



Drawing of BISHOP HENRY B. BOUSFIELD as a Horseman

8. Reverend Michael Nuttal 1975-1982
9. Reverend Richard Ansten Kroft from 1982

Supplied by Decil Maguire, member of Old Pretoria Society, 3 September 1984.

THE OLD CEMETERY IN PRETORIA (2)

by T.E. Andrews

The foregoing issue of *Pretoriana* Nr. 85, March 1984, contained a reprint of the first 14 pages of the publication *Pioneer Sketches* by Mr. T.E. Andrews, member of the Board of our Society. He offers short biographies of well-known and lesser known persons buried in the Old Cemetery on Church Street West in Pretoria. We continue with the reprinting of these biographies and thank Mr. Andrews for his kind permission to do this. I have added some particulars to the biographies of Mr. W.A. de Rapper and Captain Elliott.

The editor, C. de Jong

Celliers Family

The Celliers family left footprints in many spheres of Pretoria's history. Johannes François, born at Wellington, C.P. in 1839, was invited by President T.F. Burgers to start a pro-government newspaper in Pretoria which he did, and the first edition of *De Volksstem* was printed in August 1873. After the War of 1880-81 he represented Bloemhof in the Volksraad and from 1888 represented De Kaap and Barberton. He died from a stroke in Johannesburg during an election campaign on the 4th March, 1895. His wife Magdalena died before him in 1889 and both rest in the same plot.

J.F.E. (Jan), the poet, was his son, also born at Wellington in 1865. He tried his hand as a surveyor, then joined the Education Department. He married in 1894 and became State Librarian a year later. Jan was in Pretoria when it fell to the British in 1900, he escaped dressed in his wife's clothes. He established the wellknown Afrikaans magazine *Die Brandwag* in 1909 and he contributed poetry and prose which lives on in many publications. His love of country and simple things around him are shown in his works.

Jan Celliers, like his father, died in Johannesburg on 1st July, 1940, his body was returned to his favourite town, Pretoria, for burial beside his wife Susanna in a family plot.

J.D. (Jacobus Daniël - Japie), established himself in Pretoria soon after gold was discovered in Johannesburg in 1886, and became marketmaster in 1887. 'J.D.' lived at Myrtle Lodge, in a street named after him in Sunnyside.

In 1888 he planted two Jacaranda seedlings in his garden, the first in Pretoria. Sunnyside Primary School now occupies the site of his homestead and the two Jacarandas still stand bearing a plaque.

Clary: Susan Miller

In 1918 A.E. Adriani wrote: *'Op het oude kerkhof te Pretoria links van de hoofdingang is een eenvoudig graf, door een hek omgeven en door het dichte geboomte beschaduwde. Het plekje is slechts aan weinigen bekend, en het groepje jongemeisjes, dat zich op zekere Maandagmiddag in de maand Maart 1899 daarheen begeeft, heeft enige moeite het te vinden. Eerbiedig worden de meegebrachte kransen en bloemen neergelegd, en de meisjes scharen zich met hun onderwijzeres rondom het hekje en lezen het opschrift op de steen, aan het hoofdeinde opgericht'*.

Briefly: 'In 1918 A.E. Adriani wrote: 'In the old cemetery left of the main entrance, unknown to many, lies a simple grave under the shade of some trees.

On a certain Monday morning in March 1899, a group of (school) girls with their teacher laid wreaths and flowers on the grave as a mark of respect and commemoration, reading the following lines engraved on the tombstone'.

Sacred to the memory of Susan Miller
Clary, born in Conway Mass, March, 5
1878. Blessed are the dead which die
in the Lord; and their works do
follow them.

And on the other side of the stone:

A teacher for fourteen years in Mount-Holyoake Seminary. She came to Pretoria in November 1877 to found a similar institution.

The grave is no longer railed in and the bushes have been cleared.

