

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2019 No 4

March and June 2020

EDITORIAL

Corona virus COVID19 has caused chaos in our lives. All the meetings for the CTFHS from March onwards have been cancelled. Even once we are allowed to meet again, will our members be willing to gather in a social group? I remembered a book I reviewed in a previous Newsletter where one of the characters asks 'Have you heard of genealogy?' The hero thinks for a second. Then said that he knew it and goes on to say it was '...old people filling the last few days before death came knocking by tracing dead relatives.'!!! Well, that does make us genealogists particularly vulnerable to COVID19.

The chaos also has led to me failing to send out a March 2020 Newsletter. At first, I had no articles submitted, then just as a few members sent me articles, the lockdown began and my second job of priest-in-charge at St Francis of Assisi, Simon's Town took on a different flavour. Somehow or other I had to continue doing Sunday Services for the parishioners without meeting them. So began a quick lesson in making and editing videos to place on Youtube. Can I give a plug for the video editor I learnt to use Wondershare Filmora9. Very simple to do quite complex film editing.

This, however, left little time to prepare the Newsletter. With everyone stuck at home, suddenly they started cleaning up their computers and found the research they had begun many years before on their family history. "Let's ask Derek Pratt to carry on the research" seemed to be their immediate response! Earning a bit of extra cash to add to my pension was helpful but it prevented me getting down to editing and sending out this Newsletter.

But now the moment has arrived. A few members have responded with their 1820 Settler Histories and will use these in the next Newsletter. But, others have submitted an interesting mixed bag of members' family histories.

TOO EARLY TO BE AN 1820 SETTLER (BY 7 YEARS)

A family link in the history of that era to Grave (now Parliament) Street and Church Square

By Paul Schlapoff

My maternal great-great-grandfather, John Maximilian Bendall originally from England, is listed as a resident of Cape Town in 1815, having arrived from Saint Helena in 1813 as a passenger aboard the slave ship *Maria* with his eldest son John Maximilian junior. His wife followed in 1814 aboard the *Bonetta* with their second and youngest son Richard, as

women were not allowed to sail on slave ships and because the boy was only 14 months old when John had sailed. The residence in 1815 is given as No. 13 Grave Street Cape Town, before the family moved to Leeuwen Street in 1816. (Now renamed Schotsche Kloof)

Jump ahead by about 115 years to around 1929 and John's granddaughter, Stella born 1912, is working as an apprentice milliner for Hilliard's Store situated on Church Square on Grave Street. She would not have known about the coincidence. The photo of the staff was taken in about 1933 around the time when her



Church Square, Showing Hilliard's Store



The Staff of Hilliard's Store, 1933

work colleague was dating someone. It was suggested that Stella accompany them on a date with her partner's brother and later the two couples were to marry. The brothers were Johannes and George Schlaphoff, my father.

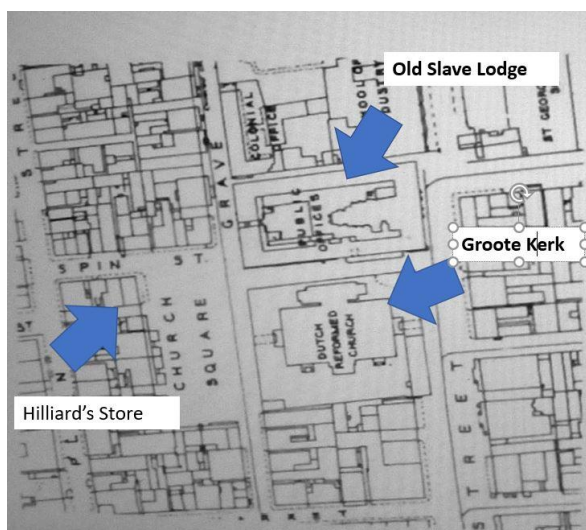
Discovering photos of Grave Street and Church Square posted on facebook stimulated my interest in finding out more about these places.

Groote Kerk is a Dutch Reformed Church and is the oldest Christian place of worship in South Africa, with the first church on this land was built in 1678. The first colonists at the Cape of Good Hope from 1652 relied on a lay

preacher named Willem Wylant, preaching in the fort and the first communion was held in 1653 by a visiting pastor, the Rev.

Johannes Backerus. Burials had been performed since 1677 inside the Castle but the space taken up by the graveyard was now required for other purposes. Commander Johan Bax and his Council then set aside a suitable area in the Company's garden for a suitable burial ground and it was on this land on which the Groote Kerk now stands. Foundations were laid but 25 years passed by before the "proper church" was built and the first sermon was preached in 1695. By 1699 alterations and a new building were planned and the first stones laid in December 1700.

While the altered church was being built, the graveyard was restored as it had become "a scandalous spectacle" and Abraham Hartog was contracted to build a wall around it. Inside the church provision was made for about 180 numbered vaults and could be purchased and nearly all people of standing of those times are buried there. The church had become too small for the congregation so work began to enlarge the church in 1779 by pushing out the four corners with the roof retaining its cruciform shape.



Church Square and Grave Street. The slave lodge was on one side of the square that was created in the early 1700s when plots were cut back to make way for a public square where the slaves could be paraded. This incorporated the land that had been allocated for the graveyard and also created space for a street connecting Strand up to the top of the Company's Gardens. The square was named Church Square after the Groote Kerk and the street named Grave (or Graaf) Street as it passed through what had been the church's graveyard.

The Houses of Parliament of South Africa buildings consist of three main sections – the original building completed in 1884 with additions built in the 1920's and 1980's plus a new construction for the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces.

Bordering on Grave Street with the upper part of the street being incorporated into the government property, it was renamed in the early 1900's to Parliament Street.



In 1893, Cape Town's old Opera House was built on the corner of Grave and Darling Streets and its first-floor restaurant was for many years one of the most popular dining establishments in the city. It was demolished in 1937 and the General Post Office was built before the present Standard Bank building was extended from Adderley Street through to the now named Parliament Street. Today the lower end of Parliament Street that connected to Strand Street is partly a walk-way that leads into the Golden Acre Shopping Mall.

Church Square. Grave Street (now Parliament St) on right

said if they knew of the link between them of a street separated by over a century in time?

A coincidence: What would the great-grandfather and his granddaughter have



The Opera House on the corner of Parliament and Darling Streets. [I wonder what The Cape Register is?]

DIGGING A LITTLE DEEPER! By Derek Pratt

Paul Schlaphoff opened his article with a mention of **John Maximilian BENDALL** who arrived in the Cape in 1813. Peter Philip's wonderful *British Residents at the Cape 1795-1819* David Philip (Cape Town: 1981) contains so much information on British settlers (and those just passing through) pre-1820 that I thought I'd add to Paul's article by exploring a bit more about John Maximilian BENDALL, which I'm sure he has done for himself already but my own curiosity was piqued. Hopefully, this will help those who have used Philip's book to understand the lay-out.

