

Kort nadat hulle na die front vertrek het, was die Imperial Light Horse in 'n bloedige botsing met 'n Boeremag onder generaal Kock by Elandslaagte betrokke. Kock het na die geveg aan sy wonde beswyk en so die eerste senior offisier aan Boerekant geword om in die oorlog om te kom.

Die Slag van Elandslaagte was vir die Boere ramspoedig. Byna die hele Hollanderkorps het hier gesneuwel of is krygsgevangene geneem. Onder die wat gesneuwel het, was die gewilde en bekwame staatsprokureur, dr Herman Coster.

Dat sy vriend en aanvoerder, Lieutenant Robert Johnston, met die Victoria Cross gedekoreer is vir sy optrede gedurende die Slag van Elandslaagte het Crean nie die minste gepla nie.

Dit was waarvoor Tommy Crean by die oorlog betrokke geraak het. Hy wou aksie hê. Dit was nou volop. Maar nie vir lank nie. Enkele dae na die Slag van Elandslaagte word Tommy Crean saam met sy regiment deur die Boere in Ladysmith vasgekeer. Vir Tommy het die frustrerendste vier maande van sy lewe voorgelê.

Dit was eers op 27 Februarie 1900 dat die Britse magte onder aanvoering van generaal Sir Redvers Buller deur die Boere beleg kon breek en Ladysmith kon ontset. Gedurende die beleg het Tommy geen ander keuse gehad as om weer as mediese dokter te praktiseer nie. Om hom het sy makkers siek geword en Tommy se droom om die oorlog as manskap Crean te voltooi was verby.

As kaptein Tommy Crean was hy vir die res van sy oorlog aan die mediese korps van die Imperial Light Horse verbonde. Crean was egter nie 'n man wat bestem was om skotvry deur die oorlog te gaan nie.

Op 18 Desember 1901 was die Imperial Light Horse in 'n skermutseling met Boeremagte onder aanvoering van die beroemde generaal C R de Wet by Tygerpoort in die Oos-Vrystaat betrokke.

Crean kon uit die mediese observasiepos sien hoe een na die ander van sy makkers deur die Boere omgeklits word. Dit was duidelik dat mediese hulp in die voorste linies dringend nodig was.

Sonder om te wag dat draagbare die gewondes van die front terug na die mediese pos bring, het Crean self na die geveglinies, waar die swaar gewondes gelê het, gestorm. Met die koeëls wat om hom geklap het, het hy begin om sy makkers te versorg.

Die onvermydelike het gebeur. Een van die koeëls het Tommy in die been getref. Hy het sy wond een kyk gegee, 'n verband omgedraai en voortgegaan om na ander gewondes om te sien en waar nodig lyding te verlig.

Toe tref 'n tweede koeël hom. Die keer in die bors. Toe 'n draagbaar hom bereik het, was hy nog by sy bewussyn. "I'm kilt entirety," was al wat hy aan die mediese ordenans kon fluister voordat hulle hom afgevoer het.

Tommy was egter nie heeltemal so "totaal dood" soos hy vermoed het nie. Sy oorlog was wel verby. Vir sy dade van doodveragterende dapperheid om sy makkers in nood by te staan is hy met die Victoria Cross vereer.

Crean sy oorlogavonture was egter nie verby nie. Toe die magte van George V van Engeland en Wilhelm II van Duitsland mekaar in 1914 pak in 'n oorlog wat sou ontwikkel in die Eerste Wêreldoorlog, was Tommy dadelik by om vrywillig aan te sluit.

Met sy dekorasie en oorlogsrekord het hy die keer as "Surgeon-Major T J Crean, VC" die oorlog begin.

Binne die eerste jaar van die oorlog was Crean in 'n soortgelyke situasie as gedurende die Anglo-Boereoorlog. Sonder om te aarsel was hy weer reg om na die voorste linies te storm.

Die keer was daar egter 'n generaal in die mediese pos.

"Majoor Crean, ek verbied jou. Jy is vir ons lewend baie meer werd as dood," brul die offisier.

Tot die absolute skok en verbasing van die omstanders stap Tommy na die generaal en sit sy arm om sy skouers. "Toemaar skat, daar is lankal bepaal dat Thomas Joseph Crean in sy bed sal sterf."

