

Oktober 2011

Dagsê al die belangstellendes in die geskiedenis van ou Pretoria,

Ek het hierdie maand amper moed opgegee om iets te kry om oor te skryf. Gelukkig stuur Alan Woodman toe vir my die interessante stuk oor Sarie Marais.

Dear Rosa

Many years ago when driving into Pretoria down Potgieter Street and turning right into Jacob Maré Street, I wondered from where that street name came, and the Voortrekker Monument Archives told me that he was the father of Sarie Maré (or later Marais). This led to some further follow-up over the years and a visit to a cemetery in Bloemfontein with 'living legend' Joan (Tannie Mossie) Abrahams to see the memorial stone which she had erected there for Sarie Maré (Marais). It has the Biblical inscription relative to the "Mossies on the smallest coin of South Africa" i.e. verse 31 of Matthew 10:28-31, "Ye are of more value than many sparrows (mossies)".

Please see also the earlier articles:

"Sparrows (mossies) on the smallest coin of South Africa (A)",

"Sparrows (mossies) on the smallest coin of South Africa (B)".

In the attached three photo's you see Sarie Maré's memorial stone which I visited again in September 2010 in the cemetery in Bloemfontein.



Please have a look / listen hereunder to "Sarie Marais" being sung along with beautiful accompanying pictures around South Africa including the area where Sarie Maré lived:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrvEww26WLc>

The melody “Sarie Marais” was adopted in 1953 as the official march of the United Kingdom’s Royal Marines Commandos – please have a look / listen hereunder to “Sarie Marais” being played as the Regimental March on ceremonial occasions. Their training ship is also called Sarie Marais. It is also a Regimental March in Paraguay.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiJETKWdCvc>

The real Sarie Marais

Susara Margaretha (Sarie) Maré was the first daughter of Jacob Phillipus Maré and Cornelia Susanna Jacoba Erasmus, [and was] born on 15 April 1869 on the farm Eendraght, Suikerbosrand, in the Heidelberg district, Transvaal. Her parents were Voortrekkers. Suikerbosrand was at that time in the Ward **Moorivier**. Her father was Jacob Maré, who later became “n lid van die uitvoerende raad” of the Transvaal and after whom that street in Pretoria is named. When she was 16 years of age she met Jacobus Petrus Toerien, a journalist of “Di Patriot” of Paarl. (He was at that time in Pretoria to do an interview with her father). He wrote under the “skuilnaam” Jepete in “Ons Kleintje” in his capacity as sub-editor of “Di Patriot”. They married and had 16 children, of whom only 8 survived / grew up. She died on 22 December 1939 in Bloemfontein. Toerien may have been the author of the Afrikaans version of the song. “Maré” later became “Marais” through a printing error.

Sarie Marais (also known as **My Sarie Marais**) is a traditional Afrikaans folk song, created during either the First Anglo-Boer War (ca. 1880) or the Second Anglo-Boer War (ca. 1900). The tune was taken from a song called Ellie Rhee dating from the American Civil War (itself probably a version of the traditional folk song The Foggy Dew), and the words translated into Afrikaans.

J.P. Toerien was probably the author and his wife Sarie Maré the subject of the song. The song’s origins go back to Sweet Ellie Rhee, written in 1865 by Septimus Winner (1827-1902). The claim is that this song was sung by Americans working in the Transvaal gold mines, and heard there by Afrikaans journalist and poet Jacobus Petrus Toerien, who re-wrote the song in Afrikaans, substituting the name of Ellie Rhee with that of his own beloved Sarie Maré (Susara Margaretha Maré).

In English, the song begins "My Sarie Marais is so far from my heart, but I hope to see her again. She lived near the Mooi River before this war began..." and the chorus goes "O take me back to the old Transvaal, where my Sarie lives, Down among the maize fields near the green thorn tree, there lives my Sarie Marais". It continues about the forced removal of Boer men, women and children to faraway concentration camps by the British.

The true origins of the song is unclear; one account of the story states that the American folk song Ellie Rhee was included in a book *The Cavendish Song Album*. When Ella de Wet, wife of General Louis Botha’s military attaché Nicolaas Jacobus de Wet came to the battle front to see her husband she often played on the piano while the nearby burghers sang songs from the album.

Another account of the story is that the song dates from the First Anglo-Boer War (1880-1881).

Whatever its origins, the song changed and got more verses as time went on. This accounts for the reference to the *Kakies* (or khakis), as the Boers called the British soldiers during the Second Anglo-Boer War. They were known as *Rooibaadjies* ("red coats") during the First Anglo-Boer War.