Firstly, the Philip's entry for John Maximilian BENDALL:

BENDALL, John Maximilian. 28.12.13 Mr B, 'English merchant from St Helena' and child arr. TB in 'Maria' ex St Helena (99/25). 8.5.14 Mrs B arr. TB in 'Bonetta' ex St Helena (103/25). 29.1.14 Messrs B & Schonegeval offer lessons in mathematics (25). 1814-20 J M B, English School (21). 1815 at 13 Grave St (22), 20.7.16 moves to 19 Leeuwen St(25). 1818 at 41 Loop St. 1818-20 at 36 Long St (22). 18.2.16 bapt. (Rev. Hewett) of Sarah Ann, d.o.J B, British inhabitant, and his wife Eleanor, born 19.1.16 (30). 10.4.18 J M B, 36 Long St, selling furniture & household effects. 11.4.18 J M B & Andrew Braid fined 25 Rds for violence against Robert Pace (25). 12.4.18 bapt. (Rev. Hough) of his daughter, Eleanor Sophia Penelope (24/25). 8.8.18 J M B's English Mathematical School moves to 36 Long St (25). 5.3.20 bapt. (Rev. Dennis) of his son William Henry (24/25).

Those numbers in brackets are footnotes or endnotes- they refer the reader to certain sources. These are fairly generalised source-references as you can imagine to give date and page to every newspaper reference will mean more pages for footnotes than for the text and one can usually work out the date of the newspaper from the entry.

Let me break this entry down, piece by piece

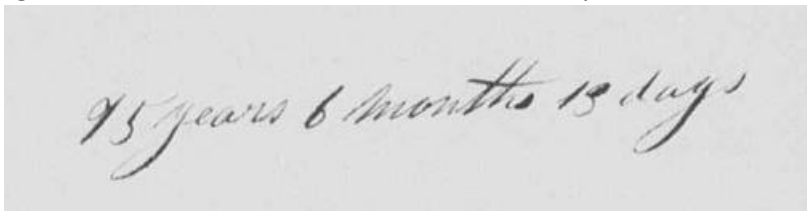
1. The date **28 Dec 1813** after his name is when he arrived at the Cape and goes on to quote from two sources, (99/25). These are CO 6081 and *Cape Town Gazette and African Advertiser*. Mr Bendall, 'English Merchant from St Helena and child arrived in Table Bay in the *Maria* from St Helena.'
2. Next date **8 May 1814** is when his wife arrived, 'Mrs Bendall arrived in Table Bay on *Bonetta* also from St Helena' and once again the source is *Cape Town Gazette and African Advertiser* and this time CO 6085 – (ref. 105/25).
3. The *Cape Town Gazette and African Advertiser* carried an advert on **29 Jan 1814** for Messr Bendall and Schonegeval offering mathematical lessons. Ref. (25)
4. **1814-1820** *The African Court Calendar* listed John Maximilian Bendall's English School. Ref. (21)
5. In **1815** *African Court Calendar Directory* gives Bendall's address as 13 Grave Street. (See Paul's article above for a description of where that was). Ref. (21)
6. On **20 Jul 1816** Bendall moved to 19 Leeuwen Street according to *Cape Town Gazette and African Advertiser*. Ref. (25)
7. According to the *African Court Calendar* of **1818** Ref. (22) he was at 41 Loop Street
8. According to the Directory of the *African Court Calendar* for **1818-1820** Ref. (25) the Bendall family were at 36 Long Street.
9. Philip then goes through the Church Records and reports Archive file **A 1939 1/1/1** gives that on **18 Feb 1816** the baptism by the Rev. John Short Hewett of Sarah Ann, daughter of John Bendall, British inhabitant, and his wife Eleanor. Sarah Ann was born **19 Jan 1816**. [Additional note: The Rev John Short Hewitt was born in Bengal India and was ordained 1803 after attending Cambridge University. He came with Lord Charles Somerset to the Cape to be chaplain to the Forces in 1814 and served as Colonial chaplain during the leave of the Rev Mr Jones, from Sep 1814 to Mar 1816. He returned to the UK in 1816. This is from Andries William de Villiers, *Messengers, Watchmen and Stewards* University of Witwatersrand Library (Johannesburg: 1998) p253]
10. The *Cape Town Gazette and African Advertiser* also reported on **10 Apr 1818** that J M Bendall of 36 Long St, was selling furniture & household effects. The next day he, together with Andrew Braid were fined 25 Rixdollars for violence against Robert Pace. [Aside: Was Bendall selling his furniture in anticipation of a fine to be paid? I wonder why they attacked poor Robert Pace? I'm sure there is an article here for our Newsletter. There are 22 entries for Robert PACE on NAAIRS, most seem to be him moaning about something or other – I start feeling more sympathetic towards Mr BENDALL!]
11. Two further children are listed in Philip's book as being baptised in this period (up to 1820). The first was on **12 Apr 1818** baptised by the Rev. George Hough. She was a daughter, Eleanor Sophia Penelope BENDALL.

The on **5 Mar 1820** the Rev. Dennis baptised Bendall's son William Henry. These two baptised are mentioned in *The Cape Town Gazette and African Advertiser* and in the archive file **A 1939 1/1/1**. [Additional note: The Rev **George Hough** became Colonial Chaplain in Simon's town in **1813** and Colonial Chaplain Cape Town in **1817**. He continued to work at the Cape right up to **1847** before returning to UK. He died in Reigate in **1867**. (ibid...Messengers p.254). The Rev **Nathaniel Robert Dennis** arrived at the Cape in **1817** and was acting Chaplain in Simon's Town **1817-1818**. He acted as Colonial Chaplain Cape Town during the leave of the Rev George Hough **1819-1821**. He returned to UK in **1823**. His actual death is not known but he no longer appears on Clergy lists from 1841. (ibid...Messenger p246)]

Then, in my lockdown boredom, I thought I'd search a bit further on John Maximilian BENDALL.

I found a few entries for him

1. In SA Settlers: <http://www.southafricansettlers.com/?p=29406>
 - a. This site gives the names of the following Children:
 - i. John Maximilian BENDALL jun. must have been the child who travelled with John Maximilian BENDALL sen. to the Cape in 1813.
 - ii. Richard BENDALL must have come to the Cape with his mother in 1814
 - iii. Sarah Ann, Eleanor Sophia Penelope and William Henry were born at the Cape and baptised here.
2. On www.familysearch.org I found that on 31 Jan 1845 William Henry BENDALL married Martha Agnes WARD in the DRC Cape Town. He was 25y and she was 22y.
3. **Death of John Maximilian BENDALL in 1857.** The Death Notice makes quite sad reading.
 - a. There is no signature on the DN but under 'Birth Place' all that is entered is 'Uncertain'
 - b. No names of parents are given
 - c. Age at death looks like either 95 or 75. What do you think?



