZHOLD
(1895—1973)

EERVOLLE NAGEDAGTENIS AAN F.W. BEEZHOLD

(Die Victoria Drukkery onder die persoonlike belangstelling van F.W. Beezhold was verantwoordelik vir die druk van Pretoriana vanaf nommers 4 tot by 72)

Meneer F.W. Beezhold, gebore 10 November 1895, het vanaf Holland na Suid-Afrika gekom in November 1946. Ons land was egter nie heeltemal vreemd vir hom nie, aangesien hy al vroeër hier gewoon het. Toe hy nog 'n baba was het sy ouers na Suid-Afrika gekom en het sy vader, nadat hy 'n ruk by die Staatsdrukkery gewerk het, 'n eie besigheid begin. Na die Boere-oorlog, in 1903, het die familie teruggegaan na Holland, waar mnr. Beezhold toe al gou as jong seun in sy vader se besigheid die fyn knepies van die drukkersberoep geleer het. Hy is getroud en 'n seun en 'n dogter is uit die huwelik gebore.

Ou liefde roes egter nie en na alle deurstane ellende gedurende die tweede wêreldoorlog het die gesin besluit om weer na ons vaderland terug te kom. Op 1 November 1946 het hulle hier voet aan land gesit. Na 'n "inwydingstydperk" by die Heraldic Press, sy vader se vroeëre besigheid, waar mnr. Beezhold gewoonnd geraak het aan ons land se taal, mate en manier van besigheid doen, ens., het dit nie lank geduur voor hy sy ideaal verwesenlik en weer sy eie baas geword het nie.

Op 7 Junie 1949 het hy die Victoria Drukkery se deure oopgemaak en al gou 'n goeie en vertroude kring van klante opgebou. Sy klante was gelyktydig sy vriende en hy het altyd uit sy pad gegaan om hulle te help en 'n uitstekende diens te lewer. 'n Regte ou staatmaker. Niks was vir hom so lekker as om 'n persoon tevrede te sien by ontvangs van sy bestelling. Aangesien hy 'n puik vakman was en geen moeite vir hom te veel was om goeie werk te lewer nie, was die resultaat dan ook van 'n baie hoë gehalte.

Ook by die uitgawe van Pretoriana was sy raad uiters waardevol. Op 24 Desember 1973 is mnr. Beezhold oorlede en sy heengaan het 'n oop plek gelaat in baie opsigte en veral ook in Pretoria se drukkerswêreld.

SCHOEMANSVILLE

G.R. Mulder

DIE PLAAS RIETFONTEIN 280: Die plaas Rietfontein 280, distrik Brits, is die buurplaas van HARTEBEESTPOORT en SCHOEMANSVILLE. Die ou Voortrekker, CORNELIUS JOHANNES ENGELBRECHT, was die eerste eienaar en bewoner van die plaas. Die grense van die plaas ongeveer 8 000 morge (6 800 ha) groot, is as volg: Ooëtelike grens: 'n Doringdraadheining van noord na suid. Suidelike grens: Die Witwatersbergreeks tot by Saartjiesnek. Noordelike grens: Die Magaliesberg, 'n natuurlike grens. Die oostelike grens word begrens deur die twee plase Kameeldrift 82 en Uitzicht en die westelike grens deur die plase Hartebeestpoort en Uitval. Toe die ou eerste Voortrekker hom hier gevestig het, ongeveer in die jaar 1843, het hy reeds vir hom 'n Klip-klei-muur huis gebou naby 'n standhoudende waterfontein. Destyds is alle Boerewonings naby fonteine of spruite of riviere gebou met die oog op water vir huislike gebruik en vir hulle diere. Hierdie fontein, waar die eerste huis gebou is, loop vandag nog en is nou weer baie sterk na die goeie reëns. Onderkant hierdie fontein is die koring-, mielie-, lusern-, groente- en tabaklande aangelê. Hierdie boerderye word vandag nog in stand gehou en menige goeie oeste is hier verkry. Vroeër jare is bv. tot 1 000 sakke koring geoes. Praat nie van al die tabak, lusern, groente en mielies nie.

By die afsterwe van die eerste eienaar het hy die plaas onder sy kinders verdeel en nadat vir elke kind eweveel grond uitgemeet was, het daar 'n stuk grond naby Silkaatsnek oorgebly. Hierdie stuk grond, die oorblywende gedeelte van Rietfontein het toe die mooi naam van UITVAL gekry. Hierdie plase, Uitval, is toe verkoop en die kinders van die eerste eienaar het nou elkeen hulle eie stuk grond gehad. Hierdie nuwe eienaars het met die verloop van tyd hulle eiendomme verkoop en sommige het dit weer aan hulle kinders bemaak. Dis op hierdie wyse dat van die derde geslag vandag nou nog op Rietfontein woon. Oom Witneusie of oom Corneels, Cornelius Johannes Engelbrecht, is vandag nog een van die eienare, en ook nog 'n Bona Fide boer. Oom Corneels is reeds 85 jaar oud en woon nog saam met sy vrou, tant Annie (gebore van Zyl) wat ook al 83 jaar oud is.

DIE EERSTE WOONHUIS: Hierdie woonhuis het aan oom Corneels se oupa behoort, stewig van klip-klei-mure met sy solder vir die berging van koring sakke en hawergerwe vir die perde. Die mure is meer dan 24 duim (60 cm) dik en daar woon vandag nog mense in die huis.

BEGRAAFPLAAS: Op die meeste Boereplase in Transvaal tref 'n mens die familie-begraafplaas ook aan. Oom Corneels se oupa en sy vader en moeder lê ook almal hier begrawe. Sy oupa het 'n stukkie grond vir die dooies geskenk en hier rus vandag al menige familielede en ander persone. Jammer dat so baie van die begraafplekke verwaarloos word. Gelukkig is 'n gedeelte van Rietfontein se Kerkhof in mooi orde en onder versorging.

DIE EERSTE SKOOL: Op baie plase het die bewoners daarvan in die vorige eeu, gesorg dat daar ook 'n skooltjie vir die kinders is. Hier op Rietfontein is ook daarvoor gesorg en 'n skooltjie, nogal van twee klaskamers, is van stene opgerig. Vandag kan nog net die tekens van die fondamente, bedek met bossies en gras, gesien word. Hierdie ENGELBRECHTSKOOL het vir meer dan twintig jaar sy dienste aan ons volk se kinders gelewer tot in die jaar 1914. Hier het die kinders skoolgegaan en ten minste geleer skrywe, lees, reken en sing. Vanaf ongeveer 1890 tot 1914 was mnr Rowen die hoof van die skool en mnr Poggenpoel sy assistent. Die Boere-Engelse-Oorlog het ook hierdie skool se bedrywighede tot stilstand gebring maar is na die Oorlog weer met dieselfde onderwysers voortgesit. Na die oorlog was hier ongeveer 30-40 leerlinge en oom Corneels was een van hulle. Oom Corneels vertel dat die kweperlat nie gespaar is nie maar die katekwaad het voortgeduur onder die seuns en dogters. Huiswerk is nooit gedoen nie, want in die middag moes die seuns op die lande en die dogters in die huis help. Skoolvryery was ook volop en so het Oom Corneels dan ook sy vrou vroegtydig kon uitsoek want hulle was saam in dieselfde skool.

DIE TWEDE SKOOL: In 1914 het Rietfontein sy eie Goewerment Skool gekry. Die skool het drie klaskamers en 'n aparte woning gehad. Oom Corneels word die eerste Sekretaris van die Skooldraatskomitee. Die Voorsitter was mnr Hendrik Stander, 'n aangetroude familielid. Mnr Rowen was ook die eerste hoof van hierdie skool en in die jare twintig het mnr Slade by hom oorgeneem. Die skool het bly staan tot in Oktober 1937, onder hoofskap van mnr Slade, toe dit gesentraliseer is met Kameeldriftskool. Dis in hierdie jare 1936-1938 dat sentralisasie op groot skaal in Transvaal plaasgevind het. Soos te begrype was baie ouers woedend en ontevrede met die sluiting van hulle skool na soveel jare van bestaan. Hulle kinders moes nou per bus na die nuwe skool vervoer word. Aan die begin het sekere ouers botweg geweier om hulle kinders te stuur sodat die T.O.D. deur middel van die Skoolraad moes ingryp. Dit was ook die begin van die Skoolbus moeilikhede vir ouer en onderwyser. Almal moes maar kopgee met die tyd en vandag is skoolbusse gladnie meer uit die bouse nie. Rietfontein se kinders is tot aan die einde van 1953 gereeld per bus na Kameeldrift vervoer. In Januarie 1954 is Generaal Hendrik Schoemanskool ge-open en kon Rietfontein se kinders daarheen gaan. 'n Klompie kinders wat aan die oostelike grens van Rietfontein woon is vandag nog in Kameeldriftskool. Die plaas Rietfontein het dus vandag geen skool op die plaas nie.

