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Militêre seremonies tydens die inswering van die Graaf van Selbourne as Goewerneur van Transvaal op 2 April 1905. Hy het Lord Milner opgevolg wat Goewerneur was vanaf 21 Junie 1902 tot 1 April 1905.

PRETORIANA

AUGUSTUS — 1965 — AUGUST

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REDAKSIONEEL

Die Waarde van Plaaslike Geskiedenis

ONS wil graag ons lesers se aandag vestig op die artikel van mnr. J. W. Kew oor die waarde van plaaslike geskiedenis. Ofskoon daar af en toe kort artikels oor plaaslike geskiedenis in ons tydskrif verskyn het, en sommige lede en nie-ledes van die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria hulle by een of ander geleentheid uitgespreek het oor die noodsaaklikheid om plaaslike geskiedenis te bestudeer, is dit die eerste keer na ons wete dat 'n lid van die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria die onderwerp volledig behandel het. Lede van die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria wat 'n terloopse of besondere belangstelling toon in die verlede van hul stad, sal by die deurlees van die artikel besef dat hierdie belangstelling meer as net 'n antikwariese waarde het en dat elke stukkie plaaslike geskiedenis 'n bydrae lewer tot die beter verstaan van die geskiedenis van ons land in die algemeen.

Benoni

BENONI se Stadsraad het 'n mooi voorbeeld aan die res van die stadsrade en plaaslike owerhede van ons land gestel. 'n Jaar of twee drie gelede het die raadslede van hierdie Oos-Randse stad besluit dat dit die welaangename tyd is om die kleurryke verhaal van Benoni te boek te stel. 'n Komitee onder voorsitterskap van mnr. Deryck Humphriss is opgedra om die taak aan te pak en van sy kant het die stadsraad die komitee mildelik van die nodige fondse voorsien om daardeur te verseker dat die taak ten beste afgehandel kan word. Wanneer die werk hopelik volgende jaar verskyn, sal dit tussen driehonderd en vierhonderd bladsye beslaan. Die ekonomiese, sosiale en politieke geskiedenis asook die geskiedenis van die nie-blankes sal in die werk volledig verhaal word.

Die twee hoofstukke wat ons ter insae ontvang het, nl. dié oor die politieke geskiedenis en die geskiedenis van die nie-blankes toon weer eens hoedat die breëre nasionale en provinsiale geskiedenis van enige land deureengevleg is met die plaaslike geskiedenis en hoedat 'n verstaan van die plaaslike geskiedenis 'n bydrae lewer tot die verstaan van ons nasionale geskiedenis. Die geskiedenis van 'n stad, dorp of distrik kan ook beskou word as die deursyfering van nasionale geskiedenis tot op plaaslike vlak.

Munitoria

ONS Stadsraad het uiteindelik besluit om 'n naam aan die groot nuwe munisipale kantoorblok wat ten noorde van Vermeulenstraat verrys, te gee. Hierdie is 'n gebou wat die aandag trek en 'n sieraad vir Pretoria gaan wees. Nadat die Stadsraad 'n naamwedstryd uitgeskryf het, het meer as honderd inwoners van Pretoria die naam *Munitoria* voorgestel. Die woord *Munitoria* is eintlik 'n samestelling van die twee woorde *Munisipaliteit* en *Pretoria*.

Geluk

ONS hartlike geluk aan mnr. H. P. H. Behrens wat so pas aangestel is as Direkteur van Kulturele Aangeleenthede van ons stad. Mnr. Behrens is 'n kenner van die geskiedenis van Pretoria en hy het as stigterslid van die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria deur die jare heen 'n lewendige belangstelling getoon in u Genootskap. Sy bydrae tot die ontwikkeling van u Genootskap kan alleen maar as belangwekkend beskryf word terwyl sy menigvuldige artikels oor die geskiedenis van ons stad in *Pretoriana* en ander tydskrifte nie alleen 'n blywende bydrae vorm tot die karige historiografie oor plaaslike geskiedenis in ons land nie, maar ook daadwerklik daartoe bygedra het dat die inwoners van Pretoria bewus geword het van hul stad se verlede. Deur die skepping van die nuwe pos het die Stadsraad 'n lankgevoelde behoefte vervul en ons is daarvan oortuig dat die aanstelling van mnr. Behrens in die pos alleenlik tot voordeel van die kulturele lewe van Pretoria sal strek.



Mnr. H. P. H. BEHRENS

— Red.



(Foto: MARTIN GIBBS)

Mnr. P. Robinson, hoof van die Pretoria-Oos Laerskool en die skild wat sy skool vir die tweede agtereenvolgende jaar gewen het.

Tuinboukompetisie vir Laerskole

BY ses van die skole wat vir die tuinboukompetisie van 1964 ingeskryf het was die tuine besonder aantreklik en was dit vir die beoordelaars moeilik om die prysweners aan te wys. Dit was ook interessant om te sien wat by skole met hul uiteenlopende terreine gedoen kan word om die omgewing te verfraai.

Belangstelling en entoesiasme by die betrokke skoolhoofde, die staf, en die leerlinge was opvallend. Aan hierdie skole dan ook die dank en waardering van die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria vir hul ondersteuning.

Die eerste drie plekke is toegeken aan:

1. Pretoria-Oos;
2. Die Poort;
3. Die Heuwel.

Die ander drie skole wat eervolle vermelding verdien is:

1. Danie Malan;
2. Menlopark;
3. Waterkloof.

Die kompetisie is in 1955 as 'n bydrae tot die Eeu-fees van Pretoria vir laerskole in die gebied van die Skoolraad van Pretoriastad deur die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria ingestel. Die doel is veral om skoolgaande kinders aan te moedig om ons inheemse plantesoorte te leer ken, lief te kry en te beskerm en om ons geskiedkundige ou stad Pretoria met sy weelderige plantegroei te verfraai.

Die beoordeling vind plaas gedurende die maande Oktober-November en dit geskied volgens 'n skema van punte-toekenning wat so ingedeel is dat dit vir alle skole, ongeag die ligging en grootte van die skoolgronde, die vrugbaarheid van die grond, die klimaat of wat ook al die uitlê en instandhouding van die tuin mag beïnvloed, moontlik is om aan die kompetisie deel te neem en vir die eerste plek in aanmerking te kom.

Aan die skool wat die eerste plek behaal word 'n wisseltrofee toegeken tesame met 'n geskenk van 'n inheemse boom en 'n gegraveerde koperplaat. Die wisseltrofee bestaan uit 'n skild van witstinkhout met silwer versierings van passende ontwerp.

Aan die skole wat die tweede en derde plek behaal word 'n silwer wisseltrofee toegeken en ook 'n geskenk van 'n inheemse boom en 'n koperplaat.

Die Genootskap oorweeg ook om aan alle skole wat 75% of meer van die totale punte behaal 'n sertifikaat van verdienste toe te ken.

Inskrywings vir die kompetisie is vry. Daar word weer eens 'n beroen op alle skoolhoofde gedoen om vir hierdie jaar se kompetisie in te skryf.

J. P. Lotz.

'n Ou Probleem

DIE afgelope maande was daar kort-kort allerlei kritiek in die dagblaaië oor die Pretoriase verkeer op te merk. Hoe oud is die probleem al?

Daar was tye toe ossewaens Kerkplein deurkruis het, perderuiters straat-af getrippel het, trems wat alle verkeer agter toe laat ophoop het, maar in die lig van die hedendaagse druktheid waar alles afhang van spoed en haas, moes dit 'n rustiger tyd gewees het as vandag. Maar toe al het Pretoria sy klagtes gehad. Die volgende is 'n beswaar wat op 9 Februarie 1901 by die militêre-goewerneur van Pretoria ingehandig is:

„I beg to draw your attention to the reckless manner in which bicycles are ridden in the streets of Pretoria.

„No rule of the road is observed and while riding about as I do it is with the greatest difficulty that one is enabled to steer clear of accidents. Yesterday morning in Market Street I was nearly ridden into by a person riding bicycle number 27, who was between the tramline and the path, on the wrong side of the road, and this morning I had two narrow escapes in a similar manner from individuals riding bicycles without numbers.