- i. If it is 95years, 6month and 13 days. Quick calculation – his Date of Birth would be 1761. That means he was 49y when first child born and 61y when last.
 - ii. I think this is 75y and therefore born 1781 with children born when he was 29y, and 41 for last child. [Later I found him in a family tree on ancestry.co.uk born 'about 1780']
 - d. His occupation is given as Schoolmaster which fits in with Philip's entries. I wonder what happened to 'Merchant' when he arrived from St Helena. Or did Merchant mean basically any person from the UK?
 - e. He is widower. His wife was Eleanor. I found on ancestry.co.uk that she was **Eleanor Des Fontein** and she married John Maximilian BENDALL at St James's Church St Helena on **25 Sep 1810**. That same source tells me that she died in 1832.
 - f. His place of death is given as Somerset Hospital 'on government expense' which perhaps indicates that he was penniless.
 - g. Only two children appear on the DN. W. H BENDALL – William Henry BENDALL (1820-18??) and E. C. BENDALL who is Edward Charles James BENDALL (1821-1890)
 - h. Under property it merely says: 'None'
4. **Other children:**
 - a. I found that two of John BENDALL's sons joined the army.
 - i. John Maximilian BENDALL jun. joined the Cape Mounted Rifles in 1831. He was discharged with chronic rheumatism in 1839 and placed on the Chelsea Hospital Pensioner roll. This entry says he was 29y with 8y and 2 months service. His character was 'indifferent' [what faint praise!]. His occupation given as saddler. He was 5' 6" with black hair dark eyes and dark complexion [sounds like Heathcliff from Wuthering Heights!] The ancestry.co.uk source says he died in 1875.

- ii. The other son who joined the army was Richard BENDALL, the same source from above – a family tree on ancestry.co.uk – says that he joined the Indian Army lying about his age saying he was 20 (in 1828) when he was only 18y and it says he died at Berhampore, Calcutta, West Bengal in 1830.
- b. Daughters Sarah Ann (d. 1818) and Eleanor Sophie Penelope (d 1820) were both two years old when they died.

I'm sure we all remember the song about "The Laughing Policeman". Mick Shaw is pretty confident that the PC modelled for the song spent time in Cape Town!

POLICE CONSTABLE JOHN WILLIAM STEPHENS

Mick Shaw



It is my understanding that the story of this constable has been written in part but not as a complete story of his life. Therefore, in this article, I have attempted to do this. My research started towards the end of 2019 when I discovered that some of his life had been spent in South Africa. During January and February 2020 my wife and I had booked our bi-annual trip to Cape Town, South Africa so I thought while I was there, I would see if I could do some research. I was largely unsuccessful as the records in the South African National Archives in Cape Town did not start as early as John Stephens' time there. I was equally unsuccessful with the newspapers. I found that there was a Family History Society in Cape Town so I emailed them to see if they could help and they were able to come up with a little more information that would help in my research.

John William Stephens was born on the 10th June 1861 at Attleborough, Warwickshire to Joseph and Sarah. Both his mother and father were silk weavers. They already had one son, Thomas, and two years after John was born they had a daughter, Mary. The family lived at 12 Calais Street, Leicester.

John William Stephens enlisted in the Royal Artillery at Portsmouth on the 15th December 1877. He was 20 years and 6 months old. His description at the time was given as 5 feet 8 ¼ inches tall with a fresh complexion and grey eyes. After his initial training at the Royal Artillery Depot, Woolwich, he was posted to the

Number 10 Battery, 7th Brigade Royal Artillery. The 7th Brigade's responsibilities included manning the UK coastal forts between Plymouth and Portsmouth, including the Channel Islands. Normally a coastal brigade would serve five years in the UK and five years overseas but within a year John found himself in Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Madagascar, which had been under British rule since 1810. The Anglo Zulu war in South Africa started in January 1879 between King Cetshwayo and the British led by Lieutenant-General Lord Chelmsford who invaded Zululand to enforce British demands. The British were heavily defeated at Isandlwana on the 22nd January but gained some credence after the battle at Rorke's Drift. On the 11th February the news reached London of the defeat at Isandlwana and reinforcements were requested. On the 13th March 1879 John Stephens' Battalion was sent to Natal, South



Africa as part of the reinforcements. The Battery was armed with 27 pounder guns but were converted over to Gatling Guns. These were the first Gatling Guns armed Batteries in the British Army, which in the end was some help in completely defeating the Zulus. Nearly 500 Zulus were killed and more than 1,000 badly wounded in the final battle. Lord Chelmsford ordered that the Royal Kraal at Ulundi be burned. The Zululand capital burned for days. It is likely John Stephens would have been a witness to this event in history.

For his period in South Africa on this occasion, along with all other participants, John Stephens was later to receive the military campaign medal. In the photograph of him on the first page you can see him proudly displaying his medal. One very similar is also shown on the first page.



British Gatling guns, 1879. Photograph by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilfred Anderson, 1879.

The regiment remained in Natal until 15th October 1879 when it was returned to Mauritius. John was granted good conduct pay on three occasions during his service. The first time was on the 15th December 1879 on his return to Mauritius. Remaining there until the 15th September 1880 they returned to South Africa and were based in Cape Town Castle. King Cetshwayo, after his capture, was imprisoned in the castle. He remained there until 1882 when he was permitted to travel to London. John would have most certainly seen him and probably took his turn in guarding the once King of the Zulus.

When off duty John would have spent a considerable time in and around the Cape Town area and it was here that he met his wife Sarah Anne Cooke. Sarah was born at Rondebosch in the Cape Colony in 1858. They were married on the 16th January 1883 in the Magistrates Court in Cape Town. They were assigned married quarters in the castle.

During their time in Cape Town John and Sarah started a family. Their daughter Edith Sarah was born 1882 and William followed in 1885. Both children were baptised at Cape Town Castle.

I said earlier that John received good conduct pay on three occasions. His second was on 23rd April 1882 and the third on the 23rd April 1884. His service record as a gunner in the Royal Artillery appears to have been very good.

The family remained in Cape Town until 5th January 1886 when they all arrived in England where, it appears, they lived at Fort Rowen, Gosport. It was here he mustered out of the army on the 14th December 1886 after 10 years' eventful service.

John embarked on a new career, joining the Leicester Borough Police, so out of one uniform and into another. He was issued with the collar number 83. The family moved into police accommodation at 70 Chatham Street, Leicester and

in April 1889 their son Joseph Henry was born but sadness was to hit the family in July that year when they lost their first son William who was aged just 3 years old.



Pictured here is John's wife Sarah

In October 1890 Charles and Sarah were blessed with a son Charles Arthur and in 1900 their family was complete with the birth of a daughter Florence.

PC 83 John Stephens was a well-known figure in Leicester and was hard to miss at five feet 8 inches tall and at one time weighing in at 24 stones which made him the heaviest serving policeman in England. He gained the nickname "*Tubby*". Described by many people as good humoured and jovial, he was liked by most of the residents of Leicester. He had a classic way of dealing with loiterers known as the "*chess move*". He would say to anyone loitering "*Do you play chess?*" "*Well it's your move!*" and if they did not move on quick enough, he would bump the loiterer along with his rather round stomach.

