

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2016 No 2 Issue 26

June 2016

EDITORIAL

Here is the current quarterly newsletter. Unfortunately, no-one sent any contributions so once again you have all my own contributions. I have tried to avoid St Paul's Graveyard families, but you've got a lot of Royal Navy ones instead. My father served in the Royal Navy so I've learnt a thing or two in trying to find his history.

Something new I've discovered this last quarter was the internment of German and Austrian men of military age living in South Africa at the time of World War One. They were sent to Fort Napier —now a provincial psychiatric hospital—in Pietermaritzburg. The article is a summary of an entry into the World War One Encyclopaedia online and some additional material on a person I have been asked to research.

I have continued the diary of Maurice Wilson began last quarter. It does give us some insight into what life was like at the Cape in 1881. But I became interested in who Maurice Fitzgerald Wilson was. Then began a whole day of research to discover more about him and his family. Isn't being retired wonderful—enabling one the time to do this sort of thing!

A CTFHS member, Merry Dewar sent this quote to me:

"If you look deeply into the palm of your hand, you will see your parents and all generations of your ancestors. All of them are alive in this moment. Each is present in your body. You are the continuation of each of these people." Thich Nhat Hanh

Thich Nhat Hanh is a Buddhist and therefore would believe in re-incarnation but this quotation speaks more about genetic continuation, something many of you have explored with DNA. We have never had anything on this in the Newsletter. Perhaps someone who has had their DNA tested would like to tell us more. In particular why it is so significant to you.

The Hart Family and its South African Connection. Part 2

In the last Newsletter I wrote about the usefulness of lists such as the *Hart's Army List* for those ancestors who had served in the British Army. While researching who 'Hart' was, I discovered that he had a strong South African connection. Last Newsletter I gave General Henry HART's history but his children were also very interesting. So here are a brief outline of their families.

Children

1. Jane Margaret, b 1834 Calcutta, West Bengal, India d. 1896 Woking Surrey, England
2. Henry Travers Holt Hart b. 1836 Boulogne, Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Died 1841 Chatham, Kent
3. Holt William Hart b. 1838 Clifton, Gloucestershire. Died Fermoy, Ireland 1850
4. Frances Alicia Hart b. 1840 Regent's Park, St. John's Wood, London. Died 1923.
5. George Okes Hart b. 1842 Canterbury, Kent, , England. Died 1851 Plymouth Devon.
6. Arthur Fitzroy Hart Synnot b. 1844 Portsmouth, Hampshire, England. Died 1911
7. Isabel Clara Hart b. 1846 Newport MN, Galway, Ireland. Died 1929
8. Reginald Clare Hart b. 1848 Drewsborough House, Scariff, Co. Clare, Ireland. Died 1931.
9. Horatio Holt Hart b. 1850 Fermoy, Cork, , Ireland. Died in India 1915

Here are brief biographies of the children who lived to adulthood.

Jane Margaret Hart 1834-1896

Jane HART was born on 24 January 1834 in Calcutta India. She was still with her parents at the 1861 Census but married a

solicitor, James Leman in 1862. They had 5 children. Jane died in 1896 in Putney, Surrey.

Frances Alicia Hart 1840-1923

Frances Hart jnr was born in 1840 Regent's Park, St. John's Wood, London. She married Edward COVENTRY, a contractor. She died 1923.

Arthur Fitzroy Hart Synnot 1844-1910



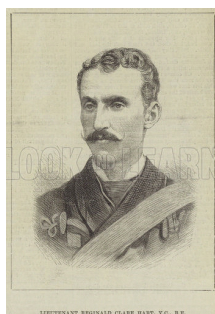
Arthur Fitzroy HART was born in 1844 in Portsmouth, Hampshire. He joined the British Army. Tracing Arthur Hart's history, we find him living with his brothers at a school in Plymouth in the 1851 Census. Ten years on he is at The Castle, in Tonbridge Wells as a military student. By 1868 he was a lieutenant in the 31st Regiment and in that year married Mary Susanna May Synnot at Boulogne, France. The 1871 Census have the couple, their eight month old son and Arthur's brother Reginald (see below) at The Royal Military College, Sandhurst, Surrey. Between then and the 1891 Census he continue to serve in the 31st Regiment of Foot until it was amalgamated to form the East Surrey Regiment. In 1891 he was Colonel of the 1st Battalion of this regiment. They served in India till 1903. In 1902 the King issued a Royal License for him and his wife and children to add Synnot after

Hart in their surname. This was because his wife inherited land in Ireland from her unmarried brother, including Ballymoyer House in County Armagh, Ireland. Arthur Fitzroy Hart Synnot died in London in 1910. By then he had been awarded the honours, Companion of Bath (C.B.) and Companion of St Michael and St George (C.M.G.). His descendents included Henry Seton Hart-Synnot who was also a General and received a DSO during WW1.

Isabel Clara Hart (1846-1929)

Isabel Clara Hart was born while Henry and Frances Hart were stationed at Newport, Galway, Ireland in 1846. She married in Boulogne, France to Francis MacKenzie SALMOND an Army Captain; thus they lived wherever he was posted. In 1881 Census they were in Scotland. In 1891 Census Francis was retired and they were living in Farnborough, Hampshire. Two of the three children staying with them had been born in India and the third in Scotland, so Francis must have served in India at some time. The 1901 Census has Isabel as a widow living in Fleet, Hampshire. The 1911 census places her in a boarding house on Western Parade, Southsea, Portsmouth. The 1911 Census asked about number of children and children still living. Isabel filled in four in these columns. I have only found three in the earlier Census records, so presumably one was already following a separate career or education away from home. Isabel died in 1929 in Folkestone, Kent and left an estate of £7419 to Henry George COVENTRY, her sister's child. Why not to her own, I wonder?

