tious name in Rebecca Street Cemetery in Pretoria West and in 1915 the body was again exhumed to dispel rumours that quick-lime had been poured over his remains after the execution. On the 20th December, 1923, the 8th anniversary of his death the body was exhumed for the 3rd time and interred in the Old Cemetery in Church Street.

It is said that during his lifetime he had had little influence in the sphere of politics, but his death made a profound and lasting impression on the South African political scene.

FRANKEN M

“Here rests Marinus Franken, born at Haamstede, Holland, 31st March 1847 died 5 June 1907” is the legend on his tombstone.

Very little is known about Franken besides the fact that he designed the second church (often referred to as Franken’s Church) on Church Square that was built by Van der Veen.

There was a Franken boarding house recorded in 1880 and Franken’s building in 1893. If those were called after him or his family, if he had any, is not known.

GODEFROY M.J.

Marinus Joseph, Minister of the Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk, born in Brussels in 1848; he was invited to South Africa and came out in 1887.

He lost 2 sons during the War of 1899-1902 and he was exiled to India. After his return to the Transvaal he accepted a call to Middelburg.

He died in August 1920.

GRAY REV. JAMES

James Gray was born in 1852, ordained in 1878 and for health reasons left his native Scotland and settled in Harrismith, Orange Free State in 1883 where he established a Presbyterian Church. He married Mary Williams Tyler, daughter of a missionary.

A dedicated man, he took the Word to the Barberton Goldfields and started a Congregation in Johannesburg in May 1887 with a sermon in the yet uncompleted Heights Hotel. He founded St. George’s Church there and stayed until 1889 when he accepted a call from Pretoria where he built up a strong Congregation.

Rev. Gray served the Capital well for 20 years. President Kruger laid the foundation stone of the St. Andrew’s Church in Schoeman Street, a year after his arrival. With the assistance of Mr. Fred Nicholson, they were instrumental in establishing the State Library by collecting R1 400. He took a prominent part in the political and public life of the city.

He left Pretoria during the Second Anglo-Boer War and served as Chaplain to the Scots Fusiliers under General Buller’s command. After the fall
of Pretoria he became Librarian and Chaplain to the local military hospitals.

In 1909 he answered a call from Trinity Church and transferred himself to Grahamstown where he laboured for 11 years. He established the Rhodesian Congregation and finally settled down in Johannesburg with the Clifton Congregation.

After 50 years service, he retired at the age of 76. He died in his Kensington home in November 1938 age 86; his wife Mary died in 1946; Rev Gray and his wife and two children are buried in a family plot.

One of his daughters, Marian, age 15, died in New York and his son, Allan, age 19 was reported missing when flying over the Western Front in August 1917.

GUNNING J.W.B.

Jan Willem Boudewyn, M.D., First Director of the Transvaal Museum and Zoological Gardens, born at Hilversum, Holland on 3rd September, 1860. He married twice. His first wife (1884) was Susanna Neethling of Stellenbosch who died in 1889; his second wife was Ellen Dobbins of Bethulie whom he married six months later.

Gunning arrived in South Africa in 1884 and practised in the Cape Province and in the Orange Free State. On taking up residence in Pretoria in 1891, he no longer practised his profession and became acting director of the Transvaal Museum which was started in a school room in 1874.

“Het Staats Museum” was founded in 1892 under the Chairmanship of Dr. N. Mansvelt, Superintendent of Education, who laid the foundation stone of the Museum in Boom Street.

The Zoological Gardens started in a small way in a yard at the back of the old Market Hall, the animals were transferred to the “Rus-en-Urbe” property adjoining the museum.

Gunning died on 23 June 1913, his mother-in-law, Mrs Dobbins is buried near his grave. His wife, Ellen, died in Durban in 1942 and was cremated there.

A memorial plaque is to be found on a seat in the main avenue of the Zoo.

HAAK B.J.

Bernardus Johannes Haak came to South Africa as a ganger in the service of the NZASM, which was constructing the railway line to Delagoa Bay. He became assistant station master and was transferred to different stations, finally becoming Station Master of Koedoespoort in 1898, the year that his eldest son, Albert arrived to take up a position as fitter and turner on the railways. B.J.'s wife and children arrived a month before war (1899) was declared.

During the war, father and son established a cycle repair shop; by 1909 they had extended the business and were agents for and importing the first Reno motor cars into Pretoria.

B.J., the founder of the well known Haaks Garage, died in 1923.
A street in Waltloo Industrial Township, east of Pretoria near the original Koedoespoort station site, was named to his honour by the City Council in 1973.

P. HANDCOCK AND H.M. MORANT

To the memory of 27 February 1902. He that loseth his life shall find it — is the legend on the tombstone erected by friends.

Two Australians who died on the same day during the Second Anglo-Boer War and buried in one grave — unusual? Yes. What the TOMBSTONE does not tell is that they were Lieutenants in the Volunteer Bushveld Carbineers who were executed by a British firing squad for murder.

The Corps was raised for scouting and raiding cattle of the commandos operating in the north-eastern area of the Transvaal. The men lacked discipline, drunkenness was the order of the day or night as some writers described them. Unofficial records maintain that they murdered more than 25 surrendered prisoners of war and natives.

The Rev. Daniel Heese, a German Missionary, saw the bodies and was murdered on his way to report the matter at Pietersburg. A Boer trooper in the Corps who witnessed the first murders and threatened taking action was brutally murdered by Lt. Handcock.