„ . . . The Police apparently take no notice of the reckless riding referred to, and it was with difficulty last week that I was able to persuade a constable to stop and take the number of the bicycle whose rider was on the wrong side of the road.

„I have previously directed the attention of the Commissioner of Police to this Laxity . . . I regret that my representation should have met with no response and I am therefore compelled to come to you with the request that unmistakable instructions may be given to the Police to suppress the nuisance complained of and thus avoid the possibility of accidents occurring.

T. T. C. Purland,
Director of Prisons.”

Die militêre-goewerneur se aanbeveling hierop was dat die polisie 'n voorbeeld moet maak van sommige oortreders en streng teenoor hulle moes optree. Dog die reaksie van die polisie was seker te stadig want op 13 Februarie 1901 skryf dieselfde persoon weer aan die militêre-goewerneur en onder andere noem hy sy jongste noue ontkoming: „I was nearly unhorsed this morning in Market St. by a person riding a numberless bicycle . . . ”³⁾ Dat hy werklik rede het om te kla blyk verder uit die res van die sin, want die fietsryer beweeg „at a greater rate than 12 miles an hour on the wrong side of the road”.

J. L. Hattingh.

³⁾ Military Governor Papers: 70/1730.

THE VALUE OF LOCAL HISTORY

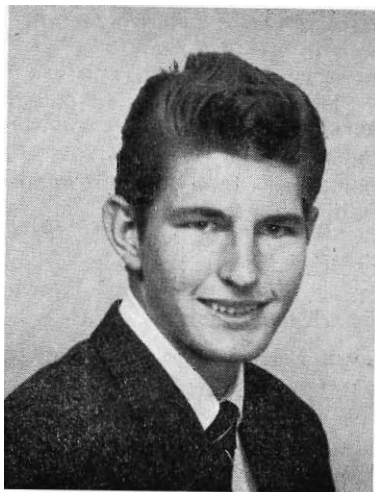
INTRODUCTION

THE study of history should cover all the aspects of a nation's life and as such should concern itself not only with the events pertaining to that which is national, but also to the events in the life of local and regional communities **because of the reciprocal reaction of the two on one another.** The latter is the task of the local historian and in terms of this local history can be defined as the history of a district, town or any locality with defined territorial limits in which the inhabitants are so far united in thought and action as to feel a sense of belonging together.¹⁾

Prior to the beginning of the twentieth century local history had been, one can almost venture to say, exclusively the pursuit of elderly antiquarians. In fact, the scope of local history

was so limited that the interest of the local historian or antiquarian was centred primarily in noting "the descent of landed estates and in the pedigrees of landed families."²⁾

In the last fifty years this geneological predominance in local historical works has been severely condemned, on the grounds of its neglect of social, cultural, economic and political history as well as neglect of the typographical characteristics of the specific localities. With the adoption of this wider approach to local history, it became a specialised sphere of research, beyond the capabilities of the antiquarian untrained in historical methodology.³⁾



THE AUTHOR

I

THE VALUE OF LOCAL HISTORY

DURING recent years an increasing number of historians, especially overseas,⁴⁾ have turned their attention to the writing of local histories. This has resulted in much speculation on the value of local history. Historians seem to have a peculiar tendency to disagree among themselves, and consequently various schools of thought regarding the value of local history have come to light.

Local history is a training ground for aspirant historians.

THE attitude of mind of this school of thought is that local history forms an ideal training ground for young historians, who, once they have mastered its techniques, can proceed to writing history on a grand, or national, scale. They represent local history "as a sort of little harbour-boat in which a man is to find his sea-legs before launching out on the broad ocean of national history".⁵⁾

This attitude tends to create the impression that the writing of local histories is far easier to cope with than in the case of national histories, and this quite rightly evoked a loud protest from all local historians who maintained that the historical training and methodological grounding required for writing local histories was no less than that required for writing history on a national scale. This is quite true with regard to fullscale local histories, but the young historian can gain valuable experience in the application of his theoretical knowledge by means of contributions in local historical magazines.

Local History as Educational Aid.

WHILE in the exact sciences a given experiment conducted under laboratory conditions can be continually repeated and a similar result attained each time, this is not possible in the teaching of history (a specific historical event or situation is unique and not repeatable). However, by means of references to local history, that is, from the locality in which the school is situated, the child can be placed within the historical atmosphere and his national apprehension of a historical event can be transformed into a "picture of real people and familiar scenes."⁶⁾ In fact, the educational value of local history, according to this school of thought, is in its use as a means of making the study of general history more interesting,⁷⁾ and they thus emphasize the fact that the teacher should not enmesh the child in the "bogs and sands of local history",⁸⁾ but merely use local historical references as illustrative of the course of national history.⁹⁾

This is a very commendable aim as the lack of knowledge of, and interest in local history amongst modern youth is a matter of considerable concern.¹⁰⁾

The Value of Local History in Terms of National History.

THE preoccupation with national history inherent in the two schools of thought mentioned above was expanded on by a school of thought which saw the value of local history "not just (as) a sugared pill for young learners, nor a gymnasium in which promising historians may develop their muscles",¹¹⁾ but as a specialised technique in historical research whereby local histories are portrayed as fragments of the national history. This attitude toward local history was well defined by Mr. R. B. Pugh, one of the leading adherents to the national orientated school of thought, when he wrote that "much history is studied nowadays through the microscope

... local history ... is one application of that technique".¹²⁾ He states further that local history is a means to an end, and not an end in itself: It is in fact merely a method of ascertaining certain facts about the history of the nation as a whole by means of the examination of the histories of towns and districts, which, according to him, combine to make the nation.

It is true that if local histories were written on every town and district in South Africa, we would undoubtedly know more about the general history of South Africa as a whole. But the sum total of these local histories would most definitely not be a history of the nation, as the union of the parts has endowed the nation with attributes which make it greater than the sum of the component localities.¹³⁾

It is thus obvious that the value of local history in terms of the relationship between local and national history (which will be fully elucidated at a later stage) is far more complex than depicted by this rather narrow and limited school of thought.

The Value of Local History Per Se.

IN the early 1950's a school of thought which propagated the attitude that the value of local history was contained in the compiling of local histories as an end in themselves, and not solely as fragments of the national history, was advocated by various members of the department of English Local History in the University of Leicester. Consequently this school of thought has become known as the "Leicester School".¹⁴⁾

The Leicester School demands that local history should not be treated as an auxiliary discipline to national history, but as a discipline subsisting in its own right. In terms of this they advocated that the theme of the local historian should be "the growth, the perfection and the final disintegration of a local community in a given neighbourhood".¹⁵⁾ Consequently they believe that as each local community has had a life-history of its own, it has a perfectly good claim to be studied for its own sake.¹⁶⁾

Their insistence on the value of local history per se does not however imply, that they regard the local community as existing independent of the national whole. They do recognize a reciprocal interaction, but point out that this is also the case with the nation and, for example, Western Christendom. This they quite correctly observe does not minimize the significance of national histories per se, so why should that be the case with local histories.¹⁷⁾

II

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL AND NATIONAL HISTORY

NATIONAL history occupies an intermediate position between local and universal history, and as improved means of communications have drawn into contact communities and nations which had previously been

partially isolated, the process of reciprocal interaction between local and national history on the one hand, and national and universal history on the other hand has steadily increased. In this context Dr. R. Peacock makes the following observation in the introduction to his local history of Pretoria, "waar groot stede in Europa soos Rome, Berlyn en Londen vir ons 'n weerspieëling is van daardie betrokke volke se politieke, maatskaplike en kulturele groei en ontwikkeling, net so ook is Pretoria die weerspieëling van die politieke, maatskaplike en kulturele ontwikkeling van die Boere-nasie, nasate van die Voortrekkers wat hulle in Transvaal gevestig het."¹⁸⁾ This is not only the case with local histories of towns or districts, as the histories of old governments or private buildings can also be used to illustrate many facets of the national culture.¹⁹⁾

Despite the fact that the history of a specific district, town or building can be considered as illustrative of national history, the best results in the application of this technique can only be attained by means of a comparative study of a number of local histories, wherein both the typical and unique characteristics and their relation to the total fabric are noted. For example, a local history of Potchefstroom during the early days of the settlement of the Transvaal is of great value to the national historian, as many of the first administrative experiments were conducted there,²⁰⁾ but the true value of these advancements cannot be ascertained until a comparison has been made regarding administrative conditions in other localities in the Transvaal.