SILKAATSNEK: Hierdie Nek is vernoem na Silkaats wie se onderdane, die Matabielies, al langs die hange van die Magaliesberg gewoon het. Van hulle krale is vandag nog uitkenbaar op sommige plekke langs die berg. Die eerste wapad het oos van die koppie in die Nek verby gegaan. In 1920 is die pad links (wes) verby gemaak en in 1941 geteer. Vandag is daar 'n pragtige teerpad oor die Nek. Tydens die Boere-Engelse-Oorlog 1899-1902 het die Engelse in 1900 'n soort van Fort-ammunisie-opslagplek gebou net oos van die koppie op die hoogste bergpunt. Hier het hulle 'n paar kannonne en baie ammunisie gestoor maar met die Slag van Silkaatsnek in Junie 1900 het dit alles in die hande van die Boere geval. Die Engelse soldate wat op die Nek gesneuwel het is net daar begrawe maar in 1972 opgegrawe en op Ifafie weer herbegrawe.

RIETFONTEIN SE EERSTE HOTEL (HERBERG): Hierdie Hotel – liewers 'n Herberg genoem – is naby die oorgang van die Nek op UITVAL gebou in die jare negentig met mnr en mev LEE as die eienaars. Hier kon reisigers en verbygangers uitspan en oornag. Die UITSPANNING is vandag nog daar. Daar was ook 'n Biersaal (kroeg), dansplek, swemdammetjie en 'n aantal slaapvertrekkies. Oom Corneels vertel dat hy self hier bier gaan drink het saam met sy vader en ook sy oom, wat soms bietjie geswael geraak het en dan net wou baklei. (Seker vandag nog maar so.) Een aand het sy oom sonder hemp en verskeurd onder by die plaas aangekom en almal moes toe net uit sy pad bly. Menige drink- en danspartytjies is hier deur die eienaar gereël in die jare 1890 – 1910. Mnr LEE is toe oorlede en mev LEE is na SWARTSPRUIT waar sy met 'n nuwe hotelletjie begin het. Dit was ook maar 'n klein primitiewe geboutjie maar is deur latere eienaars verbreek, aangebou en herbou sodat dit die voorkoms van vandag het. Mnr Willem Odendaal, eienaar van die jare veertig, vyftig en sestig het die grootste verbeterings aangebring.

PLEKNAME IN DIE MAGALIESBERG: Soos baie boere op hulle plase, sekere plekke hulle eie benaminge gegee het, so het Rietfontein ook sekere name gehad vir dele van Magaliesberg.

DIEPKLOOF: Byna regoor mnr A.B.R. Scholtz se winkel – effens oos – is Diepkloof – so genoem deur die eerste bewoner, C.J. Engelbrecht. In hierdie Kloof het oom Corneels in die jaar 1900 weggekrui vir die Engelse soldate wat hom wou vang en konsentrasiekamp toe stuur. Saam met hom was 'n stuk of vyftien Boere-Handsoppers wat nie wou veg nie. Hulle is nooit hier opgespoor nie en kos en water is snags deur die plaasvroue aan hulle gebring of gestuur. Oom Corneels se moeder het vir hom gesorg deur 'n Baster snags met water en kos te stuur. Sy moeder en ander vroue wou vir oom Corneels 'n rok aantrek sodat die Engelse moet dink dat hy 'n dogter is en hom dan nie na die Kamp sou wegneem nie. Maar hiervan wou die oom niks weet nie en maar liewer saam met die Handsoppers bedags weggekrui. Hier het hy vir byna 'n

maand gebly en snags onder die kranse van Magaliesberg geslaap. Toe dinge weer stil raak op die plaas na die slag van Silkaatsnek, het hy weer huistoe gesluip en begin help met die boerdery. Hy moes ook die beeste en skape oppas wat teen die hange van Magalieserg gewei het of hy moes hulle gaan bymekaar maak het en kraal toe bring.

DIE PUTJIES: Naby Diepkloof, in die Magaliesberg, is daar 'n plekkie wat as PUTJIES bekend staan. Dis gate wat vroeër jare daar gegrawe is om sekere kleure grond uit te haal. Hierdie amper geel en rooi en bruin grond is gebruik om huise se mure mee af te "wit". Verf en kalk was te duur en onverkrygbaar. Oom Corneels se ouers en sy eie huis se mure is met die kleigrond "uitgeverf". Hierdie wyse van mure skoonmaak is deur baie Boeremense gebruik. Pragtige bak- en sierstene word vandag gemaak deur die Steenmakerye aan die hange van die Magaliesberg.

MOOI-MEISIES-NEK: Hierdie benaming is blykbaar gegee omdat die oorgang in die berg lyk na 'n meisie wat op haar rug lê met 'n mooi "Nek". 'n Mens kan die Nek mooi sien vanaf die N.G. Kerk WESMOOT as jy noord-wes na die Magaliesberg kyk.

SWARTSPRUITRIVIER: Die oorsprong van die riviertjie is op die grense Kameeldrift, Uitzicht en Boekenhoutkloof plase. Sy naam is daaraan te danke dat as die rivier vol is, na reënstorms, dan is die water byna swart van al die swart turfgrond langs die riviertjie se oevers. Waar die Spruit deur Rietfontein vloei is daar pragtige leiklip randjies waar menige vrag leiklip al weggery is na boupersele in Pretoria en Johannesburg. Die rivier vloei aan die oostekant van die Hartebeespoortdam in. Hier by sy mond is die hengelaars gereeld bedrywig.

ALGEMEEN: Die plaas Rietfontein is ook maar met die loop van die jare "versnipper" in honderde kleiner hoewes en net hier en daar is nog 'n paar persone met plasies van 80 of meer Hektare grond. Oom Corneels en tant Annie is vandag die twee oudste inwoners van die plaas, wat daar gebore is, groot geword het, skoolgegaan het, in die huwelik bevestig is en nog altyd ewe fluks hulle tuin- en huiswerkies verrig. Tant Annie vertel nog maklik van hulle "vryersdae" en hoe oom Corneels vir haar, oorkant die spruit, met sy spoggerige vosperd kom kuier het. Sy was baie lief om te dans en het nog altyd 'n opgeruimde, hardwerkende lewe gelei. Werklik nog twee ware gasvrye ou Boere. Hulle het waarlik die tradisies van ons Nasie behou en lewe dit nog elke dag uit.

Herinneringe van Jan Heystek in lewe Landdros van Pietersburg (Soutpansberg) onder die Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek 1898-1901 as krygsgevangene in Pretoria

Ik zal de verdere beschrÿvingen der comando's aan andere personen over laten, die een meer werkelijk aandeel daar aan genomen hebben, genoeg voor my te zeggen dat ongeveer een maand na dat Pietersburg door die Engelse ingenomen was, en ik in de Spelonken met de Krygscommissaris en andere ook niet verder konden, en groot gevaar liepen door de kaffers vermoord te zullen worden, besloten terug te gaan en om het beste van twee gelegenheden te nemen, ons aan die Allerchristelikste, allerbesschaafste, edelmoedigste beschermer van de kleine natiën (sic) over te geven, daar het toch voor ons hopeloos was verder tegen stand te doen.

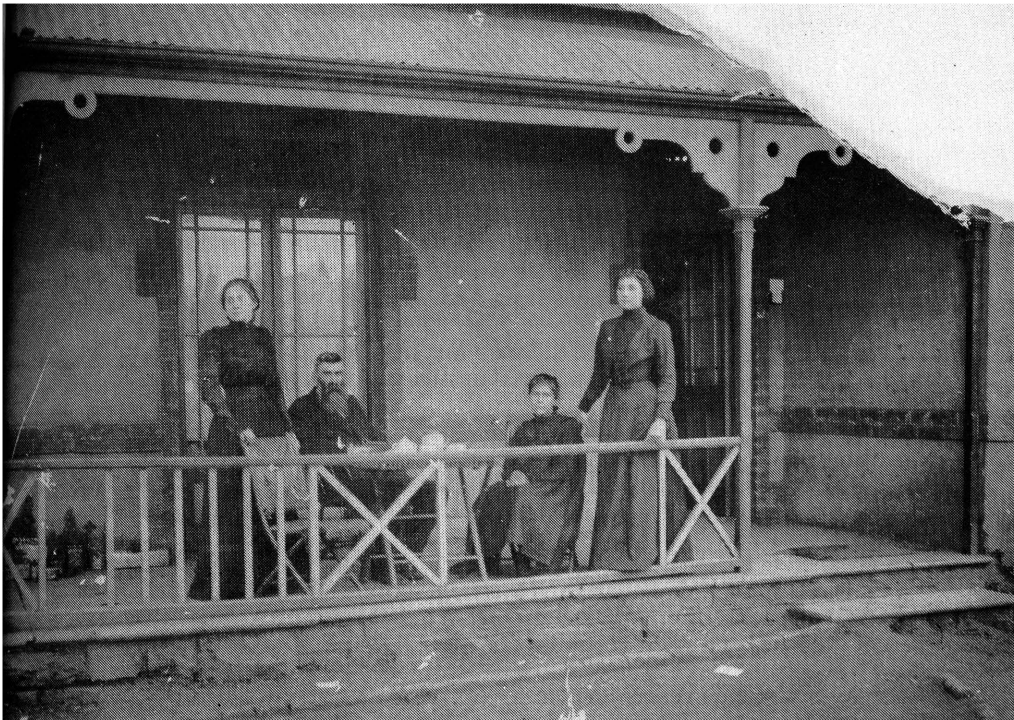
Eenige dagen toen ik in Pietersburg terug was, (ik was op parool) kreeg ik een bezoek van een sekere officier of zoo iets, een zoogenaamde Majoor Bolton. Dat was in de private kamer van de eigenaar van het Transvaal Hotel aldaar, alwaar hy Bolton my had laten roepen. Myñ verblÿf was in 't Gouvernementshuis, waar ik als Landdrost gewoond had, doch myñ familie was na Pretoria vervoerd na de inname van Pietersburg.