Reginald Clare Hart (1848-1931)



Lt. Reginald Hart at the time of his Royal Human Society Medal. From the London Illustrated News

Reginald was born in 1848 at Drewsbrough House, Scariff, Co. Clare, Ireland. His life is best summarised in his obituary in the *Cheltenham Chronicle* of Saturday 24 October 1931:

DEATH OF SIR R. HART, V.C. : OLD CHELTONIAN'S FINE CAREER

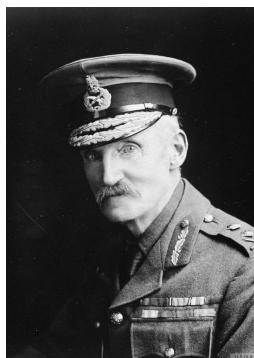
General Sir Reginald Hart, V.C., K.C.B., K.C.V.O., died on Sunday at Bournemouth, where he had lived for some years. He was one of the oldest holders of the V.C. which he gained in 1879.

General Hart was born in Ireland in 1848, when his father's regiment was stationed at Scarif, Co. Clare. He was the last survivor of the family of Lieut.-General Henry George Hart. He and his brothers (Major-General A. F. Hart-Synnot, C.B., C.M.G., and Colonel H. H. Hart) came to Cheltenham College in 1862, and all three were in the College Rugger team before they left, Reginald for Woolwich and the others for Sandhurst.

In 1869 he received a lieutenant's commission in the Royal Engineers, and six months later received the silver medal of the Royal Humane Society for saving a Frenchman from drowning in the harbour at Boulogne, being also awarded a medallion from the mayor in the name of the city of Boulogne and the medal of honour of the first class from the President of the French Republic. Fifteen years later he received a silver clasp from the Royal Humane Society for helping to rescue a gunner from the Ganges.

His first three years in the army were nominally spent in England, but during those three years he was present at the siege of Paris in 1871 during the Commune War. Later he had the unusual if not unique experience of passing the final examination of the Staff College without having undergone any of the two years' course of instruction therein, with special mention in several subjects.

It was in 1872 that he first went to India, and it was while serving in the Khyber Column in the Afghan War of 1879 that his intrepidity won for him the coveted Victoria Cross. While on convoy duty with the Peshawar Field Force he took the initiative in running some 1,200 yards to the rescue of a wounded sowar of the 13th Bengal Lancers in a river bed exposed to the fire of the enemy, of unknown strength, from both banks, and also from a party in the river bed. He reached the wounded man, drove off the enemy, and brought him under cover with the aid of some soldiers who accompanied him on the way.



General Sir Reginald Hart
in later life.

In 1881 he served on the Special Service Staff under Sir Samuel Rowe against the Ashantis, who had invaded the Gold Coast, Colony, and in 1882 he served in the Egyptian War as A.D.C. to Major-General Graham. From 1885 to 1888 he was a garrison instructor, and then for eight years director of military education in India. For the next three years (1896-99) he was in command of a 1st Class District, and took command of a brigade in the Tirah campaign of 1897-98, being rewarded with the K.C.B. When it was over he was placed in command of the Quetin District.

He left India in 1902 to become G.O.C. of the Thames District and commandant of the School of Military Engineering, until he became commandant of Cape Colony District (1907-09) and eventually Commander-in-Chief in South Africa (1912-14). In 1914, the year when the Great War began, he was promoted to the rank of general and was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Guernsey. He retained the post until the war was over, and on relinquishing the appointment received the thanks of His Majesty's Government for his services "during a very critical and difficult period."

In 1872 he married Miss Charlotte Augusta Synnot, daughter of Mark Seton Synnot of co. Armagh, and a cousin of the late Mrs Bruce-Pryce, of Cheltenham, and celebrated his golden wedding nine years ago. He was fond of all games, winning several prizes for athletics, and was successful in big game shooting and fishing. He was also a keen student of military history, as his book on "Reflections on the Art of War" testifies.

He sounds a real heroic, huntin'-shootin'-fishin' type guy!

Horatio Holt Hart b. 1850 Fermoy, Cork, , Ireland. Died in India 1915

Horatio Holt was born in Fermoy, Cork, Ireland in 1850. Like his other two brothers he attended Cheltenham College before entering the Army, the Royal Engineers in 1870. Two years later on 8 Aug 1872 in Paris, France he married Ellen Aline Clements. She was born in 1852 and died 1902. They had twin sons Lawrence George and William Cecil in 1877. Both died in action in world War I; Lawrence in November 1914 in Tanga, Tanganyika, in the East African Campaign and William in Ypres, Belgium.

Horatio served as an Engineer mainly in India. After his wife's death in 1902, he married Alice Goodall in Christ Church, Mussoorie, India in 1903. He died in Srinagar, Kashmir, India in 1915. He is listed as a retired army engineer. He was sixty five years old.

The whole family demonstrate a very British Military Colonial type family who spread their wings throughout the British Empire, serving- the monarch and the empire and if necessary dying in doing so.

Maurice Fitzgerald Wilson – Engineer and Diarist

by Derek Pratt

Maurice Fitzgerald WILSON was an engineer who worked under the pupilage of Sir John Coode. Sir John Coode was a civil engineer working mainly on harbours. Coode was most famous for the great harbour at Portland and many colonial harbours including the harbour of Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). He was also responsible for the straightening of the lower reaches of the Yarra River in Melbourne, Australia with the resulting district of Coode Island and the Coode Canal named after him, and the design of what became Victoria Dock. He did work at Port Elizabeth and Table Bay. It was here, working for Sir John Coode that Maurice Fitzgerald WILSON wrote his diary.

Maurice Fitzgerald Wilson can trace his family back through the Plantagenet line of Edward III. In one of the Percy or Montgomery family lines Elizabeth WHICHCOT (1706-1774) marrying Archdeacon William BASSETT (1703-1765). They had at least 10 children.

The second child, Richard BASSETT (1744-1805) married Martha ARMITAGE (dates unknown) in 1774. Their second child, daughter – Martha BASSETT (1776-1869) married in 1836 John WILSON of Seacroft Hall and Cliffe Hall in Darlington, Yorkshire.

The Wilson's eldest was Richard Bassett WILSON of Cliffe Hall (1806-1867). He married in 1839, Anna FITZGERALD of Adelphi, co Clare, Ireland. Richard Bassett WILSON and Anne had seven children, the third of which was Maurice Fitzgerald WILSON.

