

CTFHS NEWSLETTER

Cape Town Family History Society

MARCH 2011 Vol 6 No 1

EDITORIAL

Looking and finding

There is an old chestnut about waiting for a bus. You stand waiting for what appears to be hours without seeing a single bus then suddenly they all arrive at once. The articles for the CTFHS NEWSLETTER seem to do the same! After desperately scraping the barrel with copious articles about who was buried at St Paul's, Rondebosch and my own family research, suddenly I've had a wonderful response with some very interesting articles from members. Most of these articles I'll carry over to the June Newsletter, so don't think that I don't appreciate what you have offered - in fact please send more of same because it gives me a chance to pick which "bus" will take us on our next the most interesting "mystery tour".

So let's cut the chatter and get on with the articles!

MYSTERY LETTER HAS BEEN DELIVERED.

There was an article last year on the CTFHS website about a letter dated 26 March 1917. The letter was written by the office of the District Registrar of Birth and Deaths in Johannesburg to the Army Command Paymaster concerning Private Thomas Joaby Balmforth.

This letter turned up amongst my father's papers and the mystery still exists about how it got into his possession. He was born in 1913 and there are no Balmforth's in our tree. He was not even in South Africa during WW1.

Recently a lady from the UK contacted me saying that she had read about the letter on our website and that T. Balmforth was her uncle. Although she had been researching him for a while, she had not been able to find any trace of him. She was very pleased to get his military service number and to know where he had been stationed

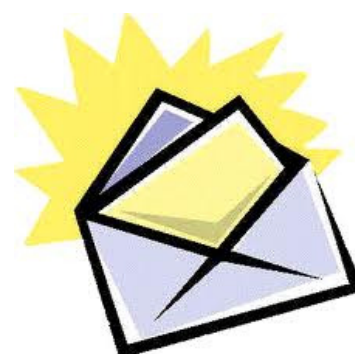
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and she has since been able to trace him back to the UK where he and his family managed 2 pubs.

How lovely that our website could break down the brick wall for someone in a different country.

from Mel Cross



Comments, assistance or additional information on any of the articles is most welcome BUT...

More important—Why don't you write up an interesting aspect of your family research?

NEXT EDITION DUE: end JUNE 2011

FINDING JAMES GOODWIN

PART2

by Derek Pratt

With the help and advice of some of our members I have now discovered that James GOODWIN served during the Anglo-Boer War started in Robert's Horse Regiment as a Trooper. He was discharged as Medically Unfit. Subsequently, and quite how it happened I don't know, he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Commander-in-Chief's Bodyguard Regiment. As the War came to an end he was transferred as a Lieutenant to Kitchener's Fighting Scouts from which he was finally discharged in 1903. His claims that he knew Lord Roberts, Lord Kitchener and Cecil John Rhodes therefore his claim might be correct.

Last Newsletter I told you about my search for the birth date and place of **James GOODWIN**. My friend, Catherine, James's granddaughter gave me information which I could summarize as follows:

- He seemed to have been born into a wealthy family & came to South Africa as a young man
- He claims he did some exploring and prospecting, probably in some part of the Wankie area.
- He claims he was acquainted in some way with both Kitchener and Rhodes and that he was 'given' a large tract of land in the then Rhodesia by Rhodes but was too lazy to take advantage of it.
- The family feels he was a 'black sheep' of the family and 'remittance man' sent out to South Africa to be out of the way.
- He lost large amounts of money on the horses, which he part-owned, he took part in several gold-rushes, gambled heavily, stole his daughter's jewellery (a five-star diamond brooch sent to her for her 21st birthday) and recklessly spent all of his wife's money which she had earned as caretaker of a block of flats when his remittance ceased.
- His family say that he never did a day's work in his life. He received regular financial aid from UK but this dried up in his old age most probably because of the death of his sister, Elizabeth. His wife had to resort to taking a job as caretaker of a small block of flats, which led to her last illness and death.
- Financial aid and extravagant presents to family seemed to have come from his sister known to the family as Aunt Betty and this is what I'm going to explore in this article as I try to find more on **James GOODWIN**

According to family tradition Aunt Betty had married

well into a Welsh family. In fact, I discovered that she was married twice – both wealthy families.

