

Pretoriana



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FROM THE EDITOR - VAN DIE REDAKSIE

In this issue of *Pretoriana* we are privileged to publish a very interesting article on the Bourke Hospital 1899-1900, by Bridget Theron. Mrs Theron is at present making a study of the social life in Pretoria during the nineteenth century.

Die artikel oor dr Theo Wassenaar in ons voorlaaste uitgawe het terloops ook na sy suster, Johanna Wassenaar, bekende skilder en beeldhoudster, verwys. Dit het daartoe aanleiding gegee dat die artikel van mev A.S.M. du Plooy, *Johanna du Toit (gebore Wassenaar)*, aan ons aangebied is. Dit vorm die inleidende gedeelte van 'n verhandeling wat mev Du Plooy by die Universiteit van Pretoria ingedien het. Pretoria is 'n stad wat in die verlede en vandag nog 'n aansienlike aantal kunstenaars huisves en hopelik sal hierdie bydrae aanleiding gee tot bydraes oor meer van hulle.

We are thankful to Mr T.E. Andrews for giving us permission to publish the contents of his booklet, *Pretoria Sketches*, in serial form in *Pretoriana*. We hope to continue with it in future issues. With the old Pretoria Cemetery as background he gives short sketches of the pioneers buried there.

Hoewel vir baie bekend, het ons dit goed gedink om 'n reeks oor die ge-proklameerde nasionale gedenkwaardighede in Pretoria voortaan in *Pretoriana* op te neem. Dit is oorgeneem van 'n reeks inligtingsvelle saamgestel deur die Transvaalse Streekkantoor van die RNG. Ons hartlike dank vir toestemming om dit hier af te druk. Die stuk word opgeluister deur tekeninge van Hannes Meiring oorgeneem uit sy boek *Pretoria 125*. Ons hartlike dank ook aan mnr Meiring vir sy toestemming.

In sy soektog na die herkoms van die Booyen - Voortrekkergrafte het prof H.C. Petrick met die bekende mev. Maria Elizabeth Prinsloo in aanraking gekom. Hy het haar herinneringe opgeteken wat heelwat interessante besonderhede aan die lig gebring het insake haar familie en die vroegste inwoners van Pretoria. Hierdie herinneringe word hier in 'n interessante artikel deur prof Petrick saamgevat.

Ten slotte verskyn daar 'n bydrae van kol. dr. Jan Ploeger oor die inmaak-fabriek op Eerste Fabrieken. Dit werp lig op een van die nywerhede wat tydens die Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek in werking was.

Weens onvermydelike omstandighede verskyn hierdie uitgawe laat. Ons verskoning daarvoor.

THE BOURKE HOSPITAL 1899-1900

..... *this old house where we have lived such quiet peaceful lives for so many years. Each room in this house is full of memories and we feel as if no other house can be as much to us as this one*¹

Pretoria in early 1899 was an attractive, bustling town, the capital of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, now flourishing after the discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand. The records tell us that it was a happy, friendly town, with an active social and cultural life. It was also a thriving commercial centre and boasted several well-staffed state schools. The Staatsmodelschool in Van der Walt Street was one such school. Set in the grounds of this school, north of the building, on the corner of Schoeman and Van der Walt streets stood an attractive building with two bay windows. It had been built in 1878 but for some time before the outbreak of the Anglo Boer War it had been used as a boarding establishment for pupils attending the Staatsmodelschool. It was known as the Eerste Staatstehuis.

Mr. R.D. Collins was supervisor of this hostel, and lived here with his wife and two daughters. One of these daughters, who signs herself simply 'B.C.' has left a remarkable letter, written in the form of a diary, which describes vividly her experiences during the 2nd Anglo Boer War. She tells of all the hardships, anguish, fears and disappointments of these troubled days in Pretoria. Using her letter and other archival material, it is possible to trace the fascinating story of the Bourke Hospital.

After months of tension and political wrangling between the governments of the tiny Z.A.R. and Victoria's mighty England, the people of Pretoria felt that war was imminent. In *De Volksstem* of 16th August 1899 an appeal was published for volunteers to join the Pretoria Branch of the Red Cross Society, so that preparations for care of the wounded could be made well in advance. The response was immediate and overwhelming. Pretoria residents of all nationalities offered their services. Many started attending courses in bandaging and First Aid.² Some offered their homes as hospitals,³ others promised free food, milk, vegetables and financial support. John Clark, the local undertaker, even offered to bury the dead free of charge.⁴ Two of the volunteers were leading Pretoria citizens, well known in commercial and social circles - T.W. Beckett and George Bourke. Beckett went on to finance and organise a section of the Red Cross known as the Beckett Section, which set up a hospital at the Front. George Bourke established both a Field Section and a hospital in Pretoria - the so-called Bourke Hospital.

George Bourke, although English speaking, was a loyal Transvaler and a burgher with full voting rights. He had arrived in Pretoria in 1879, and now twenty years later, at the age of 31 years, was a prominent Pretoria businessman.⁵ With his brother, E.F. (Eddie) Bourke, he managed the firm Bourke and Co., General Merchants, one of the largest stores in Pretoria. Although we know that by 1903 George Bourke lived in a fashionable home called 'Kenturk' in Celliers Street, in 1899 he still lived with his brother Eddie. The Longlands Dictionary of Pretoria for 1899 gives the address of

both Eddie and George Bourke as Mare Street East.⁶ Their home was just off the North Eastern corner of Market Street (now Paul Kruger Street).

According to Miss Collins's diary, George Bourke was 'a small energetic little man who has a great deal to say for himself and everybody else. He has not had much education but is always ready to give his opinion on any subject.'⁷ He was apparently a well liked citizen, often mentioned in the social columns of the local press. Even H.J. Batts, the Baptist minister in Pretoria at the time, 'who had little of a complimentary nature to say of anyone who had Boer sympathies, says, 'George Bourke's humanitarian work all through the war is most commendable....'⁸

On 3rd October 1899 all state schools in the Z.A.R. were officially closed because of the threat of war.⁹ The school children in the Transvaal were still on holiday - it was their September/October break.¹⁰ They were told not to return to school, and many of them, being over sixteen years of age were required to join the commandos to fight for the independence of their republic. The Eerste Staatshuis was comparatively empty at the time, only 'about twenty' of the usual 76 boys now had to leave. The house was soon to be the scene of intense activity of another kind.