Local histories can also be of functional value to the national historian as they provide him with an easily accessible means of controlling and checking the wide diversity of phenomena with which he works. Faced with countless phenomena, the national historian is forced to work selectively and by means of generalisations, and thus, without the aid of local histories, he could well overlook some local occurrence, which, if noted, could upset or modify his general view.²¹⁾

National histories are also written largely in terms of the point of view of the central government and its representatives,²²⁾ and consequently the national historian can be accused of falsifying history if he fails to realize that, for the people, their immediate locality remains the foreground of their views.²³⁾ In fact, the attitudes of each local community is determined by events own to their specific locality.²⁴⁾

From a purely methodological point of view a knowledge of local history can be of value to the historian as it can assist him in determining the approximate date of origin of undated documents and maps. The document could refer to some local occurrence, the date of which can be determined by means of local historical research.²⁵⁾

In almost every country, the origin of various towns preceded the formation of the national state, in which they were later incorporated. As such, these specific local histories can possess a time-scheme or chronology of their own, distinct from that of national history.²⁶⁾

This was the case in the Transvaal where numerous towns were founded prior to the establishment of the national state, and their local histories are thus an essential field of study for the historian attempting to elucidate the formation of the national state.

The complex and deep-rooted process of reciprocal interaction between local and national history is consequently a factor, which neither the national, nor the local historians can ignore.

III

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

IT is true that large quantities of local historical source material are stored in the Archives, but a large proportion is still in the cellars and attics of private individuals. The general public, unaware of the value of much of what they usually consider as old junk, often dispose of local historical source material in their dust bins. In this manner irreplaceable items of historical value are often lost to the local historian.²⁷⁾ To counteract this deplorable state of affairs interested people founded Local Historical Societies, with the express aim of preserving for future generations the past of their respective towns or districts. During the last thirty to forty years the formation of local historical societies has been conducted on a large scale and with great zeal in both England and America, but unfortunately the same cannot be said about South Africa. As far as can be determined there are only a couple of functioning local historical societies in South Africa, of which, the Association Old Pretoria (founded in 1958) is the eldest active society of the group.

The activities of a local historical society are as diverse as the social, cultural, economical and political activities of the locality in which it is established. The members of the society interview old residents, read through books and documents pertaining to their locality, examine old prints and maps, consult old local newspapers and compile articles (usually published in a magazine) relating to incidents in the history of their locality. They note and correlate any information thus obtained, and many of the more established local societies have their own archives and local museums.²⁸⁾ The primary aim of a local historical society is thus to ensure that no source material of value is allowed to be lost, and as such, they constitute a great aid for the local historian.

A secondary activity of local historical societies is to stimulate the interest of the general public in the history of their locality. This aim can be attained by means of the establishment of local historical museums and, to a certain extent, by the publication of local historical magazines. Talks on local history, organized by the local historical society and delivered by leading authorities can also be of value. However, to gain the interest of those people who consider "a talk on local history as merely a proper way for nice old ladies to pass the time before the tea comes round,"²⁹⁾ Mr.

H. A. Taylor recommends a switch to the sound and vision technique, that is, the presentation of local history by means of slides and tape recordings.³⁰⁾

By thus stimulating the interest of the general public in the history of their locality, local historical societies can ensure that vast quantities of local historical source material, formerly disposed of in dust bins, will be donated to them for safe keeping.

IV

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOURCE MATERIAL

ALMOST every class of material is grist for those who know where they are going, and consequently the local historian has to examine not only many different classes of central and local records but also the geographical and geological structure of the locality, archaeological remains, local traditions and so more. The most important classes of local historical source material are as follows:

- (i) **Central Records:** In the various Archives Depots of the Republic there are central archives relating to every town and district in South Africa. Thus, to write a local history of a town, say in the Transvaal, the local historian will be forced to consult, among others, the archives of the Government Secretary, the Surveyor-General, the "Volksraad" and the Government Gazettes. The early Voortrekker archival records also contain much valuable information regarding the settlement of the Transvaal.³¹⁾ But even when these and other central repositories of records³²⁾ have been taken into consideration, there will be wide gaps in the evidence unless the local historian is also prepared to explore the many classes of local records.
- (ii) **Local Records:** Local records include not only Municipal records, but also the records of local cultural and social organisations. In order to get a complete picture of the activities of the local community, the local historian will further find it necessary to consult "Church records and muniments and collections of literary institutions, learned societies, academic, professional, and trading corporations, and private individuals."³³⁾
- (iii) **Newspapers and Photographs:** Local newspapers reflect the attitudes and views of the local community (this is especially so if the Editorial Board is comprised of local men) and as such constitute a tremendous aid for the local historian. In this respect advertisements placed in the newspapers are also of value as they portray the mode of life, i.e. fashions, etc., of the people.

Photographs depicting landscape scenes, old buildings which have subsequently been demolished and general photographs of the town at various stages of its development all assist the historian in recreating the atmosphere of the early development of the town.

- (iv) **Reminiscences:** Reminiscences are the recollections of old residents regarding events which occurred in the history of the town during their lifetime. Reminiscences can thus bring to light facts which had not been put on paper, and which if not noted would have been lost to the local historian.³⁴⁾
- (v) **Traditions:** Each locality has its own traditions, legends and myths relating to events and personalities in their past. However, unless the local historian discovers corroboratory evidence he cannot accept the purported factual content of the tradition. This does not mean that traditions are valueless, as they can provide the the historian with a rough estimate of the attitudes of the people, e.g. if numerous traditions relating to the wisdom and courage of Paul Kruger exist, one can deduce that Kruger was well loved by his people.
- (vi) **Place-name Study:** The smallest town, farm and plot has a name, and thus by means of place-name study the local historian can learn much about the early settlement of the locality.³⁵⁾
- (vii) **Archaeological Remains:** By means of a study of archaeological remains the local historian can investigate the pre-literate and in some cases, the pre-historic era of the locality.³⁶⁾
- (viii) **Topography:** At this stage it should be apparent that it is impossible to write local history from the confines of a library or Archive. According to Finberg the study of the geographical and geological structure of the locality is essential "as every community will have left traces of its history on the changing face of (mother earth) and it is part of the historian's business to decipher that unwritten record, 'to construe'—in Maitland's phrase—"the testimony of our fields and walls and hedges'."³⁷⁾ The historian must in fact determine why the specific locality was chosen for settlement and whether specific geographical or geological factors contributed to the growth of the town.³⁸⁾

At present local history offers a vast field of research for post graduate students in South Africa, and one sincerely hopes that their attention will be drawn to this fact. If the writing of local histories is seriously tackled in the near future it will, without doubt, prove a great asset to both the national historian and the community as a whole.

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27. Venter, W. A.: Die geskiedenis van die Nederduits Gereformeerde Gemeente gedurende die pioniersjare 1848-1880. M.A. 1953.
28. Visser, J. A.: Die geskiedenis van die Distrik Wakkerstroom tot 1877. M.A. 1944.
29. Rex, H. M.: Die geskiedenis van die Eerste Ou Goewermentsgebou en sy voorlopers in Pretoria. M.A. Thesis—May, 1956.