When the song was soon translated into Afrikaans, *Sarie Maré* (which subsequently became *Marais*) was substituted for *Ellie Rhee*. The burghers supposedly wanted to honour their field chaplain Dominee Paul Nel, who often told stories around the campfires about his childhood and his beautiful mother *Sarie Maré*, who died young.

The song *Sarie Marais* has been translated into many languages including French, Spanish (by the Afrikaners who emigrated to Patagonia in 1903), Italian and Russian.

By 1899 *Sarie Marais* was already a 'hit' in Pretoria, and later became known world-wide because thousands of South African soldiers sang it in the First and Second World Wars. The first South African yacht was also *Sarie Marais*. In the first international radio-broadcast between South Africa, Britain and America on the birthday of Mrs. Isie Smuts, wife of the legendary General Jan Smuts, the singer Gracie Fields sang *Sarie Marais*. In the 1930's it was played in error at the Olympic Games in America as South Africa's official national anthem.

***Sarie Marais* (1931): the first South African film with sound**

Sarie Marais was also the title of the first South African "talking picture", directed by Joseph Albrecht and made in 1931. Filmed in Johannesburg, *Sarie Marais* manages to pack a lot into its 10-minute running time. Set in a British Prisoner of War camp, the film concentrates on a group of Boer prisoners as they pass the time under the watchful eye of their British captors. One of the internees, played by Billy Matthews, lifts his voice in song with the popular Afrikaans patriotic tune "My *Sarie Marais*". His enthusiasm catches on with the other prisoners, giving them hope for the future.

Afrikaner nationalism was emerging as a force in these years, and *Sarie Marais* portrayed the British cultural and economic imperialism negatively (the desire to spread the English language, culture and influence even where it was unwelcome). Shortly after this film's release, a group of Afrikaner nationalists established a film production organisation called the **Reddingsdaad-Bond-Amateur-Rolprent Organisasie** (Rescue Action League Amateur Film Organisation), which rallied against British and American films pervading the country. Francis Coley directed a remake of this film, again titled *Sarie Marais*, in 1949.

Love and best wishes

Alan

C. de Jong het hierdie interessante stuk oor die lied geskryf [Pr-098 p77]. Professor Bernard Lugan is hoogleraar in geskiedenis van Afrika aan die Universiteit van Lyon, Frankryk. Hy het Suid Afrika verskeie male besoek en oor die geskiedenis van ons land gepubliseer, te wete 'n algemene oorsig en

'n werk oor die Hugenote. Hy berei nou 'n boek oor die Franse vrywilligers in die oorlog 1899-1902 voor. Hy het my gewys op die Franse teks van die bekende lied "O Sarie Marais" wat tydens die oorlog gemaak is met 'n wysie uit die Verenigde State afkomstig. Die Franse teks het in Frankryk populêr geword. Hy het onlangs die teks van die lied in Afrikaans en Frans laat verskyn in die bundel "Chants de France et de Crétienté, recueil illustré par l'Atelier de la Sainte Espérance, Centre Henri et André Carlier, Paris, décembre 1988", p. 344-345. (Die Liedere van Frankryk en die Christenheid, keus geïllustreer deur die werkplaas van die Heilige Hoop, ens).

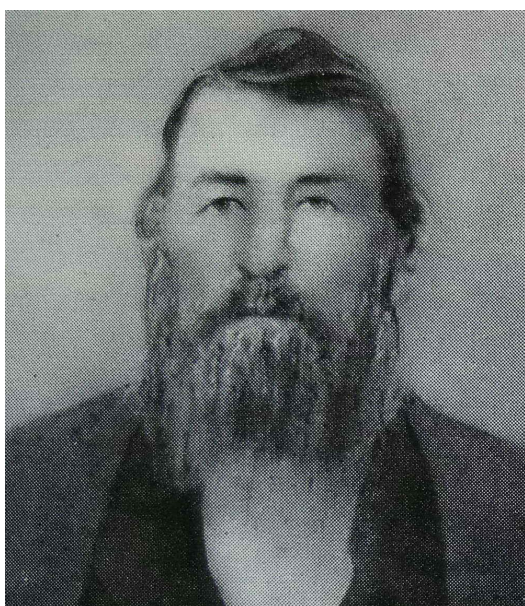
Die Franse teks is 'n vrye weergawe van die Afrikaanse. Die interessante van die Afrikaanse teks is die derde strofe wat in ons tyd meestal weggelaat word, moontlik omdat dit te onvriendelik jeens die Britse militêre klink.