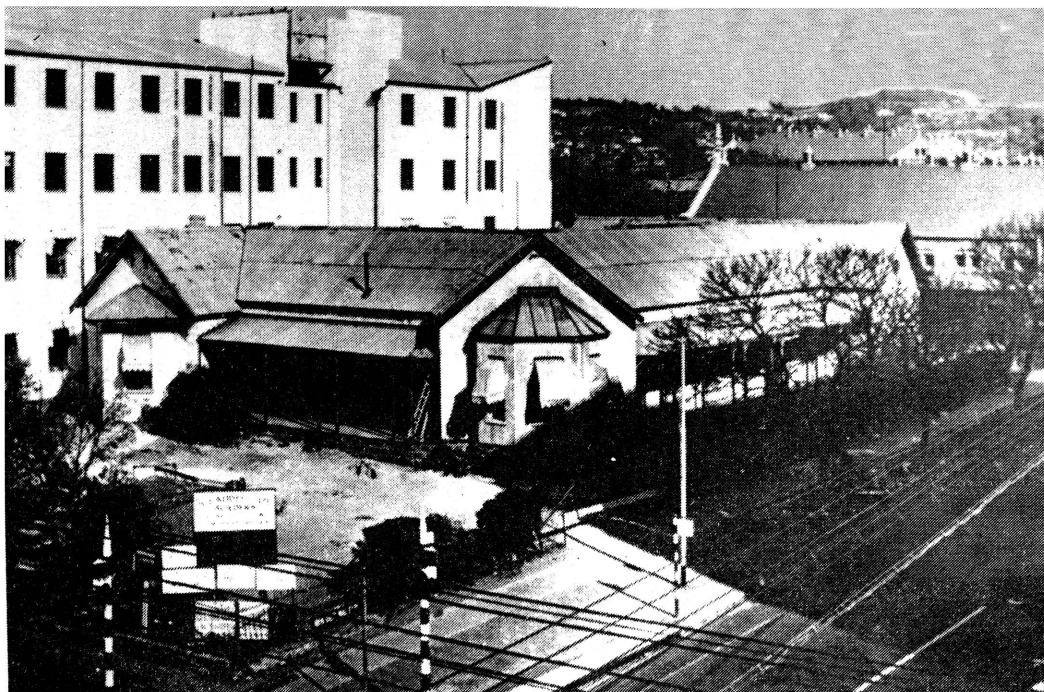
War was declared on the 11th October 1899. Now the Red Cross moved into full gear. The Head Committee of the Transvaal Red Cross held a meeting on 14th October 1899 and their minutes record that 'de Regeering de Staatshuizen en ander staatsgebouwen aan het Hoofd Bestuur heeft afgestaan om als hospitalen te worden in gebruik genomen.'¹²

A few days later, on 20th October 1899, the Head Committee instructed R.D. Collins to have all the rooms in the Eerste Staatshuis cleaned, and beds and furniture arranged accordingly. He was also asked to employ all the necessary coloured staff so that the hostel could be taken over by the Red Cross 'voor hospitaal doeleinden'.¹³

On 24th October, Dr. N. Mansvelt, the Superintendent of Education, under whom Collins had been employed, wrote to the Red Cross recommending that R.D. Collins, his wife and two daughters should be allowed to remain in residence and organise the running of the hospital.¹⁴ Collins's duties were to include hiring of coloured staff, ordering of provisions from the Commissariat and arranging for the washing of the linen - all to be paid for by the Head Committee of the Red Cross.¹⁵ As was the case with all Red Cross hospitals, the Bourke Hospital was to accept both Boer and British soldiers.

The new arrangements are explained by 'B.C.' The Collins family lived in their own quarters in a separate part of the house. 'Everything has been turned upside down. Our house has been turned into a Red Cross Hospital. We have the front part and the garden to ourselves. The linen room has been changed into a kitchen for us they gave us a tiny stove and I do not find it very hard work If it were not for the war we would be quite happy....'¹⁶

George Bourke, meanwhile, had not been idle. He made inquiries and established that the various commodities needed were best purchased from T.W. Beckett and Co. R.D. Collins writes, 'De Heer Bourke heeft dus, met uitzondering van 50 katoen dekens, al het goed by Beckett and Co. gekocht.'¹⁷



The Bourke Hospital

Gradually the hospital began to take shape.

The records tell us that John Jack, another well-known Pretoria shop-keeper also helped George Bourke establish his hospital. John Jack was listed as one of the early members of the Bourke Section of the Red Cross. Both his and Mrs. Jack's names appear on the list of members of the Section dated 16th October 1899.¹⁸ John Jack supplied eight mules, four of which were to be used 'to convey sick and wounded from the station here to the local hospital.' He offered to feed the animals at his own cost and use them 'to carry on (his) business as usual' when they were not required for Red Cross purposes.¹⁹

Bourke and Collins together organised the staffing of the Bourke Hospital. On 12th November 1899 Collins was able to present a list of staff members to the Head Committee.²⁰ Dr. P.H. Haylett was the doctor in charge while the nursing staff was headed by the matron, Miss. Frances A. Lowrie, who, according to 'B.C.' was a 'tall, strong, red-faced woman'.²¹ Mrs. George Bourke and Mrs. Thomas Theron plus eight young unmarried nurses volunteered their services to assist her. Two of the nurses were Miss. B.M. Burgers and her sister Miss. F. Burgers - possibly daughters of ex-President Burgers.²² Mrs. A. Bailey was to be in charge of the kitchen with the assistance of Miss. Trotter.

On 15th November 1899 Collins wrote to the Head Committee saying 'Wij zijn gereed om te eenige tijd patiënten te ontvangen.'²³ He then drew up a detailed list of rules and regulations, including the hours and duties of the staff, meal times, conduct of patients and visiting times.²⁴ The Bourke Hospital was ready to open its doors.