- 1) Van Jaarsveld, Dr. F. A. and Rademeyer, Dr. J. I.: Teorie en Metodiek vir Geskiedenisonderrig; Local history is a sub-section of the geographical classification of history, i.e. it deals with the activities of people in a specific area or locality; p.p. 23/24.
- 2) Powell, W. R.: Local History in Theory and Practice; Published in the Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research, Vol. XXXI No. 83—May, 1958; p. 41.
- 3) Hockett, H. C.: The Critical Method in Historical Research and Writing; Prof. Hockett states that the new trend toward local history, and the resultant broadening scope of history has its dangers as it may enlist the interest of faddists in trivialities (p. 240). This may be so, but are trivialities not more likely to be the new interest of antiquarians and not the pursuit of the trained local historian.
- 4) This unfortunately has not been the case in South Africa. Out of a total of 229 Theses accepted by South African Universities from 1942-1960, only 29 were local histories. (See Section V).
- 5) Finberg, H. P. R.: Local History; Published in "A Symposium—Approaches to History"—Edited by Finberg, H. P. R.; p. 113.
- 6) Finberg, H. P. R.: op. cit.; p. 1132.
- 7) This has been attained in the past by great historians like Macaulay with the use of local colour, and also by the historical novelist.
- 8) Finberg, H. P. R.: op. cit.; This school of thought did not desire a separate course of instruction in local history; p. 111.
- 9) Rademeyer, Dr. J. I.: Omgewingsgeskiedenis, met Enkele Verwysings na die Vroeë Geskiedenis van Heidelberg.—Published in "Historia", Edition V, No. 4—December, 1960. "Ons het hier te doen met vormende onderwys want die kind betree die gebied waar groot dramas van die verlede afgespeel het. Sy opvoeding word nou aktief en funksioneel want dit steun op die wette van die behoefte en belangstelling"; p. 253.
- 10) How many citizens of Pretoria, including the history students at Pretoria University know when Pretoria was proclaimed a town?
- 11) Finberg, H. P. R.: op. cit.; p. 113.
- 12) Powell, W. R.: op. cit.; p. 42 (Quoting from Pugh, R. B.: How to Write a Parish History).
- 13) Hockett, H. C.: op. cit.; p. 238.
- 14) The term "Leicester School" was first used by Professor Asa Briggs in 1958 (See Finberg, H. P. R.; op. cit.; p. 116).
- 15) Powell, W. R.: op. cit.; p. 42.
- 16) Finberg, H. P. R.: op. cit.; p. 120.

- 17) Binberg, H. P. R.: op. cit.; p. 116.
- 18) Pcacock, R.: Die Geskiedenis van Pretoria, 1855-1902; Unpublished doctoral thesis; p. 2.
- 19) Rex, H. M.: Die Geskiedenis van die Eerste ou Goewermentsgebou en sy voorlopers in Pretoria—Unpublished M.A. Thesis; “Die Geskiedenis van die verskillende geboue waarin die goewermentskantore van die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek vanaf 1855-1900 in Pretoria gehuisves was, en die agtereenvolgende volgehoue ’n spieël van die lotgevalle van Pretoria in die besonder en van die Suid-Afrikaanse pogings om een ruim, doelmatige en waardige staatsgebou op te rig, is inderdaad Republiek in sy geheel”; p. 3.
- 20) Haasbroek, D. J. P.: Die Geskiedenis van Potchefstroom, 1838-1881 (M.A. Thesis); p. 1.
- 21) Local history “provides a useful corrective by exhibiting in all its diversity a past too complex to be securely imprisoned in generalised statements.” (Finberg, H. P. R.: op. cit.; p. 115).
- 22) National historians have long seen the establishment of Pretoria in terms of the need for a central seat for the government. This assumption has however been proved as incorrect by means of a local historical study (Van Rooyen, Dr. T. S.: Pretoria is nie gestig om as Regeringsetel te dien nie; Published in Pretoriana, Vol. 2, No. 1, September, 1952).
- 23) Finberg, H. P. R.: op. cit.; p. 114.
- 24) The national historian should bear this in mind when dealing with statements made by participants in a national crisis, and in fact should approach the participant’s reports in terms of the environmental attitudes own to the locality from which they hail.
- 25) Hockett, H. C.: op. cit.; p. 26.
- 26) Finberg, H. P. R.: op. cit.; p. 119.
- 27) “History is where you find it”; An article in the Simon’s Town Historical Society Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 2—July, 1961; p. 2.
- 28) The Association Old Pretoria is at present trying to acquire a room in which their numerous accessions can be displayed.
- 29) Taylor, H. A.: Local History: An Experiment with slides and tapes; Published in “Archives”, The Journal of the British Records Association; Vol. V, No. 27—Lady Day, 1962; p. 143.
- 30) Ibid; The author prefers a tape recording above a speaker because this ensures that the attention of the audience is not constantly wandering from the screen to the speaker and back again.
- 31) Rademeyer, Dr. J. I.: op. cit.; The author, referring to conditions in the vicinity of Heidelberg on the arrival of the first Voortrekkers, states: “In die vroegste Voortrekkerargiefstukke word ook melding gemaak van volstruise en leeus”; p. 254.
- 32) The records of the Department of Census and Statistics, which are not transferred to the Government Archives, can supply valuable information regarding population increase or decrease in the various localities. The records of the Deeds Office are also of value to the local historian.
- 33) Wake, J.: Local Sources of History, Published in the Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research, Vol. 1, 1923-1925; p. 81.
- 34) Good examples of the type of reminiscence which is of value to the local historian are published in the Magazine of the Association Old Pretoria—See Pretoriana, Vol. I, No. 1, September, 1951, “Ek onthou,” p. 12-16; Pretoriana, Vol. I, No. 3 & 4, March, 1952, “Herinnerings uit Oud-Pretoria”, p. 31-34.
- 35) Finberg, H. P. R.: op. cit.; p. 122.
- 36) Smit, J. J.: Die Geskiedenis van Heidelberg, Transvaal, 1836-1877, M.A. Thesis—May, 1958, p. 7.
- 37) Finberg, H. P. R.: op. cit.; p. 124.
- 38) See in this context the rapid growth of Johannesburg and other mining towns in the Transvaal.

COAT OF ARMS

The Executive of your Association has decided that for its prestige advantage should be taken of the procedure under the Heraldry Act to have the Coat of Arms of the Association heraldically confirmed and registered. When registered it is intended that the Coat of Arms be used in permanent form applicable to all official activities of the Association. To defray the cost thereof an appeal is hereby made to the members for contributions and it is hoped that each member will contribute not less than R1.00 marked "Wapen-Fonds" to be sent to the Treasurer, Dr. G. Rissik, Reserve Bank, Pretoria.

THE LAST ECHOES

MEMBERS of the Old Pretoria Society have received the news that the Bras Perreira house will not be re-erected on the site of the to be established open-air museum with a feeling of sadness. In this the decision of the Council of the Cultural History and Open-Air Museum must be regarded as final and nothing further can be done about it. Since the original idea was put forward by the Old Pretoria Society to re-erect the house on the site of the to be established open-air museum, the idea had its protagonists as well as antagonists.

The following news item that appeared in the *Pretoria News* of the 19th March, 1965, to our mind best reflects the sad story of the Bras Perreira house and the hopes that were dashed by the decision of the Council of the Museum. We would not describe this decision as arbitrary but would at the same time hope that the decision was based on the practice followed by similar councils in other countries as regards the demolishing and re-erection of buildings of cultural and historical value. In citing the full text of the news item by the *Pretoria News* below, we would at the same time like to acknowledge the very keen interest that this paper has time and again evinced with regards to the Society's attempts to save this old house for the future. The news item reads as follows:



*Just so much rubbish. All that remained of the Bras Perreira house before
it was dumped somewhere in Pretoria during April of this year*

“Pretoria’s oldest house, the Bras Perreira home, built about a century ago at the corner of Paul Kruger Street and Skinner Street and demolished a couple of years ago, is not, after all, to be rebuilt and given a second lease of life in the city’s projected open-air museum. The house was built by Bras Perreira, a Portuguese trader. The building itself, though not the site, now municipally owned, was given to the Old Pretoria Society by its last private owner, Mrs. M. J. Heydenrych.

“The gift and the problem of what to do with it, lent impetus to the movement already afoot for an open-air museum, of a type well known in Europe, where historic old buildings could be re-erected and kept for posterity. Protracted negotiations led to the appointment recently by the Minister of Education, Arts and Science of a council to control a cultural, historical and open-air museum in Pretoria.