Catherine told me that Aunt Betty invited and paid for both Irene (James's daughter) and Catherine's father, Jimmy (James's son) to come to the UK as they successively turned 18 years old. Neither their mother, Elizabeth GOODWIN (born HINE) nor father James GOODWIN senior were invited. Elizabeth because of her lowly origins, and James because of his 'disgrace' – whatever that might have been.

Irene found favour with Aunt Betty. She was introduced to Aunt Betty's circle and she told her daughter how they always had 'to dress for dinner' and how a ball was held in her honour, but she returned to S.A. and married a South African.

The gifts from England continued after her marriage, and she was sent, according to family tradition, jewellery from the Tutankhamen's Tomb having apparently met Lord Carnarvon while overseas. But when she heard of the deaths of Lord Carnarvon and his associates, she destroyed the jewellery and threw the remains into the veld, much to her daughter's regret!

Catherine's father, known as Jimmy, born and bred in the early shanty town Johannesburg, and having only



Great-Aunt Betty

attended primary school, took umbrage at the posh British side of the family – with their posh home with butler, chauffeur, footmen, gold hot and cold water taps in bathroom, (probably only brass), the necessity to 'dress' for dinner and the implied snub which was given to his mother (with whom he was very close). When Aunt

Betty offered to 'adopt' him informally and 'groom' him for English society. He declared his choice was for the 'working class' and left the palatial home and went to live in digs in London. He came back to S.A. and volunteered as a private when the Second World War was declared. Hence his side of the family was never recipients of extravagant gifts and toys.

So my search for **James GOODWIN** moved to finding his wealthy sister **Elizabeth** who married into an upper class Welsh family.

This began with Catherine giving me a picture of Aunt Betty and the house she lived in in Wales. The Welsh

(Continued from page 2)

family home was called **Bryngarw** and was situated somewhere near Bridgend, Glamorgan, Wales. I found this house mentioned on the internet with a brief history showing that it had been owned by the TRAHERNE family but now belonged to the Glamorgan County Council and had been leased out and converted into a posh hotel.

TRAHERNE's and Bryngarw House

The house possibly dates from 15th Century and had been in the Traherne family since the 1830s. John Popkin TRAHERNE inherited the Bryngawr Estate but left no heir. Anthony Powell TRAHERNE, John's nephew had been declared bankrupt so Anthony's son **Onslow Powell TRAHERNE** inherited the Estate.

The house was quite advanced for its time in that it generated its own electricity. Orchestra and piano recitals were performed outdoors on the lawn, as O. P. Traherne was a keen music lover. He was a composer and some of his music is mentioned on the internet including *A Funny Little Fairy Story* (1934) for cello and piano. Onslow Powell TRAHERNE also loved hunting and fishing and played host to royalty who visited the park for hunting weekends. He was a keen gardener and the formal gardens at Bryngarw Park are delightfully ornamental, including an exotic oriental garden dating from 1910.

GOODWIN/TRAHERNE CONNECTION

Elizabeth GOODWIN marriage to Onslow Powell TRAHERNE is mentioned in Edward Walford book, *The county families of the United Kingdom; or, Royal manual of the titled and untitled aristocracy of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.* (1919). The entry reads:

TRAHERNE, Capt. Onslow Powell, ... Only son of Major Anthony Powell Traherne,... m 1st 1896 Muriel Harvey eldest dau. of the late John Selwyn Harvey, Esq., M.D. ; 2ndly 1917 Elizabeth, dau. of the late James Goodwin, Esq., of Sydney, N.S.W., and widow of James Bennett, Esq , of Mill House, Bourne End, Bucks.