In addition to the Bourke Hospital, several other Pretoria hospitals were ready to receive patients. The newly completed Staatsmeisjesschool had also been fully equipped by the Red Cross as a hospital of 57 beds.²⁵ (Later as many as 80 patients were housed there).²⁶ The facilities there were more impressive than those in the Bourke Hospital and later, most surgical cases were to be referred there. Even the newly discovered X-Ray techniques - 'Röntgenstralen' - were applied there, a fact which was reported with great pride in *De Volksstem* of 16th November 1899. The Volkshospitaal, opened in 1888, continued to meet the needs of the local residents, and although not a Red Cross Hospital, admitted some soldiers as well if there were sufficient beds. No British soldiers were accepted there²⁷ - they were taken to the two Red Cross Hospitals, or treated in the small hospitals set up at the P.O.W. camp at the Race course²⁸ and later at Waterval P.O.W. camp outside Pretoria.²⁹ Finally, the Tweede Staatstehuis on the corner of Boom and Market Street was fitted out as a Red Cross convalescent home, where patients who had been discharged from the hospitals could recuperate for a few days.³⁰

Soldiers from the Front, who could not be treated in the Field Hospitals were transported to Pretoria in Hospital Trains. At the Pretoria station they were met by the members of the Transport Section, set up by H.C. Glaeser,

who had undertaken to transport patients to the various hospitals.³¹ According to Glaeser's reports, the first patients were transported to the hospitals on 20th October.

In a report written to the Head Committee of the Red Cross on 21st December 1899, Collins reviews the early activities of the Bourke Hospital. He writes '.... sedert 15 November 1899 in dit Hospitaal 23 patienten verpleegd zijn geworden'. Of these 19 were Z.A.R. burghers and 3 were sick British officers from the nearby Staatsmodelschool.³² To date, 6 of his patients had been discharged, so that the number of patients on 21st December was 17. Apart from those who had been wounded in battle, patients suffering from sicknesses such as malaria, dysentery and eye and ear infections were also admitted. Burghers and British had been nursed in separate rooms according to instructions.³³

Collins was satisfied with the work of his staff. 'De verpleegsters werken met veel gewilligheid de reinigings toestand en die water afleiding wordt behoorlijk zorggedragen.' Pretoria's residents were already showing their characteristic kindness. 'Door de vriendelijkheid van het publiek ontvangen wij gedurig giften van vruchten en bloemen tot veel genot der patienten.'³⁴

George Bourke maintained close contact with the hospital, despite several trips to the Front where he played an active role in the Bourke Field Section. A telegram dated 25th October 1899 from Glencoe in reply to a request that he return, reads 'Is my presence absolutely necessary in Pretoria? We are short handed and expect heavy fighting and require all our men.....'³⁵ Several weeks later, Bourke did in fact return. He was later to write that as regards the Bourke Hospital he had personal knowledge 'van alles wat hier gebeurd is, daar ik iederen dag het hospitaal bezoek en ook dikwijls des nachts er blijf aan dienst te doen waar zulks nodig is.'³⁶

It would seem that the Bourke Hospital was efficiently run and that the patients were well satisfied with the treatment they received. At least one inmate, F.E. Kolbe, who was admitted on 3rd February 1900 with a wound in the neck received during the battle of Spioenkop, reports that he was well treated.³⁷

Provisions were delivered to the hospital daily, and R.D. Collins had only to request other necessary items. All the hospital laundry was sent out to the Transvaal Steam Laundry in Church Street East next to what is now Lion Bridge. Mr. F.C. Nelson, the proprietor, carried out the work for a fee which he maintained was 'the lowest ever tendered in Africa for this class of work' - 2/- per dozen articles.³⁸ Medicines were provided from Raworth's Chemist shop on the corner of Church and Queen Streets. The Red Cross took over this business in November 1899 to facilitate the supply of medicines to their various hospitals.

Many items were delivered to the hospital free of charge by kindly residents. In *De Volksstem* of 15th November and 17th November 1899 there

are articles of thanks for flowers, fruit, Eau de Cologne and flower vases. Continental Stores are thanked for pipes, tobacco and canned fruit, while Van der Gen contributed sweets. The Transvaal Leather Company sent a donation of 250 pairs of slippers to the Red Cross, some of which were sent to the Bourke Hospital.⁴⁰ Messrs. Goldswain and Sons sent a daily delivery of fresh vegetables, and were assured by the Secretary of the Head Committee that 'the vegetables you have already delivered go a long way in feeding and strengthening the patients.'⁴¹ One of the most original offers came from Eduard Fuchs, a local barber who offered free haircuts and shaves for all hospital patients.⁴²

For those patients who were on the road to recovery, Mrs. F.W. Reitz, wife of the State Secretary, provided daily outings to her home, where afternoon tea was served in the garden. Transport to and from the hospital was provided in her personal carriage.⁴³ There is no specific record of patients from the Bourke Hospital attending these outings, but they would presumably also have been welcome along with soldiers from the Volks-hospitaal and Staatsmeisjesschool.

As the war dragged on, 'B.C.' describes her life in the Bourke Hospital, and the tension in Pretoria. She writes, 'We are living in very dark days. Our hearts are so often heavy with care if not for ourselves alone but for all those of our friends as well who have had such heavy loss during these last months.'⁴⁴ Luckily the fresh food position in Pretoria was not crucial in the early months of the war. 'We have had a good deal of fruit this season we expect a fine crop of yellow peaches and apples and even grapes a little later. During this week we have been busy gardening as are many others because if this war lasts much longer we will need all we can get out of our gardens.'⁴⁵

Christmas 1899 was a sad day, because so many families were parted from their menfolk. 'We all thought of friends and relatives away in the different lagers and of brighter Christmas days in the past.'⁴⁶

On 17th January 1900 the Government decided to appoint the so-called Medische Commissie which would co-ordinate 'alle zaken betreffende geneeskundige behandeling' in the Transvaal.⁴⁷ The Head Committee of the Red Cross, however, was still in operation and the new arrangements made no practical difference to the running of the Bourke Hospital.