“The Old Pretoria Society had a plan of the house made by Mr. Norman Eaton before it was demolished, and since then has stored its bricks, timber and other materials on a nearby site, waiting for rebuilding.

“Now the Old Pretoria Society has offered the stored materials to the council of the open-air museum, but the offer has been declined. At the same time it has been told that the material must be removed from its storage site by next week, to make way for the science museum to be built there.

“We must, of course, accept the Council’s decision, but we are disappointed about the whole thing,” said the chairman of the Old Pretoria Society, Dr. T. S. van Rooyen, to-day.

“It was the gift of the house to us that gave impetus to the move for the open-air museum and, with nothing said to the contrary until now, we have accepted that it would be rebuilt when the museum came into being. It is most distressing to know now that it will not be.

“We have the support of experts for believing that it is indeed worth preserving. It is, in the first place, the oldest house in Pretoria, and it had intimate connections with that interesting period of Transvaal history when trade links with Portuguese East Africa were all important.

“Architecturally, too, we have been told that the house is well worth preserving. Old houses in the Eastern Cape, such as those in Graaff-Reinet, were derived from the older Cape houses, with modifications and changes to suit a different environment and a later age. The Bras Perreira house, in turn, showed interesting links, here in the Transvaal, with those Eastern Cape houses.

“We are distressed about the inability to do anything more in the matter and the fact that the materials will now have to be dumped. We have no property of our own and no power to take action, except to try to make the public of Pretoria generally aware of the need to conserve its past. We talk and exhort, and try to persuade to the best of our ability, but we have no option but to accept this decision.

“So the Bras Perreira house is to go — and at the same time in our older suburbs houses worth preserving from a later era are also disappearing.

“We should follow the example of Holland, which has long had an open-air museum at Arnhem. The Hollanders have learnt that snap decisions can be dangerous. As a result, when an old building possibly worth preserving is demolished, the fate of the materials is held in abeyance while a thorough and careful investigation into the building’s history and architecture is made. Only then, after mature consideration, is a decision arrived at and the materials abandoned or re-erected.

“The way old buildings are coming down today in South Africa, we would do well to have a similar scheme.”

And with that then we come to the end of the history of the Bras Perreira house. The materials have been dumped as rubble somewhere in Pretoria and seen superficially, it seems that years of effort by the Old Pretoria Society has fizzled out. On the positive side however, the history of the Bras Perreira house has made Pretorians much more preservation conscious and there is a growing awareness of the necessity to preserve the past as a heritage for the future. Maybe the new open-air museum will reflect this new responsibility that an advanced society like ours feel towards those objects, buildings and other materials that have escaped the ravages of the past and remain amongst us as a reminder of a past that we can never escape.

T. S. van Rooyen.

DIE DUITSE SKOOL

DIE rede waarom die stigting van ’n Duitse skool in Pretoria baie later plaasgevind het as in die jongere Johannesburg kan toegeskryf word aan die feit dat die landgenote in Pretoria finansiël nie so sterk was soos die van Johannesburg nie. Die Republikeinse owerheid het die Duitse skoolonderneming in Johannesburg baie sterker ondersteun om as teëwig te dien teen die oorwegende Engelse invloed terwyl hulle bewus was dat in Pretoria ’n Duitse skool min betekenis sou gehad het in die kulturele stryd teen verengelsing.

VROEGSTE JARE

VANAF die ontstaan van Pretoria was daar Duitsers in die hoofstad wat gemoeid was om hulle Duitse erfenis te behou. In die sewentiger jare het hulle ’n Duitse Leeskring gestig. Die ontdekking van goud het die aantal Duitse immigrante in Pretoria laat toeneem. In 1888 ontstaan ’n „Gesellige Vereniging” waaruit later die *Deutscher Verein* en nog later die

Duitse Klub ontwikkel het. Gedurende hierdie tydperk het onder leiding van die Berlynse sendeling Grünberger die stigting van die Lutherse Gemeente plaasgevind.

ONTMOEDIGENDE PROBLEME

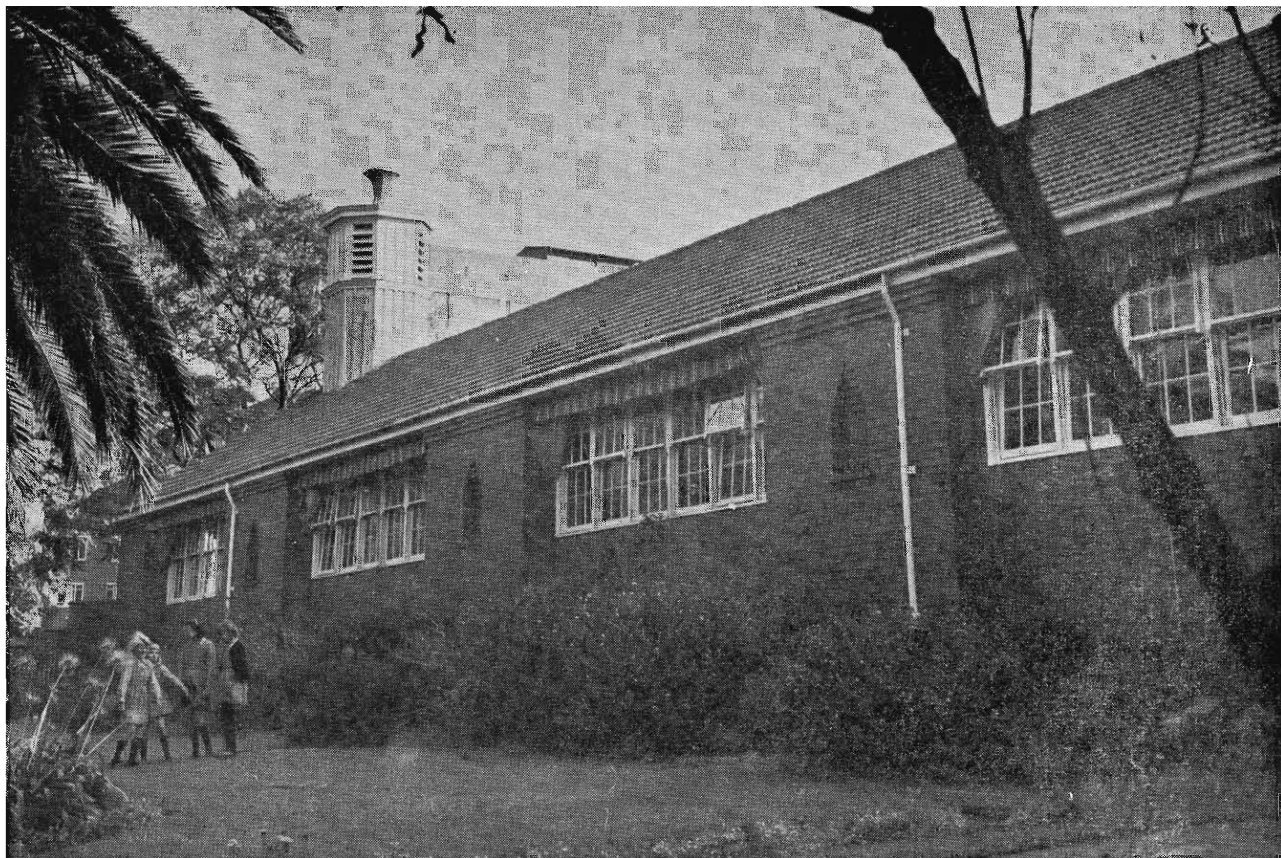
OP 12 September 1888 rig Pastor Grünberger en sy Kerkraad 'n versoek aan die regering om vir hulle 'n stuk grond, moontlik in die suidelike deel van die stad, vir die stigting van 'n skool „waar ook die Hollandse taal onderrig sal word”, te gee.

Friedrich Jeppe, vroeëre Posmeester-Generaal en lid van die Transvaalse Uitvoerende Raad en dr. A. E. J. Krause, Prokureur-Generaal, maak gebruik van hulle invloed by die regering vir die skool. Die onderwys-departement is dan bereid om 'n stuk grond, 100 vierkante voet, tot hulle beskikking te stel, maar 'n skoolkommissie moet dan die aansoek tot hulle rig en nie die Kerkraad nie. 'n Verdere stipulasie was dat die Hollandse taal nie „ook” onderrig moes word nie, maar dat „die Hollandse taal die hooftaal in die onderrigmedium moes bly.”