As can be seen Onslow TRAHERNE had been married before and divorced. His second marriage was to Elizabeth J. BENNETT and was registered in March Quarter 1917 in Paddington London. But what came as a bigger shock to me (and to Catherine) was the fact that Elizabeth's father had been born in Australia. That opened so many new doors.

ELIZABETH J. GOODWIN later BENNETT later TRAHERNE

So, it appears that Great Aunt Betty was Elizabeth TRAHERNE born GOODWIN. But who was Mr James BENNETT her first husband? With all these surnames I searched FreeBMD and the Census records and found:

Her Birth: 1864 as calculated from Census 1891 (27years). However, her Death Registration in Dec 1940 gives age as 73 years, making her born in

1867. Was this ignorance on the part of the lawyers or vanity on her part? Place of birth was as yet unknown. Census 1891 gives it as Marylebone, London but as it said her father came from Australia I wasn't sure.

Parents: According to Walford's *County families of England* James GOODWIN from Sydney, NSW. Mother at this point was unknown.

1st Marriage: To James BENNETT. All I could find was a marriage in September quarter 1880 for a James BENNETT and an Eliza Jane GOODWIN in Shorditch Middlesex.

In the marriage register entry for her daughter, Florence Olga BENNETT James BENNETT is listed as "Merchant" however, Alfred, Florence's older brother gave her away, not her father, so presumably he had died before 1908.

2nd Marriage: Here I found a marriage in the March quarter of 1917 between Elizabeth J. BENNETT and Onslow P TRAHERNE in Paddington, London. Suddenly she is Elizabeth and not Eliza but still has second name beginning with J. So did Eliza GOODWIN adopt the name 'Elizabeth' because it wasn't as common sounding as Eliza?

This could be confirmed with her birth registration. But did she come to England by herself from Australia or did her father come to UK and marry there with the family all being born there. I looked for GOODWIN's born in Australia in the census records.

Aunt Betty's Birth

I found one family in the **1871 England Census** with a James Goodwin aged 34 years (born abt 1837). He was born in Australia. Married to Eliza, he was a licensed victualler (in other words owned a pub) in Shoreditch and had three children staying with him, Alfred aged 4y; James aged 3y and Phoebe aged 7 months. But no daughter called either Elizabeth or Eliza. Was this the right family? I also found an **1881 Census record**. Here James Goodwin and his wife Eliza suddenly had a 14year old daughter Sophia. The sons remained the same (Alfred and James) but Phoebe had disappeared – later found her death under FreeBMD. Still no Eliza or Elizabeth. But where was Sophia in 1871. So I searched back in the 1871 Census for Sophia. My experience with Census records was that sometime children who appeared to be missing from their families often were staying with relatives or attending boarding schools. I found a Sophia GOODWIN together with an Eliza J GOODWIN both born in Shoreditch, Middlesex attending a school of a Mr Charles Cummin in Wye, East Ashford Kent. The little 8year old Eliza J GOODWIN of the 1871 Census was Eliza J BENNETT by the 1881 thus doesn't appear with the GOODWIN family in Shoreditch.

Conclusion.

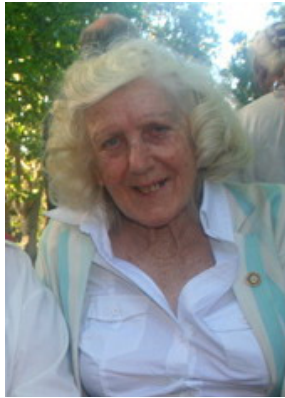
I had been asked to find the date and place of birth of James GOODWIN, my friend Catherine's

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MONTHLY MEETINGS –1st QUARTER

JANUARY MEETING

We were extremely privileged in January to have Dr Helen Robinson as our guest speaker. Helen has an extraordinary memory for names of historical characters and even after her talk she was cornered by members trying to see if she knew of their ancestors.