They would eventually get the message. Leicester Daily Post described him as *the familiar spectacle of PC*

Stephens' stalwart figure on point duty at the bottom of Belvoir Street or at the Clock Tower. He was one of the best exponents of the art of point duty that one is likely to come across. He had been featured in the illustrated press and on picture postcards as the heaviest constable in the country. It was said that many people would flock to see this larger than life bobby and celebrities who were performing in Leicester, or travelling football supporters, would seek him out just to say that they had met PC Tubby Stephens, the pride of Leicester. Post cards were made of him, such was his appeal. Just before his illness his weight was recorded as being just over 23 stone. (about 150kg)

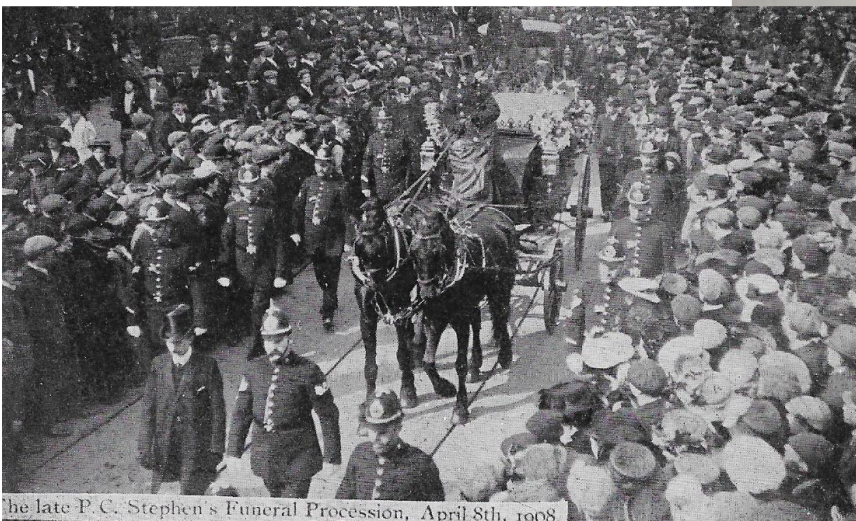
On the morning of Saturday 4th April 1908 John Stephens died of heart disease at his home, 84 Codben Street. He had been ill for some three weeks before his death.

On the day of his funeral - Wednesday 8th April - crowds of people assembled to see the cortege which left the family home flanked by 20 uniformed constables of the Leicester Borough Police and led by Inspector Richard Smith Cole. It made its way through the town and past his point duty

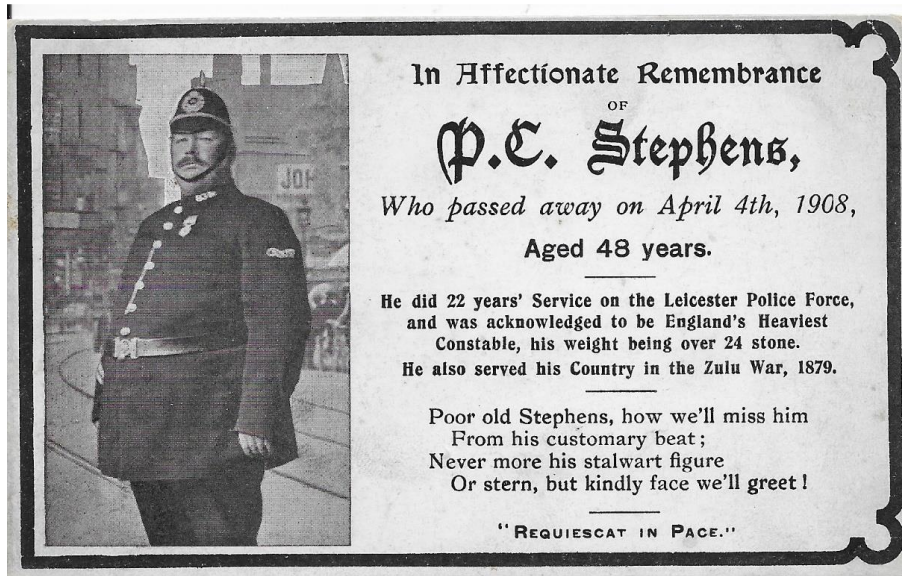


location at the Clock Tower and the main Police Station in Horsefair Street to Welford Road Cemetery. Amongst the mourners was Leicester Borough Chief Constable Theodore Geary, followed by his widow Sarah and their three children, Edith, Joseph and Florence. It was said that the route was lined by 20,000 people, all wishing to pay their respects.

John William Stephens was laid to rest in an unmarked grave in Welford Road cemetery.



The late P.C. Stephen's Funeral Procession, April 8th, 1908



After his death it is said that in 1922 the music hall entertainer Charles Penrose introduced the song "*The Laughing Policeman*". Although it has never been verified that this popular tune was based on John Tubby Stephens, many associated the song with the jolly policeman from Leicester.

PC John William Stephens' grave in the cemetery was unmarked. Historians believe this was because his family did not own the plot. Volunteer Police Archivist Neil Bell found out about the unmarked grave and wanted to get a headstone to commemorate this well-known and jovial policeman. Neil traced living descendants. The Barker

family now owned the plot and had family members buried there. Permission from the family was granted and Leicestershire Police Federation commissioned a stonemason to create a headstone to commemorate PC John Stephens and others buried there.

Neil said "Whatever the reason, I felt that it was a travesty that one of our most famous and popular constables did not have a memorial stone. I mentioned this to the Chief Constable who agreed, and asked if I would arrange one. With tremendous support and assistance from Malcolm Mills of Leicester Police Federation, the Barker family and the Friends of Welford Road Cemetery, I am extremely happy that we have now rectified this".



On Friday the 1st December 2017 Leicester Police was joined by more than 30 members of the community at Welford Road Cemetery for the dedication of a headstone to mark the final resting place of PC John 'Tubby' Stephens.

"Poor old Stephens, how we will miss him from his customary beat. Never more his stalwart figure or stern, but kindly face we'll greet"

As I said at the beginning, the story of this constable has previously been written in part but not as a complete story of his life so, in this article, I have attempted to do this. I had considerable help from Neil Bell and I spent some time on the Ancestry and British Newspaper Archives website. This is the first article I have researched partly in Cape Town, South Africa which is kind of second home for my wife and I. I also had some help from the Cape Town Family History Society.

WHY WAS A KRUGER PARK HISTORIC SITE NAMED AFTER THOMAS HART OF WYNBERG?

Mike Hart has been following up the history of Thomas Hart, his great-great-uncle, but quite a few mysteries still remain. He first covers what he has found out about Thomas' early life – very little, he says!

In the early 1840's two brothers, Edwin and Stephen Hart, left their home town of Newick in East Sussex, and started a new branch of the Hart family in Cape Town. They both appeared in 1841 census records in Sussex, but no record of their departure or arrival in South Africa has yet been found.