Die gemeente het daarop 'n Skoolkommissie gestig en was bereid om Hollands as hooftaal en onderrigmedium in te voer. 'n Skrywe bereik hul egter dat vereers geen regeringserwe beskikbaar is nie. Intussen word Dr. Mansvelt Superintendent van Onderwys en verklaar dat hy hierdie aansoek nie kan ondersteun nie „omdat daar reeds genoeg skole in Pretoria bestaan. Verder hou ek dit nie vir raadsaam dat elke nasionaliteit in die Republiek sy eie skool het nie en daardeur 'n afskeiding van verskeie elemente bestendig”. Die aansoek word dus van die hand gewys. Dit was 'n harde slag vir die Duitse gemeente veral gesien die hoë pryse van vaste eiendom. Onder voorsitterskap van Konsul von Herff van die Konsulaat is heelwat planne beraam maar kom tot niks weens tekort aan finansiële middele.

HEINRICH KLINKENBERG

HULP het gekom toe 'n eenvoudige ambagsman, Heinrich Klinkenberg, sy hele erfenis op edelmoedige wyse skenk vir die stigting van 'n Duitse skool. Hy is op 16 Maart 1818 te Gröningen in Sakse gebore en leer die ambag van meulebouer. As jong man word sy lewe tweekeer op seldsame wyse gered. Die bark, „Mathilde Thammen” waarmee hy as leerling van Lübeck na Petersburg sou reis, vergaan naby Pilau in 'n storm met man en muis. Eers die volgende dag word Klinkenberg halfdood deur 'n Sweedse seilskip opgepik. In Göteborg, waar hy heen geneem word, neem hy 'n betrekking op 'n seilskip „Gustav Wasa”, wat op pad na Oos-Indië vertrek, as skeepstimmerman, aan. Vir 'n tweede keer ly hy skipbreuk. Die trotse skip het aan die stormagtige Kaap die Goeie Hoop met al sy bemanning gesink. Die keer is dit die Hermannsburgse Sendelingskip „Kandaze” wat sy lewe red. Klinkenberg het saam met die sendelinge na Natal gegaan, en spoedig het talle watermeulens wat op sendingstasies opgerig is van sy



Die Duinse Skool (Foto: H. J. HATTING)

handewerk getuig. Toe die sending hom nie meer nodig gehad het nie, het hy dieper die land ingetrek en op boereplase gewerk.

Klinkenberg was fluks, spaarsaam en het geweet hoe om sy geld gunstig te belê. Hy is nooit getroud nie, en het met die loop van tyd 'n aansienlike vermoë verwerf. Huise in verskillende stede, in Transvaal en Natal, asook verskeie plase het sy eiendom geword. Sy onmiddellike omgewing het altyd sy weldadigheid gevoel. Duisende is aan behoeftiges geleen, net met 'n handtekening as voorwaarde, nooit rente nie. Na die runderpes, wat groot verliese meegebring het, het hy honderde stuks vee aan sy bure „geleen” wetende dat die minste daarvan weer aan hom sou terugbesorg word.

Ten spyte van tientalle jare in geselskap van ander volks- en taalgroepe, het hy nogtans sy Duitse gesindheid behou. Na jare van swoeg, het hy sy laaste jare by vriende op die plaas „Carlsruhe”, by Cullinan, deurgebring. Hy het altyd in gesprekke gemeld dat hy sy eiendom tot die stigting van 'n Duitse skool wil nalaat. Sy kontant was feitlik op, geen skuldbewyse is in sy nalatenskap gevind nie. Skuldenaars wat hom nog kort voor sy dood besoek het, het hy met die woorde van Schiller: „Julle skuldboek is vernietig”, die geskeurde skuldbewyse glimlaggend teruggegee. Sy vaste eiendom het omtrent R20,000 beloop, en in die herfs van 1897, 'n paar maande na sy dood, is volgens sy testament die stigting van die Duitse Skool in Pretoria 'n werklikheid gemaak.

In sy testament is baie duidelik die wens uitgespreek dat die stigting van die skool in noue samewerking met die kerk-gemeente moet plaasvind. Die gemeente moes die toesig en handhawing van die skool bygestaan deur 'n kommissie van drie persone, behartig. Nie meer as R2,000 moes aan die aankoop van 'n erf bestee word nie; die res van die geld moes tot 'n fonds omskep word om die onderhoudskoste van die skool te dek. In 'n afsonderlike paragraaf in sy testament het Klinkenberg die wens uitgespreek dat Pastor Grünberger, Carl Ueckermann, Sen., C. W. Engelmohr en H. Rode die beherende liggaam moes uitmaak wat sy fonds sou beheer.

VORDERING

HIERDIE persone het dadelik aan die werk gespring. Die R2,000 was na gelang van die prys van erwe in daardie dae nie toereikend nie, en hulle het hulle weer tot die Regering gewend. Carl Ueckermann, wat tientalle jare as regsadviseur van die Republiek 'n hoë aansien by die Regering geniet het, het Pastor Grünberger in die onderhandelinge bygestaan. Hulle verwys na mondelinge beloftes wat President Kruger teenoor Pastor Grünberger jare gelede geuit het, en dat dit nie die plan was „om 'n uitsluitlike Duitse skool te stig nie, maar dat naas Duits ook 'n deeglike Hollandse onderrig gegee sou word, buiten 'n Christelike onderrig volgens die belydenis van ons kerk. Talle van ons kinders woon tans Engelse, ja, selfs Katolieke skole by, en ons moet elke jaar ons kinders vir aanneming voorberei wat nóg Duits nóg Hollands kon praat. Ons, as Duitse gemeente, voel ons in ons belydenis met die Hollandse Gereformeerde Kerk eens. Ons

strewes is om ons kinders in die kerk en skool op te voed, nie alleen as getroue ledemate van ons kerk nie, maar ook tot getroue, nuttige burgers van die land wat die Regering en sy wette sal eerbiedig. Die grootste deel van die gemeente bestaan uit burgers van die land en ons kan met blydskap sê dat selfs dié wat eers kort gelede die land binnegekom het, hulle plig as lojale onderdane graag nagekom het."

Die Duitsers van Pretoria het wel geweet dat die naam van Keiser Wilhelm II na die gelukwenstelegram van hom aan President Kruger na die Jameson-inval by die Regering byval gevind het, en het verder verklaar: „Die Deutsche Evangelische Kirche in Pretoria staan in samehang met die Pruisiese Landekerk onder die toesig van die hoogste kerkraad in die kerk, waarvan die Duitse Keiser aan die hoof staan. Daar bestaan in die buiteland meer as sewentig gemeentes in samehang met die moederkerk, wat hulle versorg met leraars, onderwysers en geld. Elke gemeente is ook verplig om vir sy gemeenteskool te sorg waar die Bybelonderwys in Duits gegee word volgens die reëls van die kerk. Dit is dus uit diepste pligsgevoel dat ons met hierdie aansoek by u aanklop."

Dr. Mansvelt het hierdie keer hulle versoek hartelik ondersteun. Die Uitvoerende Raad was egter gebonde aan 'n bepaling van die Volksraad, wat neergelê het, dat „dorpe" op die platteland grond net aan die drie Hollandse kerke vir kerk en skooldoeleindes kon skenk. (Die „standplaatsdorpen" soos Johannesburg was uitsonderings). Erf No. 735, naby Burgerspark, waarvoor die Duitsers gevra het, was reeds aan die Gereformeerde Kerk belowe. Dieselfde het gegeld vir Erf No. 923, Wes van Minnaarstraat. Eindelik is erf No. 926, op die hoek van Maré en Schubartstraat aan die gemeente gegee met die voorbehoud dat minstens 25 ure per week aan die onderrig van die Hollandse taal bestee sou word.

