

Februarie 2012

Dagsê al die belangstellendes in die geskiedenis van ou Pretoria,

Hier is alles op die oomblik deurmekaar. Verlede week het twee mense geval en elkeen 'n heup gebreek. Een van hulle is my buurvrou wat 88 jaar oud is. Met vandag se tegnologie is daar gelukkig hoop vir hulle – 100 jaar gelede was daar geen operasies nie en niemand het seker ooit kon dink dat die dokters eendag 'n heup sal kan vervang nie.

In my versameling is vier briewe wat Katie Millar aan haar oom H.W. Zeiler geskryf het. Ongelukkig is die briewe nie gedateer nie, maar volgens navorsers is die sterfdatum van “Grannie” [Catharina Margareta Wilhelmina Coetzer] 3 Julie 1915. Dus amper 100 jaar gelede. Hier volg twee van die briewe.

759 Pretorius st
Arcadia
Monday

Dear Uncle

I called at Grannies this afternoon and I am surprised to hear that you have not been near her, your mother, for over a week. I wonder what Dr. Savage told you about her leg. For he evidently never troubled to examine her limb, she was in fearful pain for over two weeks and Dr. S. never called again, did you only tell him to call once or twice? Well I went there last ~~Thursday~~ Tuesday and poor old Grannie begged me to send another Dr. She was in agony. So Dr. Davies called and thoroughly examined her leg, chest exc. I said that the leg was broken just under the socket in the hip. I could not bandage it as it was too high up. But he gave some lotion to be rubbed on several times a day, well tonight when I called again poor old Grannie was only too thankful that the pain had nearly gone. The limb has contracted about 2 inches and can't be moved but just hangs limp. The Dr. said she would not be able to walk for a very very long time, and cautioned them not to tell her that it was broken, he also fears Bronchitis! – The thing is, Alphonse is [__?__] to know what is to be done.

As this continues day and night attention is [__?__] on poor Aunt Francis. She quite broke down when I saw her, for three weeks she has not had her clothes off, but just sleeps as best she can. Now I do believe that you are the only of her children, who can help her as you are in a better financial position, and it is your duty for she was a good mother to you. I really think it is a disgrace that she in her old age should have to be in all that poverty. I will do what I can for her but as you know I have no money of my own. And my husband keeps his [__?__] since his father failed, so I can't ask him. I also have Charlie, and I do what I can for Lexie. You have 4 grown up sons who can help you. It would break her heart, if she had to go up to the Hospital and who will pay, so I hope you will see your way to help. I also asked Aunt Martha to do the same.

Yours sincerely
Katie Millar



Grannie en twee van haar kleinseuns, Charlie Evans en Fred Zeiler

Craigmillar,
Arcadia,
Pretoria.

Dear Uncle Harry,

I went down to see Grannie last week and was asking her about her Family when she told me you had the paper with all the family births etc on and as I was about to get some of the forebears' certificates, I wish you would lend me any papers that would enlighten me. If you know which is the best way to go about it, please let me know. Poor old Grannie looks very bad indeed and I don't think she will last much longer.

With kind regards
Hoping you will let me know soon.
Yours sincerely
Katie Millar

Grannie

Die Grannie van die brieue is Catharina Margareta Wilhelmina Zeiler (gebore Coetzer) (*24.04.1822 †3.7.1915), die moeder van H.W. Zeiler. In Longlands van 1889 [Lon-01, p178] word haar adres aangegee as Schoemanstraat, maar haar

naam verskyn nie in Lochhead's van 1913 nie. Moontlik het sy toe by een van haar kinders gewoon.

Uncle Harry

Uncle Harry is H.W. Zeiler. Hy was voor 1900 1ste Regtelike Kommissaris van Pretoria en het by verskeie geleenthede waargeneem as Landdros. Na die oorlog word hy aangestel as Waterfiskaal.

Die Pretoria Brief van Junie 2007 handel oor hom en sy broers. Indien u nie meer 'n kopie van die brief het nie kan u dit gaan lees by die volgende skakel:

<http://repository.up.ac.za/handle/2263/3310>

Katie Millar

Katie was die dogter van Grannie se oudste kind, Catharina Margaretha (Zeiler) Evans [*1839 – †1898], en haar pa was Charles (Hubert?) Evans.