But it was Helen's wonderful way of telling history that really attracted me. Her chatty way of narrating historical events makes one feel that she knew these historical people from the 17th Century and is having a little bit of a gossip over the kitchen garden fence about them and their foibles. The people she shared with us were of course the **Wives, Widows and Mothers of Constantia** and Helen showed us the interesting role these strong women played in the development of the Cape.

Helen told us about the three divisions of Constantia and the owners of these different divisions but more specifically the wives of the owners who more often than not outlived their husbands and inherited the farms. Many of these women were free blacks or freed slaves—in other words women of colour but because of the place of women in society at that time they had to find young Dutchmen to marry to run the farms.

We all look forward to Helen's new book dealing with the farmers along the Liesbeek River and hope that she will tackle another book about the Wives, Widows and mothers of Constantia.

FEBRUARY MEETING



Andre Martinaglia chatting to Ann Smythe

At the February Meeting we had such an interesting topic. Andre Martinaglia's talk was entitled "Waldensians of our valleys" and it dealt with a group of Italians from the area near the French border, around Turin

who started a Christian movement in the later Middle Ages well before the start of the Reformation. They were persecuted as heretical in the 12th cen-

tury onwards and endured near annihilation in the 17th century. Many moved into France and Switzerland in the 16th Century and thus some were with the Huguenots who came to the Cape in 1688. Many also moved eastwards into Hungary and Austria.

Andre indicated to us that many of the so-called Huguenot names were in fact Piedmontese names and could well have been descendants of the Waldensians. These names included Malan, Joubert and Jordaan. Charl Malan of the former La Motte has tried to research more detail on these Waldensians.

So there you are—and you thought you were of French Stock with your Huguenot name but you might be Italian and a Waldensian. Yet another route down which we must take to find our ancestors!

MARCH MEETING



John Vogler

Besides being our AGM the March Meeting introduced us, close-up and personal, to Bagpipes!

John Vogler gave us a practical demonstration on what makes up bagpipes and how they work. His talk was interspersed with well-known bagpipe melodies.

As a musician/choir singer who is too scared to try and perform without written music in front of me, I was interested to hear that there are now musical scores for bagpipe pieces so the players no longer have to learn them by rote together around the band room table but can take the music home to learn and practice in their own time.

In spite of being in Africa, bagpipes are still popular and played by many SA regiments with Scottish heritages as well as schools, such as Bishops and St Andrew's Grahamstown and societies such as the Caledonian Society. So bagpipe bands are unlikely to die out here in the near future.

The Chairman's report and the other AGM-type business can be found at the Society's webpage

http://www.family-history.co.za/agm_2011.html

As many of you know, members Isanette and Jawn Goosen are spending an extend post-retirement stay in the UK. Here is a report of their...

The Goosen's great train adventure with First Great Western Railway.



We set off at 7 h 4 0 for our great rail adventure.

We successfully negotiated C2C and the East-bound Circle line to arrive at Paddington station with about 15 minutes to find our train, carriage and pre-booked seats. We would be travelling along Isambard Kingdom Brunel's famous Great Western Railway. Known as GWR it was called by some "God's Wonderful Railway" and by others the "Great Way Round" but it was famed as the "Holiday Line", taking many people to resorts in South-West England.

The train was almost empty so we moved up to the priority seats. Lots of legroom, good view and a table. The train is so quiet and smooth that we were underway on time at precisely 10h06 without even noticing it. The train is called a high speed express so we sped through a number of stations stopping at Reading, Exeter St David's, Newton Abbot, Plymouth, Liskeard, Bodmin Parkway, Par, St Austell, Truro, Redruth, Camborne and Hayle before changing to the branch line for St Ives at St Erth. This part of the journey took just short of 5 hours. There was a buffet car on board, so refreshments could be purchased as desired. We travelled in sunshine all the way except for about 15 minutes of mist near Exeter. Unfortunately the



train windows are not clean enough for photos but I got some nice shots by hanging out of the window at the door. (They have funny doors on these trains. You have to open the window and lean outside the carriage to open the door using the only handle which is outside!!)