Met die generaal nog stomgeslaan oor die vermetelheid van die junior offisier is Tommy weg na die gevegslynies om sy plig te gaan doen.

Die keer is hy met die Distinguished Service Order (DSO) gedekoreer. Was sy optrede teenoor die senior offisier dalk die rede dat hy nie, soos Arthur Martin-Leake, vir 'n tweede keer met die Victoria Cross gedekoreer was nie?

Wie sal weet. Wat ons wel weet is dat dit Tommy nie die minste geskeel het nie. Hy was weer in 'n geveg betrokke en aan gevaar blootgestel. Dit was vir hom genoeg.

In 1923 het hy voor sy 50ste verjaarsdag gesterf. In sy bed. Die wat gedink het hulle weet, het gesê dat sy liggaam na twee oorloë net gedaan was.

Ander het net geglimlag. Majoor Thomas Joseph Crean, VC, DSO, het sy lewe geniet. Die dood het vir hom geen vrees ingehou nie. Hy en ouderdom was net nie vir mekaar bedoel nie. Dit is al.

Omdat hy aan die Anglo-Boereoorlog as 'n lid van die Imperial Light Horse, 'n Suid-Afrikaanse regiment, deelgeneem het, word sy Victoria Cross as 'n "Suid-Afrikaanse Victoria Cross" deur krygshistorici aangegee.

Ek kan in my verbeelding hoor hoe Tommy Crean waar hy nou saam met alle ander dapperes rus, minagtend oor die sakie sal brom: "Die verdomde Engelse gun 'n ler ook niks."

- Lappe Laubscher

Die verhaal van Brooklyn en die name van die voorstad se strate

In 'n tyd waar die benaming van strate weer groot nuus in Pretoria is, is dit interessant om te kyk na die name van die strate van een van die ouer woonbuurte in die ooste van Pretoria, Brooklyn.

Wat vandag bekend is as die voorstad Brooklyn - 'n gebied wat begrens word deur Lynnwoodweg in die noorde, Brooklynweg in die ooste, Charlesstraat in die suide en Roperstraat in die weste - was oorspronklik bekend as uitvalgrond no 67. Teen die vorige eeuwending was die eienaar die bekende James Brooks.

Brooks het op die grond vir hom en sy vrou, Catherine, 'n spoggerige herehuis laat bou. Die opstal bestaan vandag nog en huisves tans die Kweekskool van die Afrikaanse Protestante Kerk (APK).

Op 20 Junie 1901 het James Brooks sy laaste testament onderteken. Die twee getuies by die geleentheid was twee van Pretoria se bekendste prokureurs uit die tydperk, nl N MacRobert en J H L Findlay.

Dit wil voorkom asof Brooks reeds gedurende sy leeftyd sy grond as woonbuurt laat opmeet en onderverdeel het. Die werk is vir hom gedoen deur die bekende landmeter H M Anderson. In sy testament gee Brooks sy eksekuteurs opdrag om met sy bates na goedunke te handel. Die enigste uitsondering is:

That my immovable property in the Town of Pretoria (more especially erven nos 467, 509 and 1 510 and my dwelling house and seven erven with adjoining pieces of land) shall not be sold or realised during the lifetime of my wife ...

Die feit dat hy verwys na die sewe erwe naasliggend aan die opstal van sy herewoning dui daarop dat sy eiendom reeds onderverdeel was.

Die eksekuteurs in James Brooks se boedel was Alexander Brooks, 'n halfbroer van James, William Charles Marinus Struben, 'n stiefseun van James, en Robert Downie Mackenzie, 'n stiefskoonseun.

Om die aanstellings te verstaan is dit nodig om net eers James Brooks se vrou, Catherine Anderson, se storie te vertel. Sy was oorspronklik getroud met kaptein J H M Struben, die stamvader van die Strubens in Suid-Afrika.

Sy was Struben se tweede vrou en het by hom vier kinders gehad. Hulle was Elizabeth Catherine Henrietta wat met Robert Downie Mackenzie getrou het, William Charles Marinus Struben, wat nou een van die eksekuteurs in sy stiefpa se boedel was, May Hermina Struben en laastens Archibold Anderson Struben.