Met echte geveinsdheid zulke personen waardig begon hy my van de dingen die onder myñ zorg enz. geweest waren als Landdrost te vragen om te zeggen wat er van geworden was, en of ik iets wist van hier van en daar van.

Ik antwoordde hem kortaf door een tolk tussen ons. Ik heb als burger en Ambtenaar der Z.A. Rep. myñ pligten gedaan, zoo lang dit my mogelijk geweest is. Ik heb de sleutel van het Landdrost kantoor in 't slot gelaten en aan de constabels die achter bleven gezegt er na te kyken, waar eenig gouvernements eigendom of ammunitie is enz. enz. Staat niet van my te vertellen om dat ik geen regt het dat te doen en het ook niet wil doen. Ook zeide ik hem dat ek nu buiten alle zake stond wat de oorlog betref, en zelf zoo veel van een verklikker van myñ eigen volk, als hy zelf van het zÿne dacht.

Hy stond op met de woorden "Ik zal u na Pretoria stuur, en u daar byzonderheden laten vragen."

Ik had nog myñ eigen zaken die ik mede na 't veld genomen had, behalwe myñ geweren en ammunitie, in de kamer daar ik in kon blÿven, en at myñ



Landdros Jan Heystek as krygsgevangene op parool in huis in Strubenstraat, Pretoria, gedurende Engelse Oorlog (1901). Sy jongste dogters Jacoba, Josina (tweeling) en Maria. Die moeder is pas oorlede. Op bordjie langs deur verskyn die name van die inwoners wat deur die Engelse Militêre Owerheid in die huis toegelaat en gedurig gekontroleer word.

eigen boerbeschuit waarvan ik een kastje vol had, en kreeg mijn koffij en thee bij 't hotel. Mijn meubels waren voor 't groote deel vernield en gestolen.

Eenige dagen werdt ik onder een wacht van een Hooglander Scot tot bij Nylstroom, en van daar door een Koloniale vrywilliger na Pretoria per trein gebracht. Mijn treinkosten £3 moest ik zelf boven op betalen. De avond na 10 uur kwam te trein in Pretoria op de statie aan. Ik werd daar in een kleine Khaki tent gebragt, en daar het begin Juny maand en vreeselik koud was (ik had de koortsziekte of malaria koorts onder leden) vraag ik de Officiëren daar my toe te laten na mijn familie te gaan. Hy zeide waar is die?

Ik antwoorde berigt hebben dat ze nabij de Presidents woning waren. Hy: 't is achter tien uur, niemand mag op straat zyn. Ik: geef my een wacht mede.

Na eenig conversatie tussen hun gaf hÿ mÿ een permit te gaan en daar tot de volgende morgen 10 uur te blyven. Een Khaki soldaat bragt mÿ weg. Mÿn goed bleef achter.

De volgende morgen acht uur kwam er een cap voor de deur voorbÿ die ik aanriep. Ik had niet goed opgelet dat op't permit de bepaling stond stipt tot 10 uur in huis te blyven. Ik ging met de capman na de statie om mÿn goed te halen, en net toen ik het op het rÿtuig had, kreeg ik bevel. "Sta!"

Ik zag dat er fout kwam maar gaf die man met het rÿtuig 2/- en zeide hem het goed na mÿn familie te brengen, dat dan niet gehindert werdt.

Ik werd na een zeker kantoor gebragt waar my gezegd werdt dat ik na 't Restcamp moest gaan. Ik vraag de klerk die er was om welke reden dan? Die zeide dat het aan al onze mannen onverschillig sÿ wat gedaan werdt, en spraak met medegevoel met mÿ. De klerk was zeer beleefd en deed al het mogelike voor mÿ.

Ik vroeg hem af of er dan geen kans was mÿn familie er van in kennis te gaan stellen en afscheid te nemen. Ik begreep dat het wel zou uitloopen mÿ weg te sturen, daar ze toch geen verrader van mÿ zouden kunnen maken.

Nadat hÿ eenige tÿd in een ander kamer van 't huis geweest was kwam hÿ terug en zeide "Mÿnheer geef mÿ u woord om 12 uur hier terug te zÿn, dan kan u gaan."

Ik beloofde dat, ging, vertelde mÿn familie de zaak, sprak eenige dingen af, gebruikte nog iets, 15 minute voor 12 was ek present. De klerk maakte nog de aanmerking "Mÿnheer u hebt sterkt woord gehouden". Toen kwam er een gewapende soldaat om mÿ weg te brengen.

Na een paar honderd treden geloopt te hebben, zeide ik hem, op 's bietjie Engels dat ik ken, dat hÿ een rÿtuig moest krygen om mÿ weg te brengen, dat ik niet ging loopen. Hÿ vroeg mÿ af of ik geld had en voor te betalen. Ik zeide, ik breng jou niet weg, maar jÿ mÿ, dus moest jÿ betalen. De stumpert zocht in zÿn pockett, vond een 2/- stuk, riep een cabbe, en ik werdt met een wacht na het Restcamp gebragt, en aan de Commandant er van afgegeeven.

Hier waren er heel wat krÿgsgevangenen van Waterberg districts, ook de Iste klerk van mÿ als Landdrost van Zoutpansberg en anderen. Zoo kwam ik in het krÿgsgevangenen kamp te regt dat onze outhoriteiten opgesteld hadden om de Engelse in op te passen, dezelfdeplek onder de rand.

De eerste halwe dag en nacht gebeurde er niets bÿzonders, als dat er die volgende dag een kouden Zuiden wind ging waaien die door merg en been drong. Wÿ moesten deze heele dag in de zon achter het gebouwen op de been

blýven om ons zoo mogelijk wat warm te houden. De nacht daarop volgende kreeg ik inflammatie in de longen. Ik was in slaap geraakt en werd wakker van pýn die zoo erg was dat ik býna geen adem kon halen. Ik liet een der officieren roepen en vroeg om een Doctor, doch vergeefs. Des anderen daags morgens nadat er na 't dorp Pretoria bericht van mýn toestand gestuurd was, kwam er een officier na 't kamp met name Hisserick die er van hoorde en de persoon werdt door wiens toedoen ik uit het kamp gelaten en na mýn familie gebragt werdt. Deze officier werdt op 21 November 1899 door onze Artillerý krýgsgevangen genomen, na Pietersburg gezonden, onder mýn bewaring gedeeltelik gesteld en later na Pretoria gestuurd alwaar hy met de inname van Pretoria vrý kwam.

Hier kwam ik onder behandeling van een Duitse en een Engelse doctor en bleek het dat ik in beiden longen zware inflammatie had, wat ik toen geleden heb kunnen die menslievende personen getuýgen die mý hielpen oppassen en verzorgen.

In dien tussen tyd kreeg ik en mýn familie aldaar 't smartelik berigt dat mýn zoon Jan Heýstek op commando te Wýsfontein overleden was. Dat berigt werds ons gebragt door vrouwen die uit het Rustenburgse door te Khaki's na de Pretoria concentratie kampen gebragt werden. Hy was aan ingewands koorts overleden. Zoo ging het jaar 1901 voor ons nog altyd in oorlog voorby hopende op Vrede die niet kwam. En het jaar 1902 brak aan in welks begin de groote slag mý trof gedurende mýn leven tot dus ver.

Het was in begin January van dat jaar dat mýn Echtgenootte aan de ingewandskoorts ziek werdt, en alhoewel alle menselike hulp gedaan werdt, op den 31 dier maand na een lang smartelik lýden door den dood ontviel. Zý werdt met behulp van vrienden en vriendinnen de 1st February 1902 op het Hollands kerkhof te Pretoria begraven, býna langs de grafstede van de Kruger familie. Een grafsteen is nu in de maand November 1925 er opgericht door mýnen haar kinderen. Hier stond ik by de stervenssponde met mýn drie jongste kinderen van mýn Echtgenootte met wien ik býna 34 jaren geleefd, geleden en gestreden had, niet alleen voor onze kinderen, doch ook voor ons Land en Volk, onze Gereformeerde beginselen en alles wat regt en billik was, een donker toekomst voor ons, de oorlog onafgebroken voortgaande, mýn eenige dienstdoende zoon met zýn swagers in 't veld, hun familien in de concentratie kampen, ik werp de sluýer maar liefst hier over, want dat scheurt toch maar alleen weer oude wonden open, in welke onze Oppergeneesheer balsem in Zýne ontferming gegoten heeft, waardoor we de smarten hebben kunnen dragen.

Uiteindelik werdt in Mei 1902 de vrede gesloten en de comando's ontbonden. Ik ging met mýn kinderen na Rustenburg terug, en bleef voorlopig daar op 't dorp wonen.

The Editor
Pretoriana.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

I came across a drawing in the Africana Museum, Johannesburg, which I felt will be of interest to Pretorians. It depicts the fort on Muckleneuk Hill and appears to be signed M. Stern. I have enclosed a photograph of the drawing which I should like you to publish in Pretoriana and to invite comment. The question is, is it Boer or British and is it first or second anglo-boer war? Finally there is the matter of exactly where did this fort stand and do the foundations still exist?

My impression is that the view must be west because the sun is on the right hand far side of the blockhouse; this would mean that Pretoria lies on the right of the photograph.