STIGTING

INTUSSEN het die here Grünberger, Ueckermann en Rode deur Klinkenberg benoem, oorgegaan tot die opstel van 'n statute vir die skool. Weer tree samewerking tussen kerk en skool op die voorgrond. Die kuratorium van die Klinkenbergstiging sou uit drie lede deur die gemeente gekies, bestaan onder die blywende voorsitterskap van die gemeente pastoor. Van die Klinkenbergstiging sou R5,000 vir die bou van die skool gebruik word, asook 'n woning vir 'n onderwyser. Die rente van die orige kapitaal sou aan die lopende koste bestee word. As skoolhoof sou „'n akademies-teologies geskoolde ge-eksamineerde" deur die hoogste gesag van die Kerk te Berlyn aangestel word. Verder vir die hoër klasse 'n ge-eksamineerde „christelik gesinde onderwyseres", en behalwe genoemde, hulponderwyseresse vir Hollands en Engelse spraakonderrig. Die hoof, tegelykertyd hulpprediker van die gemeente, moes Sondae wanneer noodsaaklik, 'n preek lewer en deel hê aan die sending en die hou van sondagsskool. Vir hom was 'n aanvangssalaris van R600 p.j. voorsien en vir die Duitse onderwyseres 'n salaris van R300.

In Mei 1899 is die statute verander. Die Skool-komitee sou bestaan uit die dominee van die gemeente as blywende voorsitter, die verteenwoordiger van die Duitse Ryk, die vier kuratore van die Klinkenberg-stigting en vier uit die gemeente gekose lede.

oorlogsjare

DIE nood van die Boere-oorlog gee die uiterlike aanleiding vir die vroegtijdige opening van die skool, nog voor die geboue voltooi was. Die meeste regeringskole was reeds gesluit. Die regering het 'n paar vertrekke van die Staatsgimnasium tot hulle beskikking gestel. Op 4 Desember 1899 toe op die grense van die Republiek die heftigste veldslae gelewer is, is die Duitse Skool te Pretoria geopen.

Intussen is verdere skenkings aan die Klinkenberg-stigting oorgedra deur simpatiekgesinde vriende en korporasies. So skenk die „Niederländische Eisenbahngesellschaft” waar Duitse kapitaal in belê is, R1600, die Dinamiet Fabriek A. Goertz & Kie. en A. Wagner elk R200, E. Lippert gee vir die skoolmeubel en benodighede R800 en die Duitse Ryk belowe 'n jaarlikse subsidie.

'n Paar maande na die intog van die Engelse in die hoofstad kon die eie geboue betrek word. Die teologiese kandidaat Bruns was die eerste tydelike hoof en Mej. Doyer die Hollandse onderwyseres. Reeds na 10 maande kon O. Bornebusch sy betrekking as hoof inneem. Mej. Dobberstein het hom in die oorlogsjare bygestaan en Mej. Penzhorn was hulp-onderwyseres.

Die getal leerlinge het gou 'van 43 tot oor die 100 gestyg en 'n nuwe klaskamer moes aangebou word. Die rede vir die groot aanwas was die internering van die gemeente van Kroondal en talle sendelingfamilies in Pretoria. Die meeste was as gevolg van die oorlog behoefdig, en die uiterlike toename van die getalle het nie verhoed dat die skool in ernstige finansiële moeilikheid beland het nie. Des nieestaansteande het die Duitsers van Transvaal alle rede tot dankbaarheid gehad dat die stedelike skole in daardie tyd behoue gebly het.

Die gebou was vir 24 jaar lank die tuiste van die Duitse skool gewees. Weens omstandighede soos die nabyheid van die stasie en talryke ander steurende faktore is besluit om 'n gebou op 'n ander geskikter plek te bou.

'N NUWE GEBOU

OP 8 Desember 1923 het Generaal-Konsul A. Haug die hoeksteen gelê van die huidige gebou op die hoek van Du Toit- en Visagiestraat. Op 15 Maart 1924 kon in hierdie gebou ingetrek word. As gevolg van die goeie naam wat die skool verwerf het, het ook talle nie-Duitsspreekende kinders die skool besoek.

In 1929 is 'n nuwe *Deutscher Schulverein* gestig en aan hulle is na aanleiding van Generaal-Konsul Roh, toesig en die doel van die skool opgedra, nl. om die leerlinge van Duitse afkoms 'n deeglike Duitse onderrig

te laat toekom, sowel as 'n Duitse opvoeding te beurt laat val en om te sorg vir die behoud van die Duitse taal. Hulle sou dus die leerplan van die regeringskole volg, die twee landstale deeglik aanleer en besondere aandag gee aan Duits. Die medium van onderrig was Engels. Die skool het gegaan tot st. 5. Die onderrigmetodes het goeie vrugte afgewerp en nadat die st. seseksamen (Primary School Certificate) met welslae afgelê is, is die leerlinge toelating verleen tot enige hoërskool. Vanaf 1929 het alle leerlinge elke jaar hierdie eksamen afgelê d.w.s. die latere st. 5 ingesluit. Al hoe meer aansoeke vir toelating het van alle volksgroepe gekom sodat baie van die hand gewys moes word.

In die begin het die hoofde van die skool dikwels gewissel, maar vanaf 1929 het die hoofde hulle poste vir langer tydperke beklee.

Toe in 1934 YSKOR geopen is, het talle vakmanne vanaf Duitsland gehelp in die opbou daarvan. Die getal leerlinge het ook merkbaar gestyg tot 160.

DIE TWEDE WÊRELDOORLOG EN DAARNA

DIE uitbreek van die Tweede Wêreldoorlog het ook sy merk op die skool gelaat. Die onderrig kon voortgesit word maar die getalle het tot 100 gedaal. As gevolg hiervan het finansiële moeilikhede opgeduik. Onder die bekwame leiding van Mnr. E. Schweickerdt, wat na die oorlog voorsitter geword het, is hierdie moeilikhede opgelos. Weens die vriendelike houding van die Afrikaansspreekende deel van die bevolking teenoor die Duitsers gedurende die oorlogsjare en ook hulle gulhartige bydraes tot die *Deutsch Afrikanisches Hilfswerk*, het die *Schulvorstand* besluit om oor te gaan tot Afrikaans as medium. Die aantal immigrante families het die getal kinders weer vinnig laat styg sodat die klaskamers al te min geword het.

In 1946 het Hermann Hopfer 'n aanmerklike som geld aan die skool bemaak, wat 'n uitbreiding van persele moontlik gemaak het. In 1949 is vier klaskamers aan die suidekant aangebou en voltooi. In 1952 is ook die koshuis gebou waar 40-50 kinders tuisgaan.

Die getalle het so vinnig gestyg dat parallelklasse noodsaaklik geword het. Twee erwe in Skinnerstraat is aangekoop en die bestaande huise het dadelik ruimte vir klaskamers gebied. Later is tydelik-permanente klaskamers opgerig. Deur die aanstelling van Duitse onderwysers uit Duitsland het sport en liggaamlike opvoeding 'n groter rol in die skoollewe begin speel. Handarbeidklasse is ook ingestel. Vandag is daar 366 leerlinge uit alle volksgroepe en dele van die Republiek en Mosambiek in die skool met vyftien klasse en sewentien leerkragte. Saterdagoggende word in blokfluit, naaldwerkklasse, kunsvlyt, en handewerk en Sotho onderrig gegee. Hierdie klasse is vrywillig. Ook die skoolkoor het dan sy gereelde oefening.

—A. M. F. MÜLLER.

- Bronne: (1) Die Eiche Beilage I, 1947: Die Deutschen Schulen in der Südafrikanischen Republik.
(2) 1888-1963—75 Jahre Pretoria Deutscher Verein.

UNFAIR COMMENT, 1900

THE burgesses of Pretoria in the winter of 1900 doubtless held themselves in fair esteem. Some of them might have been taken aback had they known of the rude remarks about them that were concealed within the covers of the "confidential and private" dossier of Lieutenant Robert Burns-Begg. This young Scot was in the military intelligence office, Pretoria and viewed the motley population left behind by the flow of war with suspicion and disapproval. Indeed that was part of his job, for it was his assignment to "smell out" plots, unearth concealed arms and track down dissident Irishmen and Cape rebels. Into his note-book, now in the Transvaal Archives, went matters of fact, titbits based on hearsay and rumour and jottings of personal prejudice. The amalgam that results is a highly suspect historical record, but one that has considerable humorous interest at this distance in its devastating sallies.