In die 1899 Directory [Lon-01, p153] kry ons die inskrywing van William Millar & Co., "drapers, milliners, outfitters &c." in Kerkstraat-Oos, en hul woonadres is Schoemanstraat-Oos.

In 1913 [Loc-01, p360] word die besigheid se adres aangegee as Kerkstraat 231 en die woonadres as "Craigmillar", Pretoriusstraat 759 [dieselfde adres as op die briefhoof van die twee briewe].

Tot dusver kon ek nog nie vasstel of Katie die dogter of skoondogter van William Millar was nie. Die firma William Millar & Co. was baie prominent in ou Pretoria.

William Millar

William Millar kom in 1887 in Pretoria aan, nadat hy eers 'n tyd lank vir Mnr. Garlick in Kaapstad gewerk het. In vennootskap met Thomas Hobbs begin hy die besigheid Hobbs, Millar & Co. Hulle het 'n winkel in Kerkstraat-Oos en ook een in Kerkstraat-Wes gehad.

In November 1888 verskyn daar 'n kennisgewing in De Volksstem wat meld dat Hobbs & Millar op 15 November 'n nuwe tak in Kerkstraat gaan open. Die bestuurder van die nuwe tak is Johannes Joubert [V 1888-11-02].

Volgens Dunston [Dun-01, p10] het die volgende personeel in 1889 daar gewerk:

Thomas Hobbs

William Millar

A.E. Dall (salesman)

Miss Ewing (saleswoman)

E. Garton (salesman)

Miss Gleeson (saleswoman)

H. Gunnel (salesman)

Miss McIntyre (saleswoman)

P.J. Burgers (junior clerk)

'n Paar weke later in 1888 plaas hulle 'n groot advertensie in die koerant – amper 'n halwe bladsy!

Nieuwe Zomer Goederen:
De Goedkoopste in Pretoria bij
Hobbs Millar & Comp.

Specialiteit! Dresseden worden gemaakt in die Gebouwen onder bekwaam Europeesch Toezicht. Bijzondere aandacht wordt gegeven aan Bruidsdresseden. Prijzen Gematigd.

Daar volg ook 'n lang lys van goedere met pryse o.a.

Rol van 18 yards Duivelsterk teen 11s 6d [dit was wat ons vandag ken as denim].

Japonstoffen – 6d per yard

Fluweel – 2s per yard

Lakenstof (71 duim breed) – 1s per yard

Voering Linnen – 6d per yard

Van die mansskoene wat hulle verkoop is:

Heren Schoenen met Elastiek – 10s 6d

Heren Schoenen met Veters – 9s 9d

Velschoenen (Kaapsch Maaksel) – 9s



Millar se winkel in Kerkstraat ongeveer 1894 [Dun-01, p92]

In 1893 is die vennootskap met Hobbs verbreek en die firma staan nou bekend as William Millar & Co. Hy doen besigheid op die perseel in Kerkstraat [tussen Kerkplein en Andriesstraat] tot met sy aftrede in 1921, behalwe vir 'n tydperk in 1905 terwyl 'n nuwe winkel daar gebou is. In die tyd skuif hy vir 'n paar maande na die grondvloer van die Grand Hotel op die hoek van Kerkplein en Markstraat [Dun-01, p92].



Millar se nuwe winkel [Pre-05, p78]

Na William Millar se aftrede in 1921 word die besigheid oorgeneem deur mnr. A.E. Reich wat later met John Garlick in vennootskap tree. Die naam verander dan ook later na Garlicks [Pr-93, p42].

Die grond in Kerkstraat waarop die besigheid gestaan het het nie aan William Millar behoort nie [Val-01], en John Garlick koop later 'n erf op die hoek van Kerk- en Van der Waltstraat en bou daar die nuwe winkel wat ons seker almal onthou as Garlicks.

John Garlick

Daar bestaan verskeie publikasies wat meld dat Garlicks reeds in 1887 in Pretoria begin het en in 1987 hul 100ste bestaansjaar gevier het. Ek kon egter geen bewyse [foto's of koerantartikels] daarvan vind nie. Lola Dunston, wat as 'n baie betroubare bron beskou word, skryf Garlick het moontlik in die vroeë 1900's 'n assosiasie met Millar gevorm toe hy 'n besigheid in die Markgebou begin het. Dit was 'n motorfiets- en sportwinkel en hy het ook Remington tikmasjiene verkoop. Mnr. R.W. Ross was die bestuurder en hy het o.a. 'n snelskrif-vereniging en 'n werkverskaffingsburo in Pretoria gestig. Die assosiasie is op aandrang van Millar verbreek en Garlick het eers ná die aftrede van Millar weer 'n aandeel in die besigheid bekom [Dun-01, p92].