In her diary (a copy of which is in Dr. Jan Ploeger's library) dated 7 November 1877 she writes *'My long journey is over. The many wishes of my friends that it might be safe and pleasant have been fulfilled. I will not speak of my first impressions of Pretoria, except to say that they are pleasant ones'*.

'Mr. and Mrs. Bosman (which see) are exceedingly kind and very enthusiastic about the seminary. One of Mr. Bosman's first remarks was 'The most important thing that remains to be decided is the name.' All manifested the great pleasure with the name affixed upon'.

'The building is not yet commenced. According to Mr. Murray's urgent advice, the matter was left till our arrival. It is to cost 150 000 dollars'.

'I have been upon the site which is half a mile from the parsonage. There is a hill back of it, which of course was named Prospect Hill. Next Monday, Miss Ruggles and I are to open a school in the Church, boarding at Mrs. Bosman's'

It is of interest to record, that the tombstone adorning Miss Clary's grave was made and shipped from her hometown in America.

Cordua H.

Hans Cordua came from Germany in 1896 and on the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War of 1899 volunteered and served as a staff officer in the Boer Artillery.

On the occupation of Pretoria, Cordua surrendered and after taking the Oath of Allegiance to the British became involved in a conspiracy to seize Lord Roberts and hand him over to the commandos and to shoot all British officers stationed in Pretoria.

The plot was discovered and the leaders arrested. Cordua's trial was conducted in a military court housed in the Second Raadsaal. Cordua, says one writer, *'impressed me as being very much a visionary; a young man, 23 years of age, who would court popularity in almost any cause. The influences about him were undoubtedly bad, and the idea of making 'Europe stagger' at his great attempt had no doubt thoroughly possessed him'*.

The findings of the court was guilty and the sentence severe:

'For being found wearing the uniform
of a British soldier in time of war
in the enemy's country - DEATH

'For breaking his oath of parole - DEATH

'For conspiring with others to seize
persons of certain British
Officers - DEATH

The other supposed leaders were found not guilty, and deported to prisoner of war camps in the Cape Province.

Cordua was executed by firing squad in the prison grounds on the 24th August 1900. Captain Borchard, the Court Usher remarked, *'He bore it bravely, he admitted the justice of the sentence, and walked across the prison yard to the place of execution, and faced it like a man'*.

Coster H.J.

Hermanus Jacob Coster, born at Alkmaar, Netherlands, on 30 June 1865. Died 21st October, 1899.

In 1891 Coster was practising as an advocate and on Edwald Esselen's resignation in 1895 succeeded him as State Attorney, resigning two years later because of a dispute with President Kruger.

When the war broke out in 1899 he was instrumental in raising the Hollander Corps and served under Commandant Jan Lombard.

On Saturday, 21st October, 1900 the Corps under General J.H.M. Kock's command stood against the forces of General French at Elandsplaagte. French lost 50 dead and 213 wounded as against the Boer losses of 45 dead which included two Johannesburg English speaking men, a German Count, Von Zeppelin, and Coster. General Kock was also wounded at this battle and died a few days later in a British hospital at Ladysmith.

Coster was State Prosecutor at the Jameson Raiders/Reformer trial held in the Market Hall in 1896.

Lt. Dr. H.J. Coster was re-interred in Church Street Cemetery on the 11th December, 1961.

De Rapper, W.A.

Wilhelm Alexander de Rapper, born in the Netherlands in 1841, found his last resting place here in Pretoria in 1912 alongside his wife who died some eleven years before him.

Wilhelm was a building contractor who erected many homes throughout Pretoria, especially in Sunnyside where he lived and had a street called after him until it was closed for inclusion in the Sanlam complex.

His talent as an architect and builder can be seen in what is left of his home on the corner of Park and Troye Streets, now occupied by the old wing of the Arcadia Nursing Home which bears a foundation stone laid by him.

In 1913, Mr. J. de Rapper, a member of the family, was living at No. 20 De Rapper Street.