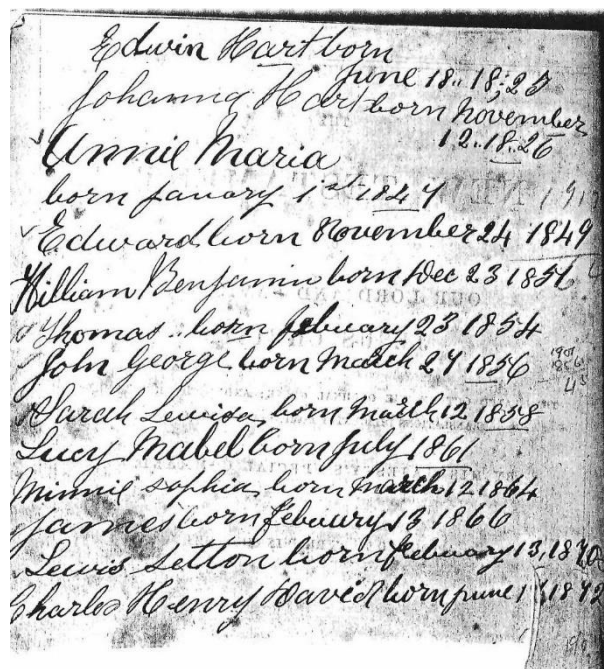
The records of St Paul's Church, Rondebosch show that in June 1847 Edwin Hart, a butcher residing in "Three Cups" married Johanna Philippina Hendrina Kroissa, a servant from Cape Town.

In case you don't know what/where Three Cups was, we will first explain that.



This Inn on the Welgelegen Estate on the lower slopes of Devils Peak, established in 1723, was initially called Varietas Delectat. But on 20 July 1724, two "Europeans" on the farm were killed by three slaves. They were executed, and their heads were impaled and placed at the crossroads as a warning to others. The Inn and the area around it subsequently became known as "Drie Coppen" / "Driekoppen" ('The Three Heads'). But the English later mis-translated it as "The Three Cups". The Driekoppen tavern itself was acquired in the late 1830s by George Holloway who had also emigrated from Sussex, England. The village of

Driekoppen was renamed Mowbray in the 1850's, and the Inn later became the Mowbray Hotel, on the corner of Main Rd and Rhodes Avenue, Mowbray. It closed in 1992 and was converted into offices, and is now occupied by UCT.



Thomas Hart's Birth

In an old family bible, I found a list of Edwin and Johanna's children, written perhaps by Edwin. Thomas Hart was the fourth of their 11 children, born on 23 February 1854.

Thomas was baptised in St Paul's Church, Rondebosch on 26 March 1854. Edwin was then a servant in Rondebosch.

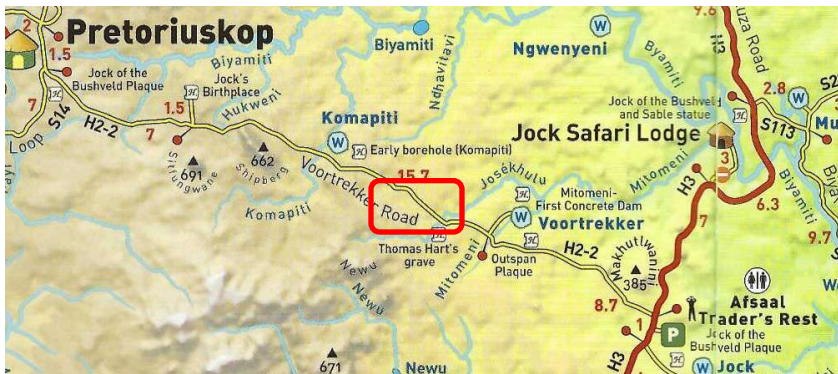
In the next few years we could see from baptismal records that Edwin's place of residence and occupation changed a bit. By 1861 he had become a gardener in Rondebosch. In 1864 he was a butcher again, now in Mowbray and with Wilhelmina baptised this time in St Peters church. In

1866 the next baptism took place at St Saviours Church, Claremont, where he was a "labourer". The following baptism was also in St Saviours, with Edwin a gardener now in Wynberg. The baptism of their last child Charles Henry David in June 1872, was in St Johns Church, Wynberg, with Edwin a gardener living in "Wynberg Flats". Edwin Hart died on 14 June 1887 in Willows Cottage, Wynberg, and his wife Johanna died on 8 July 1915 at the corner of Piers Rd and Sussex Rd, Lower Wynberg. They are both buried in St John's Church Cemetery, off Church Street, Wynberg.



Thomas Hart must therefore have moved around a few of the Southern Suburbs of Cape Town with his family. But I have so far found out nothing more about Thomas Hart's early life until close to his sad demise in 1876 at the age of 22. Much has been written about that, but accounts vary a lot, as we shall see.

The first reference I found indicated that in 1876 he had been murdered and seemed to have been buried in Pilgrim's Rest, Transvaal. I was busy at the time but thought that I should really follow that up. Shortly after that we co-incidentally had a family trip to the Kruger Park, and on the last evening while at the Bergendal Camp, my son said "Hey Dad, I see on this map there is a Thomas Hart's Grave on the "Jock of the Bushveld Trek" Route." Suddenly things came together. We had a plane to catch the next day, but we worked out that the site was an hour's drive away, and if we didn't stop *en route* we could just get there and back in time.



We set out the next morning as the camp gates opened, turned left at the Afsaal Trader's Rest on to the old Voortrekker Road and after an hour there was Thomas Hart's grave on our left. (With little time for photos we passed six different groups of rhino, 21 in all!)

The memorial plaque reads:

"Prior to 1876 Thomas Hart established an overnight station here, at Josikhulu Drift, for Black bearers who carried trade goods from Delagoa Bay to Pretoriuskop. He was murdered here by a band of Black robbers on 10th August 1876 and buried near his trading post by friendly Swazi warriors (vide stone memorial cairn)". NOTE: We shall see later that this was not entirely correct.



Following those details up on our return I came across Thomas Hart's

Death Notice.

1889

Name Thomas Hart.

Age 22 years (Twenty two.)

Place of death Murdered by Kaffirs.

Nationality English. Parents reside in Wynberg near Cape Town.

Residence Joubert's Hope, Station of the Lourenço Marques and South African Republic Transport Service.

Estate Wages due by the L.M. & S.A.R. Transport Service and "Good for" of A.H. Nellmapius of £100.

Married or unmarried Unmarried.