Die kakies is mos net soos 'n krokodillepes:
Hulle sleep jou altyd water toe.
Hulle gooi jou op 'n skip vir 'n lange, lange trip,
Die josie weet waarna toe.

Meer oor Sarie se vader Jacob Phillipus Maré

Die volgende informasie kom van mnr. D.S. van Warmelo en is opgeteken in Pr-004 p. 16: Jacob Maré was een van drie broers, Voortekkers, wat vanuit Natal na Transvaal verhuis het. Hy was nog in die slag van Bloedrivier. Die ander broers was Dietlof Siegfried Maré, die bekende landdros van Soutpansberg, en Frederik Korsten Maré. Jacob Maré was 'n kleurvolle figuur. Hy het lid van die Uitvoerende Raad van die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek geword en was ook bekend as Jors Voeter, omdat hy so kwaai kon spook om sy mening deur te druk. Sy dogter Sarie was die Sarie Marais (die spelling van die van is willekeurig verander) wat deur M.T. Toerien in die bekende lied van die naam besing word.

Volgens Visagie [Vis-01 p295-297] is bogenoemde inligting nie korrek nie. Jacob Philip Maré (*5/12/1817) is die derde broer en nie Jacob Phillipus nie.



Jacob Phillipus Maré

Eng-04 p262]

Die geskiedenis van Sarie Maré se vader, Jacob Phillipus Maré, beskryf Visagie as volg: * Nuweveld, Beauford 17/1/1823 ~ Beauford 26/2/1823 † Middelburg, Z.A.R. 11/2/1900, Volksraadslid van Heidelberg en vrome

kerkman, X 19/9/1854 Helena Johanna Strydom † 1858 XX 1859 Cornelia S.J. Erasmus † 1874 XXX Durbanville ca. 1875 Johanna Catharina Schabort (weduwee Bosman) * 18/11/1842 † 27/10/1895 XXXX Porchefstroom 1897 Maria Cecilia Alberta Zinn (weduwee Klopper). Waarskynlik is hy die persoon vir wie die plaas Roodepoort (noord van die Vaalrivier) geleë aan die “Kale Koppen” op 9/1/1847 aangeteken is. Maré het omstreeks 1890 van die distrik Heidelberg na Middelburg, Z.A.R. verhuis.

Die volgende doodsberig verskyn in De Volksstem [V 1874-09-26]. Cornelia Susanna Jacoba Maré (mej. Erasmus) is oorlede op 18 Sept 1874 in die ouderdom van 33 jaar 1 maand en 6 dae. Sy was die vrou van J.P. Maré.

Ek het dit begin as ‘n Pretoria Brief maar soos my navorsing gevorder het kon ek nie die Pretoria konneksie vind nie. Ek kan nie verstaan hoekom ‘n straat in Pretoria na hom vernoem is nie? As iemand meer inligting het laat my asseblief weet.

Volgens Andrews [And-01 p35] het hierdie straat verskeie name gedra. Dit was oorspronklik Maréstraat [volgens Du Toit se kaart van 1858]; in die laat jare twintig word dit Paul Maréstraat en uiteindelik Jacob Maréstraat [volgens Paff se kaart van 1927].

In De Volksstem word J.P. Maré ook nie baie genoem nie:

Hy is een van die mense op die platform by die opening van die Wesleyan Bazaar [V 1883-12-07]. Hy is ook teenwoordig by die opening van Ebenhaezerskool [V 1883-02-07]. In 1883 gee hy ‘n bydrae tot die Java Rampfonds [V 1883-12-11] en in 1884 gee hy ‘n bydrae vir Trekboere [1884-02-19]. Of dit die J.P. Maré van Jacob Maréstaat is weet ek nie.