The railway is very scenic, specially just before

Plymouth. From Exeter you hurtle down the side of the river Exe and then shoot round a corner to dash along the beach and then zip into a short tunnel to



emerge at a new coastal scene. It is often noted as one of the most memorable stretches of track in Britain for its natural beauty, although this comes at a very high cost to Network Rail as it is one of the most expensive lines in the UK to maintain due to the continual battle with sea erosion.

One particular storm in 1974 washed away much of the down platform in the station.

We also crossed Brunel's famous bridge emblazoned with the legend "IK Brunel Engineer" just west of Plymouth.

We changed trains at St Erth to get on the two carriage branch line train to St Ives. A 15 minute journey along some more very scenic cliff side and dunes on the Atlantic/West coast of Cornwall.

We arrived at St Ives at 3h31 having crossed England from East to West at its broadest part. A journey of about 460km in a time 8 hours and 3 minutes. From St Ives station overlooking the beach, it was just a short walk up the hill to our hotel. We stayed at The Porthminster Hotel and were thrilled to find that our accommodation had been upgraded, so we had a room with a sea view, four poster bed and en suite bathroom with a spa/bath and shower. Also twin hand basins for him and her. All very nice. Even a view of a the Godrevy lighthouse from our bedroom window. After unpacking we decided to go for a walk down to the village and harbour before sunset. According to reception it is a 10 minute walk down but a 20 minute walk back up. What a delightful village with twists and turns and narrow alleys going all over the place. After walking to the end of the harbour wall, we searched for a place to have supper. A number of places are

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closed at the moment either for renovations before the season starts again or just closed so the owners can have a break. We had a very nice meal at Union Inn in Fore street. I had local mussels in white wine sauce with whole grain bread very nice with a pint of Sharps Doom bar ale. J had steak pie with mash and veggies. (This has restored her faith in pub food. She has been put off of late by Sunday roasts which haven't lived up to expectation.) This was followed by Cornish ice cream (J) and Cappuccino (me) before making a way back to the hotel for a spa bath and



bed.

A day in St Ives

Awoke to a beautiful clear day, and after a hearty West County full English breakfast,(me), J had, what she called the worst scrambled egg she had ever tasted, we set off to explore St Ives.

We explored numerous lanes before walking to Porthgidden Beach then onto the Island and up the hill to the voluntary coast watch and a little chapel, then down to Porthmeor Beach before I explored the Tate whilst J had a Cappuccino in the Tate's cafe. I joined her later and did a quick sketch of St Ives looking out of the Tate gallery all very inspiring. I also got two very nice art books from the Tate's Bookshop.

The exhibition on at the moment is of local artist Peter Lanyon. (8 Feb 1918 – 31 Aug 1964) He was a Cornish painter of landscapes leaning heavily towards abstraction. He also made constructions, pottery and collage.

Interesting, but not really my style of art. Each piece on display had a description telling you what it was supposed to be. As someone at the Benfleet art group said "If you have to tell someone what it is supposed to be then it's not art"

We returned to the harbour and had Cornish pasties on the harbour wall for lunch (Making sure that the seagulls did not enjoy our lunch.) Then on to explore more interesting narrow lanes. Some of the old fisherman's cottages have been converted into shops. So on the pretext of shopping we could explore the houses. They are very quaint so tiny and the staircases so narrow that I had turn sideways to get up them. I don't know how they ever got any furniture up there in the days before Ikea! so before going down to the

final beach Porthminster beach.

We set off in search of supper, which we enjoyed at the Fire House Bar and Grill. We sat upstairs overlooking the harbour bathed in full moon light very picturesque. It reminded us a little bit of Kalk bay as they had a picture of the light house on the end of Smeaton's Pier being hammered by the waves.

We returned to our hotel at the end of a wonderful day. We both agree that we could quite happily live in a quaint fisherman's cottage in St Ives.