*Pilgrims Rest
Sept. 11 1896.*

*T. J. Bantjes
Sheriff*

*Gold Commissioner
Pilgrims Rest
Before Joubert's Hope
Friday November 10th 1896
Gold Commissioner
Meeting of Executors and Creditors
for the Intestate Estate of Thomas Hart
Miner deceased*

*Parents
Mr James Birch (representing the Lourenço
Marques and South African Republic
Transport Service Limited) and
William Hart brother of the deceased.*

*The Sheriff reported that the only assets
in the estate were a Good For, for £100 (a
hundred pounds) and a gross wage
due from the L.M. and S.A.R. Service
Limited.*

No debts proved

*A Contra claim amounting to £54.6
due to the L.M. & S.A.R. Service was
mentioned by the Acting Manager
Mr Birch*

*William Hart brother of the deceased
put in power of Attorney from Edwin
Hart of Wynberg the father of the
deceased, authorising William Hart
to act for him (with power of
Downloaded from <http://www.industry.gov.za>)*

Death Notice. This confirmed his date of death, that he was unmarried, and that he was "my" Thomas Hart, with his parents living in Wynberg.

The Court of the Gold Commissioner in Pilgrims Rest also met on 10 November 1896 to deal with Thomas Hart's intestate estate. William Hart, Thomas' elder brother attended the meeting, having been given power of attorney by their father Edwin Hart. This raised another question: Was William also then resident in the area, perhaps as a gold miner?

I then found a more colourful account of Thomas Hart's situation and death in T.V. Bulpin's 1983 book "Lost Trails of the Transvaal":

How did a young man from Wynberg end up as a "station master" in the middle of the bush, and get murdered? Did he really live this "Robinson Crusoe" life, with all these varied animals?

Along the whole of the tsetse run, no man lived save a few malaria-stricken African hunters. On the map of the day a number of "stations" were marked on this portion of the road: one at Coopers-Daal, with H. Pearce appointed as stationmaster; one at Ludwigslust, with J. Birch in charge; one at Joubert's Hoop, and one at Pretorius Kop; but nobody could be induced to stay in them for long. At Joubert's Hoop one quaint and favourite character lived for a while. Thomas Hart was his name. He had a shack there in the wilds, a tiny place surrounded by bush, with the path twisting in and then vanishing again. In the shack Hart lived a Robinson Crusoe life in the friendly company of a crowd of pets. Monkeys, parrots, jackals, a porcupine, a ratel, a cheetah, and even one or two snakes lived together in tolerable domestic bliss. Then, on the morning of the 10th August 1896, a band of freebooting African raiders came along the path. In the door of his hut, where Hart stood to receive them, they killed him. They looted and burned the shack and then vanished into the wilderness, while the bewildered animals stood around their fallen master for a little while and then, one by one, slipped silently back into the bush.

Thomas had been employed by the Lourenço Marques and South African Republic Transport Service, and was due a year's wages and also a £100.00 "Good for" from A.H. Nellmapius.

What was this company (the LM & SAR Transport Service Ltd.), and who was Nellmapius?

Alois Hugo Nellmapius was a South African businessman, industrialist and pioneer conservationist. Born in Budapest, Hungary in 1847, he trained as a civil engineer, and after working in several European countries decided to move to Southern Africa. After his arrival in 1873 he first worked as a miner in the Kimberley diamond fields, and was then given a job as manager of the Pilgrim's Rest terminus of a transport company to the new Goldfields. He became a successful entrepreneur, owner of many mining claims, justice of the peace, and vegetable grower there, and was also appointed Vice-Consul for Portugal on the Goldfields. A transport route between the Goldfields and the port of Delagoa Bay (later Lourenço Marques, and now Maputo) was very desirable, but had proved unsuccessful because of the tsetse fly that killed the oxen, and the fever that the white population contracted.



Nellmapius made many very good contacts at a high level, including President Burgers of the Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek

LORENZO MARQUES AND S. A. REPUBLIC
TRANSPORT SERVICE

GIVE notice that the following Stations on the route from Lorenzo Marques to the Gold-Fields are now established:

Station No.	Station Name	Miles from Lorenzo Marques	Station Master
No. 3.	Progresso do Guedes	51	R. LEMKE.
No. 4.	Castilopolis	47	W. BOLT.
No. 5.	Opopera-daal	55	H. PRASCH.
No. 6.	Ludwigslust	71	J. BIRCH.
No. 7.	Joubertshoop	88	T. HART.
No. 8.	Pretoria Kop	104	J. FELDCHAY.

At Copersdal and Ludwigslust—Medical Attendance.

Station No. 2: Campos de Carvo, 16 miles from Lorenzo Marques } will shortly be established, and
 No. 9. Burgers' Hall, 117 } some more stations nearer to the Gold-fields in succession.

TRADERS will find a good assortment of Merchandise, suitable for the East Trade, at each Station; and **TRAVELLERS** and **HUNTERS** will receive a cordial and hospitable reception from the Station Masters.

Hides, Skins, and Produce of every description purchased at the Stations.

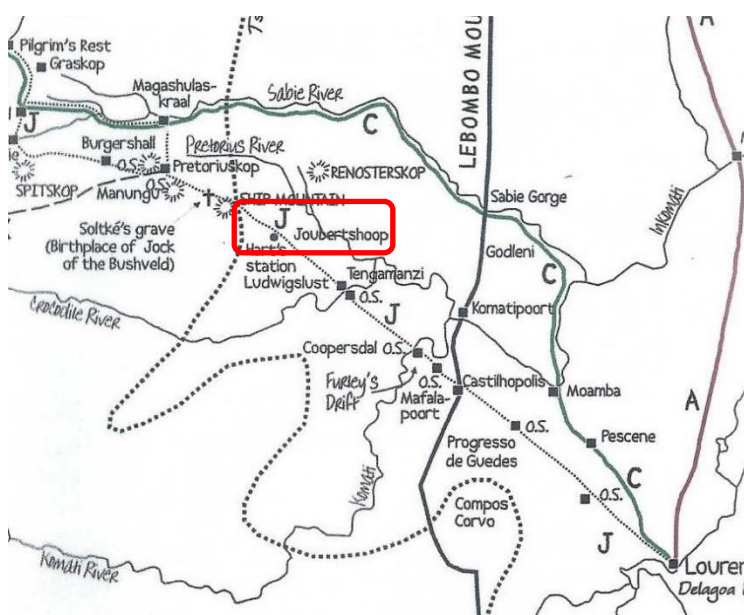
A. H. NELLMAPIUS, General Manager, Pilgrim's Rest.
ALBERTO CARLOS DE FAIVA KAPPEL, Manager, Lorenzo Marques.

By order, **F. G. BALLANTYNE,** Clerk.

Head Office, Pilgrim's Rest, October, 1875.

(ZAR) and acting president General Joubert. He convinced them and the ZAR cabinet to allow him to create and run a transport service between the Goldfields and Delagoa Bay. He would use ox-waggon transport between the Goldfields and Pretorius Kop, and from there to Delagoa Bay "black bearers" (African porters) would carry the loads.

Stationmasters would be positioned along the route to provide food and services for the black bearers and traders. The advertisement in *De Volksstem* of 23 October 1875 shows the distances, and that Thomas Hart had already been appointed as Stationmaster at Joubertshoop, one of the farms that Nellmapius had purchased and cleared a route through.