I shall be most interested to hear readers comments.

Yours faithfully,

Signed: M. Emms, Curator.

P.O. Museum,
P.O. Box 1522,
Pretoria 0001.
1978-05-14.



The Editor Pretoriana,
Old Pretoria Society,
P.O. Box 4063,
PRETORIA 0001.

re. PRETORIANA No. 73 – 1977

Dear Sir,

My compliments and congratulations on an interesting publication.

In the interesting article by W.D. Howarth entitled “TRAMWAY SYSTEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA” (page 37) I read that the writer was unable to determine where the car barn and stables of the old Pretoria trams were situated. As I grew up in the Sunnyside area of Pretoria I recall well the old horsedrawn trams on which we rode to and from the town centre. They were drawn usually by two sturdy horses, were open to the elements except on rainy days when canvas flaps hanging on the sides were drawn closed. At each terminus the wooden seat backs were merely switched across the fixed seats and the team of horses was detached and brought round and attached to the other end of the car for its return trip on the single rail. To collect the fares and punch tickets the guard proceeded along one or other of the side steps holding on to the uprights which supported the roof.

The barns and stables were situated at the east end of Esselen Street where the Bronberg Church now stands; these were mainly if not completely built of wood and corrugated iron. I cannot recall the route of the horsedrawn trams as alleged turning into “Buiter” (sic) or Buiten Street and de Kock Street on the contrary my recollection is that the terminus was at the end of Esselen Street. There may however be Municipal or newspaper records to confirm the correct facts in the mentioned respects.

Down Esselen Street prior to the 1909 floods the Apies River was crossed through a drift while the horsedrawn trams crossed it on a bridge of wooden construction if I remember correctly. After the floods which washed out the drift making it unusable and until the canalisation and Esselen Street bridge were constructed we had to drive down to cross the River by the then narrow Lion Bridge.

If warranted you may wish to add these recollections to the records or raise some pertinent questions in our various newspapers to elicit facts relevant to enable the records to be entirely accurate.

With kind regards yours sincerely,

Signed: E. de V. Stegmann.

310 Victoria Street,
Waterkloof,
PRETORIA. 0181.
23 March, 1978.

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PRETORIA EN VOLKSPELE

Cecile de Ridder

Pretoria het altyd 'n besondere rol in die wêreld van die Volkspelerbeweging gespeel. Dit was die eerste stadsraad wat volkspele ingesluit het in 'n groot stadsfees, nl. die Jakarandafees van 1946. Die samewerking met die Pretoria Publisiteitsvereniging was puik. Die vertoning het onder spreiligte op die Caledoniese Terrein plaasgevind en spelers vanoor die hele provinsie het deelgeneem. Uit Potchefstroom het oor die 300 puik volkspelers onder leiding van mnr. Lity du Plessis en mev. K. van der Merwe tot die vertoning bygedra. Hulle het vyf Grey Hound busse vir die geleentheid gebruik. Die grootste aantal toeskouers van daardie Jakarandaweek het die volkspele-aand bygewoon.

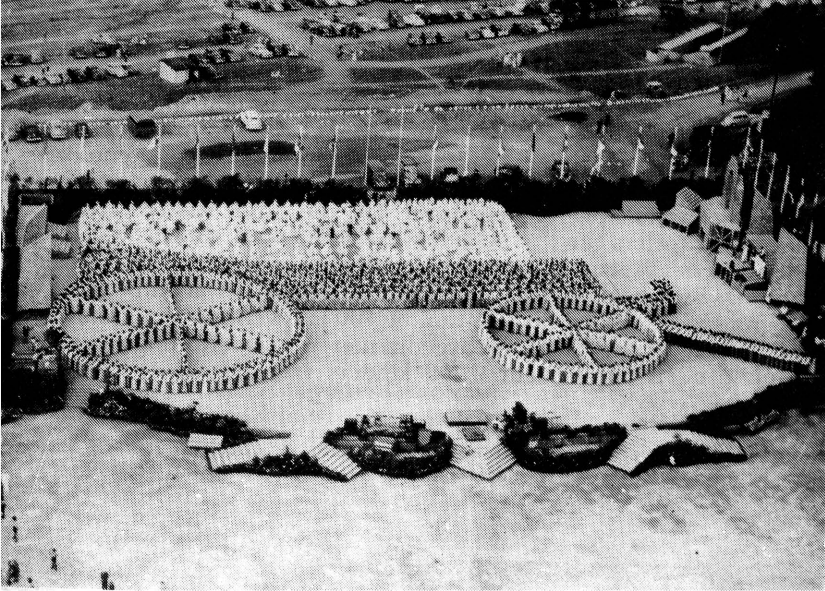
Die Jakaranda Volkspelerlaer wat die organisasie aangepak het was daarna vir ses jaar verantwoordelik vir die gewilde vertoning. Dit het soveel byval by die volkspelers self geniet dat die laers reeds vroeg in Januarie gevra het vir die datum van die Jakarandafees, ingeval dit anders moontlik met lokale funksies kon bots!

Die fees het gou uitgebrei na 'n hele dag byeenkoms. Die stadsraad het busse verskaf om die besoekers op 'n stadsbesigtigingstoer te neem. Die Jakaranda laer het die etes versorg – een jaar 'n pickniekete by Fonteine, 'n ander keer 'n aand-dinee in die Afrikaanse Koffiehuis van destyds.

Die programme saans het ook altyd 'n verrassing ingehou. Volksdanse uit Holland (24 volwassenes en 24 kinders) 'n reuse mylpaal, 'n fyn kunssinnige Jakaranda blommeballet deur leerlinge van die Ritmiese beweging klasse van C. de R.

En een jaar die “Andries Pretorius Wiel” met 400 brandende fakkels! 'n Reuse onderneming, maar soos een toeskouer later gesê het: “It was a marvellous hour, but we all gave a sigh of relief when the thrilling performance was concluded.”

'n Ander jaar het 'n ontsettende donder- en haelstorm Pretoria getref – soos so dikwels destyds in Oktobermaand – net toe die spelers en toeskouers na die Caledoniese Terrein gestroom het. Daar was egter reëlings getref met die stadsraad om busse gereed te hê om spelers na die Stadsaal te vervoer ingeval van so 'n ontwrigting. Die stadsraad het altyd die Stadsaal onbeset gelaat ingeval soiets sou voorval.



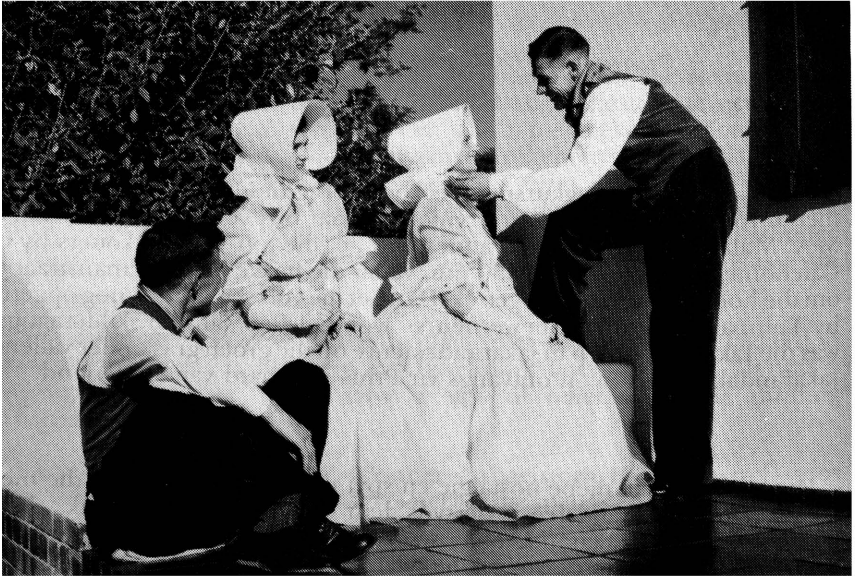
Ossewa Tablo (2000 volkspelers) — Inwydingsfees 1949
Voortrekkermonument

Een jaar het ons 'n dagkursus gereël by die Tegnieuse Kollege en dit afgesluit met 'n rondrit en besoek aan Brynterion waar ons voor Libertas vir Dr. en Mev. Malan gesing het. By 'n ander fees het die tou van toeskouers by die Caledoniese Terrein al om 6.30 nm. vanaf die hekke in Schoemanstraat tot om die hoek in Beatrixstraat getrek. Dan het die volkspelers ook nog opgetree by Tuinpartye by die "Goewerneys-"woning. Een van die skilderagtigste was die Jakarandagroep in jakarandakleure op die groen gras onder vallende Jakarandabloeisels by 'n ontvangs vir Prins Bernhard van Nederland.

Dis met werklike diepe nostalgie en spyt dat ek terug dink aan die mooi sprankelende Jakarandafeeste destyds deur die Stadsraad aangepak.* Maar dit was nie alleen Jakarandafeeste waar die volkspelers so 'n groot bydrae gelewer het nie. Die grootste getalle deelnemers sowel as toeskouers het die vertonings in 1949 – Inwyding van die Voortrekker Monument, 1955 Honderdjarige fees van Pretoria – bygewoon.