Die eerste deel van Brooklyn wat verkoop is, is die suidoostelike hoek wat aan die prokureur Rupert Marais van die firma Pienaar & Marais. Vandag is die maklik om die deel te erken as daar net na die straatname gekyk word.

Charlesstraat: Na Charles Marais, die broer van Rupert Marais.

Farrellstraat: Na Dorothy Noreen Farrell 'n suster van Rupert Marais.

Maraisstraat: Na Piet (Lang Piet) Marais, die vader van Rupert, Charles en Dorothy Marias. Rupert kon die blykbaar nie oor sy hart kry om 'n straat Lang Pietstraat te doop nie!

Pienaarstraat: Na die vennoot van Rupert Marais in Pienaar & Marais.

Rupertstraat: Na Rupert Marais.

Stellastraat: Na Stella Marais, die vrou van Rupert Marais.

Dit bring ons nou by die deel van Brooklyn wat in die Brooks-boedel oorgebly het.

Die straat aan die noordekant van die landgoed, die straat wat vandag bekend is as Lynnwoodweg was, in 1901 reeds bekend

as Strubenweg en was die weg wat die Strubens se gronde in die ooste, The Willows en Lynnwood met die munisipale uitspanplek - vandag Loftus Versfeld - verbind het.

Die vier persone wat die bate van James Brooks moes likwadeer was die drie eksekuteurs Alexander Brooks, William Struben en Robert Mackenzie saam met Brooks se weduwee Catherine Anderson.

Aangesien daar reeds 'n Strubenweg was en aangesien die vier blykbaar besluit het om James Brooks te vereer met die straat Brooksstraat moes Alexander Brooks en William Struben verlies neem dat die state wat na hulle vernoem word hul voorname gebruik.

Robert Mackenzie was gelukkiger. Daar was geen ander Mackenzie in die omgewing nie en hy kon Mackenziestraat kry.

Dieselfde geld vir Catherine Anderson wat Andersonstraat kon kry. Daar is sommige wat beweer dat Andersonstraat na die landmeter H M Anderson vernoem is. Ek kon geen dokumentêre bewys vir die aanname kry nie. So 'n aanname pas ook nie in by die patroon van naamgewing in Brooklyn nie.

Robert Mackenzie het sy vrou, Elizabeth Rennie Hay, vernoem met Haystraat. Sy was sy tweede vrou. Sy eerste vrou, Elizabeth Catharina Henrietta Struben, die dogter van Catherine Anderson, is op 17 Februarie 1895 oorlede.

Murraystraat is vernoem na Elizabeth Murray. Sy was die vrou van William Struben.

Die patroon vir naamgewing in Brooklyn is dus duidelik. Strate is na mans vernoem deur die gebruik van hul vanne. Die uitsondering is waar die gebruik verwarring sou veroorsaak. Dan is van voorname gebruik gemaak.

Vroue is oor dieselfde kam geskeer en strate is na hulle vernoem deur die gebruik van hul nooiensvanne. In die Marais-sowel as die Brooksdeel van Brooklyn is slegs familie vernoem. Die enigste uitsondering is Pienaarstraat wat na Rupert Marais se vennoot vernoem is.

Straatname soos Hay, Murray, Stella en Farrell bevestig dat daar geen sprake van diskriminasie teen vroue by die gee van name was nie.

Teen die agtergrond is dit ondenkbaar hoe iemand kan beweer dat Catherine Anderson, die **mater familia**, oor die hoofgesien sou word by die naamgewing van die strate in Brooklyn.

Om op te som: die strate in die Brooks-gedeelte van Brooklyn verwys na die volgende persone:

Alexanderstraat: Na Alexander Brooks, halfbroer van James Brooks en eksekuteur in sy boedel.

Andersonstraat: Na Catharine Anderson, vrou van James Brooks.

Brooksstraat: Na James Brooks.

Haystraat: Na Elizabeth Rennie Hay, vrou van Robert Mackenzie.

Murraystraat: Na Helen Murray, vrou van William Struben.

Mackenziestraat: Na Robert Mackenzie, skoonseun van Catharine Anderson en eksekuteur in die boedel van James Brooks.

Williamstraat: Na William Struben, seun van Catharine Anderson en eksekuteur in die boedel van James Brooks.