Under the first letter of the alphabet Burns-Begg located J. S. Atterbury, Secretary to the American Corps at the Polar Hotel. Could this surname have any connection with Atterbury Street in Menlo Park? On the 24th July, 1900 he noted that Delfos, Arcadia, opposite the Arcadia Mill had been manufacturers of ammunition for the Boers; a further entry reads cryptically: "3Unexploded Lyddite shells found in their premises — buried".

But it was on the occasions that he dealt with suspects that he warmed to his task; opposite the names of many of the ex-officials, ministers of religion and Irishmen remaining in the town appear such remarks as "very dangerous" or "not to be trusted". General H. Schoeman was ". . . one of Kruger's intimate pals", J. Smit, the Railway Commissioner "a veritable fire brand" and P. Grobler, the former Under Secretary of State "a great chum of State Attorney Smuts". Dr. Mansvelt's honesty was acknowledged somewhat begrudgingly but the entry reads further: "Far better for South Africa if he were sent back to his own native Holland".

A local journalist, Burns-Begg noted, was commonly called "Leo the Liar", whilst another eminent citizen was "very polite and plausible and ready to write up any cause for any side", and it was rumoured too that this dignitary kept a French mistress. (*O tempora o sedes!*). Against the name of a stalwart of the legal profession there appears the intriguing entry: "Immensely wealthy — supposed to have served time in Ctn for I.D.B." An English-speaking librarian did not seem conspicuously loyal to the new dispensation, and "Every Britisher left in Pretoria would have liked to punch his head", wrote the intelligence officer feelingly. The shutters were opened indiscreetly on the earlier life of a prosperous merchant with the suggestion that he might originally have been a deserter from the British army. Perhaps the most penetrating thrust was reserved for a worthy Hollander who had headed one of the Republican state departments: "No brains but honest!"

Lieutenant Burns-Begg was later to occupy important positions in the

Transvaal Repatriation Department, in the Transvaal Police and in the Rhodesian Civil Service. In such responsible public offices one presumes that caution would have been his watchword and that his pungent impressions of his contemporaries would not have been committed to the written record.

— ARTHUR DAVEY

GESNEUWELDES OP SPIOENKOP

SPIOENKOP is een van die groot name uit die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog. Die slag van Spioenkop word as die hewigste geveg van die ganse oorlog beskou. Met weergalose dapperheid is aan beide kante geveg, daardie dag, 24 Januarie 1900, toe die Britse mag in vlak loopgrawe die heel dag 'n dodelike spervuur en 'n verwoestende bombardement moes verduur, toe die Boere met doodsveragting die kaal hange van die kop bestyg het en die heel dag lank verbitterd om die plat kruin daarvan geveg het. Aan weerskante was die verliese groot: 500 tot 600 Britte, sowat 60 Boere.

Vir die gesneuwelde Britse soldate is daar na die oorlog etlike gedenknaalde op die kop opgerig. Dit het egter geduur tot 1964 voor 'n monument ter ere van die gesneuwelde burgers op die kop sou verrys, opgerig deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag en onthul deur die Staatspresident op 11 Julie 1964.

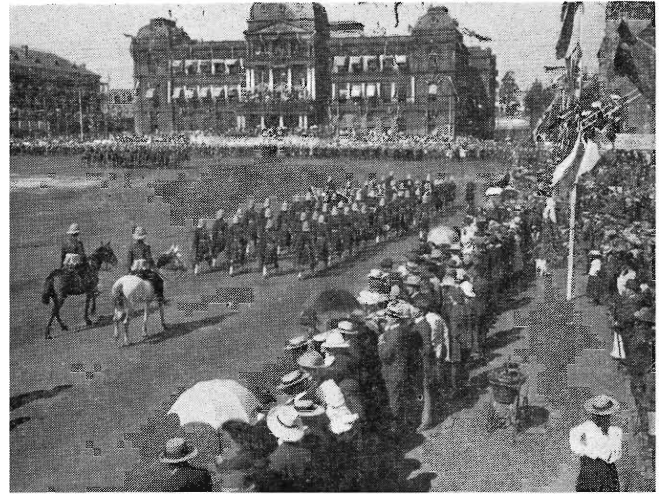
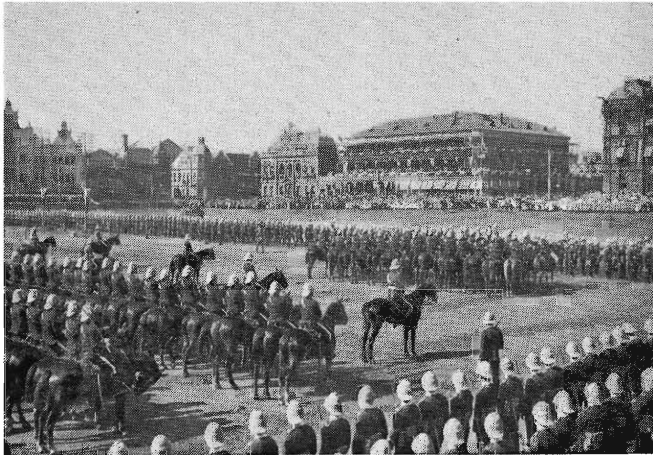
Onder die Boeremagte wat die kop bestorm het, het 'n afdeling van die Pretoria-kommando 'n leueaandeel aan die geveg gehad. Hulle het onder aanvoering van die onverskrokke kommandant Rooi Daniel Opperman pal in die brandpunt van die geveg gestaan. Hulle was ook die laaste wat die aand na die geveg die kop ontruim het. 'n Burger van hierdie kommando, Deneys Reitz, gee in sy bekende boek *Commando* (pp. 69-81) 'n dramatiese beskrywing van wat hulle die dag verduur het. Hy noem die volgende van sy vriende wat in sy onmiddellike nabyheid gesneuwel het: John Malherbe, Robert Reinecke, L. de Villiers, Krige en Charles Jeppe. Hierdie name kom ook voor in die lys van gesneuweldes wat op die monument uitgegrawe is, waarvan die van Pretoria die grootste groep vorm. Aangesien daar moontlik nog naasbestaendes van hierdie persone in Pretoria woonagtig is, word die lys hier weer gegee. Dit geld net burgers van die Pretoria-kommando wat om en op Spioenkop gesneuwel het in die gevegte van 16 tot 24 Januarie 1900.

Brits, P. A.; De Buis, B. R.; De Villiers, L. L.; Els, W. F.; Erasmus, P. R.; Esselen, E.; Herbst, D. J.; Jeppe, C. F. W.; Krige, J. G.; Lewis, J. T. G.; Malherbe, J. B.; Minnaar, P. J.; Minnaar, P. F.; Mulder, A.; Olivier, S. J. B.; Oosthuizen, W. M.; Prinsloo, H. F.; Reid, C. K.; Reinicke, R. R.; Roberts, W. H.; Senf, A.; Smith, P. E. J.; Stuffers, J. C.; Van der Merwe, P. Dit is 'n oes van drie en twintig wat deur die dood geëis is. Baie van hierdie burgers lê in die ou kerkhof, Pretoria, begrawe.

Indien daar van ons lesers is wat enkele lewensbesonderhede van enigeen van bogenoemde kan verstrek, sal dit baie waardeer word.

— F. J. DU T. SPIES.

Church Square, 1905



Military ceremonies when the Earl of Selbourne was sworn in as Governor of the Transvaal on April 2, 1905. The Earl of Selbourne succeeded Lord Milner who was Governor from the 21st of June, 1902, until the 1st of April, 1905.

Genootskap Oud-Pretoria

(Gestig: 22 Maart 1948)

Ons doel: Om te waak oor die geskiedenis van ons stad en distrik.

Association Old Pretoria

(Founded: 22 March, 1948)

Our aim: To preserve the past for the future of our city and district.

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