By die onvergeetlike fees in 1949 het oor die 2 000 volkspelers 'n pragvertoning in die amfiteater by die Monument gegee. Die "Ossewa tablo" deur die spelers gevorm aan die slot van hulle vertoning was asemrowend en is nog nooit weer geëwenaar of oortref nie. Met die fees in 1955 het 132 verskillende laers van oor die hele land oor die 3 000 spelers gestuur en sodoende hulle "Blomme hulde" aan die Stad van Blomme gebring. Weer het die Stadsraad hulle volle ondersteuning gegee. 'n Reuse tentdorp is by Loftus gebou vir huisvesting en die Parke Raad het twee reuse blommemandjies opgerig weerskante van die groot rugbyveld by Loftus waaruit die spelers (in 14 verskillende kleure) soos slingers van blomme hulle verskyning gemaak het. By die 100 000 toeskouers het hierdie drie vertonings bygewoon. Die slot tablo was 'n "Ossewa" wat ontbind het om 'n "Vliegtuig" te vorm. (Symbolies van die 100 jaar verloop van Pretoria.) Ook die skoolkinders het hulle deel bygedra met 'n pragvertoning van volkspele een middag op Loftus deur 2 500 kinders van alle skole in Pretoria en omgewing.

*Kan daar nie 'n plan gemaak word om Pretoria se 125ste verjaardag in 1980 weer luisterryk te vier met 'n egte "outydse" Jakarandafees nie?



Jakaranda Neefs en Niggies — Pretoria 1948

Eervolle Nagedagtenis aan Mevrou Ruwers **Cecile Henriette (1880–1968)**

Classical Dancing

(Pretoria News, September 13, 1916)
(By Our Lady Correspondent)

I was invited to the Cecil Hall yesterday to witness a small private exhibition of dancing given by the daughters of Mrs. Ruwers, who has lately returned from The Hague. While in Holland the children attended a famous dancing school for classical dancing, The Duncan School – The Hague, and proved apt pupils.

Nothing could have been more exquisitely simple and charming than the dances shown us yesterday. Dressed in severe little white satin tunics, bare armed and bare headed they interpreted the music with an unconsciousness that was delightful. Cobie, a slim little person, aged nine, was enchanting in her rendering of “On the Beach” by Mann, playing with the waves and hunting shells and sea treasures. Another dainty study was Schumann’s “First Loss” and “The Merry Peasant”, while her elder sister, Cecile, gave a pretty solo “The Ball Play” by Czerny. Cobie and Cecile were delightful together in a mazurka by Phillipa Tahrbach, well-acted, as well as well danced, and a pretty gavotte by Gluck.

During the afternoon little Cobie recited both in English en Dutch, showing considerable talent. I hope we shall see them often on the Pretoria concert stage.

“Volkstem” –

9 Februarie 1917

De Opera was tamelik vol en ’t publiek stelde de avond op hoge prijs. Bloemstukken, dozen met zuikergoed en misschien ook meer solide bewijzen van waardering gingen in grote menigte over de rand van ’t toneel heen. Eenmaal wierp zelfs iemand in vervoering ’n stuk chokolade in zilverpapier naar Cobie. Cobie, nog niet met zulke plastiese komplimenten vertrouwd, keek schichter naar de hoek van ’t toneel waar ’t terecht kwam. Mev. Ruwers werd ook voor ’t scherm geroepen en ontving boeketten ten

teken van welverdiende hulde voor het geen ze haar leerlingen heeft bijgebracht. Allen die meewerkten onze lof: 't Hester-orkest, mej. Gascoine, die 'n volgend maal wat minder Tosti moest zingen temidden van klassieke dans), de hr. Frank Hay, die met abewonderenswaardige toewijding de ondankbare taak van regisseur vervulde, en ook onze ouwe vriend Tom Robinson, die kosteloos bestuurde.

Al dadelik maakte de dansklasse 'n bekoorlike indruk bij 't Tableau de la Troupe: de kleine snoepertjies, nog maar kort geleden van 't zuigelingschap gepromoveerd, bleken als altijd 'n grote attraktie. Jammer, dat hun gezichtjes wel wat al te rood waren gemaakt om 't lijkkleurige toneellicht te neutraliseren. Maar ze waren snoezig gekleed en wandelden statig met zo 'n diepe ernst, dat men op kleinigheden bijna niet lette. Enkele dingen springen toch in 't oog. Waarom b.v. de fraaie planten, die 't toneel zo symmetriek afzetten, geplaatst in roestige lampolie-blikken? 'n Stukje gekleurd papier eromheen had al wonderen gedaan.

'n Bekende prélude van Chopin (o.m. tien jaar geleden door Bosman in Pretoria gespeeld) werd aangrijpend vertolkt; 't leek zelfs dat het smartelike meer uitkwam in de bewegingen van Cécile en haar kollega's dan in de tonen van 't orkest, dat overigens 'n zwaar werk bevredigend volhield. Daarentegen kwam 't mij voor dat de Valse Noble te dramaties in beeld werd gebracht op 't toneel. Maisie Baikie was beter in de andere nummers. Schumann's In het Veld werd door de geacheveerde Cécile en de innemende Cobie liefelik gegeven; terwijl die twee 't publiek veroverden met Fahrbach's Mazurka. Joice Eastwood bleek daarin 'n waardige helpster. In Schubert's Hongaarse Aria hadden Cobie en de kleine Baikie groot sukses en terecht, maar men zou—daar 't nu toch eenmaal aan de Tsardasj doet denken—dit stuk nog wat forser en wilder kunnen voorstellen, ook al is dit niet presies volgens Schubert's eigen idee. 't Is ondoenlik, alle nummers afzonderlik te noemen, maar toen 't scherm viel na de keurige gavotte van Glück (door te twee zusters Ruwers) wist Pretoria dat we toch niet noodzakelikerwijs in filistijnisme behoeven te verzinken wanneer we dit alles bezitten.

Cobie—ja, van Cobie kom 'k niet zo gemakkelijk af—ze resiteerde, o, zo levendig en fluks in 't Hollands en Engels. Ze b-r-r-ouwt ongenadig, maar als Geldersman vergeef 'k haar dat, door de nood gedrongen.

'n Mooie avond; nu maar gauw weer 'ns.

N.L.

HET RESULTAAT VAN 'T KINDER KONSERT GEORGANISEERD DOOR MEV. RUWERS

(*"Volkstem"*, 3 Maart 1920)

Deze week werd door ons uit handen van Mev. Ruwers en Cecile het bedrag ontvangen van de opbrengst van het Kinder Konsert gegeven ten bate van de noodlijdenden in Midden Europa. Met inbegrip van een kleine gift onzerzijds om het bedrag "af te ronden" beliep de totale opbrengst het mooie bedrag van £60. Dit is ongetwijfeld een schitterd sukses waarvoor Mevrouw Ruwers en haar beide dogtertjies Cecile en Cobie niet genoeg lof kan worden toegezwaaid. In ons vorig nummer maakte onze rapporteur melding van het komitee van regeling. Dit is echter een abuis. Er was geen komitee van regeling; alles werd door Mevrouw Ruwers zelf geregeld, iets wat zeker weinigen haar zouden kunnen nadoen. Wel had zij van verschillende zijden medewerking maar het arrangeren en regelen van de honderd en een kleine en grote zaken welke zich bij het geven van zulk een avond voordoen, was alles het werk van de energieke Mevr. Ruwers. Dat Cecile en Cobie de ziel van de uitvoering waren, behoeft hier niet verklaard te worden, voor hen die de uitvoering hebben bijgewoond. Mevrouw Ruwers en haar beide dochtertjies hebben door het organiseren van deze uitvoering een prachtig voorbeeld gesteld aan anderen. Wie zal't navolgen? De verkiezings drukte moge de aandacht van het publiek enigermate hebben afgeleid van de ernstige toestand in de landen der Middenrijken, ontkend kan helaas niet worden dat heel wat personen die hier iets zouden kunnen doen om fondsen voor dit schone werk van liefdadigheid bijeen te brengen, tot dusver al biezonder weinig aktiviteit en goede wil hebben getoond. Welnu er is nog tijd. Laat men dan het voorbeeld van Mevr. Ruwers volgen en helpen, helpen om de tienduizende van honger omkomende kleinen te redden van een wisse hongerdood. De afrekening van het Konsert van Mevr. Ruwers laten wij hieronder volgen:

AFREKENING

van het Konsert in de Stadszaal op 24 Februari, 1920, gegeven door Mevrouw Ruwers voor het "Red de Kinder Fonds".

Ontvangsten: Van de sweets tafel £14 2 9, aan de deur verkochte kaarten £5 9 6, aan verkoop van kaarten uitgegeven door Mevr. Ruwers £41 2 6; aan verkochte programma's £1 3 3; kollekte van Cobie bij resitatie £4 11 6. Totaal £66 19 6.

Uitgaven: Advertensies £1 7s, drukwerk £2 17 6, Mevr. Ruwers extra onkosten £1 5s, de Heer Israel Muziek £1. Totaal R6 9 6. Salo £60.

Afgedragen aan het fonds £60.

Verslag van die Skooltuinekompetisie

1977

(Ingestel deur die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria in 1955 as bydrae tot die Eeufeesviering van die Stad Pretoria vir mededinging deur die Laerskole in die Pretoria Stad Skoolraaddistrik)

Twaalf skole het in 1977 deelgeneem aan die kompetisie wat vir die eerste keer nou verdeel is in skole met Groot Terreine en skole met Klein Terreine.