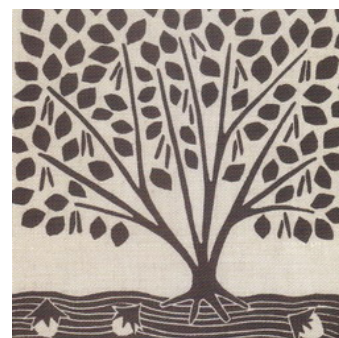
We might be slightly biased as we enjoyed summer weather without the summer crowds. But it really is a special place.

The Return Journey

I got up early and went for a walk to see the sun rise before breakfast. J decided to stay in bed until my return. After another full West county full English breakfast (without baked beans!) for both of us, we settled up and headed off to the station. The journey home is slightly longer and involves 4 changes. We left St Ives on the 10h33 to change at St Erth. The train from St Erth to Plymouth is a small two coach train with even less leg room than you get in economy on SAA! The train stops at every station on the way to Plymouth. Here we changed to the high speed train to Paddington. It was absolutely packed, mainly with students. We decided that lots of students were returning home or going to London for the weekend. We shall avoid long distance travelling on Fridays in future. We arrived home just before 6 pm, thus ending our great train journey!



Some curious members want to know if this is the birthplace of our Chairman?



CAPE TOWN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Timetable 2011

Beginning Your Family History – An Introduction

Code	Date	Time	Venue	Cost
BS1	Sat 26 th March	9.30 to 17.00	Somerset Library Hall Anne Clarkson	R110
BS2	Sat 20 th Aug	9.30 to 17.00	Meadowridge Library	R110

Workshops on Family History for Beginners

Code	Dates	Time	Venue	Cost
BW1	Thurs 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th & 24 th March	9.30 to 11.30	St. Paul's Church Hall, Rondebosch	R150
BW2	Thurs 1 st , 8 th , 15 th 22 nd Aug	9.30 to 11.30	St. Paul's Church Hall, Rondebosch	R150

Intermediate Workshops on Selected Topics

Code	Date	Time	Venue	Topic	Cost
IW1	Thurs 5 th May	9.30 to 12.00	St. Paul's Church Hall	Was Your Ancestor from Saint Helena? Merle Martin	R50
IW2	Thurs 19 th May	9.30 to 12.00	St. Paul's Church Hall	It's All on the Internet Now	R50
IW3	Thurs 13 th Oct	9.30 to 12.00	St Paul's Church Hall	Using Your Digital Camera Colin Edwards	R50
IW4	Thurs 27 th Oct	9.30 to 12.00	St. Paul's Church Hall	Using Archival Sources for Family History Sharon Warr	R50

Hermanus Workshops

Code	Date	Time	Venue	Topic	Cost
HW1	Wed 11 th May	9 to 12.30	Hermanus Library	Tracing Your Family History	R75
HW2	Wed 19 th Oct	9 to 12.30	Hermanus Library	Beyond BMDs – further English research	R75

Programme and registration forms are available on request from Lois Harley tel 021 797 6537 or email lharley@bucknet.co.za

No more than 15 people will be booked on each course. Registration form and course fee must be received before the class commences.

The Society reserves the right to cancel a class if insufficient bookings are received or a venue should become unavailable for any reason.



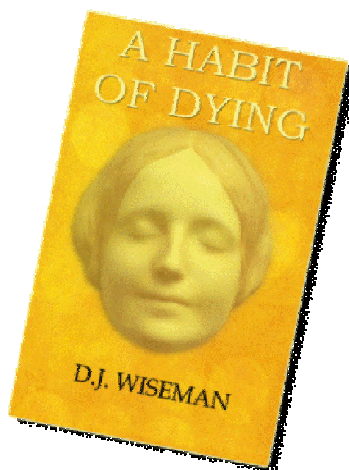
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grandfather. I'm pretty sure that the GOODWIN family I found running a pub in Shoreditch, London was the right family. James's father had been born in Australia – either Sydney and Hobart depending on the two sources I found but both the 1861 and the 1881 Census give **Hobart, Tasmania**. His mother was Eliza GOODWIN (her maiden appears to be MARCH – their marriage is registered in Bethnal Green in June quarter 1861 but they appear as married in the 1861 census so they must have early April 1861.)