William Millar's in 1920 by E. Aldworth [Africana Tydskrif, 1988]

I, as an assistant in this – the leading departmental store in Pretoria at that time – have been asked to give some of my impressions.

On entering the building the hosiery department was on the left, where the sheerest of silk stockings were very well displayed; there were no Nylons then, they only came after the last war. The stockings came in many colours, from black and of course light beige shades through tan and brown. The shoes came mostly from Switzerland, and were very lovely in various shades of beige, tan and white and were trimmed with lighter or darker leathers. Nothing was made in South Africa then; everything was imported, and everything was on display in the shop.

Also on the ground floor was the haberdashery department, which was the delight of all home dressmakers; then came the wool department, novelties and the Manchester department.

The lift took customers to the showroom, where on the left, just at the top of the stairs, was the the corset department. Miss Morris, the head corsetière who hailed from Wales, was a very pleasant person and known to be able to please any customer, no matter what figure problems she had. Late every afternoon, before closing time, huge parcels of corsets were made up and sent out on appro. Not so today!

Among our customers we had Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone and her daughter Lady May Cambridge; and usually on halfprice days Ouma Smuts would pay the underwear department a visit where she did her purchases for her daughters. The loveliest undies were to be found in this department, run by Mrs. Sutton.

Miss Dean was the head lady of the millinery department where all the Paris models were to be seen displayed on stands. At this time crinolene hats were very fashionable; every woman wore hats, and the artificial flowers were the loveliest in silks and velvets. There is nothing to be found in the South African shops today that can compare with the millinery trimmings of long ago.

Then on to the showroom proper, where Miss Syme, a Scots woman, was head lady. There were the loveliest frocks and ensembles of all descriptions – all models from the United Kingdom and France.

Should an alteration be necessary, there were six alteration hands – all very experienced and ready to tackle any job, be it big or small. There were also in the big room a corsetière who did alterations, and on various occasions made up corselets and brassières for special customers. Five milliners were in another section of the workroom.

When spring came, there was a spring show in the showroom when all the latest gowns and millinery were beautifully displayed. Flowers were to be seen everywhere, huge branches of imitation peach blossoms were hung and for a week a band played all the latest dance tunes in the mornings and afternoons.

When autumn came, we had a repeat of the spring show, but with autumn leaves.

Once a year – always in the spring – the Governor-General's garden party was held at Government House and the Administrator's garden party followed shortly after. At this time the girls in the workroom worked late on rushed orders.

On those days so long ago, all shops closed at 1pm on Wednesdays, and we worked till 6pm on Saturdays, but later the hours of business were changed to 1pm closing time on Saturdays.

Mr. A.E. Reich was the manager. Mr. Duff and Mr. Lane were there also.

The starting wage for a girl after leaving school was R6 a month. I would like to add that one really more than earned one's wages in those days, where one went out of one's way to please the customer. We were always reminded that the customer came first and was always right.

As I look back over those years so long ago now, I feel very grateful for those times when I worked in such a lovely shop with such lovely people and learned so much.

Bronnelys

- Afr-05 Honibal, J. 1987. **The history of Garlicks – formerly Millars.** Jaarboek van die Africana Vereniging.
- Afr-06 Aldworth, E. 1988. **William Millars in the 1920s.** Jaarboek van die Africana Vereniging.
- Dun-01 Lola Dunston. 1975. **Young Pretoria 1889-1913.** Pretoria: Lola Dunston.
- Loc-01 **Lochhead's Guide, Hand-book, and Directory of Pretoria, 1913.** Pretoria: Transvaal Reliable Agency. 1913.
- Lon-01 **Longland's Pretoria directory for 1899.** Pretoria: State Library, 1979.
- Pre-05 **Pretoria, the Administrative Capital of the Union of South Africa.** Pretoria Municipality.
- Pr-93 Jacobs, Suzette. 1988. **Garlicks–Pretoria 100 Years.** Pretoriana, Nommer 93, p 40-49, April.
- Val-01 **Valuation Roll of the Municipality of Pretoria.** 1913.
- V = De Volksstem

Groete tot volgende maand,
Rosa Swanepoel