Elizabeth Whichcot + William Bassett

1a William Bassett died young

2a Richard Bassett (1744-1805) + Martha Armitage

1b Henry Bassett

- 2b Martha Bassett (1776-1869) + John Wilson (???-1836)
 1c Richard Bassett Wilson (1806-1867) + Anne Fitzgerald (??-1877)
 1d John Gerald Wilson (1841-1902)
 2d William Henry Wilson (1844-???)
 3d Maurice Fitzgerald Wilson (1858-1945) + Florence May Badnall (1858-1941)
 1e Maurice Fiennes Wilson (1886-1975)
 2e Bassett Fitzgerald Wilson (1888-1972)



Maurice Fitzgerald Wilson in later life

Maurice Wilson was born on 4 February 1858 in Ashburn Gardens, Kensington, London. He attended Eagle House School, Wimbledon (1871 Census) and later Eton. He spent a year and a half training as an engineer at the Crystal Palace School of Engineering, and, after a short period at the Thames Ironworks, was articled in 1881 to Sir John Coode. Most of his pupilage was spent at the Cape working on the Table Bay harbour and Port Elizabeth quay.

As can be seen by his diary, Maurice lived in a lodging house in Rondebosch. Obviously it must have been here that he met the daughter of St Paul's Rector, Archdeacon Hopkins Badnall, Florence Anne Badnall. They were married on 2 August 1884 at Christchurch, Lancaster Gate, London by the Rev. Ernest Holmes, who had been chaplain to Bishop West Jones of Cape Town.



Florence May Wilson born Badnall in later life

The couple lived in Gravesend, in North-East Kent as Maurice was the engineer on the construction of Tilbury Docks at the time. Here their oldest child, a son, was born here in the March Quarter 1886. He was named

Maurice Fiennes Fitzgerald Wilson. He was destined to join the Royal Navy and serve their with distinction (see below).

A second son was born in St Ives, Cornwall (registered at Penzance) in December quarter 1888. He spent time in the army but is now better known for his paintings. In 1888 Maurice Wilson was engaged on work on the breakwater at St Ives, in Cornwall. From there he moved on to work in Southampton docks. For nearly forty years he was engaged in the design and construction of harbours, docks, sea defence works, bridges and barrages, including dock extensions for the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board; the Admiralty harbour of refuge at Peterhead; Fishguard harbour; the Lyttelton and Gisborne harbours, New Zealand; wharves and docks at Singapore; the Jahore causeway; Colombo harbour; entrance works and wharves at Lagos; harbour works on the Gold Coast, in Sierra Leone, and in Gambia; and work for the Whangpoo Conservancy Board, Shanghai. A copy of his drawings for work on the Admiralty Quays in Dover harbour are included opposite.

In the 1891 Census he and his wife were staying with his older brother, John Wilson at the family home of Cliffe Hall, Darlington, Yorkshire. In the 1901 Census he is living in Dover – presumably working on the harbour there (see diagram and above). The 1911 Census Maurice was at Ashburn Gardens, Kensington and his wife was visiting friends (Evelyn Northcott) from Rondebosch in Worthing, Sussex.

Maurice Fitzgerald Wilson continued working until the early 1940s when he resigned as vice-president of the Institute of Civil Engineers. He died on 23 December 1945 in The Goring Hotel, Ebury Street, London. His probate shows that he left £118 05s 13s 8d to his two sons having lost his wife four years before.

Maurice Fiennes Fitzgerald WILSON



Maurice Fiennes Fitzgerald Wilson

Most of Maurice Fiennes Fitzgerald Wilson's life can be summarised in his Royal Navy records which were available on www.findingmypast.co.uk. He entered the service in September 1901 as a Naval Cadet at HMS Britannia, the cadet training base. At the completion of his training there he became a midshipman (1903) and served on numerous warships until 1907 when he promoted to Sub-Lieutenant (N) – the N stands for navigator and he served as a navigator through most of his naval career. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1912 and during the First world War he spent a lot of his time based at HMS Pembroke (Chatham Navy based) on board the monitor, HMS Admiral Farragut, later HMS Abercrombie.

In 1917 he was drafted to HMS Calypso of the 6th Light Cruiser Squadron as their navigation officer. It was on board the "Calypso" that he saw action in November 1917 in what has been called the Second Battle of Heligoland Bight. The German minelayers defended by some of the German High Seas fleet encounter a stronger Royal Navy force. The action was very 'hit-and-miss' as the German ships made smoke and attempted to escape, the German ships SMS Kaiser and SMS Kaiserin which had come up in support of the minelayers hit HMS *Caledon* with a 12.0 inch shell which did minimal damage and shortly thereafter, the British forces withdrew. However, all personnel on the bridge of the light cruiser HMS Calypso, including her captain, Herbert Edwards, were killed by a 5.9 inch shell. With the officers on the bridge including the Captain killed, the navigation officer Commander Maurice Fiennes Fitzgerald Wilson together with another officer brought the ship

safely home. For his bravery in this action, Wilson was awarded the DSO.

Maurice F.F. Wilson continued to serve in the Royal Navy through the 1920s both on ships and also on a commission with the League of Nations but in 1931 he was promoted to Captain and retired. However nine years later, in 1939 and with start of the Second World War he was recalled and placed in the Admiralty Office of the Trade Division – the Navy division that organised civilian ships and shipping. He must have a lot of contact with the Dutch Navy during this time because he was awarded the Dutch Order of Orange of Nassau in 1947.

Maurice Fiennes Fitzgerald Wilson married Catherine Murray in 1914. They had two children Pamela Fiennes Wilson b.17 March 1918 and Peter Fiennes Wilson b.21 December 1920. Maurice F. F. Wilson died 15 February 1975 at Watlington, Oxfordshire.