Addendum by C. de Jong

W.A. de Rapper probably was the builder of the house 62 Rissik Street, constructed in 1898 for two engineers of the Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorweg-Maatschappij (NZASM), A. Westenberg en C. van der Made. Though the builder is not known, the style resembles very much that of houses of which De Rapper is known to be the constructor. Later the house was called 'Mea Vota' (My Desire), at present 'NZASM Remembrance House'.

Devereux (brothers)

President M.W. Pretorius had Pretoria 'dorp' laid out from plans submitted by Visagie, Skinner and Devereux brothers on portions of the farms Elands-poort and Daspoort that he had purchased from Prinsloo and Van der Walt, who lent their names to streets in the city centre and from a combination of the two gave the name Waltloo to an industrial section near Silverton.

Article 144 of 27 September 1860 records a resolution which confirms that His Honour M.W. Pretorius gives transfer to the Government of the Z.A. Republiek, the half of the farm Daspoort and the half of the farm Elands-poort - the part of the present town bordered by Du Toit, Potgieter, The Apies in the North, with the exception of J.J. Prinsloo's property (Prinz-hof Estate at the Northern end of Prinsloo Street - Ed).

Edward Lewis (or Louis) and Lionel Devereux were builders who came from England in 1850 with William Skinner and settled in Natal where they met Andries Pretorius, who encouraged them to ply their trade in the newly created Transvaal. Their first contract was to build a house for the Hero of Blood River, at Grootplaats, also known as Rust de Ouden, now covered by the waters of the Hartebeespoort Dam.

The trio (including Skinner) erected the first Church on the Square in 1854 and the reconstruction of the second Church, and possibly and still in partnership erected the first Raadsaal.

Lewis Devereux lies buried in the 'Skinner plot', dying of a broken heart - it is said. No record is found as to what became of his brother.

De Villiers, T.N.

Tielman Niewoud De Villiers started life as a transport rider on the Diamond Fields. He settled in Pretoria in 1869 as one of the town's pioneer lawyers. He represented Bloemhof in the Volksraad and was a founder member of the Pretoria Club in 1885; De Villiers was a member of the first Pretoria Agriculture Society and Chairman of the Temporary Town Council established in 1897.

A director of companies, he owned much property throughout the Transvaal. His home was 'Belle Ombre Estate' in Boom Street, extending westwards from Paul Kruger Street (Marktstraat) towards Schoolplaats Mission, where the bus-sheds are now sited.

Tielman was also a sports pioneer. R.T.N. James recalled; *'well do I remember looking on at a cricket contest on the Square, when the Revs. Weavind (Wesleyan) and Law (C of E) wielded the willow in friendly contest while Mr. Hans M. and T.N. de Villiers would shout 'how's that, Unpire,' to an L.b.w. by P.J.M.'*

The dramatic execution in marble of his dying son Desirée on the Natal Battlefield is symbolic.

This youth, one of many hundreds, served in the Burger forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War, a fine memorial to a son who laid down his life for his country.

De Vogel, J.A.

De Vogel came to the Transvaal and married a niece of ds. A.J. Begemann. He was Landdrost of Wakkerstroom and in 1885 became Postmaster-General in Pretoria. His home stood on the site of the Residensie Hotel recently demolished in Schoeman Street, off Paul Kruger Street.

Jan Adam de Vogel with his eight year old son and a Miss Webb, a school teacher, drowned when the stage coach they were travelling in on their return to Pretoria from an inspection at Potchefstroom, overturned at Muldersdrift by a sudden flash-flood.

De Vogel gave the name to 'Signal Hill' above the railway station that we today call Salvokop and Timeball Hill.

De Vogel devised a scheme of advising the locals of the valley of what mail had arrived by using signals. When the Kimberley mail arrived, he hoisted a large ball to the top of a tall mast erected for this purpose. A ball and a drum signified that the Kimberley and English mail was on hand. A cone at the top of the mast informed the people that the Natal mail was on hand.