- Lappe Laubscher

The Hobby of Kings Celebrates its Centenary in Pretoria

On 16 February 1898 a few stamp collectors gathered in Pretoria and decided to form the Pretoria Philatelic Society. Thus duly happened two weeks later. The Society suspended its activities during the three years of the Anglo Boer War, re-assembled late in 1902 and almost died a natural death in 1904 and again in 1911. There were enough members but in both instances attendance at meetings dwindled to below the quorum. In 1912 the society reorganised and from then on never looked back.

To commemorate its inauspicious beginnings, the Pretoria Philatelic Society plans an exhibition by invitation of the upper echelon in various facets of South African philately in the Pretoria Art Museum during February 1998.

The history of the Society has been written several times over the years and in many instances the writers merely extracted both facts and fiction from earlier attempts. To try to separate history from folklore, one has to work through the extant minute books, annual reports and other ancillary documents. The picture that emerges is enlightening but, above all, entertaining.

The first President of the PPS was Isaac van Alphen, postmaster general of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek. He was a versatile man, having previously tried his hand at printing (with Borrius in Potchefstroom), the law (as public prosecutor) and being a market master. He was just back from a meeting of the IPU in America and full of visionary ideas when he helped to form the new philatelic society. After the war the British offered him his old position, but he declined, moved to Durban and never involved himself with the affairs of the PPS again.

When the Society found firm footing again in 1912, it was largely due to the efforts of a group of dedicated philatelists. Their

names read like a Who's Who of South African philately: Emil Tamsen, Saul Klagsbrun, Charles Hand, Walter Giovanetti, whose brother was the mayor of Pretoria during the Great War, and Anton Obermeyer. With them was Nico van Malsem, the accountant at Wallachs, who acted as secretary for many years. This band drove the society until about 1925, when new names like H N B Hawke, Andrew Watson, A E Basden and J D Robertson came to the fore.

In those days the Society was philatelically elitist, strictly male and unabashedly English. There were twenty-four meetings a year, held at the Market Restaurant or the Cafe Royal, where the members sat around a table, read papers in rotation and exhibited their collections. Over a period of eight years Walter Giovanetti showed a different portion of his collection at almost every meeting.

There was an annual dinner for which a collectable menu was produced and which was signed by everybody present. How ever posh the regular meetings were philatelically, they must have been excruciating for new members. From 1917 to 1921 forty-four new members joined - only seven lasted more than two years. It was really a club of experts who knew and respected each other and congratulated one another at each meeting.

The first constitution of 1896 pointedly excluded female membership. By 1912 the offending clause had been removed, but no lady was rash enough to apply. The annual dinner was also an all-male affair. In 1923 Mr Kraamwinkel, an active member since 1919, brought his wife to a meeting. She never came again.

In July 1925 the unspeakable happened. A Mrs Yeates of Durban applied for country membership. Probably because she was far enough not to cause embarrassment, she was accepted. It prompted a change to the rules in 1926, to admit lady members at half-price, "on the same footing as foreign and country members."

Then, in 1928, after all women over 21 in Britain had been enfranchised, a Mrs Wilson of Sunnyside in Pretoria also applied

for country membership. This was, of course, highly irregular but she was accepted nevertheless. In applying for country membership she was simply declaring her intention of not attending meetings. Mrs Wilson was, in effect, defying authority successfully.

It was in May 1929 that Mrs Ella de Wet hit the Society. She became a full member and immediately proceeded to attend every meeting. She did this to her death in 1939. A forceful lady, she organised stamp tables at church fairs and acted as protector to Mrs Wilson who started to come to meetings in 1930 and used to sit next to her.

By then the die was cast and a special vote was taken to invite wives and other ladies to the annual dinner of that year. In 1938 the secretary proudly reported 15 lady members,. However, it was only in 1947 that all references to gender were removed from the constitution.

The language issue occasionally caused a flutter but did not disturb the core membership unduly. In September 1924 Mr H F Oelrichs, who joined in 1915 and was a regular attendant, read his maiden paper. He did so, according to the minutes, "in Dutch". When he sat down the blank stares prompted Mr van Malsen to present a translation, after which Mr Oelrichs was warmly congratulated on his effort. Two years later it was again his turn to read a paper. What now? The minutes say it all: "The Chairman congratulated Mr Oelrichs on his very interesting paper especially as he read it in English."