By February 2nd 1900 the number of patients increased to what appears to be the maximum number of 36 (7 of whom were British Officers). From 19th February to 20th March 1900 the number fluctuated between 21 and 31 and by 16th April the total number of patients was down to 16, which included 4 P.O.W.'s.⁴⁸

Early in April 1900, the Bourke Hospital became involved in a dispute with the 'Commissie voor Onnodige en Ongewenschte Personen'. This committee had been set up in response to the Government decision that stric-

ter control should be exercised over the issue of permits entitling British subjects to remain in the Transvaal during the war. At about this time a number of prominent Pretoria residents were suddenly told to leave the country. On 4th April 1900 Mr. H. Smits, Secretary of the new Committee wrote to R.D. Collins ordering that Mrs. A. Bailey, manageress of the kitchen leave the Transvaal within 3 days. The matron of the hospital, Miss. F. Lowrie, was also to prepare to leave soon, but could remain while a replacement was found for her post.⁴⁹ Collins replied immediately, saying that their removal would leave the hospital in a desperate position, because to replace them would be difficult if not impossible. He pleaded that both had given excellent service since the previous November. Presumably his request was granted, at least in the case of Matron Lowrie. The records show that at the end of May 1900 she was still in the Bourke Hospital.⁵⁰

The reason for the black listing of these two members of staff is not given, but a possible explanation is provided by a letter to the same Mr. H. Smits, dated 7th April 1900, signed by George Bourke himself (but written in R.D. Collins's handwriting). In this letter, Bourke defends the staff of his hospital against allegations of favouring British patients at the expense of the burghers. He is quite categorical that no such thing has occurred. He writes, 'Ik acht het mijn plicht en als de stichter van dit werk en als voorzitter van 't Comité te verklaren dat deze beschuldiging onwaar is' He feels that the Matron acted at all times in strict accordance with the best medical practice and cites examples where she stayed at the bedside of a dying patient until the end. It was because of official instructions that P.O.W.'s and burghers were nursed in different rooms but this made absolutely no difference to the treatment they received or the food they were given from the kitchen. Bourke is adamant that gifts of food etc. which were donated for the burghers were never used for the British officers, although he admits (perhaps because he feels this would find favour with the Committee) that gifts of food donated for the British were sometimes given to the burghers as well if there was a surplus. Bourke ends his letter with the suggestion that the Committee should ask some of the ex-patients of the hospital - he is sure that they too will agree that the treatment they received was in no way inferior to that of the British P.O.W.'s.⁵¹ Presumably the Committee was satisfied with Bourke's explanation, because the hospital continued to function on the same lines until after the British occupation of Pretoria.

The residents of Pretoria waited in trepidation as the British advanced towards the border of the Transvaal. 'B.C.' describes the tension. 'Things are getting darker and darker for us ... It is so hard to sit here day after day and wait for them to march in.'⁵² On 16th March 1900 the British Officers were moved from the Staatsmodelschool to their new quarters. 'There was much excitement here this morning ... of course our whole establishment turned

out to see them.'⁵³

By the beginning of May 1900, Pretoria was in a sorry state. The crime rate increased, all sorts of wild rumours were circulating and the residents were fearing the worst. 'B.C.' writes '... We have lived through bitter anxious days, and long with unspeakable longing for peace, but oh! the bitterness of the thought that all the sorrow and the heartbreak have been in vain. How can we who truly love the country bear to see those terrible English march into our lovely Pretoria'⁵⁴

When Kruger and his government left Pretoria for Machadodorp on 29th May, the reaction in the Bourke Hospital was one of absolute disbelief. 'Pretoria woke to find that its government had gone and left us all in the lurch to say the feelings of the people against Oom Paul and the rest are bitter does not in the least express it'⁵⁵

On 4th June cannon fire was heard in Pretoria and the little community in the Bourke Hospital was tense and anxious. 'I can't write. God help us, it is coming so near.'⁵⁶

The next day Roberts entered Pretoria and the locals all lined the streets to see the ragged British army march into Church Square. 'It was a sight we will never forget. There seemed no end to them ...'⁵⁷

The British authorities took over the running of the Transvaal Red Cross a few days later. On 9th June the Secretary wrote to the British Medical Officer, offering to hand over all the medical stores, equipment etc. in their possession. He included the details of the members of the Head Committee and the whereabouts of their head office in Pretorius Street West. The three Red Cross hospitals were now also officially handed over.⁵⁸

On 27th June 1900, General Maxwell, the Military Governor of Pretoria decided that the newly completed Palace of Justice would be used as a central Red Cross hospital. All the stores would be kept in the basement of the hospital.⁵⁹ The decision to have one major Red Cross hospital in Pretoria meant the gradual demise of the Bourke Hospital.

R.D. Collins was asked to vacate his home on 9th July. His daughter says, 'Father has had orders to clear out of the house where we have lived for eleven years. They want the whole for a hospital.' Collins was given another house, rent free, for the duration of the war, but the family was heartbroken. 'Oh, I am so sorry to leave ... our garden looks so lovely with all the flowers. And that dear old house in which we have been so happy ...'⁶⁰

It is not certain exactly when the hospital was closed down, but it was still open on August 15th 1900.⁶¹ Vivien Allen writes that it was kept open for 'two or three months' after the British occupation, before closing down.⁶² 'B.C.' makes no further reference to the hospital once her family ceased to be involved in its management. It would seem that before the end of 1900 the Bourke Hospital had closed its doors.