<i>Groot Terrein:</i>	1ste Prys Die Poort Laerskool	Skild
	2de Prys Rachel de Beer Laerskool	Beker
<i>Klein Terrein:</i>	1ste Prys Monumentpark Laerskool	Skild
	2de Prys Die Heuwel Laerskool	Beker
	3de Prys Genl. Andries Brink Laerskool	Beker

Die verowering van die pryse is op gepaste en luisterryke wyse by die verskillende skole gevier met die oorhandiging van die skilde en bekere deur die voorsitter van die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria. Die Inspekteurs van Skole en die Voorsitters van die respektiewelike skoolkomitees was teenwoordig en waardering is uitgespreek vir die opvoedingswerk deur die Genootskap gedoen en die entoesiasme en werk van die skoolhoofde, personele en leerlinge van die skole. Alle skole wat meegeding het word bedank, elke skool het 'n meriete sertifikaat gekry, al kon die gesogte pryse nie verower word nie.

VERENIGING WILLEM PUNT

(Om geregistreer te word ingevolge Artikel 21 van die Wet op Maatskappye van 1973 soos gewysig)

AKTE VAN OPRIGTING

1. Naam

Die naam van die Vereniging is:

Afrikaans: VERENIGING WILLEM PUNT

Engels: WILLEM PUNT SOCIETY

2. Doel

Die doel van die Vereniging is:

- 2.1 Die behoud, by wyse van aankoop of andersins, van geboue van historiese of kultuurhistoriese of argitektoniese of volkekundige of estetiese waarde of sodanige geboue wat deel uitmaak van so 'n geheelbeeld;
- 2.2 die behoud, by wyse van aankoop of andersins, van terreine, met of sonder geboue, wat van historiese of kultuurhistoriese of argitektoniese of volkekundige of estetiese of natuurkundige belang is;
- 2.3 die behoud, by wyse van aankoop of andersins, van voorwerpe wat van historiese of kultuurhistoriese of kunshistoriese of kunswaardige of volkekundige of estetiese belang is. Behalwe bogenoemde doelstellings en dié beter te kan bereik, ook die volgende doelstellings:
- 2.4 om roerende en onroerende goed of regte daarin of daarop aan te koop en te verkoop, te huur, te verhuur, op 'n wettige wyse te verkry, te besit, te skenk, te verpand, deur verband te beswaar of op 'n ander wettige wyse daaroor te beskik vir die doeleindes van die Vereniging;
- 2.5 die gelde en fondse van die Vereniging te belê na goeddunke van die Bestuur;
- 2.6 verdoë te rig aan enige statutêre of private liggaam in verband met die bewaring of sloping of oprigting of aanlê van geboue, terreine, paaie of strate, brûe en spoorweë;
- 2.7 die verkoop van foto's, tekeninge, kunswerke, films, klank en videobande, publikasies en ander dokumentasie met betrekking tot die Vereniging se besit of waarby die Vereniging vanweë sy doelstellings andersins belang het.

3. Aanspreeklikheid

Die aanspreeklikheid van lede is beperk deur garansie. Elke lid van die Vereniging onderneem om by ontbinding van die Vereniging as hy/sy dan nog lid is, of as ontbinding plaasvind binne een jaar nadat hy/sy opgehou het om lid te wees, die bedrag van hoogstens R5 (vyf rand) te betaal ter dekking van die Vereniging se skulde en verpligtinge by ontbinding sou die laste die likwideerbare bates oorskry.

4. Ledegeld

'n Toetreefooi van R5 (vyf rand) word vereis om lid van die Vereniging Willem Punt te word.

5. Inkomste

Die inkomste en eiendom van die Vereniging, uit welke bron ook verkry, word uitsluitend gewy aan die bevordering van die Vereniging se doelstellings. Geen gedeelte van die inkomste en eiendom van die Vereniging mag regstreeks of onregstreeks by wyse van dividend, bonus of in enige ander vorm van wins aan lede van die Vereniging betaal of oorgedra word nie, met dien verstande dat niks hierin vervat belet nie dat betalings van vergoeding ter goeder trou geskied aan enige amptenaar of dienaar van die Vereniging of enige lid daarvan vir dienste werklik aan die Vereniging gelewer.

6. Ontbinding

As daar by ontbinding van die Vereniging en na betaling van alle skulde, nog enige fondse of eiendom hoegenaamd oorbly, mag dit nie onder die lede verdeel word nie, maar moet dit op aanwysing van die lede voor of ten tye van die ontbinding, aan 'n liggaam met soortgelyke doelstellings, of aan 'n staats- of owerheidsinstellings gegee of oorgedra word, of by gebreke aan sodanige aanwysing, dan op aanwysing van die Minister van Ekonomiese Sake verdistribueer word.

7. Maatskappy-vorming

Die VERENIGING WILLEM PUNT is op 10 Augustus 1976 opgerig. Ons, die afsonderlike persone wie se name, adresse en beroepe in die skedule hierby aangegee word, wil ons ingevolge hierdie Akte van Oprigting tot 'n maatskappy vorm.

AANKOOP EN BEWARING EN RESTOURASIE VAN HEREHUIS OP RISSIKSTRAAT NO. 62

**MEA VOTA Erf 8, 73 x 120 Voet – 57 vk. Roede 64 K. vk. voet.
Gebou 1898.**

Mevrou K.S. Noel-Barham, die huidige eienares is bereid om die huis te verkoop. Belangstellendes in die bewaring van historiese huise het besluit om die "Vereniging Willem Punt" te vorm met die doel om hierdie huis te koop, te restoureer en te bear, asook in diens van die gemeenskap te stel met die gedagte om gedeelte te gebruik as museum om die volgende te vereer:





Die Z.A.R. uit die tydperk van President S.J.P. Kruger
Oudstryders 1899 – 1902
Die Nederlandsche Suid-Afrikaanse Spoorwegmaatskappy (ZASM)
Z.A.R.P. offisiere en manskappe
Staatsamptenare van die Z.A.R.
Predikante van die Z.A.R.
Argitekte en bouers van die Z.A.R.
Medici van die Z.A.R.
Kultuurleiers van die Z.A.R.

Die huis is omrede sy historiese agtergrond en tipiese argitektoniese styl uitstekend geskik vir hierdie doeleindes. Dit is in 1898 vir die Z.A.S.M. amptenare gebou en sy eerste inwoners was die volgende ingenieurs van die maatskappy wat die spoorweg na Delagoabaai gebou het

Cornelis van der Maade en Anthonie Westerberg

'n Spoorstaaf is in die struktuur ingebou vir versterking en die plafonne is tipies uit die tydperk van gipsplafonne.

Later is die huis bewoon deur Majoor Thomas Kroon, oud-offisier van die Z.A.R. Staatsartillerie en in diens voor 1902 by die Z.A.S.M.

Behalwe dat die huis diens kan doen as museum soos hierbo beskryf sal dit beskikbaar gestel word as kantore aan historiese verenigings en gedeelte kan verhuur word aan uitgesoekte huurders wat vir die kontrole en toesig verantwoordelik kan wees.

BESTUURSLEDE:

Dr. W.H.J. Punt, St. Patrickweg 251, Muckleneuk, Pretoria.
Dr. C.J.P. Jooste, Unionstraat 260, Riviera, Pretoria.
Professor G.C. van Drimmelen, McKenziestraat 195, Brooklyn.
Mnr. H.J. de Graaff, Milnerstraat 365, Waterkloof, Pretoria.
Mnr. P.O. Kraamwinkel, Jonathanstraat 517, Waterkloof-Glen.
Dr. N.A. Coetzee – Sekretaris-penningmeester. Julius Jeppestraat 246,
Waterkloof 0181, Pretoria.

VERENIGING WILLEM PUNT

**FINANSIËLE VOORSIENING VIR REGISTRASIE VAN DIE
VERENIGING EN DIE AANKOOP VAN HUIS EN ERF IN
RISSIKSTRAAT 62, PRETORIA VIR BEWARING**

Beraamde Koopprijs

R33 000

Beraamde voorlopige restorasiekoste	1 500	R34 500
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Skenkings reeds ingevorder op voorwaarde dat die ZASM-Herehuis Rissikstraat 62 aangekoop word vir restorasie en bewaring en nie weer verkoop sal word nie

Stadsraad van Pretoria	R15 000	
Barclays Bank	10 000	
Hannes Meiring	2 000	
Diverse kleiner skenkings	1 000	R28 000

Die Vereniging Willem Punt sal geregistreer word as 'n Vereniging sonder Winsbejag en geen hereregte by oordrag sal betaalbaar wees nie.