Due to the fever and ongoing attacks by raiding BaPedi under their leader Sekhukhune, the transport company lost business and a number of stationmasters (including Thomas Hart), and went bankrupt. But Nellmapius then turned his hand to a range of other entrepreneurial ventures. The Pretoria suburb of Nellmapius is named after him, and the town of Irene after his daughter. He became a source of influence and respect to many, and a close friend of President Kruger, who attended his funeral. When he died in 1897 all flags in Pretoria were at half-mast.

What do we know about Thomas Hart's time as Station master?

The only first-hand information I have so far found about Thomas Hart before his murder comes from a long and detailed letter written by the Hon William

Napier to a friend, Sir Drummond Miles Dunbar on 9 January 1876. His book published in 1881, *"The Transvaal in 1876"*, contains "Extracts from a letter giving an account of a journey on foot from the neighbourhood of Mac Mac

Gold Fields to Delagoa Bay, commenced on 27th December, 1875, by the Honorable William Napier". Some relevant information by Napier on Thomas Hart and his Joubert's Hoop station follows:

P56. Joubert's Hoop. - New Year's Day, 16 miles from Pretorius' Kop, 78 miles from Mac Mac.

"After breakfast, having still further lightened my guides' packs by leaving behind my last blanket, I started for Joubert's Hoop, the second station on the line, Mr. Hart, manager." "It is here that the tsetse fly first begins to make itself known and troublesome, and the same limit marks the commencement of the game country, now to extend for miles in every direction. The station of Joubert's Hoop is placed in a slight depression of the surrounding country, but the spot is still high enough to be healthy, and the scrub having been cut out, the fine trees remaining give quite a homely, pleasant aspect to the location. Mr. Hart, the master, quite a young man, received me pleasantly in a tent, for his house is not finished. Having had a rest, I went with him to look at the patch of ground he is planting with mealies in anticipation of the rains, which are late this year. The water-courses here, with their sloping banks, are richer in soil than at Pretorius' Kop, and are well adapted for the growth of mealies and of garden produce. Marshy spots might be tried for rice. Mr. Hart has about fifteen Kafirs engaged at work on the station, hoeing and sowing mealies and hunting. He likewise complains of having nothing to eat for himself or the transport carriers, but the meat of the game killed." "The tsetse fly is by all accounts very troublesome in this forest, especially in the very rainy and very hot weather. Mr. Hart is a young man of intelligence, energy, and resolution. He appears to have plenty of common sense and resource, to be anxious to learn and do his best in his position. It would be well to furnish him with books on Forestry, Botany, Mechanics, &c. He will profit by them, and the undertaking also."

"Having had a refreshing bath last evening in a waterhole near Mr. Hart's station, and in which I had again to submit to the curiosity of the fish, I dined with Mr. Hart on some deliciously tender quagga meat, seasoned by the remains of a little ham, and, after much conversation, went to sleep in his tent, enjoying a good night's rest. After breakfast on more quagga, Mr. Hart kindly accompanied me a short distance on the road to the Crocodile River."

P66. "It certainly seems very hard that on a short line of country between Delagoa Bay and Mac-Mac, over an excellent natural road, with supplies at both ends, the station-master of the newly-born enterprise should be left to starve. Mr. Feldschaw, at Pretorius' Kop, had nothing; Mr. Hart, at Joubert's Hoop, had only the meat his Kafir hunters killed; Dr Birch had only the supplies he procured for himself; Dr. Pearce had nothing; Mr. Bobby nothing; Mr. Lemphe the same. Six strong, active, resolute, hard-worked men all devoted to the enterprise and to Mr. Nellmapius, left without supplies for themselves, for their labourers, for the transport carriers, for travellers, for hunters, and for traders. No wonder the undertaking looks as if it would collapse, and with it the hopes of the Transvaal, for on this road being opened, the future of that Republic depends."

NOTE. – William Napier died of fever at Mac-Mac, where he had been carried from Pretorius's Kop on his return journey from Delagoa Bay.

Shortly after Thomas Hart's Death, E.F. Sandeman (1880) recounted his experiences in the Pretoriuskop area and east of it during June-August 1878, in his book *"Eight months in an Ox-Waggon"*. He also wrote about what he had heard of the character and death of Thomas Hart.

"Meanwhile, there had been constant disturbances with the Kaffirs. At the station below the Kop a large party had come down and destroyed the house, stolen anything of value it contained, and driven away the occupants, who refused to go back there. The men at the other stations followed their example and deserted, with the exception of Hart, who refused to leave his post until he was regularly recalled. The man was a universal favourite with all who knew him, and was ever kind and hospitable to whites and blacks alike who might need his assistance. He spent his time in hunting, collecting plants, and taming various birds and animals; and he had a collection of various kinds of pets, among them buck of various kinds, parrots, jays, monkeys, and snakes. He was on friendly terms with whatever Kaffirs he ever came across, and apprehended no danger from his solitary and defenceless situation; and in all probability, if others had followed his example in dealing with the Kaffirs, no harm would ever have befallen him.

One day a party of armed Macatees came up to his door, and in angry terms told him that a few days previously some white men by Pretorius Kop had met a Macatee of their tribe who was in possession of a gun. The whites had taken this gun away from him in the most unjustifiable manner. The boy had returned to the head kraal and told his story. Instantly the present party had set out in pursuit of the offenders, but had been unable to come up with them. However, they were convinced that they were in some way connected with Hart, and at all events Hart was a white man, even if not connected with the actual robbers of the gun; and they speedily gave him to understand that he must give them his rifle in exchange for the one they had been deprived of. If he did this, they promised to go away and

leave him in peace. Hart naturally objected to this disposal of his property, and argued long against it, and indeed refused to part with his rifle at any hazard. This conversation had taken place while he had been standing in his doorway. He then stepped outside altogether, to try and persuade the whole band to go away and leave him in peace, for he probably saw that some of them were his friends and inclined to be guided by his words. While, however, he was haranguing them, one murderous wretch going behind him put up his rifle, and shot him through the head, blowing off the top of his skull.

As the band had nothing to gain by remaining, they stripped his little hut of everything of any value, killed all his pets, set fire to the roof and to the outhouses, and then departed in possession of the disputed gun, leaving the murdered man where he had fallen, but stripped of his clothes, which they divided among themselves.

It so happened that two white men, friends of Hart, were then staying amongst the Amaswazi across the Crocodile River. News of the assassination was brought to the Swazi king, who communicated it to these two, and to their lasting honour be it said they at once took means to have the body properly buried, by paying a party of Swazis very heavily to go to the ruined hut, and put their friend underground and out of the reach of jackals and vultures. The burying party arrived and found the corpse still un mutilated, for the charred embers and the still standing walls had kept off the animals which would otherwise have feasted on it. The boys buried the body and then returned to the kraal, but there is no stone or memorial to mark the exact spot where the poor fellow lies. No retribution was ever exacted from his murderers, and in fact it was never made certain who they were, but the particulars were all gathered from boys who had heard the details from the participators in the crime.”