Bridget Theron

1. Transvaal Archives (T.A.B.) A.873, Diary of Miss. B. Collins, Pretoria 1899-1902, p.42.
2. *De Volksstem*, 23.9.1899.
3. T.A.B. Red Cross (R.K.) 3/6. One such offer was made by E.F. Bourke, brother of George Bourke. His offer was, however, turned down.
4. T.A.B. 8/43, Clarke - Sect. of Head Committee, Pretoria, 25.9.1899.
5. T.A.B. Landdrost Pretoria, Vol. 19, List of Male Residents of Ward 7, 6.3.1900.
6. *Longlands Pretoria Directory* for 1899, State Library reprint, 1979,p.119.
7. T.A.B. A.873, p.2.
8. H.J. Batts, *Pretoria from within during the War 1899-1900*, London, undated, p.199.
9. T.A.B. Onderwys Dept. (O.D.) 284, p.622.
10. T.A.B. A.873, p.4.
11. *Ibid.*, p.2.
12. T.A.B. R.K.1, p.33.
13. T.A.B. R.K. 3/6, J.G. Kreyenbroek - R.D. Collins, Pretoria, 20.10.1899.
14. T.A.B. R.K. 8/7, Mansvelt-Kreyenbroek, Pretoria 24.10.1899.
15. T.A.B. R.K. 3/6.
16. T.A.B. A.873, pp.1-2.
17. T.A.B. Hoofkomite van de Commissariaat (C.) Vol. 19.
R.D. Collins - Sect. Provisie Commissie, Pretoria 18.11.1899.
18. T.A.B. R.K. 3/6.
19. T.A.B. R.K. 3/6 Hutchinson-Kreyenbroek, Pretoria 9.11.1899.
20. T.A.B. R.K. 3/6.
21. T.A.B. A.873, p.2.
22. Vivien Allen, in her book *Kruger's Pretoria* p.163, writes that these nurses were daughters of President Burgers, but gives no source of reference. I have not been able to verify this fact.
23. T.A.B. R.K.3/6, R.P. Collins-Kreyenbroek, Pretoria 15.11.1899.
24. T.A.B. R.K.3/6, Memorandum dd. 16.11.1899.
25. *De Volksstem*, 1.2.1900.
26. T.A.B. R.K. 7/40, Kreyenbroek - Principal Medical Officer, Pretoria, 9.6.1900.
27. T.A.B. Landdrost Pretoria, Vol. 139, Inkomende Stukke, 20.11.1899.
28. T.A.B. R.K. 8/45.
29. T.A.B. R.K.151.
30. T.A.B. R.K. 8/45, Kreyenbroek-Hauptfleisch, Pretoria, 23.10.1899.
31. T.A.B. R.K. 5/22.
32. T.A.B. R.K. 3/6, Report R.D. Collins-Kreyenbroek, 21.12.1899. There appears to be a discrepancy in Collins's calculations when he gives a total of 23 patiens made up of 19 burghers and 2 P.O.W.'s.

33. T.A.B. Landdrost Pretoria Vol. 188. Bourke-H.Smits, Pretoria, 7.4.1900.
34. T.A.B. R.K. 3/6
35. T.A.B. R.K. 3/6 Telegram, Bourke - Head Committee Red Cross, Glencoe, 25.10.1899.
36. T.A.B. Landdrost Pretoria, Vol. 188, Bourke-Smits, Pretoria, 7.4.1900.
37. T.A.B. A.787/74, p.282.
38. T.A.B. R.K. 9/51, F.O. Nelson - Head Committee Red Cross, Pretoria, 19.2.1900.
39. T.A.B. R.K. 9/51.
40. T.A.B. R.K. 9/51, H.C.C. Sheppard - W.G. Evans, Pretoria, 15.11.1899.
41. T.A.B. R.K. 8/45, H.C.C. Sheppard - Messrs. Goldswain and Sons, Pretoria, 17.11.1899.
42. T.A.B. R.K. 8/44, E. Fuchs - Head Committee, Pretoria, 13.10.1899.
43. *De Volksstem*, Veldtocht Editie, Zaterdag, 25 November 1899.
44. T.A.B. A.873, p.13.
45. *Ibid.*, p.17.
46. *Ibid.*, p.19.
47. U.R. art. 14 dd. 17 January, 1900.
48. T.A.B. R.K. 3/6 Report from R.D. Collins, 16.4.1900.
49. T.A.B. R.K. 3/6 H. Smits - R.D. Collins, Pretoria, 4.4.1900.
50. T.A.B. R.K. 3/6 F. Lowrie - Sect. Head Committee, 30.5.1900.
51. T.A.B. R.K. 3/6 G.M. Bourke - H. Smits, Pretoria, 7.4.1900.
52. T.A.B. A.873, p.39.
53. *Ibid.*, p.40.
54. *Ibid.*, p.48.
55. *Ibid.*, p.53.
56. *Ibid.*, p.54.
57. *Ibid.*, p.57.
58. T.A.B. R.K. 7/40, Kreyenbroek - Principal Medical Officer of the British Forces, Pretoria, 9.6.1900.
59. T.A.B. R.K. 7/40, Maxwell - Sect. Transvaal Red Cross, Pretoria, 27.6.1900.
60. T.A.B. A.873, p.62.
61. T.A.B. R.K. 7/40, Kreyenbroek - Chief of Staff, Pretoria, 15.8.1900.
62. Vivien Allen, *Kruger's Pretoria*, p.166.

JOHANNA CORNELIA DU TOIT (GEBORE WASSENAAR)

Johanna Wassenaar is op 25 Maart, 1896 op haar ouers se plaas Groot Rietpan, in die distrik Middelburg, Transvaal gebore. Sy was die derde kind van vyf en die oudste dogter van Andreas Dalein Wassenaar en Cornelia Magdalena du Toit.

In die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog, weens die konsentrasiekampbeleid van die Britse Magte, is baie vroue en kinders van die Middelburgse omgewing in konsentrasiekampe in Balmoral, Volksrust, Irene en ander dorpe geplaas. Aangesien Johanna Wassenaar familie in Middelburg gehad het, het sy en haar moeder daar gaan woon.¹ Na die vredesluiting 1902 het die Wassenaars na 'n afgebrande plaas en opstal teruggekeer. Daar was geen vee nie, en hulle moes die huis en plaas weer opbou. Die Regering het eers donkies en later muile aan die boere gegee om hulle weer op die been te help.

Johanna Wassenaar was vanaf 1906 tot 1911 in 'n eenmanskooltjie op die plaas Woestalleen tussen Middelburg en Hendrina. Hier het sy tot standerd ses saam met haar broers skoolgegaan.²

Na standerd ses is sy na die Hoërskool in Middelburg, maar het egter nie haar skoolloopbaan voltooi nie.³ Na standerd nege het sy in Pretoria by die Departement Statistiek as administratiewe klerk vir omtrent twee jaar gewerk. In Pretoria het sy kontak gehad met haar tante, Mevrou Annie Trouw, wat die eienares was van die Cordosa Hotel, op die hoek van Bosman en Skinnerstraat. Mevrou Trouw het geskilder en dit was Johanna se eerste formele kennismaking met skilderkuns.⁴

In 1910 is haar oudste broer Theo, toe sewentien jaar oud, oorsee om medies te studeer. In 1918 bekwaam hy hom as mediese dokter en gee vir Johanna Wassenaar die geld om ook oorsee te studeer. Presies watter jaar sy oorsee gegaan het, is onbekend. Sy het eers in Holland aangedoen want daar bestaan foto's van Vondelpark, na 'n verwoestende storm, wat deur haar geneem is op 6 November 1921.⁵