According to the Census records of 1871 and 1881 James GOODWIN was the second son aged 3 and 13 respectively so he was born in 1868. FreeBMD has a birth registration for a James Goodwin in Shoreditch for the June quarter 1868.

Thus I had completed my brief but like all family histories it raised more questions than answers. Although Catherine was satisfied, I'm still curious to find more details about James GOODWIN in South Africa as well as his sister and her first marriage to James BENNETT especially as her son Alfred BENNETT was born in Kimberley. As I said more questions than answers!

BOOK REVIEWS



Had no chance to read any genealogical books this quarter but I did receive an email from the author of a novel ***A Habit of Dying***, D. J. Wiseman asking me to let our members know about this book.

Murder, mystery and family history combine in the intriguing new novel *A Habit Of Dying*

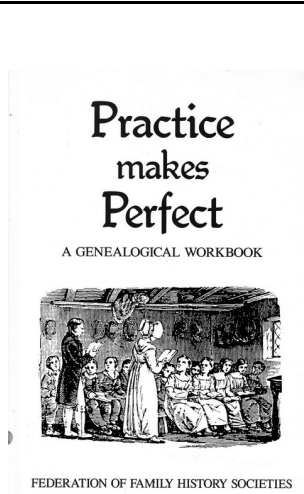
is the compelling story of Lydia Silverstream and her attempts to reunite a family heirloom with its rightful owner. Amongst the box of old photo albums she discovers a sinister journal, both the key to one puzzle and an enigma in itself.

Her enquiries take her from her home in Oxford to Cockermouth and the Lake District, to Cambridge, Essex and the Sussex coast. Along the way she meets Stephen, who becomes the sounding-board for her theories. As the original purpose of her quest is fulfilled, the potentially homicidal secrets of the journal emerge. Lydia's worst suspicions appear to be confirmed when she uncovers the circumstances of the journal writer's death.

When asked about his motivation behind the story, author DJ Wiseman said, "I have had a special enthusiasm for researching my own family history, which is a never-ending detective story in itself. Combine that with the pleasures of reading, of travelling, and above all of writing, and you have *A Habit Of Dying*. Although it has an underlying theme of family history, I hope it will also be enjoyed by readers who have no particular knowledge or interest in genealogy.

A special discount has been arranged for members of genealogy groups and societies who purchase direct from the publisher (details at www.ahabitofdying.co.uk), although you may find just as good a deal from an online bookshop such as Amazon.com*. On the Amazon link you will see that initial reader response has been very positive.

* I see Loot.co.za has it for R124



While browsing through the St Luke's book sale at the Riverside Centre last week I found ***Practice makes Perfect: a Genealogical Workbook*** published by the Federation of Family history Societies in 1993. It was on sale for R15. I plan to donate it to the CTFHS Library.

In 1989 the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies produced a detailed Syllabus of Study listing the knowledge that a student should acquire if they wished to be professional genealogists. Assessment tests were made available at four levels based on a different proportion of the Syllabus.

This book contains examples, mainly taken from the level 'B' assessment tests. In the original tests, each paper consists of ten multiple choice questions, each with three possible answers, testing knowledge of a basic source, date or repository. These are followed by five questions which require a short answer of a phrase or one or two sentences. The third section requires the student to compile a small pedigree from a body of data for a given family and to suggest searches which could be used to extend the family tree of that line beyond the scope of the documentation provided.

Although obviously aimed at those hoping to qualify as a professional genealogist, this booklet can also be used by individuals for further study and enjoyment.