A Different Account of Hart’s Murder - and the 1983 discovery of his grave (Pienaar, 2012)

On the farm Joubertshoop, where the Josekhulu Spruit⁶ crosses the trade route, Nellmapius also erected an overnight post, at the same place where Albasini had an outpost under control of his induna Josekhulu from 1845–1847). This post was placed under the control of a 22-year-old, Thomas Hart. He was a cheerful chap who took his work seriously. He built himself a couple of amenities including a wattle-and-daub house. According to legend, he kept a number of wild birds and animals to keep him company. Unfortunately for Nellmapius and his distant station masters, the Sekhukhune uprisings started in May 1876 and some of these groups moved into the Lowveld. A couple of looters under one of Sekhukhune’s deputy chiefs, Maripe, arrived at Thomas Hart’s homestead on 10 August 1876 and demanded that he hand over his rifle. He refused, of course. When he walked out of his front door, he was shot in the back of the head by one of the looters who had sneaked round the back of the house. The house was ransacked and burnt down, the animals killed, while Hart’s corpse was left to scavengers.

The bailiff and inspector of police at Pilgrim’s Rest, William (Billy) Barter, who had been requested by the Secretary of State to visit Nellmapius’s overnight stations, accompanied by a group of volunteers to bring the supplies and people to safety, arrived at the ruins of Hart’s overnight post on 19 September. By then all that was left of Hart’s body, was his skull, which they then buried and covered with stones. This memorial to Hart can still be seen along the tourist road between Pretoriusskop and Malelane.

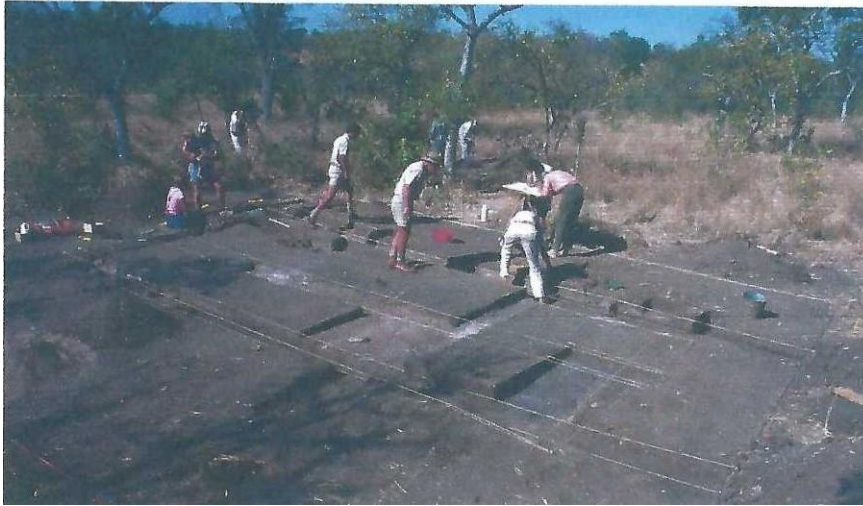


6 Also spelled Josikhulu by certain sources.

Thomas Hart’s grave on the bank of the Josekhulu Spruit, along the old Delagoa Bay transport road. He had been one of Alois Nellmapius’s station masters and was murdered by a hostile band of Chief Maripe’s warriors on 10 August 1876.

Over a century after his death, the grave of Thomas Hart, and the ruins of his store and outbuildings, were rediscovered in July 1983 by Senior Kruger Park Ranger Thys Mostert, and a team of expert trackers from Pretoriuskop.

Archaeological excavations at Thomas Hart's overnight post at Josekhulu Spruit, southeast of Ship Mountain.



Different versions of Thomas Hart's death and burial

Despite the earlier claims on the reason for Thomas Hart's murder, and that a group of Swazi warriors had after payment buried Thomas Hart's body, some tell a different story. Hugo (1999) writes "Hart is blykbaar deur 'n swart man gekonfronteer omdat Hart se broer skynbaar sy geweer afgeneem het". **Could this actually have been Thomas Hart's brother (William or other?) who created this tragedy?** Or was "broer" just their term for another white man? This account also says that Hart was shot through the chest, and then further murdered with assegais and axes, rather than shot in the back of the head. Also quoting *Gold Fields Mercury* articles of

1876 Hugo says that Police Inspector "Sheriff" William Barter buried Thomas Hart's skull in Pilgrim's Rest.

The *Transvaalsche Gouvernements Courant* of 28 April 1877 states that the group of Swazis that the Pretoriuskop stationmaster James Birch had paid and sent to bury Thomas Hart had instead plundered the station and stolen everything they could carry. This appears to have been after an investigation by the Pilgrim's Rest "Sheriff" William Barter, who buried (parts of?) Hart's skull.

There are even two contradictory accounts in the same, generally authoritative, book of the date that William Barter arrived at Thomas Hart's station and buried (some of?) his remains. In "*A Cameo from the Past*" by Dr U. de V. Pienaar, page 314 says "On 20 August they buried Hart's mutilated remains close to the burnt out ruin of his wattle-and-daub home". But page 639 says "arrived at the ruins of Hart's overnight post on 19 September. By then all that was left of Hart's body was his skull, which they then buried and covered with stones".

The First Sekhukhune Rebellion had broken out in May 1876 (which caused much trouble for the transport service), and President Burgers rather unsuccessfully declared war on the Pedi nation. Chief Maripe was one of the Headmen of Pedi High Chief Sekhukhune, and some sources claim that he and some looters were responsible for Thomas Hart's death. But one of the workers at the station said they were "Mapolaners", not Pedi, and Sandeman called them "Macatees". It does not seem if the actual murderers were ever identified or convicted.

What I Would Still Like to Find Out About My Great Grandfather's Brother

- How did Thomas Hart become a stationmaster on Alois Nellmapius' transport route?
- Did Nellmapius know him from the goldfields? How was he recruited?
- When did he leave Cape Town, where had he been, and what had he done since his birth in 1854?
- What further information is available about him, and where?

Possible Sources I Have Thought of – Can Anyone Help with These?

- Archives for the "Lourenco Marques and South African Republic Transport Service"
- Archives of Alois Nellmapius' Business Ventures and life
- Archives of Pilgrim's Rest, including Cases of their Police, including William Barter
- Archives of the Kruger Park, including the discovery and excavation of Thomas Hart's Grave
- Pilgrim's Rest Mine Archive with files on "Thomas Hart se graf (grave)" and "Nellmapius"
- Sheriff William Barter's report dated 11 September 1876

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- <https://www.geni.com/projects/South-Africa-Pilgrim-s-Rest-Families/13787>

THE MANDELA FAMILY TREE

Any genealogical website worth its salt, will show you a family tree of the House of Windsor. So as patriotic South Africans Here is our "Royal" family.