In 1922 sit Johanna Wassenaar haar studies voort in Wene, Oostenryk.⁶ Dit is onbekend onder wie se leiding sy gestudeer het. In 1923 gaan studeer sy egter in München en noem 'n Herr Fränkel by wie sy skilderklas geloop het. In 1923 stuur sy aan haar broer Theo 'n ongedateerde poskaart wat as volg lees:

*Theresienstraat 14 III
München*

Liefste Theo, Ek voel nie nou lus om vakansie te hou nie, want ons werk weer tot sewe saans, en ek het al met verf begin. Bedags is ek vreeslik geestig, en lê snags ook oor die werk en dink. Ek werk hard met die doel om in November die Akademie keuring mee te maak. Sal teen end September 'n week vakansie neem, en my goed kom haal, want ek wil al die gallerye (sic) nog deurloop. Dis ideaal om in München te werk.....'

Uit die enkele poskaarte in my besit lei mens af dat Johanna Wassenaar in München aktief besig was met kunsaktiwiteit⁷ en dat sy ook heelwat rondgereis het.⁸

Op 29 Maart tree Johanna Wassenaar oorsee in die huwelik met Dokter Francois Stephanus du Toit, wat eers in Heidelberg en toe ook in München medies gestudeer het. Vanaf 1920 tot 1928 woon die egpaar in Wene, hy om te spesialiseer en sy om haar in haar kunsstudie te verdiep.

In 1929 keer die egpaar terug na Suid-Afrika. Johanna Wassenaar se man praktiseer op Kuruman. Op die sewende Oktober 1929 is hulle enigste kind en dogter, Cornelia Marguerite, gebore. In 1933, met die Depressie, het haar man, Dokter du Toit na Winburg in die Vrystaat verhuis.⁹ In 1939 verhuis die gesin na Voortrekkerhoogte waar die Weermag 'n huis vir hulle beskikbaar gestel het. Hier het Johanna Wassenaar vir haar 'n ruim ateljee ingerig en benewens ander aktiwiteite haar aandag aan haar kuns gegee.

Vanaf Voortrekkerhoogte is haar man verplaas as bevelvoerder van die Militêre Hospitaal te Wynberg, Kaap. In Julie 1939 sluit hy hom by die mynteringsburo in Johannesburg aan en koop 'n nuutgeboude huis in die destydse pasgestigte woonbuurt Greenside. Hier rig Johanna Wassenaar 'n kamer in as ateljee. Sy begin in 1940 by die Witwatersrandse Tegnieese Kollege kuns-klasse neem. Onder leiding van Phyllis Gardner het sy portrette gedoen en onder die bejaarde Elizabeth Benson¹⁰ het sy modelleerwerk begin doen. Aanvanklik het Elizabeth Benson die studente reliëfpanele laat maak en ook laat kopieer van bestaande voorbeelde. Daarna het sy haar studente losstaande beelde laat maak en modelleerwerk sowel as kapwerk.¹¹

Hier het Johanna Wassenaar ook die gietproses geleer wat haar later in haar lewe handig te pas gekom het. Johanna Wassenaar het ook pottebakkerij geneem, 'n kursus in juwelierswerk, fotografie en selfs boekbindery. In Johannesburg was sy 'n aktiewe lid van die Transvaal Society of Artists.¹²

In 1947 is hulle dogter na die Universiteit van Pretoria. Johanna Wassenaar en haar man het bymekaar verby geleeft en in 1951 is hulle geskei. Intussen het Johanna Wassenaar toenemend doof en eensaam geword, so erg dat dit haar gemoed begin aantast het. Uiteindelik het sy aan 'n vervolgingswaansin begin ly en so depressief geraak dat daar vir haar veiligheid gevrees is. Sy is onder psigiatriese behandeling geplaas, het ook skokbehandeling gekry en stadigaan begin verbeter. Vir die res van haar lewe het sy haar toevlug tot kuns geneem en was dikwels geneig om depressief en wantrouend teenoor haar medemens te staan. Sy het na Pretoria verhuis en 'n woonstel in Walkerstraat, Sunnyside, betrek. Hier moes sy hard begin werk aan haar kuns aangesien dit haar enigste bron van inkomste was. Die woonstel was klein en beknop en onbevredigend as ateljee. Sy wou meer leerlinge inneem en sou daarvoor meer ruimte nodig hê. Sy verhuis na 'n huis in Beatrixstraat en rig terselfdertyd vir haar 'n ruim vertrek op die eerste vloer van 'n gebou in Kerkstraat, regoor die Ou Mark, as ateljee in. Daar het sy aan talle leerlinge portretkuns gedoseer.

Johanna Wassenaar was baie teleurgesteld toe die Universiteit van Suid-Afrika haar wou aanstel as eksaminatrise, maar nie kon nie. Die rede was dat sy ten spyte van haar goeie opleiding nie gematrikuleer was nie en geen graad aan 'n universiteit behaal het nie. Intussen het daar sprake gekom dat

die huis in Beatrixstraat verkoop sou word en sy het uitgekyk vir 'n huis van haar eie. Deur bemiddeling van haar broer Dokter Theo Wassenaar, het sy 'n huis gekoop: De Veerlaan 5, Pretoria-Sentraal. Die huis het agter ruim buitevertrekkie gehad wat sy in 'n praktiese ateljee omskep het.