Much bigger flutters were caused by the first thematic and Cinderella presentations. On 17 September 1928 Mr J Beyers from the SA Military College at Roberts' Heights "had an exceedingly interesting paper on Postage Stamps reflecting the career of Napoleon the Great & showed considerable knowledge of military history. The paper was accorded an ovation which was well-deserved."

Whereas his knowledge of history was mentioned, no mention at all was made of the stamps he showed. They simply did not know what to make of it!

Then the great Saul Klagsbrun himself shook the meeting by exhibiting "Philatelic Stepchildren" on 21 July 1930 and delivered his customary excellent paper on the same subject. One of the members, a Dr Moseley, tentatively remarked that "we all have them" and then Charles Hand came to the rescue "He pointed out that Telegraphic step children were catalogued in Continental Catalogues & some were high priced. He thought we should not despise them when used on Telegrams". In defense Mr Klagsbrun said that some of the best printed stamps were among the fiscals...

The exchange packed system started very early and in the annual report of 1912 the President states: "The exchange packet, I am pleased to say, has been most successful and we have arranged inter Society exchange packets with the Rhodesian, Johannesburg and Cape Town Societies and we hope very shortly to have inter exchange relations with all the other societies in South Africa."

From then on to the present day almost every report contains the same lament: "We have too few packets to circulate, members are not moving the packets fast enough, it is difficult to get money from many members, forms are not filled in properly." Fortunately the system never expired and now, as then, many members join only to get the packets.

In 1912 the great revival started with fourteen members and by 1918 the figure had doubled. Attendance at meetings remained at about half the active (i.e. town) membership. In 1925 the President reported a shrinking membership, lack of attendance and very little interest in participation. New committee members were voted in and two years later a record attendance of 25, with a membership of 66 was achieved. From then on the membership grew steadily but attendance remain around or below 30. This is still the case today, with a membership of 190.

One annual report after the other bemoaned the lack of participation of members. One President talked about "the large number of drones in our hive", but perhaps Prof H A Wager hit the nail on the head in his Secretary's report after a brief spurt in 1936 "The improvement in the attendance of members is,

however, more probably due to the fact that there are now more live members belonging to the Society."

The history of a society such as the Pretoria Philatelic Society can be expressed in membership figures, attendance at meetings, or annual income and expenditure. But these are readily not important in themselves. The question is what the society achieved to further the cause of philately? How it contributed to the sum of knowledge on the subject and how many hours of enjoyment it provided to its many and varied members over the years.

The things are not reflected in minutes or annual reports.

- Alewyn Burger

The Ancestors of Pretoria's founder were German shoemakers and farmers

In the extreme west of the German Federal State of Lower Saxony the old Royal County of Bentheim is characterised by ancient oak forests interspersed with heather and sandstone quarries. The oldest town in this county, Schüttorf, was given city rights in 1295, a year before Amsterdam.

An hour's walk from Schüttorf, on bare sandstone ridges rises a fort, Bentheim, after which the Counts of the House of Holland named themselves.

The Vechte flows gently through this peaceful setting. On either side of the stream hudge oak trees guard stately manor houses that seem to have been placed at random in times immemorial among verdant green.

A thousand years ago there was one church in Schüttorf. A Latin and German school with a Rector scholarum was traced back to before 1325.

In those days the numerous tanners and cobblers of the village formed an chappel which was given a Guild certificate on St Lucas Day in 1341.

From documents dating back to the period 1496 to 1603 one learns that shoemaker apprentices from the outlying districts were accommodated by master craftsmen at a fee of five Marks per year.

Berend Schulte was born on 16 May 1596 as the son of the farmer Wessel Schulte of the village of Nederio (Neerlage) in the count of Bentheim.

The name of Schulte originated before the 14th century, when people with proven leadership qualities were engaged by feudal aristocrates to take control of their large estates. Such people were called "Schulte" which had a similar meaning as the word "steward". (to oversee)

Later, when they became farmers in their own right, the name Schulte had become their surname.