Du Preez

The Du Preez family graves are enclosed in a section of the cemetery known as Du Preez Hoek, the name commemorating the family on whose farm, Pretoria's first burial ground was established. This burial area was near Fountains, bordered by Willows Road and the railway embankment.

Jan (Diknek) du Preez, one of Pretoria's earliest settlers, lived here with his wife Maria, daughter of Andries van der Walt, who left his name to a street in the city centre.

The family cemetery was established on the western bank of the Apies stream and was also used for the burial of other inhabitants of early Pretoria. It is thought that Dr. Gerard Rissik, founder of the family in the Transvaal, was buried there without a tombstone. Robert Lys, pioneer Englishman, is said to have been the last person to be buried there in August 1880, but Maria, Diknek's wife, died in 1881, and we can assume that she was buried in the family plot.

It is said that the remains of those interred there were transferred to its present site after the 'Boer War', this must refer to the War of 1880/81, as it is generally accepted that the interment took place when the railway line to Lourenço Marques was being built and the graves removed for the construction of what was then, the only curved bridge in South Africa. The Western arch of the original bridge over the stream still exists, but is due to be demolished when the dual-roadway is completed.

Elliot, Capt J.M.

'In loving memory of Captain
John Mitchell Elliott, age 37,
who was killed for Queen and
Country while crossing the
Vaal River on 29 December 1880'

Captain Elliott was one of the survivors of the British 94th Regiment under Lt. Co. Anstruther routed at the Battle of Bronkhorstspuit on the 20th December, 1880 while they were en route to support the beleaguered troops in Pretoria.

The survivors were marched off to Heidelberg, the Boer Capital, where some of the prisoners were released on condition that they leave the Transvaal and do not again take up arms during the struggle.

Elliott and Captain Lambert were instructed to leave for the Orange Free State and were escorted to the flooded Vaal River, where they were left to find a fording point.

Two days later still found them on the Transvaal side, when a Boer detachment approached and handed them an official letter accusing them of violating their parole and ordered them to leave immediately or return as Prisoners of War.

The officers explained that the river was running too swiftly, but the eight Boers forced them into the water. Their transport was overturned and, realizing that they would be shot, if they returned, they swam for the opposite bank.

For some unexplained reason, the Boers opened fire killing Captain Elliott. Lambert with bullets spraying about him managed to reach the Orange Free State side.

Elliott was shot on the farm Koffersfontein, Elliott's body was later found lower down the Vaal, bullets had passed through his temple, wrist and leg. He was buried by a farmer and his body was brought to Pretoria on the 25th July, 1881 and buried with full military honours.

Subsequent enquiries by the Boers during and after the war failed to unmask the culprits. It is said that the incident was revived in an episode in Rider Haggard's novel 'Jess', where he places the hero and heroine in the position of the two officers.

Addendum by C. de Jong

The murder of Captain J.M. Elliott and the aftermath of this tragedy have been told by Eugène Marais in his essay 'Skaduwee van 'n misdaad (Shadow of a crime)' in *Sketse uit die lewe van mens en dier*, Nasionale Pers, Cape Town etc., 1928, p. 93-114. Marais has written down the story which the Transvaler farmer Hermanus Lombaard told him. He was one of the group of eight burghers who escorted the British Captains Elliott and Lambert to the notorious Liesdrif in the Vaal River with the order to leave the country. There Elliott was shot dead. A British court in Pretoria exonerated the burghers but Lombaard was excepted. He fled and became a hunter in Bechuanaland. During the rest of his long life he roved in Bechuanaland, Transvaal and the Orange Free State. He was always armed and had sworn that he would not be captured alive. Therefore he was generally feared and left alone. He became more than 90 years old.

The tragic incident is also told by Stuart Cloete in his novel *Hill of Doves* (Nguni name is Majuba) and is shown in the film *Majuba* which is based on Cloete's novel.