Many of the soldiers objected to their actions but remained silent for fear of receiving the same treatment. No man left camp alone or without their loaded rifles at hand.

Word of their cruel deeds leaked out and at a Court Martial the commanding officers were cleared of the charges, the main culprits were found guilty and faced a firing squad at dawn on the 27th February, 1902.

HEATHER EDWARD GEORGE BAKER

Born in Queenstown, C.P., in 1864. As a youngster he went to Kimberley and in 1875 was living in Pretoria. Heather at the age of 16 served with the Pretoria Carbineers under Captain D'Arcy during the Siege of Pretoria 1880-81 and was wounded when Commandant Botha's laager was attacked at Swartkoppies on the Pienaars River.

On termination of hostilities, he launched out in business as merchant and had a bakery.

In 1906, Heather entered public life and served Pretoria with men such as Eddie (E.T.) Bourke and C.M. de Vries.

HEROES ACRES

Is a misnomer of the Afrikaans version "Helde-akker". A petition by H.P.A. Pretorius and J.G. Fourie to investigate the possibility of the reinterment of famous Republican persons in one spot of the local cemetery was successful and General P.J. Joubert was instructed to investigate and obtain permission for the reburial of such persons.

It would seem that the original intention was to have war heroes buried in this acre, but through the years whilst maintaining the name, "held-Helde"
has now been accepted to be one who had led his country in a different field, that of politics, and is now exclusively used for heads of state.

General Andries Pretorius was the first hero of the Acre when he was re-buried with full military honours on 31st May 1891.

General Andries W.J. Pretorius, Voortrekker leader after whom Pretoria was named, was in command of the Boers who defeated the Zulu forces on the banks of the Ncome Spruit, when some 3 000 Zulu warriors were killed. The stream ran red with the blood of the slain, and from that day (16th December 1838) the waterway was called Blood River.

Pretorius trekked to Pretoria in 1847, settling on the farm Grootplaats in the Magalies River Valley. His first wife died at Warmbaths (Tvl) while he was besieging Bloemfontein in May 1848. In 1852 he signed the Sand River Convention giving independence to the settlers north of the Vaal River. He died on his farm on the 23rd July, 1853.

General A.H. (Hendrik) Potgieter, another Voortrekker leader who lent his name to Potgieter Street in Pretoria and to Potchefstroom in the Western Transvaal, left the Cape in 1835; he was in command of the Vechtkop laager in 1836 and broke Mzilikazi’s power when the Chief was routed from the Transvaal in November 1837.

He founded Mooiriviersdorp which when re-established higher up the river adopted the name Potchefstroom. In 1845 he trekked eastwards and established the town of Andries-Ohrigstad nearer Delagoa Bay which he visited in 1843.

A restless pioneer, adverse to controls, he led his followers northwards to the Zoutpansberg where he died on the 16th December, 1852. The dorpie brought to life by him later adopted the name Schoemansdal.

General Piet Joubert’s wish to have this Voortrekker hero’s remains re-interred in Pretoria was not to be. The memorial to his honour was erected on the 10th May, 1895.

Thomas François Burgers, President from 1872 until the Annexation of the Transvaal in 1877, was bitterly disappointed at the political events and settled in Hanover, C.P., where he died on the 9th December, 1881. It is said that his deathbed wish was to be buried at the entrance to his sheep kraal so that all trace of himself can be trampled into oblivion. He was first buried at Richmond C.P., then re-interred in 1888 on his farm Zoetvlei. His remains were brought to Pretoria and reburied on the 26th November, 1895. His wife Mary, was buried with him on the 29th April, 1929.

HEYS G.J.

George Jesse Heys, born in Durban 1852. He went into business in Kimberley in 1872 and came to Pretoria in 1879 settling in a home in Andries Street which he called Natal Villa. He opened a general dealer business in Church Street and started a stage coach service.
His later home, the palatial Melrose House opposite Burgers Park, was the residence of Lord Roberts and used as British headquarters during the War of 1900/02 where the Treaty of Vereeniging was signed on the night of 31st May 1902.

The house with its contents was purchased by the Pretoria City Council; on the day it was declared a National Monument, it was officially opened as a museum to the public by a former State President, Mr. C.R. (Blackie) Swart.

Sunnyside Methodist Church Hall known as the Heys Memorial Hall was erected from funds donated by Mr. Heys to commemorate the memory of his wife, Janey. The seldom heard City Hall carillon was donated by him in 1934.

Whilst on a visit to his daughter in England in 1939, Heys took ill and died. His body was returned to Pretoria to be laid to rest beside his wife who died in 1929, and his young daughter, Daphne.


2. There exists a good biography on Ds. M.J. Goddefroy. Schalk Jacobus Botha received a doctorate from the University of Pretoria on 14 September 1979 with the thesis *Ds. Marie Joseph Goddefroy 1848–1920, Sy lewe en betekenis*. The author has published much work on church history of South Africa. (C.de J.)
Die eerste volledige biografie van die veelsydige en talentvolle, maar omstrede Nederlandse juris dr. W.J. Leyds, wat so 'n groot rol in die Transvaalse geskiedenis gespeel het. Geïllustreer met seldsame foto's. 472 bladsye; R39,95

Nou by u naaste boekhandelaar

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