Most of the farmers of that time had large families. It was not always practical to divide the land among the sons, some of whom showed no inclination for farming.

Berend Schulte was thus apprenticed to a cobbler in Schüttof. Upon completion of his apprenticeship the young journeyman went to Holland in search of employment. In 1612 he married Aaltgin Jansdochter, a woman who had come from the village of Lage near Neuenhaus in Bentheim.

They settled in the old university town of Leyden. In Holland the name Schulte was pronounced Schoute, and before long Berend and his wife were known as Schout, which is a Dutch term applied to an official watchman, or law officer, and is equivalent to the English Scout. (The famous Nightwatch by Rembrandt van Rhijn is officially known as *Schout by Nacht*.)

[The author is wrong in this instance. The English word **scout** means as a noun *A Person seeking information* or as a verb *An Act of seeking information* (See The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English. Sixth edition. p 1017.) The English word **steward** means a person in charge of or keeping watch over. Schout is simply the Dutch translation for the German word Schulte - Editor]

In October 1614 Berend and Aaltgin had a son, Wessel, who was to study theology at the *Album Academicum* in Leyden. During his student years Berend told Wessel about customs at the Latin School in Schüttof, which was headed by Rector Johannes Tesingius and Fredericus Gronenburg.

A young lad who made bows was called Toxopeus; Kannegeters' boy was known as Perizonius, his friend as Napenarius and he himself Praetorius, a word derived from Praetor, or magistrate during Roman times.

Later the word Praetorius was also applied to civil legal officials. The German name Schulte or the Dutch (Nederduits) Schout is derived from the German interpretation of the Latin Praetorius.

These designations were meant to be innocent fun which could be enjoyed particularly on the occasion of the annual festivals conducted by the various Guilds.

Wessel must have been fascinated by his father's tales for when he attended University, he called himself Wesselius Praetorius.

Upon completion of his theological studies in 1639 Wessel Schulte, alias Wessel Schout, alias Wesselius Praetorius, was appointed preacher of the *Hervormede Gemeente* in Oudorp on the island of Goeree in the Province of South Holland. Later he was transferred to the town of Emmerich just across the border in Germany.

Wessel married Josina Claesdochter of Egmont in Emmerich. The eldest of their four sons, Johannes, born in Oudorp and baptised by his father on 26 October 1642, was a theology student in Leyden when his father died in 1664. Johannes then discontinued his studies and entered the service of the Dutch East India Company to become the founder of the Pretorius family in South Africa.

In December 1665, at the age of 22, Johannes sailed as a midshipman to the Cape of Good Hope. After a brief sojourn at the Cape Johannes was commissioned by the Council of Policy to the island of Mauritius.

Initially he was employed a sick comforter (sieketrooster - the Dutch description used in their colonies for a lay preacher) and subsequently also as secunde. In 1667 the Council of Policy suggested that he be considered for the office of governor of the island.

Johannes Pretorius remained on Mauritius for three years and returned to the Cape of Good Hope in December 1669.

Johannes married twice and died at the age of only 50 years at the Cape on 30 April 1694.

Today the name of Pretorius is not only widespread in South Africa, but can also be found in Denmark, the Netherlands and in the country of origin, Germany.

Count Andreas August Pretorius (1683 - 1762) was born in Denmark. He was at one time a high ranking officer in the military service of the Netherlands. In 1748 he was a member of the nobility in Denmark and was twice appointed ambassador to Berlin.

Michael Praetorius (1571 - 1621) was the composer and author of various books on church choral music and was considered a leader in the field of the development of string instruments.

The family name of the famous Manfred and Lothar von Richthofen of the First World War was originally Praetorius. The family had changed the name to a German interpretation, namely Von Richthoven, at some stage in the past.

The German cartographer J Praetorius (1568) was honoured on a postage stamp by the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) in 1972.

The most famous of the long line of Pretorii in South Africa is Marthinus Wessel Pretorius, the founder of Pretoria, and his father the famous soldier Commandant Andries Wilhelmus Joacobus Pretorius. Marthinus Wessel Pretorius named the city that was to become the capital of South Africa after his family.

The Schultes of Neerlage, the family from which the Pretorius family tree in South Africa branched, live to this day in the county of Betheim in Germany.

- Eric Bolsman

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