Bassett Fitzgerald WILSON



Bassett Fitzgerald Wilson

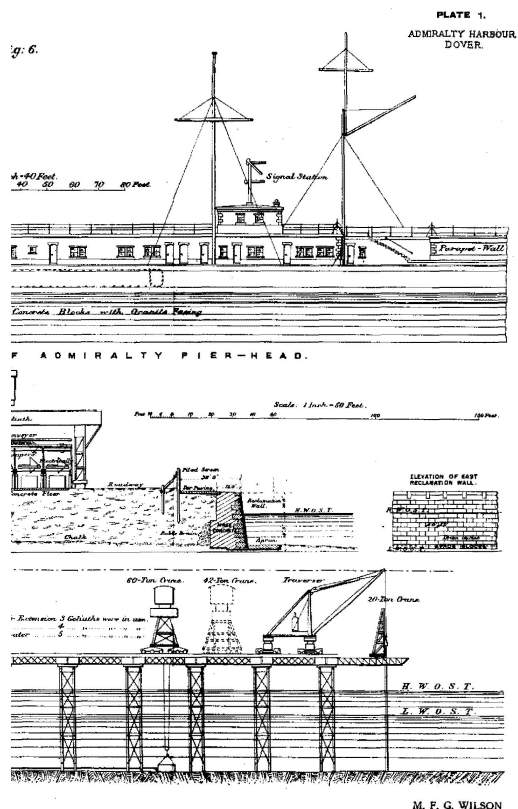
Bassett Wilson was born at St Ives on 1 September 1888 while his father was working on the St Ives breakwater. He attended Rugby School and studied law at Cambridge. After spending time as a junior diplomat he began practising law in London until the First World War broke out. The 1911 Census has him aged 22 single living with father as a solicitor's articled clerk.

Bassett Wilson served in the King's Royal Rifles and the 4th American Corps in World War I and was a highly decorated soldier. He obtained the Military Cross in 1917. However he was severely wounded and as part of his convalesces he was encouraged to paint. He married to Muriel Samuelson at the parish of Kirkley Wicke, Yorkshire on 24th April 1915 – his occupation is given as "solider (lieutenant)"

After the war, during 1920s with his wife, he established a reputation as a painter, being drawn into the modern movement in 1930s after they moved to Paris. They travelled widely until the Second World War came then Bassett Wilson served on Montgomery's staff and as provost-marshal of the 21st Army Group. He reached the rank of Brigadier. After the war he continued to exhibit all over the world including New York and Chicago.



Cathedral at Burgos by Bassett (Bassett Fitzgerald Wilson)



Dover Harbour—note his name in the bottom right corner

Muriel and Bassett appear to have only one son, Paul Basset Wilson, born in Kensington in 1920. Bassett died in June Quarter 1972 in Chelsea London.

Conclusion

What an interesting family! Maybe I can forgive Maurice's arrogance and offensive behaviour in his diary (see elsewhere in the newsletter). He certainly seemed to gradually change his tune about Cape town as the diary goes on.



Cape Town Harbour worked on by Maurice Wilson. Of interest is the railway heading out through Sea Point to Bantry Bay where it connected with an electric tram going to Camps Bay and back to the City Bowl via Kloof Nek. I'm sure the City council are disappointed that means of public transport has gone!

THE DAIRY OF MAURICE FITZGERALD WILSON OF CLIFFE HALL

This is the continuation of the diary of Maurice Fitzgerald Wilson. I hope these extracts give you an idea of Cape Town in the 1880s when your ancestors might have lived here. I have done some research on Maurice Fitzgerald Wilson of Cliffe Hall. See the previous article in this newsletter.

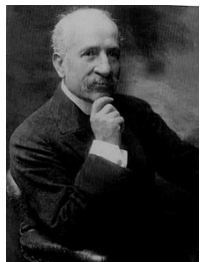
7th April [continued]... The "Warwick Castle" went off on Tuesday with a great lot of passengers. The debate on the Government is put off till Monday, but there does not seem any chance of the present Ministry staying in. I have never yet got up to the House but must try and do so soon.

Jenour has at last asked me to lunch or rather dinner (for every one dines in the middle of the day on Sunday) next Sunday. I wonder what Mrs. J. is like.

The Bay looked very pretty this morning going in: it was a flat calm with all the ships lying any way and there was a slight mist all over with the sun at the back which gave every thing a reddish yellow tinge, and as it rained a bit last night the ships had their sails unfurled to dry. However the Bay always looks pretty whatever the weather is. The winds here are most peculiar and I do not suppose one sees the same any where else. All this week it has been blowing a strong S.E. breeze getting at times almost to a gale all over the outer part of the Bay, but inland – that is on the Cape Town side - owing to Table Mountain which shelters that part of the bay there has been a strong back eddy. Consequently while it has been blowing S.E. outside (about a mile out) it has all the time been blowing N.W. and W, on the inside, and one could see vessels going full sail before the wind in exactly the opposite directions. Today it blew quite a S.E. gale all over and the dust was awful, quite blinding, but I am told it was nothing at all to a real summer S. Easter.

Talking of Easter, it never struck me before that Sunday week is Easter Day. What a pace the time goes: But all the same it seems ages since I came here. I see the "Pretoria" arrived on Sunday night so they should have got my letters on Tuesday. I hope they did. I must not forget next Monday to write to Matthews for I promised to do so when I left. It is about bed time now so I must turn in. It is a regular case of "Early to bed ----" etc. I wish the last part would come true also.

April 10th - Sunday Still the same beautiful weather and cloudless skies, day after day. It is certainly very pleasant, but for my part I think it is too hot. For the last few days there has been quite a strong S.E. Gale in the Bay, but luckily it did not come into the Town and consequently the dust was not blowing about very much.

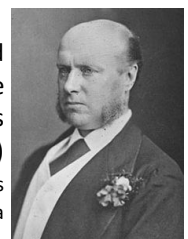


Sir James Sivewright

Yesterday I dined with the Sivewrights. [Editor: *Sir James Sivewright K.C.M.G. (1848 - 1916) was a businessman and politician of the Cape . He was a strong political ally of Cecil Rhodes and, as his cabinet minister, was implicated in the "Logan" corruption scandal that led to the fall of the first Rhodes government.*] They have a very nice little house and in a beautiful situation rather high up along the slope of Table Mount with a beautiful view of the latter and also of the mounts on the other side of the flats. Mrs. S, turned out very pleasant, for I did not care much about her the first time I met her. She plays rather nicely but like all the rest out here she fancies she can sing and sang a lot of songs indifferently instead of playing a few things nicely, which she might have done.