Johanna Wassenaar het met haar verdienstes uit kuns etlike oorsese reise onderneem. Op 10 Januarie 1957 vertrek sy na Engeland. Haar doel was om verder te studeer en haarself af te rond as portretkunstenaar. In Engeland het sy navraag gedoen omtrent lesse maar sy was nie beïndruk nie. Sy vertrek na die Vasteland van Europa, doen navraag omtrent portret by München maar was nog nie tevrede nie.¹³ Sy besluit om na Wene te gaan. Op 15 Januarie 1958 skryf sy by die 'Akademie der Bildenden Künste' in by die 'Meisterschule Für Malerei' onder Professor Josef Dobrowsky. 'n Hoogtepunt in haar loopbaan breek aan. Haar beste pastel en portretstudies dateer uit hierdie tydperk. Sy was baie produktief en hart en siel in haar werk.¹⁴ Volgens 'n getuiskrif van Professor Josef Dobrowsky aan Johanna Wassenaar, die volgende: *'Frau Cornelia du Toit, geb. om 25. März 1886 in Middelburg, Südafrika, war durch 2 Semester (Sommersemester 1957 und Wintersemester 1957/58) als Gasthörerin meiner Meisterschule für Malerei in skribiert und hat trotz ihres bereits vorgeschrittenen Alters ihre schon ansehnlichen kunstkenntnisse in der figürlichen Malerei, durch ihren Fleiss und ihre Aufgeschlossenheit weiters bedeutend bereichern können.'*

Op 20 Junie 1957 vertrek sy op 'n reis deur Italië en in Januarie 1958 vaar sy op 'n boot deur die Suezkanaal en besoek Egipte met die terugkeer. 'n Tweede laaste reis na die buiteland was op 22 Desember 1963 na Suid-Amerika. Op hierdie rit het sy verskeie portrette geskilder van medepassasiers en ook een van die Kaptein van die boot. Haar laaste reis was 'n georganiseerde toer in 1964 na Europa.

Na haar terugkeer weer na Suid-Afrika het Johanna Wassenaar tussendeur rustig haar skeppingswerk in De Veerlaan 5 voortgesit. Sy het minder leerlinge begin neem namate sy meer opdragte ontvang het. In die laaste jare van haar lewe het haar gesondheid agteruit begin gaan, maar tenspyte van 'n swak hart het sy hardnekkig voortgewerk. Die besef dat die tyd min geraak het, het haar byna tot koorsagtige haas gedryf.

Op 11 April 1972 is Johanna Wassenaar op die ouderdom van 76 jaar oorlede.

A.S.M. du Plooy

1. Die familie by wie die Wassenaars gaan bly het, was meneer Jan du Toit, 'n broer van Johanna Wassenaar se moeder.
2. Haar kinderjare was oor die algemeen gelukkig, met enkele uitsonderings. Blykbaar het die dood van 'n sustertjie wat na haar gekom het en op twee-jarige ouderdom gesterf het, haar diep getref. Sy het ook haar eie lewe amper verloor toe sy as kind hoenderieiers gaan uithaal het en in die proses deur 'n rinkhals in die holte van haar regterhand gepik is. Vir die res van haar lewe was haar regterhand so effens bak geweës. (Persoonlike onderhoud met kunstenaar se suster Mev. T. Heil, 18 Augustus 1978).

3. Die rede waarom sy nie haar matriek gemaak het nie is onbekend en haar suster Mevrouw Trui Heil, meen dat sy moes terug plaastoe om haar moeder met die huishouding te help.
4. As kind was sy nie bewus daarvan dat sy kunssinnig aangelê was nie, maar sy was lief vir mooi dinge en visueel ingestel. Volgens Johanna Wassenaar se dogter, Mevrouw Gretchen Viljoen, die volgende: *'Sy het my eenkeer vertel van 'n pragtige nuwe kappie wat sy gekry het en wat sy net mag gedra het vir kerk. Dit was egter vir haar so mooi dat sy dit een Sondag aangehou het en gaan bootry het op die pan. Sy het in die water beland met kappie en al en 'n goeie pakslae gekry. Ek onthou dat sy bygevoeg het dat haar motief om die kappie te dra - omdat dit vir haar so mooi was; nie begryp is nie.'*
5. Haar adres in Amsterdam was: 3 de Helmusstraat 30, Amsterdam Holland.
6. Johanna Wassenaar se adres in Wene was: Wien XVIII, Währingerstrasse 94, Österreich.
7. Nog 'n poskaart in 1924 gerig aan haar broer, dokter Theo Wassenaar lui: *'Ek was Sondag by Stambergers en. Het geskilder met Herr Fränkel - maak môre die twee stukkie klaar op sy atelier.'*
8. Johanna Wassenaar het 'n reis deur Italië onderneem en onder andere Rome, Florence, Pisa en Milaan besoek. Sy het foto's geneem van Innsbruck, Salzburg en Leipzig. Daar bestaan 'n sakboekie van Johanna Wassenaar waarin die handtekeninge voorkom van die 'Afrikaners in Leipzig 1924' H. Heese, J.D. Winter, P.A. Conradie, Dora Heese, Hannie Heyns, B.A. de Wet, F.P. Stander, A.D. Hitchcock, J.J. van Niekerk, Berthe Maree, B.W. Marloth, A. Smuts, J.A. Wiuel asook Daniël Heese.
9. Hier het Johanna Wassenaar haar beywer vir gemeenskapsaangeleentheid. Sy het onder andere 'n span Voortrekkers gehad.
10. Ook bekend as Elizabeth Macadam.
11. Daar bestaan vandag nog 'n stel boekente wat Johanna Wassenaar uit seepsteen gekap het. Dit dateer uit hierdie tyd en is in besit van haar dogter Mev. G. Viljoen.
12. Sy het kontak gemaak met mede-kunstenaars onder andere Zakkie Eloff en Esias Bosch.
13. Sy meld uit haar dagboek dat die operahuis in München in herbou was en dat daar dus nie genoeg musiekuitvoerings vir haar behoefte was nie.
14. Uit haar dagboek die volgende: *'Die semester het vol werk verloop, so tussenin het ek moeite gedoen om na baie konserte en operas te gaan.'*

CHURCH STREET CEMETERY

Every town has its God's Acre in which rests the remains of loved ones. Pretoria's Old Cemetery as it is referred to, bears the remains, not only of our own local pioneers, but of persons from all over the Transvaal, and the rest of South Africa and from overseas. Persons from humble homes and palaces who left a mark in the history and rich heritage of our city and country.

One of the first burial grounds in Pretoria was a private block situated at Du Preez Hoek, the south-eastern corner of the ground used by the Berea Park archery club bordered to the south by the remains of the old N.Z.A.S.M. Bridge, which when built in 1893, caused the remains of some buried there, to be re-interred in what was named the Du Preez enclosure in the north-western corner of Church Street Cemetery.

Another small cemetery was situated on ground near the Teacher's Training College.

No burial register appears to have been kept for Du Preez Hoek. It is thought that persons such as Dr. G.H. Rissik, founder of the Transvaal family who died shortly after the Siege of Pretoria was laid to rest there without a tombstone, and could possibly be one of the un-named graves in this section.