Lopende Uitgawes per maand

Lopende Inkomste per maand

Belasting	R50	Huur	R180
Assuransie	3		
Water en Ligte	21		
Erfbelasting	50		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	R124		R180

Later sal groter restourasie aangepak word met die volgende vooruitsigte:

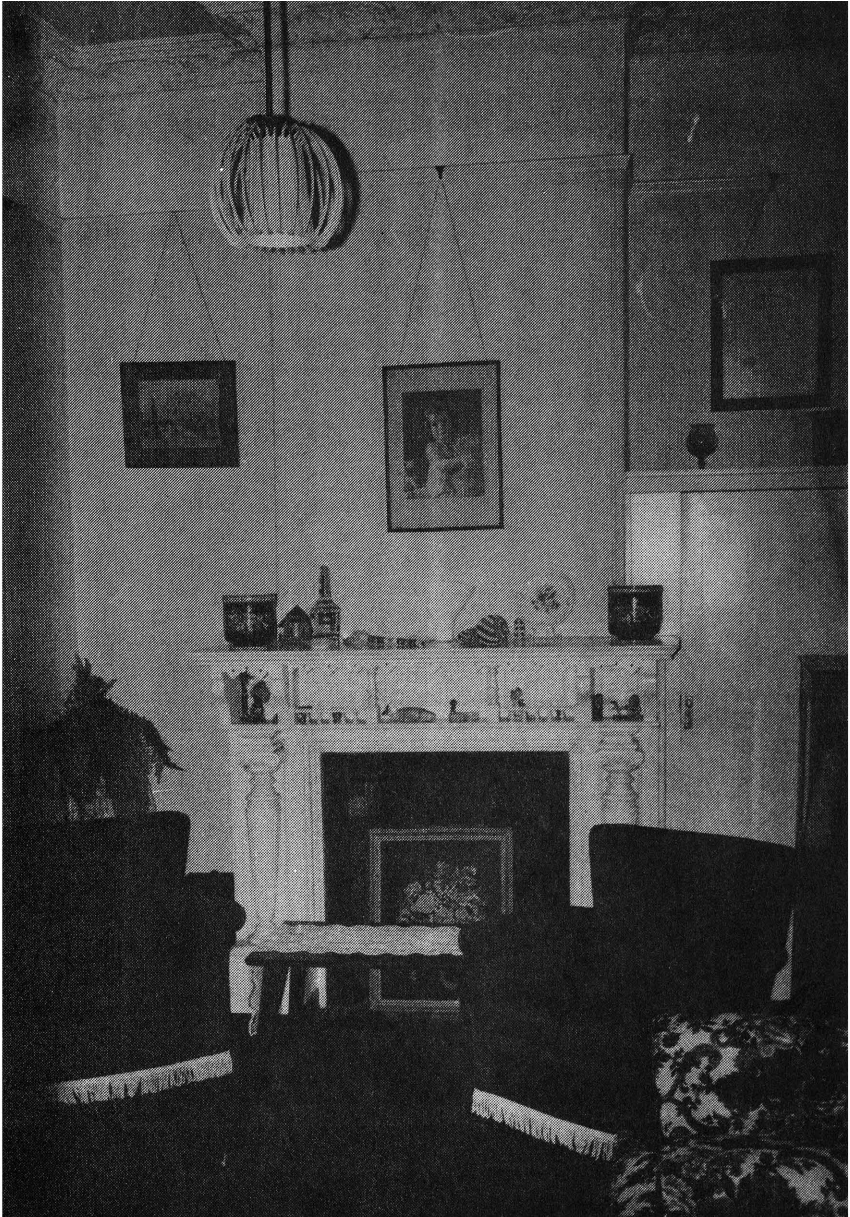
Die Historiese Monumentekommissie word gevra om die huis as 'n historiese gedenkwaardigheid te verklaar en sal dan 'n bydrae vir restourasie kan maak.

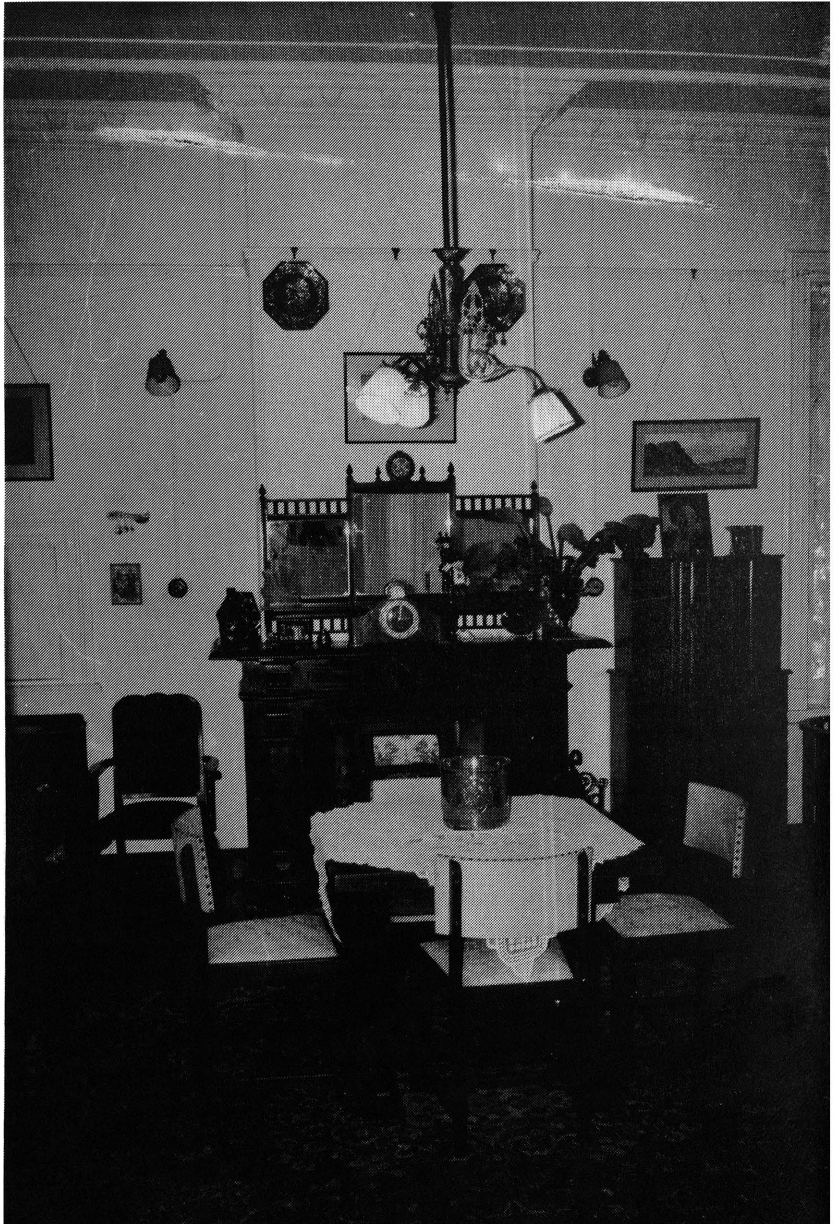
In ooreenstemming met wetgewing wat die Parlement in vooruitsigte stel sal Provinsiale Administrasies toegelaat word om bydraes tot restourasie van historiese geboue te maak. Die Provinsiale Administrasie kan dan genader word.

Verdere skenkings word in vooruitsig gestel sodra registrasie afgehandel is. Prokureurskoste sal minimaal wees volgens belofte.

OPROEP OM SKENKINGS – WORD LEDE VAN DIE STIGTING

Skenkings aan die Stigting Willem Punt is welkom. Nog net R5 000 is nodig om die saak deur te voer. Rig u skenking of ledegeld aan die Penningmeester, Dr. N.A. Coetzee, Julius Jeppestraat 246, Waterkloof 0181, Pretoria.





HISTORY TOUR OF MIDDELBURG

A busload of members of the Society of Old Pretoria visited Middelburg on Saturday last on a tour of historical spots in this area.

The tour started off at the old cemetery where the society, who was accompanied by Miss Ellie Oosthuizen and Mr. Laurie Smith, experts on Middelburg's history, laid a wreath at the grave of Andries Francois du Toit, the first Landdrost of Pretoria.

The tour was under the leadership of Mr. Tom Andrews of the Old Pretoria Society. Mr. Andrews has been a member of the society for a number of years and his special field of study, is the origin of place names (onomastics).

The tour visited the Middelburg station, the home of Jack Hindon, Henri Slegtkamp, Fort Merensky and Botshabelo.

Andries Francois du Toit, the first Landdrost of Pretoria was born at Eerste Rivier, district Stellenbosch on August 8, 1813 and died at Middelburg on August 15, 1883.

In 1854 again in 1855 he was a candidate in the presidential election in the O.F.S.

In 1857 he was appointed the first Landdrost of Pretoria and began surveying erven for the town.

He built a house on land he called Arcadia (the name survives in the suburb of that name) which he obtained from Pres. M.W. Pretorius in exchange for a Basuto pony.

Du Toit finished his survey in 1859 and resigned from his post.

He established the first school in Pretoria and imported a schoolmaster from the Netherlands, Hendrik Stiemens.

For supporting Comd. Gen. S. Schoeman, in the civil war of 1862-63 he was fined 250 rix-dollars.

He became a member of the school commission under the Rev. A.J. Regemann in 1864.

After selling Arcadia to Stephanus Meintjes he settled at Middelburg during the seventies.

He was consulted with the Walker survey of Pretoria in 1875.

Andries Street and Du Toit Streets in central Pretoria are both named after him.

His grandson bearing his names (1870-1955) was a member of the Lydenburg Commando and took part in the Siege of Ladysmith.

JAARVERSLAG GENOOTSKAP OUD-PRETORIA (1977 – 78)

1. Inleiding

Dit is vir my 'n voorreg om vanaand hierdie verslag van die aktiwiteite van die Genootskap aan u voor te dra.