Today I went to Town and Church at the Cathedral, The service there is nice and well done, but they can't sing an anthem but of course will try and do so which is a pity. They came to great grief over one of the Psalms which was meant to be sung very softly, and they got so very soft that at last they could not be heard at all and the organ (which had stopped) had to come in with a bang to wake them up again. After that I went to lunch or rather mid-day dinner with the Jenours. He is not bad at home at all, nor is she, but that is all. However I had a good dinner and the Bay looked quite lovely. It certainly is a beautiful bay and grows on one every day. He has got a horrid little daughter about 9 or 10 years old who kept bullying a very nice little retriever pup about 6 weeks old which made me very angry.

The "Conway" arrived last night but I shall get no letters I'm afraid till to morrow. I did not get away (and then with difficulty) till half past four and then went on to the Governor's for tea. He and my Lady and the two daughters and Captain St. John were there. I took a dislike to Captain St. John (the eldest daughter's husband) at first but am beginning now rather to like him. Lady L. was of course still abusing (and rightly) the people here but of course I don't care; it is nothing to me. [Editor: *Sir Hercules Robinson, late Baron Rosmead, his wife was Nea Arthur Ada Rose d'Amour Annesley and the daughter married to Captain St John was Hon. Eleanor Frances Alti Maria Robinson. She divorced Capt. St John in 1883. Source www.thepeerage.com*]



Sir Hercules Robinson

I got my fiddle back yesterday and he has made a very good job of it, but it is not quite right so I must take it up to him again to morrow.

I always thought foremen and the like most awfully pig-headed but had thought Stere (the clerk of the works here) above the common herd, but that delusion was dispelled yesterday after spending 2 and a half hours trying to shew him how and where he had made a mistake in his setting out of the head of the dry dock.

The general management of this place is steadily getting worse (if possible), and Mrs. Lascar's stock of abuse and complaints at dinner more and more plentiful, so I am very glad I am clearing out of this on Wednesday next. I had a great argument this evening with Williams as to what was, and what was not Sacred Music. I said that Sacred Music proper consisted of Oratorios, Anthems, Hymns, Chants, and any music that was used especially in connection with Sacred things; that there were many other things, Sonatas, Symphonies, etc. that the most proper and religious people would play or listen to on Sunday or even play in Church, but still they were not necessarily Sacred Music; in the same way that there are many Good Books that can be read on Sunday but still are not Religious Books. He said that anything that was played on Sunday by strict people, whether it was Oratorio, Sonata, or what you will, was Sacred Music, and that was the Argument.

I wonder whom my letters will be from to morrow.

April 16th - Saturday My letters were from Willie, Mary, Bassett, and Aggie, and the Cornish Telegraph from Robins giving an account of a great run with the Western Hounds, Aggie as usual riding like any thing. The "German" arrived this morning bringing me another letter from Willie and one from Mary at Seacroft. I wonder how they are there, she never said a word about them.

I left Adams on Thursday and came here (Bone's, Rondebosch) and like it very well so far as it goes. It is vastly better managed. They call one and get one's bath and all the rest of it and brush one's clothes occasionally, but so far I have not "cottoned" to any of the inhabitants very much yet but I daresay they won't be so bad after all. I had a good walk this afternoon from Mowbray round by the Siverights. It is the most puzzling country I ever was in; the roads twist and turn about so and come out at all sorts of unexpected places so that unless you actually know for certain where the road you are on leads to you can't possibly guess; or rather if you do guess you are sure to guess wrong. The reason for this is first the twisting and fuming of the road itself and secondly the fact of the whole country being overgrown with trees, and you can't see the general country at all as you walk along and if you get up a hill and see around you you can't then make out the roads because of these trees.

There are some most beautiful avenues of oaks and firs here, one in particular, near where the Siverights live, is a double row of oaks and about 2 miles long with a splendid view of the best side of Table Mt, all the way. It is a grand old mountain and looks well from wherever you see it. Except for the scenery and a few nice people here I am beginning to come round to what most of the people here think of the place, viz: that it's the very last place in the world; a mistake altogether in fact. Some say that after the rest of the world was finished there was a bit of stuff left over from -the scrapings, and as these scrapings were being taken away a portion of them fell out of the cart and fell down here forming South Africa. Others say that they were so disgusted with the rest of the world that they never took the trouble to finish this at all. That is what they say but I'll not answer for it.

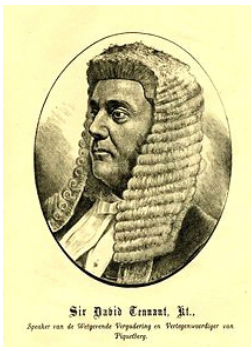
The whole thing is the fearful laziness and slackness of every body and every thing here. Nothing is ever done well and no one cares to have things looked after. Every thing is slovenly and untidy and servants and shop keepers and officials and all are most fearfully free and easy, not to say cheeky. The upper classes here with a few exceptions are a sort of Anglicized Dutch (though of course there are some real English) who talk always of going "home" to England and toady to Government House, The Freres used to have all these people and pet them till they got so much above themselves that they used to cut all their friends whom they "did not know at Government House". [Editor: The previous Governor – Sir Bartle Frere.] But the Robinsons just gone on the opposite tack and had nothing to do with them and so they are left in the lurch. There is very little goes on here I believe, very few parties of any sort, I believe the climate has a lot to do with it for it makes one more inclined to sleep than any thing else.

The Rains have come at last and it rained most of yesterday and to day making - the air beautifully fresh and cool but the roads in a frightful state. I go to lunch with the Coles to morrow, I rather think the Wrights are staying there; I hope they are. Mr. Cole is a very nice old man but very deaf and they say hard up and in debt, but no one cares and he lived on just the same.

April 27th - Wednesday I have written nothing in this book since last Saturday week which is too long but any how there has not been any thing very exciting happen since that. The "Garth" arrived Saturday afternoon bringing letters from Mary, Gerty, Aggie, and Gerald all of whom seem very well which is something. The "Garth" is certainly a very fine ship but slow and, I think like all the rest of the Castle ships, clumsy and stiff and not so comfortable as the Union, The Union all round is much the better Service and I shall certainly go back by it if I can.

Last week was most awfully hot again, perfectly stifling - I don't think I ever remember such disagreeable damp any where

(Continued from page 7)



but yesterday and to day have been cooler and a little rain has fallen. I went to a reception at Government House last Thursday which I thought very slow for there were very few people there, Montgomery mounted me on a very nice hack on Saturday and we had a very pleasant ride, calling on Mrs Manuel and Mrs. Fleming, both of whom I liked very much and on Sir D. Tennant who was not at home, [Editor: Sir David Tennant (1829 – 1905) was a Cape politician, statesman and the second Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Cape Colony. He was in fact the longest serving parliamentary Speaker in South African history, holding the position for nearly 22 years.] Captain O'Connell came with us; he seems very nice indeed. Afterwards I dined with him at the Club and had a good dinner. He has put me up for it now which is all right.

Sunday I was to have walked round the Kloof with Page but it was so fearfully hot we did not go but went back to the Sivewrights and spent the rest of the day there. Mr. Brand, a barrister and son of President Brand of the Free State was there and seemed very pleasant and quite took our part against the Boers. There are all sorts of accounts coming from Transvaal now saying that war will break out again and there certainly seems to be a lot of dissatisfaction up there and they seem to wish to back out of their agreements and say they won't give up any of the country at all and now there are all sorts of meetings being held all over the country by loyalists protesting against the peace for they say they have been misled and they certainly have, and now are having their property confiscated and are altogether in a bad way. The "no confidence" debate keeps on steadily, having been going on for nearly a fortnight now. There are only 70 members in the House but every one of them like a lot of babies will have his say and a pretty long say too.

I went to the Theatre the other night and heard "Somnabula", [Editor: La sonnambula is an opera semiseria in two acts, with music in the bel canto tradition by Vincenzo Bellini. One wonders where the performance was as the old Cape Town Opera House on corner of Plain and Darling was only built in 1891] which was hardly perhaps as good as when I heard it last Summer at Covent Garden, but still all things considered it was not bad. There is a very nice little fellow here called Woodcock, an engineer, and I should say rather clever. He is well sick of the Colony and has come to the conclusion that it is not a place for engineers to get on in. They get to a certain position and there they stick; there is no getting on and being so far from England the English engineers never hear of them or care to hear of them and so they never get a chance of getting on. Woodcock has been out here about 4 years, he and two others, and they are all disgusted with the place and are off home this winter most likely. As in every thing else out here — nobody cares for any thing. The whole line is most disgracefully managed and they have just made General Traffic Manager a young Colonial who never saw a railway in his life before this one, much to the disgust of the other engineers in the office.

INTERMENT OF GERMAN and AUSTRIAN MEN IN WORLD WAR ONE SOUTH AFRICA

Do you have ancestors who came from German or Austria before 1914 and remained citizens of these two countries? When Britain declared war on Germany and Austria in August 1914, most of the British Commonwealth and Dominion countries including South Africa did like wise. This made the German and Austrian citizens "enemy aliens" in these countries.

I learnt more about what happened to them when I was asked to research a person who, the family claimed, was born in Austria in the 1870s. This person's name was given as John Tarabochia. This didn't sound very Austrian to me but a quick search of NAAIRS gave me two documents dealing with his internment as an Austrian citizen but gave his name as Johannes Tarabochia.

John or Johannes Tarabochia also appears in a book dealing with Croatians in South Africa. It is entitled *In search of a better life: A Story of Croatian Settlers in Southern Africa* by T. A. Mursalo, published in 1981. In the appendix of this book the name Ivan Tarabochia appears arriving in Port Nolloth in 1895. I presume Ivan is Slavonic for John or Johannes. Tarabochia was born in Lussinpiccolo, near Trieste which in pre-WW1 days was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Now it is Croatia, having been Yugoslavia in the post-WW1 and pre-collapse of Iron Curtain periods. Johan Tarabochia was interned in 1914 at Fort Napier in Pietermaritzburg.

Tilman Dederling of UNISA has written an excellent article on the website *International Encyclopaedia of World War One* which I have summarised below. I have also given a summary of what I found in John Tarabochia's internment file.

Internment

Soon after the eruption of hostilities in Europe, the Union of South Africa government began to arrest German and Austrian

males between the age of eighteen and fifty-six. On 6 August, the British Governor-General in the Union was alerted to newspaper advertisements that requested German and Austrian reservists to report for military duty in Europe. The next day a government directive ordered all German officers and reservists to be arrested. This did not yet result in the actual detainment of Germans as all men concerned were asked to report daily to their local magistrate. Austrian reservists were initially exempted from these regulations, but on 13 August the same principles were applied to them as well, including the request to register the names of enemy aliens at sea ports and to confiscate their firearms and ammunition.

Arrests took place all over the Union. On 20 August 1914, Caledon Square in Cape Town was filled with German and some Austrian naval and army reservists who had been instructed to register for their transfer to Johannesburg. Only those who could provide documentary proof that they were naturalised British citizens or had been discharged from reserve duty were exempted. The Union government established a Prisoners of War Information Bureau at the Defence Headquarters in Pretoria to centralise the administration of detainees. The military school of Tempe at Bloemfontein in the Free State initially quartered the officers, while the lower ranks were taken to the Milner Agricultural Show Grounds in Johannesburg.

A total of 890 Germans and Austrians had been interned by 4 September throughout the Union. On 11 September *The Star* reported that the prisoners had been transferred from Johannesburg to the military base of Roberts Heights in Pretoria. The numbers of the detainees increased to about 1,500 a few days later, supplemented by a sprinkling of German prisoners from the Belgian Congo and Rhodesia, including some women and children.

Magistrates were instructed to use their discretion in identifying Germans for internment. They were instructed "not to intern enemy subjects living in outlying districts if they conduct themselves quietly and peaceably". During this first wave of



Fort Napier—an abandoned British Army Base used to intern German and Austrian men

arrests, 300 German reservists were released on parole for health reasons, or because they were church ministers or members of the medical profession. There are indications, however, that the paroling of German missionaries was viewed with a measure of suspicion by the authorities. The Department of Native Affairs registered its concern when Africans interpreted the return of a released missionary of the Berlin Mission Society to his station as evidence of a German victory in Europe.

Because of the rise of opposition to the war among Afrikaner Nationalists it seemed to be the safest option to move the prisoners to Natal, the only one provinces without any Afrikaner Nationalist insurgent activities. Men of ordinary rank and civilian prisoners of a working class background were taken in batches to Fort Napier in Pietermaritzburg.

On 25 October, 2,000 prisoners arrived at the Pietermaritzburg station from Pretoria. In January 1915, "approximately 2,800" prisoners were interned at Fort Napier. These numbers remained relatively constant until the last stage of the war, never exceeding 3,000 civilian internees in spite of the

granting of parole.

Life in the Camps

Reports from March 1915 indicated that there were three sub-camps housing 2,314 prisoners at Fort Napier. A ruling forbade the release on parole of prisoners to coastal areas and large towns. In August 1915, the camp commander reported to the American consul in Durban, who performed diplomatic good offices on behalf of the German prisoners, that three sub-camps accommodated 2,608 internees, which included 267 Austrians and six Turkish nationals.

Camp 1, including a "recreation ground", was described as consisting of eighteen barrack rooms constructed from wood and iron with brick foundations. The building had a veranda and was furnished with twenty-six WCs, twelve showers and two bathrooms. There also was a kitchen with cooking utensils. Camps 2 and 3 were described in very similar terms. A new fourth sub-camp was slightly more luxurious and comprised 136 rooms with fifty-one kitchens attached because it was reserved for prisoners of "the better class and elderly men". Resembling military barracks, the -rooms were equipped with basic furniture. Each prisoner was given a mattress, blankets, and simple tableware and cutlery. Each of the four camps had a kitchen staff comprising one white cook as well as several Indian and African assistants. A so-called "camp captain" in each camp acted as the spokesman of the inmates. One medical officer and twelve orderlies staffed the basic camp hospital with support from a prisoner.



Prisoners loitering in barracks at Fort Napier



Internees of Fort Napier, Pietermaritzburg engaged in a game of cards. The man on the left is Herbert von Rapacki-Warnia, a lieutenant in the German Imperial Army. The man to his left is Dr. Hans Merinsky.

The government collaborated with a German prisoner's relief committee in Johannesburg to alleviate the costs for the upkeep of destitute family members. The camp was occasionally inspected by the American consul in Durban, George R. Murphy (1860-1924) and the Swedish consul, the latter charged with representing the interests of Austrian and Hungarian prisoners.

The records indicate that parole was given to prisoners in a relatively liberal if sometimes erratic manner. Exact numbers are difficult to compute, but the authorities acted in a lenient manner when applications for parole were submitted by elderly, sickly or reputable prisoners who had resided in South Africa for long periods and had lost ties with Germany. Parolees had to sign forms that bound them by their honour to abstain from any comments that could be construed as moral support of the German war effort. It was more difficult to be paroled if the prisoners could not provide evidence of returning to places where they could be easily supervised by the authorities. Some Germans were re-interned because their release from internment was only temporary, for example for the purpose of medical treatment. According to Sydney Charles Buxton, Earl Buxton (1853-1934), the British Governor-General from 1914 to 1920, a total of

1,700 Germans were released on parole at different stages during the war. The prisoners in Pietermaritzburg received the same rations as the South African soldiers in South West Africa. They were allowed to read South African newspapers. The married men were permitted to receive visits from their wives. There was outrage among the prisoners when these contacts were reduced to only one visit every ten days instead of once per week. The precise numbers are difficult to establish, but some of the prisoners were repatriated after the end of the war while many were gradually released back into South African society. In August 1919, 336 prisoners whose release may have been delayed due to the difficulties in arranging for their repatriation were still recorded at Pietermaritzburg.

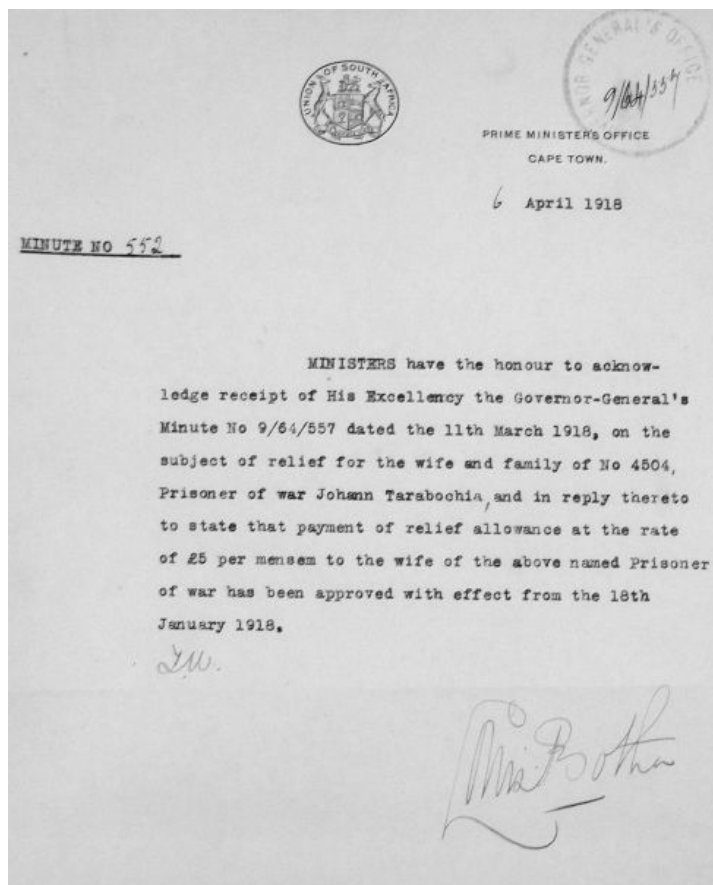
Taken from an article on Internment of German and Austrian citizens by Tilman Dederig, University of South Africa on website International Encyclopedia of World War One

John TARABOCHIA and internment

John Tarabochia was first taken into internment on 7 October 1914 and more or less immediately applied for parole. He was

46 years old and had lived in South Africa since 1895. He was employed as a Boatman or Lighterman (later he described himself as a rigger) for the Cape Copper Company at Port Nolloth. He had married a local girl, Rosie CREWE and had four children with her. He had never served in the armed forces or the reserve forces of Austria. His applications for parole are in his file in Pretoria Archives. These applications occurred on 20 Oct; 29 Oct and 1 Nov 1914 but was only granted parole in Oct 1915 when he was given a month but later this was extended. He remained in O'okiep staying with his family at his father-in-laws, Joe Crewe's house in Brackpits, near O'okiep.

John Tarabochia was in O'okiep until February 1917 when he returned to Fort Napier, Pietermaritzburg. While back in the camp in August 1917, he heard that one of his children had died and his wife was ill and could not care for the other children, the oldest being only 10 years old. The local magistrate seem to show scant sympathy, reporting his wife wasn't ill and when Tarabochia applied for an increase in allowance for his family this too was rejected as she was receiving £5 per month – the same as



The letter responding to the Governor-General's request to increase John Tarabochia's family allowance, signed by the Prime minister, Louis Botha. I wonder if today we would get such a response?

he was earning from the Cape Copper Company and she could live in a house belonging to the Cape Copper Company. As stated above, it was the Swedish Consul in Cape Town who represented the internees. A typical grovelling (or is that diplomatic?) letter from the Swedish consul was sent to the Lord Buxton, the Governor-General. Buxton forwarded it to the Prime Minister's office and in Tarabochia's file a letter signed by the Prime Minister, General Louis Botha can be found recommending that an increase be given to Mrs Tarabochia.

In November 1917 he was granted a further parole on condition that he work for the Cape Copper company. However the Swedish Consul reported that his workmates refused to work with an Austrian and he was sacked and so had to be re-interred, this time at the Government Agricultural Experimental Farm in Standerton, Transvaal. Here he remained until his final release in March 1919.

Tarabochia and his family moved to Cape Town and he died in Elsie's River in 1941. At that time he was a watchman at a Timber merchant's Yard.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Have you found a useful website others need to hear about? If so send the link to the editor (dpratt@mweb.co.za) and we'll include it in the Newsletter.

http://www.unithistories.com/officers/RN_officersP.html

If you use this site place the first letter of the surname in place of P in the above example

I've used this website on many occasions finding the Officers Commanding the ships and units that my father served in during World War Two. The officer's details are given in a screen wide table but contain a lot of info which needs some explanation, so let me do so with an example.

 request info about this officer Son of William Law Pakenham (1869-1937), and Ada Mary Phillips (died 1940). Married (19.12.1925) Clara Talbot Middleton (died 07.07.1985); two sons. senior officer	 04.09.1900 Essex - 23.01.1981	 ... Lt. Lt.Cdr. Cdr. Capt. ... 15.08.1921 15.08.1929 31.12.1935 31.12.1942 (retd 08.01.1952)	 03.01.1939 - 24.09.1940 Squadron Gunnery Officer & Staff Officer (Operations), Home Fleet Destroyer Flotillas [HMS Woolwich] 25.09.1940 - (02.)1941 Squadron Gunnery Officer, Home Fleet Destroyer Flotillas [HMS Maidstone] 26.04.1941 - 05.03.1943 Commanding Officer, HMS Black Swan (sloop) 07.03.1943 - (10.)1943 HMS Eaglet (RN base, Liverpool) (for flotilla duties, Western Approaches) 15.11.1943 - (07.1945) Chief Staff Officer to Vice-Admiral Malta and Flaf Officer Central Mediterranean [HMS St Angelo (RN base, Malta)] ... - ... Joined the clergy post-war.
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Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Gives full names Picture if available Request for more information Parentage Wife's name and marriage date Number of children Hyperlink to TNA file	Date Of birth Place Date of Death	Ranks and date of seniority	Positions held pre-WW2 In darker grey box—Positions held during WW2 Positions held Post-WW2 Interesting comments eg "Joined the clergy post-war"

CAN WE HELP YOU?

We have introduced this column in the newsletter titled “Can we help you?” where members can ask questions in the hopes that someone else may have an answer. There is a good chance that other members are researching names that may link in with your own family tree.

Send your questions; with names, dates, and towns explaining your quest with details of how to contact you so it can be printed in the next newsletter.

Please send your queries to melcross77@gmail.com

Please note: Neither Mel Cross nor the editor will answer your questions—other members of the Society will (we hope). So, come on members, see where you can help.

Parsons. John Parsons married Maria Susanna Quinn in 1868 in Potchefstroom. They moved to the Eastern Transvaal and raised 13 children. Can anyone researching this family tell me when and where John Parsons, born 1842 came from and who his parents are? Contact melcross77@gmail.com

Cross. Sarah Reed born 1845 married Charles Cross in London. Their son Washington Welney Cross came to South Africa and after Charles died in 1888, Sarah Cross and her daughter joined him in Pretoria. Henrietta married Arthur Kaplan but never lived with him. Can anyone tell me where Sarah died or is buried? Contact melcross77@gmail.com

Chapman. James Henry Chapman came to the Cape in 1937 with his wife Eliza (Janet) Knowles. She died here in 1943 and he remarried a Flora MacDonald or McDonald. Trouble is every Macdonald family has a Flora, so trying to find out more about her. On their marriage certificate it says MacDonald-Hardwicke. Her previous husband was Calvert Hardwicke—he seemed to disappear in the 1920s and it took her from 1927-1931 to get a divorce—what’s the story behind that? Any help would be appreciated. dpratt@mweb.co.za

ROOM FOR YOU TO ASK ABOUT YOUR BRICKWALL... OR DON'T ANY OF YOU HAVE SUCH THINGS???

CAPE TOWN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

WEBSITE:

<http://www.family-history.co.za/>

Contains lots of interesting and useful information

FACEBOOK GROUP:

<https://www.facebook.com/Cape-Town-Family-History-Society-176524962447099/>

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Third Saturday of each month at St John’s Church Hall, Wynberg

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