VERSLAG VAN DIE HERDENKING VAN KONINGIN WILHELMINA TE PRETORIA IN 1980

Daar het 'n verslag oor die herdenking van die Nederlandse vorstin te Pretoria in 1980 verskyn. Die titel lui: *Ek sal handhaaf (Je maintiendrai), Verslag van die herdenking van Koningin Wilhelmina se geboortedag 31 Augustus 1880 te Pretoria in 1980, opgestel deur C. de Jong in opdrag van die Komitee Koningin Wilhelmina Eeufees 1980 te Pretoria, uitgegee deur die Stigting Jan van Riebeeck (Suid-Afrika)*, Pretoria 1984, 30 pp. plus 12 afbeeldings. Die verslag gee aandag aan die Wilhelmina-tentoonstelling in die Nasionale Kultuurhistoriese Museum, die vertoning van films oor Wilhelmina se veelbewoë lewe, kransleggings by die Koningin Wilhelminaboom in die Burgerspark - waar Dr. N.A. Coetzee namens die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria 'n krans gelê en 'n toespraak gelewer het -, die herdenkingsdiens op 31 Augustus 1980, gelei deur wyle prof. A. van Selms, wie se preek as bylae opgeneem is, die onthulling van die Wilhelminaklip aan die Koningin Wilhelminalaan in 1982 en die aanbidding van drie verskillende portrette van Wilhelmina en afbeeldings van haar vader, koning Willem III, aan instellings in Pretoria.

Die verslag word gevolg deur 'n lys van publikasies oor die Koningin wat in Suid-Afrika in 1980 verskyn het, onder meer van Dr. N.A. Coetzee, 'Toespraak by die herdenking van die honderdste geboortedag van Koningin Wilhelmina op 30 Augustus 1980 by die Wilhelmina Gedenkboom', in *Pretorianiana* No. 80, November 1980 -, en deur ses bylaes. Die bylaes bevat programma's van herdenkingsbyeenkomste, 'n oorkonde van Suid-Afrikaanse bannelinge in Amsterdam in 1901 aan Wilhelmina by haar huwelik aangebied, 'n vertaling van die 15 strofes van die Nederlandse Volkslied *Wilhelmus van Nassouwe* in Afrikaans, die aanbidding deur Willem III van ontwerpe van 'n wapenskild en vlag aan die Oranje-Vrystaat, die brief van aanbidding van die eerste goud van Barberton aan Willem III deur die Transvaalse regering in 1883 en 'n afdruk van die brief van generaal J.C. Smuts aan Koningin Juliana by haar troonsbestyging in 1948.

Herinneringe aan die NZASM in en om Pretoria (2)

DIE OU NZASM-GOEDEREKANTOOR, RAILWAYSTRAAT, PRETORIA

Die strewe na 'n spoorverbinding met 'n nie-Britsbeheerde hawe was een van die belangrikste faktore in die geskiedenis van die Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek. So vroeg as 1875 het pres. T.F. Burgers met vaste voorstelle vir 'n spoorverbinding met die Portugees-beheerde Delagoabaai (nou Maputo) gekom, maar die Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorweg-Maatschappij (NZASM), belas met die aanleg van die sogenaamde Oosterlyn na Delagoabaai, is eers op 21 Junie 1887 gestig. Verskeie verdragings het egter voorgekom en intussen het die maatskappy met die bou van die sogenaamde Randtram tussen Boksburg en Krugersdorp voortgegaan. Die Randtram is in Februarie 1891 voltooi, 'n jaar nadat met bouwerk aan die Oosterlyn begin is.

Hoewel die NZASM sy hoofkwartier in Pretoria gehad het, is die spoorlyn van Johannesburg na die hoofstad van die ZAR eers in Januarie 1893



*Die voormalige goederekantoor van die NZASM te Pretoria-stasie
Tans 'n Nasionale Gedenkwaardigheid*

Foto: R.C. de Jong, TPA Museumdiens