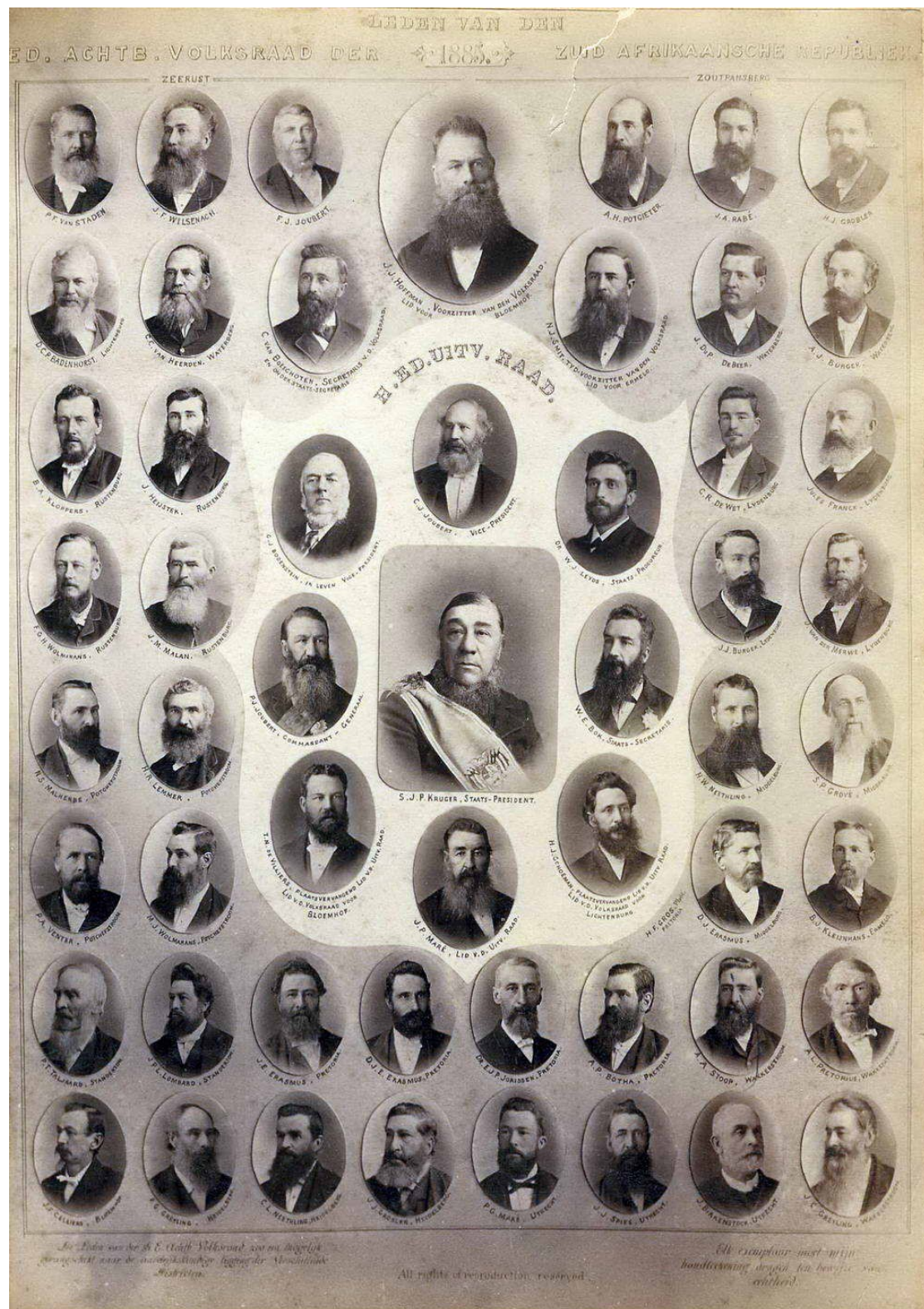
Paul Maré was in die regsberoep en was in 1898/99 ook vrederegter van die Z.A.R.. Verder het hy ook in 1899 gedien op die tydelike stadsbestuur van Pretoria. Of dit die Paul Maré is na wie Jacob Maréstraat eers vernoem was is ook nie bekend nie.

Bronne Geraadpleeg

- And-01 Andrews, Tom e.a. 1989. **Straat- en Plekname van Ou-Pretoria.** J.L. van Schaik.
- Eng-04 Engelbrecht, S.P. **Pretoria 1855-1955.** Pretoria: Wallachs P. & P.
- Pr-004 Du T. Spies, F.J. 1952. **Die oorsprong van ons Straatname.** Pretoriana, Deel 2 Nommer 1, September.
- Pr-098 De Jong, C. 1991. **“My Sarie Marais”** in Frans. Pretoriana, Nommer 98, April.
- Ros-50 Rosseau, Leon. 1974. **Die Groot Verlange.** Kaapstad: Human & Rousseau.
- Vis-01 Visagie, Jan C. 2011. **Voortrekkerstamouers 1835-1854.** Pretoria: Protea Boekhuis.

V = De Volksstem

Lede van den ed. Achts. Volksraad der Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek 1885



Die persoon reg onder Paul Kruger op die foto is J.P. Maré, Lid v. d. Uity. Raad.

Groete tot Volgende maand,
Rosa Swanepoel