In sy geheel gesien was dit 'n goeie jaar – nie juis 'n jaar van opwindende gebeure nie, maar 'n jaar waarin u Bestuur baie verrig het. Soos verlede jaar, is elke bestuurslid andermaal verantwoordelik gehou vir 'n besondere aspek van die aktiwiteite. Dit blyk 'n baie goeie reëling te wees, daar elkeen hom/haar besig hou met dit wat hom/haar interesseer. Hierdie werkswyse word dan ook by die nuwe bestuur aanbeveel. Elke bestuurslid was die vryheid gegee om een of meer lede om hom/haar behulpsaam te wees te koopteer.

2. Bestuur 1977 – 1978

Die uittredende bestuur was soos volg saamgestel – die aktiwiteit waarvoor hy/sy verantwoordelik was, word in hakies aangedui:

Voorsitter	:	dr. C.J.P. Jooste
Onder-Voorsitter	:	dr. N.A. Coetzee
Sekretaris/Penningmeester	:	mnr. A. Jansen
Assistent-Sekretaresse	:	mev. M. Brink
Assistent-Penningmeester	:	mnr. A.J.D. Boon
Argivaris	:	mnr. A.G. Oberholster
Redakteur (Pretoriana)	:	dr. N.A. Coetzee
Bykomende lede	:	Mnr. T.E. Andrews (Nuusbrief en plekname)
		mnr. M. Emms (Toere)
		mnr. W. Punt (Waaksaamheid)
		mnr. D.W. Schoeman (Navorsing)
		mnr. A.W.J. Uys (Voortrekker- en oorlogsgrafte)
		mej. E. Wellmann (Skooltuine)
		mnr. J.A.M. Ebersohn

3. Werksaamhede van die komitees

3.1 *Finansies*

Mnr. Boon sal 'n afsonderlike verslag oor die finansiële stand van sake indien.

3.2 *Argief*

Die stand van sake t.o.v. die argief is met groot entoesiasme deur mnr. Oberholster nagegaan. Alle dokumentasie – korrespondensie, notules, ens. word in aanwys A 1266 van die Transvaalse Argief in bruikleen gehuisves. Notules van die jare 1974 en 1975 word vermis. Uitgawes van Pretoriana is egter nie in A 1266 opgeneem nie.

'n Ou beskadigde klavier, stoel en tafel uit die huis van Brass Pereira is in besit van die Kultuur- en Opelugmuseum en sal waarskynlik binnekort daaruit geneem word.

'n Volledige stel Pretoriana sal ook eersdaags in die Argief geplaas word.

In die toekoms sal jaarliks 'n inventaris van bates van die Genootskap by die Jaarverslag gevoeg word.

Die Genootskap is groot dank aan die Argiefoutoriteite verskuldig vir die wyse waarop die besittings van die Genootskap bewaar word.

3.3 *Pretoriana*

Na verwisseling van redakteur – mnr. S. Welz was voorheen redakteur – het dr. Coetzee daarin geslaag om Pretoriana nommer 73 die lig te laat sien. Weereens was dit 'n geval dat die drukkers gelikwider is, maar gelukkig is die publikasie voltooi en is u in besit van u eksemplaar.

3.4 *Skooltuine*

Nadat die Bestuur besluit het om die kompetisie vir skooltuine in twee te verdeel t.w. een vir die groter (getal leerlinge, grootte van grond, ens. in aanmerking geneem) en een vir die kleiner skole. Met die hulp van verskeie bestuurslede is 'n pragtige skild vir die B-afdeling gemaak wat goed vergelyk met dié van die A-afdeling. Vier-en-sewentig skole het uitnodigings ontvang om deel te neem, maar ongelukkig het slegs elf skole ingeskryf. Mnr. Kobus Botha, Hoof van die Departement Landbou en Tuinbou van die Pretoriase Kollege vir Gevorderde Tegniese Onderwys het ingewillig om die beoordeling waar te neem. Die uitslag was soos volg:

A-Afdeling:

- 1ste prys – Laerskool Die Poort (skild)
- 2de prys – Laerskool Rachel de Beer (beker)

B-Afdeling

- 1ste prys – Laerskool Monumentpark (skild)
- 2de prys – Laerskool Die Heuwel (beker)
- 3de prys – Laerskool Generaal Andries Brink (beker)

Die entoesiasme van mej. Wellmann het verseker dat die kompetisie 'n sukses was. Die Bestuur vertrou egter dat vanjaar meer skole sal deelneem.

Die trofee is deur die voorsitter en mej. Wellmann aan die wenners oorhandig.

3.5 News letter and place names

Mr. Andrews represented the Society on the Place Names Committee of the City Council.

Changes in several existing street names were proposed viz. Jacob Maré/Rissik and Walker Streets. Mr. Andrews proposed that the names be kept. This resolution was adopted and was passed on for approval.

Wonderboom Township: Erf no. 23 was subdivided and the following proposed:

Kameeldoring » Wildekweper
Steeg and Kaneelbaslaan » Ironwood Str.

Gezina: Several changes were proposed – the details to appear in a newsletter.

Tours

Mr. Emms with the assistance of other members of the Committee was responsible for the organization of seven very successful tours:

A half-day tour to the Old Cemetery.

A half-day tour to the Old Cemetery.

A half-day tour to the Old Cemetery.
Hartbeespoortdam – farm of Andries Pretorius and
Foot Folley.

Half-day tour to Petronella, Garden of
Remembrance etc.

Pretoria, with a braai at the Fountains Rustenburg –
Boekenhoutfontein – Farm of Paul Kruger.
Johannesburg – Dr. Norwich, Chairman of the
Historical Foundation acted as guide.
Middelburg – Transvaal.
Erasmus House.

Since the inception of the scheme about 20 tours have been organized with \pm 1 000 participating.

Out of the profits, a public address system was purchased to be used on the tours.

3.7 *Waaksaamheid*

Mnr. W. Punt het ons gereeld op hoogte gehou met verwickelinge in die stad en dan veral met betrekking tot Kerkplein.

Ons is dankbaar om te kon verneem dat die Noord-westelike fasade van kerkplein nou nie meer gesloop gaan word nie.

3.8 *Navorsing*

Mnr. Schoeman en sy helpers het gesorg vir die indeksering van die meer as sewentig uitgawes van Pretoriana.

'n Skaalmodel van Kerkplein om en by 1900 is die volgende projek wat aandag geniet. Professore Burger en Holm van die Departement Argitektuur van U.P. het ingestem om saam met die studente die projek in 1979 aan te pak teen 'n koste van \pm R600.

Verdere projekte word beoog, mits die nodige hulp van lede en finansiële steun gevind kan word.

3.9 *Oorlogs- en Voortrekkergrafte*

Baie onbekende grafte is deur mnr. Uys onder die Bestuur se aandag gebring. Die opknapping hiervan sal deur die nuwe Bestuur met die hulp van die Voortrekkers en Boy Scouts en Girl Guides aangepak word.

4. Committee activities

The Committee visited the City Hall to inspect the Carillon and clock in the clock tower. Mr. Ebersohn kindly brought this matter to the attention of the Committee. After several interviews and phone calls to members of the City Council, the clock has now been restored, the Carillon will, we hope, be in full operation in the near future.

A visit was also paid to the Erasmus House which was bought by the Provincial Council for the erection of a new hospital. These plans, however, have been discarded and The Society Old Pretoria suggested that the Cultural, Historical and Open-Air Museum approach The Provincial Council to donate the land for the proposed open-air museum.

5. (General) Algemeen

Die Vereniging vier vanjaar sy dertigste verjaardag en spog nou met 'n ledetal van 255 lede – 53 is geskrap omdat hulle ledegeld na etlike aanmanings nie betaal is nie.

Ons het ook met ander historiese verenigings kontak gemaak en brei nog steeds hierdie kontak uit.

In conclusion I wish to thank all the members of the Committee for their hard work. Without their efforts and loyalty we would not have achieved what was mentioned here to-night.

Dit was vir my 'n voorreg en 'n vreugde om met hierdie komitee saam te werk. My hartlike dank aan elkeen en my beste wense aan die inkomende Bestuur.

C.J.P. JOOSTE
VOORSITTER

APRIL 1978

Erelede, Lewenslede en Gewone lede van die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria

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Prof. A.N. Pelzer
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Mnr. P.J. Botha
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Mev. T.E. Vlok
Mr. S.E. von Broembsen
Mrs. E.N. van Hoesslin
Mnr. Jerry Vorster

Genootskap Oud-Pretoria
(Gestig: 22 Maart 1948)

Ons doel: Om te waak oor die
geskiedenis van ons stad en distrik.

Old Pretoria Society
(Founded: 22 March, 1948)

Our aim: To preserve the past for the
future of our city and district.

BESTUUR / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Onder voorsitter	—	Dr. N. A. Coetzee	—	Vice-Chairman
Sekretaris-Penningmeester	—	Mnr/Mr A. Jansen	—	Secretary-Treasurer
Assistent-Sekretaris	—	Mej. E. Wellmann	—	Assistant-Secretary
Assistent-Penningmeester	—	Mnr/Mr A.J.D. Boon	—	Assistant-Treasurer
Argivaris	—	Mnr/Mr A. G. Oberholster	—	Archivist
Redakteur Pretoriana	—	Dr. N. A. Coetzee	—	Editor Pretoriana

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Mnr/Mr W. J. Punt
Mnr/Mr D. W. Schoeman
Mnr/Mr J. A. M. Ebersohn
Mev/Mrs M. Andrews
Dr. F. J. du Toit Spies