The Pretoria Cemetery was established in 1867 and had three divisions, the English Episcopalian and Wesleyan, the Dutch Reformed and Hervormde and the Roman Catholic in a third. An open area behind towards Von Wielligh Street was for Coloureds and still further west a section for victims of the law which does not appear to have been used. The Jewish section was only started in the late 1880's.

The cemetery like the others of our city with its park-like atmosphere is always a pleasure to visit, far from the cry of a writer in 1881 who said, *'a desolate, dirty-looking locality, surrounded by brick-kilns, and endangered during the wet season by water courses.'* During the investment of 1880/81 it was found necessary to enlarge the military portion and was surrounded by a substantial stone wall, which was left in good order when the troops withdrew.

Plots allotted for burial were controlled by the Churches, who, in turn were responsible to the Cemetery Committee under the Chairmanship of Ds. Begemann.

ANDERSON . H.M.

Harry Mitchell, son of W.A.B. Anderson, who with Walker, surveyed many areas of Pretoria.

ANDERSON Street in the Suburb of Brooklyn, was named, some say, after W.A.B., however, the name honours the son, Harry, who surveyed Brooklyn township on behalf of James Brooks, the original township had 722 erven and was established on the farm Uitval in 1902.

ATTERBURY

This pioneer family had connections with Pretoria and Durban. Mr. Isom Fuller Atterbury appears to be the original settler of that name in Pretoria.

His son, Manfred Lancaster, established the suburb of Menlo Park in the 1930's, which only became popular in 1961 when erven were first sold there.

Menlo Park (the first name suggested for the township was Cherokee) recalls a place name in America that became well-known for the inventions of Thomas Edison.

The Atterbury family emigrated from there in the 1880's and, being friends of Edison named a street in the suburb after him. Atterbury Road commemorates the family name.

Isom, was a dentist but did not set up a practise in the Transvaal, instead he joined forces with another famous South African-American, Mr. I.W. Schlesinger.

Manfred, appears to have settled in Durban where we find a street named after him in Durban North, on property owned by the family, in 1903.

BAL. J.H.E.

Johannes Hendrik Eliza Bal, born Rotterdam, Holland, 1850. An accountant with the Dutch Trading Company, he spent some years at their Depot at Delagoa Bay.

Johannes then opened a trading store in Lydenburg in 1879 but closed down on the outbreak of the First Anglo-Boer War; he arrived in Pretoria in 1881 starting up a business in 1886 as financial agent and translator of High Court; Bal became a large property owner.

In 1891 he married Annie Ingelsby von Reede van Oudtshoorn who died in 1892; his second wife (1894) was Henriëtta van Lieer.

Bal was co-founder of the Netherlands Bank in S.A., and Alternate (Honorary) Portuguese Consulate-General to Viscount de Matalha. He was a member of the Pretoria Celtic Lodge and a founder member of the German Club.

BECKETT. T.W.

Thomas William Beckett, born at the ancestral home at Merton Abbey, Kent, England, in 1851. The family first emigrated to Australia and in 1864 came to South Africa and settled in Port Elizabeth.

Tom worked for the firm of Savage and Hill. In 1871 he tried his luck on the Diamond Fields. He married Annie Harriet Osmond in 1874 and came to Pretoria, a year later he founded the firm of T.W. Beckett.

In the same year he purchased a block of erven from President M.W. Pretorius on which he built Blackwood Villa named after an indigenous tree of his adopted country, Australia. The name lives on in a street name in a portion of Arcadia township established by him. His town property was purchased by the City Council in 1945 and the Council's headquarter building, 'Munitoria' now adorns the site.

Beckett's first business enterprise started in small premises near the corner of Queen and Vermeulen Streets, later moving to the famous Beckett's Corner, now the O.K. Bazaars on the corner of Church and van der Walt streets. Church Street from his shop to his home in Arcadia was referred to as Beckett's Hoogte.

In 1889 Beckett purchased portion of Arcadia Estate against Meintjeskop from Mr. Eddie (E.P.A.) Meintjes and erected a new homestead, his 'country' residence, Merton Keep, named after and to commemorate his ancestry and also established the suburb of Eastwood (a street there reminds us of the suburb's name) which today forms part of Greater Arcadia.

Street names in the suburb are called after his sons.

Merton Keep Estate was taken over by the British Military Authorities when Pretoria was occupied in June 1900 and used as a Hospital. Prince Christian Victor, Queen Victoria's grandson, a member of Lord Roberts' staff, died in the house.

Merton Keep was again used to nurse sick soldiers during the Second World War. The property was purchased by the French Government in 1950, they had the 'keep' demolished, and the entrance modernised.

The Beckett's were active Methodists and supported many Pretoria Welfare Societies. Tom died in 1924, and his wife died 10 years later.

BEGEMANN. Ds A.J.

The Rev. Adriaan Johannes Begemann, born 1831, died Pretoria, November 1925. He was invited to the Transvaal by President M.W. Pretorius. He left his Native land, North Brabant, and was inducted as the first permanent minister of the Ned. Hervormde Kerk in Pretoria.

He served the local flock for 11 years and was then asked to resign because of his liberal theology.

An amusing incident in his life was connected with Freemasonry. It was the duty of the 'State Minister' to open the first sitting of the year of the Volksraad with a prayer. One year he felt he had reason to object, he was reported and censured. When he was invited to open the new Masonic Lodge in 1868, he consented because President M.W. Pretorius was a member, and again, reported and censured.

Pretoria's first permanent Minister took up residence on the 27th January, 1861. His parsonage was a double gable house that stood on the corner of Church Square and Markt (now Paul Kruger) Street, now incorporated into the site of the Palace of Justice.

Begemann was a member of the Cemetery Committee established in 1867, Secretary to the Hoogere School Committee in 1876 and in 1892 was a committee member for the Staats Meisjes School.

With his wife Johanna Hermina Goetz, he later made a living at market-gardening; his two sons fell in battle, Simon at Sand River in May 1900, and Frederik at Dundee.

BLAAUW. H.A.D.

The birth date recorded on this tombstone of soft blueslate must be one of the oldest in the cemetery; it carries the following message in early Transvaal Dutch: