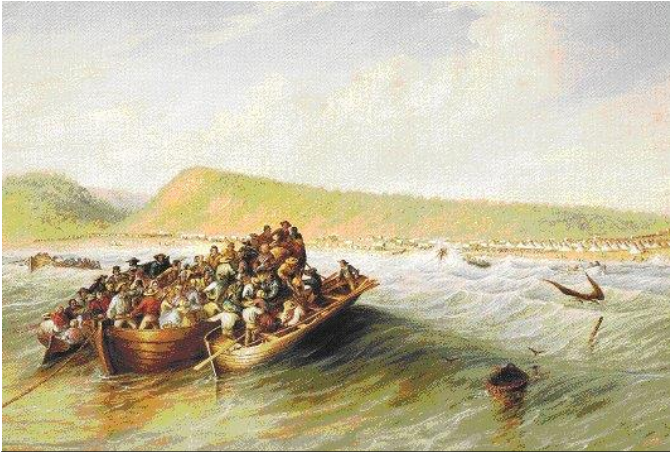


NEWSLETTER

Volume 2019 No 3

September 2019

1820 SETTLERS: IS CELEBRATION APPROPRIATE?



The famous Thomas Baines painting of the arrival of the 1820 Settlers in Port Elizabeth.

Next year, 2020, will mark the 200th year of the settlement in the Eastern Cape of a group of settlers from Britain. The first of the ships chartered to transport them to South Africa, the Chapman, arrived in Algoa Bay on the 9th April 1820 after a 4 month journey, in what must have been very trying circumstances. It was with great relief that they reached the shore, with no inkling of the tremendous difficulties that awaited them in their new home.

Most of them would have been under the impression that they were to settle on virgin land, unaware that only a year before, in the 5th Frontier War, the resident Xhosa had been driven yet again from the territory the incomers were to occupy.

The British had occupied the Cape at the end of the 18th Century for a short period to ensure that this valuable staging post on the way from Europe to India did not fall into the hands of the French, with whom they were at war. The second occupation took place in 1806 when the war between France and Britain resumed and this time the occupiers did not give up the territory, which was awarded to Britain in 1814 in the Treaty of Paris, where King William 1st of the Netherlands ceded the Cape to Britain on payment of £6 million.

Almost the first problem that the new Governor of the Cape, the Earl of Caledon, had to tackle was the pressing problem of the Eastern Frontier, where clashes between Dutch Boers moving east and Xhosa tribesmen moving west had been ongoing for some time. The new government and its troops tried to keep these tribes to the east of the Fish River but were not successful as more and more people made their homesteads and grazed their cattle.

Sir John Cradock succeeded Caledon and continued with the attempt to force the Xhosa people to move beyond the Fish River, again without success. During the Frontier War of 1811, Col. John Graham, succeeded, with his troops, to drive the tribes across the river and military posts were established at Cradock and Grahamstown.

Cradock's advisor, Col. Collins, had urged that as well as keeping the Xhosa to the east of the river, a dense white population should be established along the border. The Government attempted to settle Boer farmers in the Eastern Cape but they were wary and preferred to farm in better conditions.

Lord Charles Somerset took over from Cradock in 1814. He immediately moved more troops to the Eastern Cape and established 14 small military posts on the boundary and 12 more in the rear, as well as a farm at Somerset East. In spite of all these steps invasions continued and cattle were carried off.

It seemed to Somerset that immigration from Britain could be a solution and he gave a very favourable report to the Colonial Office on the agricultural potential of the Cape and urged them to encourage emigration.

Britain itself was in the throes of a recession after the war with France. There were no more lucrative contracts to supply the Army with armaments, uniforms and food. 300,000 returning soldiers and sailors were struggling to find work. Several years of unfavourable weather had caused the collapse of the agricultural sector.

However, it was expense of keeping the military presence in the east of the colony that finally brought about a decision to recruit party heads to attract families to settle on farms in the vicinity of the Fish River.

Persons could make up parties of families and individuals. Passage would be provided by the Government and a quitrent grant of 100 acres would be made to each family or individual, who would be required to make a deposit before departure, which would be returned to them in three tranches as they arrived and settled on the allotted land.

Less than 4000 people arrived to take advantage of this offer. 100 acres was a tempting award when viewed from an English perspective; in South African conditions it was nowhere near enough to sustain a family.

They were a diverse group that arrived from England, Ireland and Scotland. About 50% of the men were agriculturalists, ranging from landowners and tenant farmers to labourers. 30% were skilled artisans, most of whom soon left their allotments and made their way to the new villages and towns to ply their trades.



Settler Monument in Makhanda (Grahamstown) with the ubiquitous Eastern Cape aloe



Landed 1820 Settlers prepare to go to their allotted farms with help from the Boer Farmers

They and their descendants were tough frontier folk who made their mark in their new country and whose descendants have contributed much to the development of our society.

In this era of anti-colonialism and land deprivation rhetoric, it is difficult to see what would be the most appropriate way to mark the arrival of those settlers who certainly deserve recognition.

Reference

Hockley H E, *The Story of the British Settlers of 1820 in South Africa*
Nash M D, *The Settler Handbook*

WHAT EPITAPH?

Wikitree recently had a Question of the Week: If you were going to write your own epitaph, what would it be?

Chris Whitten responded: I do not remember where or when, but there was a headstone with a recipe on the reverse side - because she said the recipe that was often asked for was only given "over my dead body".

What would you want as an epitaph? I'm afraid no-one shared with us for the September edition. You are still welcome to send some.

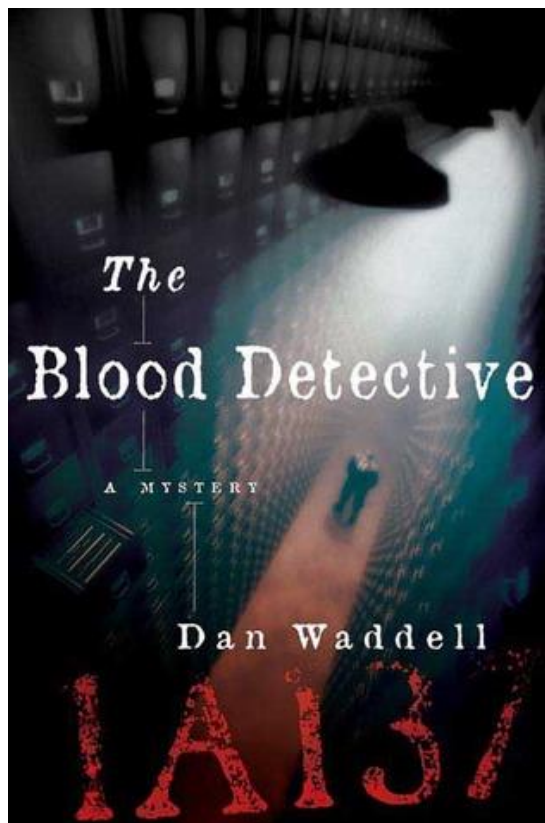
DO YOU HAVE 1820 SETTLER ANCESTORS?

If so, send me the names of the 1820 Settler you are descended from in time for the March 2020 edition of the newsletter and we might find some missing connections with other members.

ALL ABOUT BOOKS

BOOK REVIEW

The Blood Detective Dan Waddell Penguin Books 2008



Maybe I'm behind the times but I was amazed to find a detective story in the Fish Hoek Library last week by Dan Waddell. Perhaps you know his writing already and all what I'm writing here is old hat, but for me it was a wonderful discovery.

I was looking for a British detective novel to relax with. I spotted *The Blood Detective* on the Returns shelf and idly picked it up. The title sounded a bit like a "psychological-thriller-horror-on-every-page" type. The front cover had two boosts from good detective authors – Reginald Hill (Morse series) and Mark Billingham (Tom Thorne series) both of whom I enjoy reading. So, I looked on the back cover to see the blurb. Second paragraph says "...Only when the clue is handed to Nigel Barnes, a specialist in compiling family trees, that the full message becomes spine chillingly clear..."

This is a novel of revenge carried out by a descendant of an injustice carried out in 1879. It involves murder in modern day London but the only way the detectives can catch the murderer is by following the clues from 1879 via family history of original case. Nigel Barnes is sent by the detectives to Family Record Centres, Newspaper Archives and The National Archives at Kew to dig up records and make connections to the current murders.

I've always said that doing family history is like being a detective and this novel proves it! Besides a good read and a bit of a surprise ending, it also gives amateur genealogist (like us) some useful hints and clues – agreed they are for UK family history but most of us have a UK connection somewhere.

Recently I have been researched a German family who came to UK in 1870s. One of the family disappears from UK records in 1906 and I wondered if he changed his very German sounding name to an English one. In this novel the 1879 detective is a PFIZER and he changes his (I won't tell to what, because that would a spoiler). Nigel Barnes the genealogist draws out the FRC library a book by W. E. W. Phillimore and E. A. Fry, entitled *An Index of Changes of Name: 1760-1901* which is downloadable as a PDF document – just do a google search. It has now joined the other copyright free documents in my folder called Data Collections.

I have one complaint. Detective Sergeant Heather Jenkins suggests to the police inspector, Grant Foster, that some numbers scratched on the victim's body might be a volume and reference number from a birth, marriage or death in the General Registration Office. *'Have you heard of genealogy?' He thought for a second. He knew it; old people filling the last few days before death came knocking by tracing dead relatives.* My immediate response was, "What do you mean, Mr Waddell!" Then I remembered that I'm turning 70 next January so maybe he was right! How do feel about that?

I see on the internet that Dan Waddell has written two more books with Nigel Barnes, the genealogist as the 'hero'. The title are *Blood Reckoning* and *Blood Atonement*. Check online or your local library.

Talking about books, our society is blessed with a wonderful library. Many remember the days when the "library" was brought to each meeting in two green Pick 'n Pay shopping bags! On the next page is a selection available as well as an appeal to return overdue books.

Library Books on the subject of religious / church history

Short lists by subject of some the library holdings will be published in the newsletter. Full lists of all library books will be available for viewing at the Library and on the website in the (*hopefully*) near future.

<u>Missionaries / Missions</u>	
Empandeni interlude 1899-1903 : Journal of a woman missionary Josephine Bullen, SND de namur, at the turn of the century in Rhodesia / transcribed and edited by Brigid Rose Tiernan SND de Namur. - Pietermaritzburg : Cluster Publications, 2008.	266.0092 EMP
Eerw. J.C. Pauw : Stamvader van die familie Pauw in Suid-Afrika in lewe moderator van die N.G. Sendingkerk en pasent aan die sendinginstituut Wellington 'n Lewenskets / deur sy dogter Anna Pauw. - Paarl : Paarlse Drukkers, 1943.	266.0092 PAU
The Rhenish Mission Society in South Africa / by Elfriede Strassberger. - Cape Town : C.Struik, 1969.	266.00968 STR
Mission work and Mission Stations in the Western Cape 1737 - 1911. - pamphlet.	266.009687 MIS
<u>Clergy</u>	
Robert Gray : First bishop of Cape Town / Audrey Brooke. - Cape Town : Oxford University Press, 1947.	270.092 BRO
<u>Church History</u>	
A fragment of Church History at the Cape of Good Hope / edited by the publications sub committee of the Council of the South African Library: Dr F.R. Bradlow, Hon mr Justice M.A. Diemont, Prof J. du P Scholtz, Clr Mrs E.D. Stott, Dr A.M. Lewin Robinson, Mr W. Tyrell-Glynn, Mr H.J. Uys, Mrs D.L. Ivey. - Cape Town : South African Library, 1979.	276.87 FRA
<u>Anglican Churches - England</u>	
The Cathedral Church of St. Michael Coventry. - Cloister Press, 1962. - pamphlet.	283.41 CAT
A short history of the Ely Cathedral / by Seiriol Evans; illustrated with woodcuts by John F. Greenwood. - Cambridge : University Press, 1951.	283.41 EVA
The story of Lichfield Cathedral. - 1936. - 7th edition. - pamphlet.	283.41 STO
York Minster : A simple guide. - York : Herald Printing Works. - pamphlet.	283.41 YOR
York Minster Illustrated / reproduced Forty-one photographs from the publisher's collection. - York : W.J.Green.	283.41 YOR
<u>Anglican Churches – South Africa</u>	
Anglican Worship in the Constantia Valley : Celebrating 150 years of faith 1860 - 2010 / edited by Rosalind Hendry and Lorna White. - Christ Church Constantia, 2010.	283.68735 ANG
Christ Church Kenilworth : 100 years of God's Grace / edited by Ev Els. - Cape Town : Christ Church Kenilworth, 2007.	283.68735 CHR
Among the Vineyards : The Story of Christ Church, Constantia / R.R. Langham Carter.	(2 copies) 283.68735 LAN
St Andrews, Newlands : The first century 1894 - 1994 / R.R. Langham Carter. - 1994.	283.68735 LAN
St Pauls, Rondebosch : Centenary 1834 - 1934 / P.A. Millard. - Cape Town : Samuel Griffith & Co., 1934.	283.68735 MIL
	283.68737 TAP

A History of St George's Church, Knysna : In commemoration of the centenary of the consecration of the old St George's Church 3rd October 1855 / by Winifred Tapson. - Cape Town : The Standard Press, 1955.

283.68752 MAY

The Collegiate Church and Parish of St Mary Port Elizabeth : A record of Parochial history / Archdeacon A.T. Wirgman and Canon Cuthbert Edward Mayo. - London : Longmans, Green & Co., 1925.

283.68752 SEL

The history of St Katherines Church, Uitenhage / by W.P. Sellick. - 1967.

283.68752 SEY

A history of Holy Trinity Church Port Elizabeth : written for the occasion of the one hundred and twenty fifth anniversary celebrations 1857 - 1982 / by the Rev Canon W.J. Seymour. - 1982.

Other Churches – South Africa

284.168 SHO

A short history of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Strand Street, Cape Town 1780 - 1980. - Plumstead : Marantha Press, 1980.

284.268 NED

Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk, Rondebosch 1891 - 1966.

284.268 VAN

Ned. Geref. Kerk Swellendam 1798-1998 : In opdrag van die kerkraad van die Ned. Geref. Kerk Swellendam met die oog op die viering van die geemeerte se 200ste bestaansjaar / Ds Gert van Lill. - 1998.

284.668 ALE

Geskiedenis van die moraviese Kerk in Mamre : die twintigste eeu / Dorothea Alexander, Leslie E. Petersen, Martin Andrews. - 2006.

285.268 STA

St Andrews Presbyterian Church Cape Town : A Centenary Record 1829 - 1929. - Cape Town : Presbyterian Bookroom, 1929.

Islamic History - Cape

297.09687 BRA

The early Cape Muslims : A study of their mosques, genealogy and origins / Frank R. Bradlow and Margaret Cairns. - Cape Town : A.A. Balkema, 1978.

APPEAL!!!

The following books are missing or long overdue. If you have forgotten to return them please return them as soon as possible. A period of grace will be extended for long standing missing items ☺

***Slaves and free blacks at the Cape, 1658-1700* / Anna J. Boeseken.**

***Portrait of a slave society : The Cape of Good Hope 1717 - 1795* / Karel Schoeman.**

***The historical monuments of South Africa* / J.J. Oberholster and P. van Breda.**

***The coins of South Africa 1983* / Alic Kaplan.**

***Rhodes University 1904 - 1970 : A chronicle* / by R.F. Currey. - Grahamstown : 1970.**

*****P.S. we do have a record of who has which books but would like to avoid naming and shaming!!***

DO YOU HAVE FAMILY IN THE THEATRE IN SOUTH AFRICA?

Contact: ESAT

Freddy Ogterop wrote asking the following:

I am a contributing editor to ESAT, the online Encyclopaedia of South African Theatre, Film, Media and Performance - https://esat.sun.ac.za/index.php/Main_Page. Among other things, we seek to provide short biographies of the many individuals who have been active in these fields from as far back as possible. Thus, I have been delving into the family history of others, which has been a real voyage of discovery. There are many examples, but two should suffice:

https://esat.sun.ac.za/index.php/Berdine_Gr%C3%BCnewald

https://esat.sun.ac.za/index.php/F._Finch_Smiles

If any members of the CTFHS have family members, friends or neighbours who are/were involved in either theatre or film in any capacity, I would love to hear from them. There are still large gaps in ESAT and we're keen to add people and correct mistakes. I can be contacted at ogterop.freddy@gmail.com.

A SMITH BY ANY OTHER NAME IS STILL A D**MN SMITH!

by Sean Fraser

On 20 December 1875, Albert Smith, born 1852, marries in St George's Cathedral, Cape Town, the young Johanna May, of about the same age, and the couple settles in Mount Street, where their daughter Mary is born 3 months later, swiftly followed by son Albert (1879), and daughters Annie Frances (1880) and Elizabeth Catherine (1883). Nothing unusual in that, you'd think; all fairly typical for a blue-collar worker (Albert is a blacksmith) and his family in the inner city. And it is – until daughter Elizabeth marries and starts a chain of events that is hard even for seasoned family historians to fathom.



Richard Francis SMITH who married Elizabeth Catherine SMITH

In 1903, at St Mark's, the 20-year-old Elizabeth Catherine Smith marries the Middlesex-born upholsterer Richard Francis Smith. Yes, Miss Smith marries Mr Smith. But they are not related so this, too, although not common is not especially unusual. They start their family in Nelson Street: firstborn in Alfred Junior (born 1903), Elizabeth Caroline (1905), Beatrice (1907), Ethel (1909) and

Edward George (1911). And after Elizabeth is widowed in 1934 she marries, John Baines, born 1876 in, Leeds, England. And this is when things start to get a little eerie. Baines is a storeman, the widower of Wilhelmina (Minnie) Josephine ... wait for it ... Smith. Yes, John's first wife was also a Smith, the daughter of Marthinus Christiaan Lodewyk Smith and – okay, stay with me here – Mary Christina Smith, born Smith. Yes, ***born*** Smith! Uncanny, I know, but wait, there is more ...



George William SMITH, father of William Leeming SMITH



William Leeming SMITH before his marriage to Elizabeth Caroline SMITH

In the meantime, obviously, Elizabeth Catherine's adult children are themselves marrying. All well and good, until it's the turn of daughter Elizabeth Caroline. In 1926, Elizabeth Junior takes a husband, the Yorkshire-born Catholic¹,

¹ Slight correction here. The Church they married in was St Mary's **Anglican** Church in Woodstock not the Catholic one, so William Leeming Smith was not a Catholic.



Elizabeth Caroline SMITH born SMITH at the time of her marriage

William Leeming Smith. Yes, Elizabeth Smith, daughter of two Smiths and granddaughter of a Smith, in turn marries a Smith. They have only two children, William Donald and Ellen Elizabeth. And finally – finally – daughter Ellen Elizabeth Smith makes a break from tradition and marries ... a Jones. Yes, a Jones. A Jones that completely messes with the mathematics of Smith + May = Smith + Smith = Smith + Smith = Smith + Jones.



William Leeming SMITH and Elizabeth Caroline SMITH born SMITH

The Smiths, virtually all of them, as well as their Smith spouses, are buried at the Woltemade Cemetery in Maitland. Me? I've stopped searching; my fear is that progenitor Alfred Smith, the blacksmith, has similarly eye-watering ancestry.

Derek Pratt writes.....

I really need to add to Sean's story. When I started tracing my own family tree, needless to say I also started on my wife's side, Karen Pearl JONES, the only daughter of Ellen Elizabeth SMITH (see above) and Ronald Edward JONES. I asked my mother-in-law Ellen, for information on her side of the family. Knowing that she had married Ronald JONES, who had passed away the year before Karen JONES and I got married, and knowing the frequency of the surname JONES I asked her: "What's your maiden name?" To which she replied, "SMITH". Wow, I thought a SMITH and a JONES – perhaps I better go back another generation. "What about your mother's maiden name?" I asked. "SMITH," she said. "No, no. Not **your** maiden name, you **mother's** maiden name!" I responded. "Yes, also SMITH!" She continued, "I'm told by uncles and aunts that we are related to Lord Nelson of Trafalgar." In fact, Karen's mother in the 1980s had hired a family tree researcher to prove that connection, but as the cost mounted and not much before 1881 Census was produced she cancelled the search.

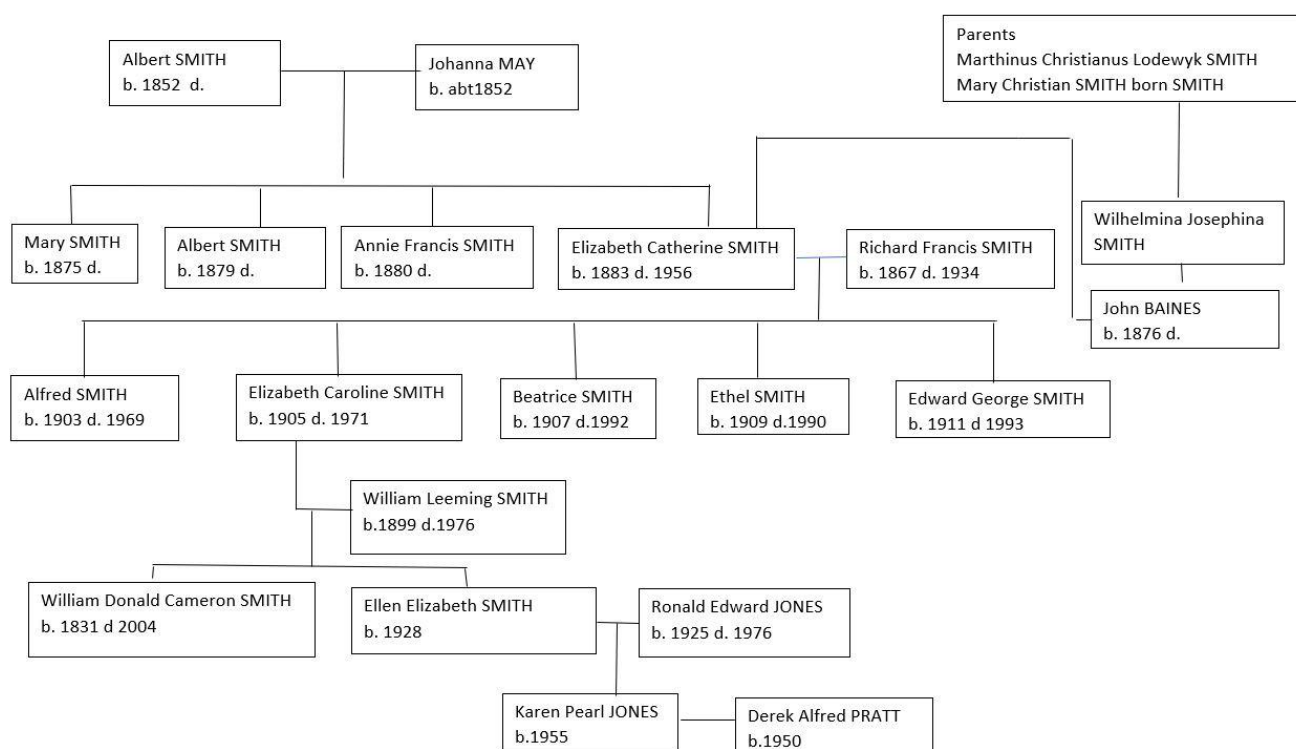


William Donald SMITH (known as Donald) and Ellen Elizabeth SMITH who married Ronald Edward JONES whose daughter Karen married Derek PRATT

I decided to leave that branch of the family tree till later... much later! Much later I had to admit I never got very far back, just to Yorkshire and that same 1881 Census. Just too many SMITH's living in Hull.

Then Sean Fraser contacted Karen PRATT's cousin Pamela ELWORTHY born SMITH. She knew that I had also done family history etc. so she asked if he was "legitimate". Then the whole story came out and Sean, who I had vaguely know as a family historian, especially in his search for Simon's Town ancestors, contacted me and gave me permission to include the above story in our Newsletter. I'm not sure if he had calculated what relation he is to my wife Karen but isn't it amazing how we all are so inter-connected.

Confused? I bet you are! If you are a visual person and need to "see" it in picture form to understand look on next page.



VAN BREDA & VAN DER BYL

Jenny Couper writes:

Just a brief line to say how thrilled I was to see the VAN DER BYL article in your June Newsletter! I, too, am a descendant of the VAN DER BYLs and your article has pointed me along a further route of discovery. I have only had time to skim over the contents but look forward to settling down to a good read and some detailed research.

Jenny added her own "one-paragraph"

The following is a precis of an interesting encounter. About twelve years ago, while living in New Zealand, I was introduced to someone who told me that her husband was half South African and that this mother's maiden name was VAN BREDA. Months later, while engaged in some research, I was absolutely "bowled over" to discover that her husband and I were cousins through the VAN BREDA/VAN DER BYL marriage all that time ago.



The view of Table Bay from *Oranjezicht*, Pieter VAN BREDA's farm.

Not only that, but by a strange quirk of coincidence, I discovered that the father of the lady's husband had been a great friend of my father's and had in fact spent a long while with us when I was a small child in the 1950s in Rhodesia. The surname of the New Zealand couple is very unusual and, since I was introduced to the lady by her full name (not just her first name as is the usual custom these days), I knew immediately that this must be a member of that family, with whom we had lost contact many years before.

1920 HEROES – THE ANTWERP SUMMER OLYMPICS

Janice Gardiner-Atkinson

1920 was not only the Centenary of the 1820 Settlers it was also the first Olympics post-World War One. Would it act as a peace-maker among nations? Janice Gardner-Atkinson explores...



The world has always needed heroes and never more so than in times of trouble. The decade before 1920 had been marked by a trouble more far-reaching and fundamental than ever before experienced by the Western world.

After the cessation of WWI (1914 – 1918) hostilities, there were heroes aplenty - the dead heroes who could only be commemorated by white crosses and grieving families, and the surviving heroes who had to cope with nightmares, Spanish flu and the burgeoning emancipation of women, amid broken economies, instability and deprivation. The old order had vanished and people were looking towards the new decade in the hopes of a lasting, never-to-be-broken peace.

So, as the roar and clamour of battle receded in the decade's final two years of gloomy peace, a process that had begun way back in 1913, was taken out, dusted off and the next Olympic Games was planned. Begun in 1896, the Games took place every four years until 1916 when it was not unnaturally cancelled due to the ongoing hostilities. However, Pierre de Coubertin (IOC

President and Founder) believed that focus on sport could encourage and enhance a peaceful re-ordering of a world devastated by war; sport could become the general panacea, and athletes the new heroes.

The Summer Olympic Games took place in the city of Antwerp, Belgium, from 14 August – 12 September, 1920. The city, like many others, had been brutalized by the war and finding venues amongst the poignant piles of rubble initiated the idea of spreading the events among 16 different venues, a practice continued on a bigger scale to this day.

Did the Games provide the much-needed heroes? It seems very likely. Although the Organizing Committee went bankrupt during the Games and no official report was produced, of the 2,626 participating athletes, 439 medals were won for 22 countries, 154 events took place and 29 participating countries were able to hail their sporting heroes.

Not everyone came to the party though. The lingering bitterness of the war meant that invitations were not extended to Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire or the newly created Soviet Union. However, Argentina, Brazil, New Zealand and Monaco participated for the first time. One wonders how many potential heroes, too young to have participated in the ferocity of a war not of their making, must have felt the coldness of this exclusion? We'll never know.

The Games provided some interesting statistics. It was the first time that the Oath was spoken, doves were released, and the brand new flag with its iconic symbol of five interlocking rings - blue, yellow, black, green and red on a white background – flew over the new stadium at Beerschott. It was also the last time it flew because the original flag went missing immediately after the closing ceremony.

The perpetrator was a young American athlete named Hal Haig Prieste who, dared by a friend, secretly climbed the pole and tore the flag down. It did not see the light of day again for 77 years, languishing at the bottom of a suitcase. In 1997, the then 101-year-old Prieste announced during an interview that he had the flag still. It was finally returned in time for the 2000 Olympics and is on display in the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland. Prieste was even given a plaque thanking him for "donating" the flag that he had stolen all those years ago. Does he count as a hero? I wonder.

The oldest Olympic medal winner ever participated in these Games. Sweden's Oscar Swahn had participated in the 1908 and 1912 games and at the age of 72, won silver in the 100 meter running deer double-shot event in 1920. For

the technical minded among readers, participants used a centrefire rifle bullet and fired at a moving target across a 20-meter-wide opening from a distance of 100 m. The deer, you will be relieved to hear, was a cardboard target pulled to simulate a running animal. Perhaps the hero in this event is actually the man who won gold, but his name is forever eclipsed by the geriatric but eagle-eyed Swahn.



American swimmer and surfing pioneer Duke Kahanamoku of Hawaii preparing to dive in his fourth Olympic Games. He won gold medals in the 100 meter freestyle event in 1912 and 1920, and was considered the "father of modern surfing".

The United States sent a women's swimming team for the first time. Previously they had refused to participate, austere pronouncing the idea of a women's swimming team as "obscene". Whoever won over the hard-liners on the swimming committee is surely a hero and showed them the equivalent of the middle finger, as the team brought home two gold medals.

So did the euphoria of the heroes of the 1920 Games help to promote peace? Hard to tell amid the turmoil of change in the 1920's decade but the regenerating spirit of the Antwerp Games helped to strengthen the long-held spirit of the Olympics which, we all hope, will continue for another 100 years.

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History at your FingerTips
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MEMORIALISATION OF WORLD WAR I IN CAPE TOWN

Own Kinahan writes:

I am researching (for publication next year) the memorialisation of World War I in Cape Town. Some definitions might help. "World War I" is ONLY the 1914 – 1918 war, not the Boer War or the second World War; "Cape Town" is the present municipal boundaries of Cape Town – Cape Point to Strand / Somerset West and Atlantis. This means that all the independent municipalities and villages pre-the 1913 unification of Cape are included. "Memorialisation" includes any record of those who served or died in action during World War I on monuments or memorials in public spaces, churches, schools, businesses, clubs and associations.

There is a remarkable survival of most memorials getting for a century on. There is a handful of schools old enough to have sent boys and some teachers to war. Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches and the Gardens Shul particularly in the City, Sea Point, Woodstock, Salt River, Observatory, Mowbray, Rosebank, Rondebosch, Claremont, Diep River, Muizenberg and Simon's Town have yielded rich results from windows, plaques, tablets, etc. I have discovered nothing in Catholic churches, Dutch Reformed or mosques with no really plausible reason for the complete absence of any reference to war or war casualties.

Sports Clubs -except the Olympic Sports Club in Rondebosch – have yielded practically nothing and indeed the state of records in most is a cause for deep concern.

My principle target area at present is the commercial world. Standard Bank in Adderley Street has been a gold mine and Old Mutual to a far lesser extent. I am appealing to members to let know if they have seen Rolls of Honour in companies, firms, department stores, professional associations etc. With very rare exceptions in-house library staff are helpful but it is quite remarkable how few even register either world war.

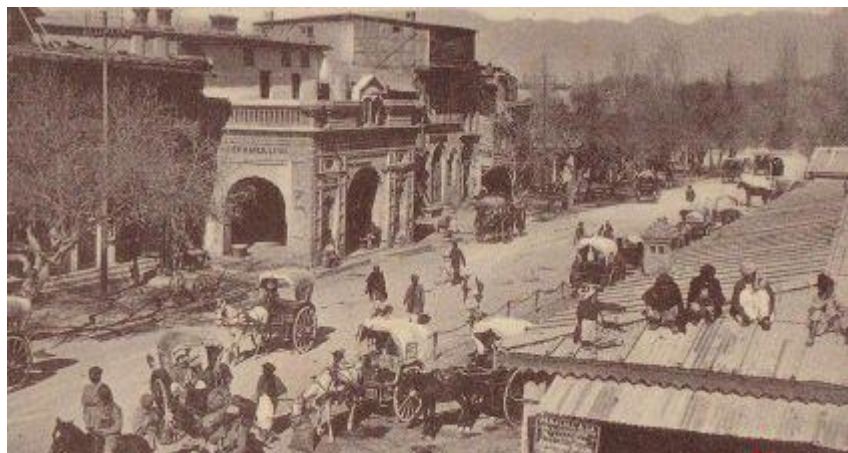
State departments or State-owned enterprises are also *terra incognita* for their in-house staff. There is a national Posts and Telegraphs memorial in Pretoria and I've track Cape Town casualties there. One of the most unforgivable

losses is the disappearance (with no intention to replace) the SAR&H Roll of Honour on the Cape Town Railway Station.

I greatly look forward to hearing from members.

owenkinahan@telkomsa.net

QUETTA EARTHQUAKE 1935



Bruce Road Quetta before the Earthquake. See this Youtube video of Indian troops doing rescue work after the Earthquake.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCI7qKPL7pE>

I was researching a friend's family when I found one of her great-aunts was listed in the 1939 Register as being a widow at the age of 44 years. She was staying with her mother and unmarried sisters together with her 19y.o. daughter whose entry was blacked-out because she was born after 1919. I wondered what had happened to Walter SAISE, her husband and father of their child. With a bit of further research, I found him dying in Quetta in India (now in Pakistan) in 1935. I found that he was a Civil Engineer working in the Public Health Department of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. He worked in the Meerut Division.

Although many civil servants who came from Britain died from diseases in the early days of the Indian Raj, by 1935 this was more unusual. Then I came across the story of the Quetta Earthquake which happened on 31 May 1935 and that was the date on which Walter SAISE died!

Quetta is 5,500 feet above sea level and is located in a very mountainous area about fifty miles from the Afghanistan border. At 3am on May 31, 1935, the city of Quetta was devastated by a severe earthquake of magnitude 7.7, lasting about thirty seconds, followed by many aftershocks. This city was razed to the ground by the earthquake and more than 30,000 people lost their lives.

British military officials immediately arranged to clear away the debris of the earthquake so that ambulance convoys could transport the injured to local dressing stations. At the same time groups of soldiers began to dig out the victims who lay under the ruins of their homes. There was little contact with the outside world as the telegraph centre had been destroyed so Quetta had to cope on its own with the disaster.

Before the earthquake, Quetta had been a British military garrison since 1876 in the area that was called Northwest Frontier. Twelve thousand soldiers were stationed there to cope with the conflicts that emerged from time to time with local warlords. Its name comes from a local dialect meaning "fort." In order to accommodate the soldiers their residences were constructed in a multi-storied fashion, which earned the city the nickname "Little London". When the earthquake struck, these buildings collapsed and many lost their lives as they came down.

The officer in charge of the garrison was Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Karlake, an experienced frontier



Tent city set up for survivors of the earthquake

specialist. His quick action both in rescue work and in reconstruction prevented an outbreak of disease. May is a hot month in Quetta and bodies had to be buried before decomposition set in.

Return of BURIALS at Quetta.
(Being an extract from the Register of Burials.)

VI

Serial No.	When Died.			Christian name.	Surname.	Age.	Quality, Trade or Profession, &c., &c.	When Buried.			Cause of Death.	Person by whom Buried.		
	Year.	Month.	Day.					Year.	Month.	Day.		Full name.	Designation.	Signature.
65	1935	May	31st	Edward	Cole.	71	Yatten-in-law of Capt H. J. Girdle, Head Master of Quetta Grammar School.	1935	June	1st	Killed in Earthquake.	E. Claydon,	Chaplain.	
66	1935	May	31st	William	Sellars.	24	Assistant in Chief Chemists.	1935	June	1st	Killed in Earthquake.	E. Claydon,	Chaplain.	
67	1935	May	31st	Jack Aubrey Frank	Shaw.	25	Sgt., Baluchistan Police.	1935	June	1st	Killed in Earthquake.	E. Claydon,	Chaplain.	
68	1935	May	31st	Unknown ? mil	Unknown believed to be Duke.	Unknown	Unknown.	1935	June	1st	Killed in Earthquake.	E. Claydon,	Chaplain.	
69	1935	May	31st	Barbara	Francis.	Unknown	Mrs. H. L. Francis, Deputy Engineer, H. D. Baluchistan.	1935	June	1st	Killed in Earthquake.	E. Claydon,	Chaplain.	
70	1935	May	31st	Walter	Saise.	Unknown	Executive Engineer First Division, P.W.D. Merut.	1935	June	1st	Killed in Earthquake.	E. Claydon,	Chaplain.	
71	1935	May	31st	Jean	White.	3 1/2	Daughter of Mrs White, Driver, N.W.R.	1935	June	1st	Killed in Earthquake.	E. Claydon,	Chaplain.	
72	1935	May	31st	Malcolm	White.	8 mths	Son of Mr White, Driver, N.W.R.	1935	June	1st	Killed in Earthquake.	E. Claydon,	Chaplain.	

I, _____ do hereby certify that the above are true and faithful copies of all entries in the Register of Burials kept at _____ as therein entered and made between the _____ day of _____ and the _____ day of _____ 19____.

The entire return contains _____ entries.

Place _____ Date the _____ day of _____ 19____.

Signature _____ Designation _____

The Burial returns for Quetta after the Earthquake. Walter Saise is entry #70

Within three hours of the earthquake, that is to say between 3am and 6am on May 31, Karlake had divided up the devastated area into sections, allocated a group of soldiers to each section and told them to do everything possible to save lives and help the injured. They rescued people from the debris, moved in supplies, kept law and order, ran medical services, and set up a refugee camp on the open ground.

Much of the work was done before breakfast! Only a military organization could have done it. The dead were laid out on the side of the road and collected in carts for burial and a separate group of soldiers had earlier been given the task of digging graves. Rescue work went on steadily throughout the day. By 8pm it was dark and everything stopped.

From Passenger lists I found Walter SAISE's wife had left the UK for India in September 1934 and returned home in August 1935. This means she was in India during the earthquake. Was she with Walter at Quetta and survived the earthquake? Or was he away on business at Quetta while his wife was in a safer place? I think this requires some more research.