

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2021 No 4

December 2021

MACBRIDE'S BRIGADE

Jennifer Leak

My late husband's maternal great grandfather was **Frank Henry Reilly**, born in 1856 in the Cape Province. He was the son of **John Henry** and **Rose Reilly** and grandson of **Patrick Reilly** who was born in 1834 in Fermoy, Ireland. We think that **Patrick Reilly** may have been in the army as his son **John Henry** was born in the West Indies. In our research into the Reilly family, we were told by various family members that **Frank Henry Reilly** had been a member of **MacBride's Brigade**, an Irish brigade that fought for the Boers against the British during the second Boer War. In Donal McCracken's book *'MacBride's Brigade, Irish commandos in the Anglo-Boer War'*, there is listed under Officers of the first Irish Transvaal Brigade an **F. O'Reilly**, a sergeant-major with place of origin given as colonial Irish. In the book McCracken writes: 'Sergeant Major O'Reilly, "an Afrikaner born, but an Irishman to the backbone", was said to be particularly expert at rustling.' He later saved MacBride's life when MacBride's horse was shot out from under him leaving him exposed to British fire. Sergeant-Major O'Reilly turned back to help him and placed himself and his horse between MacBride and the enemy allowing time for MacBride to run for cover.

As far back as 1877 there was Irish support for the Boers. Many people in Ireland opposed the laws to annex the South African Republic under British rule and even after the annexation was successful the Irish continued to show support for the Boers during the First Anglo-Boer War. When rumours of a second war with the Boers reached Ireland, many citizens staged marches throughout the country to protest the planned invasion of the South African Republic by the British.

Paul Kruger declared war on Britain on the 11th October 1899 and just days before the outbreak of the war the Irish Transvaal Brigade was formed. This brigade, formed by Colonel John Blake, was at first made up of Irishmen who worked on the mines in the Witwatersrand. We know for certain that our **Frank Henry Reilly** was a miner. Colonel John Blake was later wounded, and John MacBride took over the brigade that was strengthened by volunteers travelling from Ireland and entering South Africa via Portuguese Mozambique. These volunteers were given full citizenship and became Burghers of the Boer Republic.

This Irish brigade that came to be known as **MacBride's Brigade** was operational up until September 1900. In the time prior to the Siege of Ladysmith the commandos of this brigade guarded the artillery under Carolus Johannes Trichardt and also provided signal service at the Battle of Modderspruit. At the Siege of Ladysmith they serviced the famous Boer artillery piece called the Long Tom. MacBride's Brigade also fought at the Battle of Colenso and they were well known as demolition experts having previously worked in the gold mines. By blowing up bridges they delayed the British advance on Pretoria.

MacBride's Brigade disbanded after the Battle of Bergendal and most of the men crossed to Mozambique, a colony of Portugal that was neutral. Before the commandos left South Africa they received letters of thanks from State Secretary Francis William Reitz, Commandant General Louis Botha and General Barend Viljoen.

During the Second Boer War there were also Irishmen who enlisted in the British Army to fight against the Boers. These divided loyalties led to Irish fighting against Irish. If Sergeant-Major F. O'Reilly was our Frank Henry Reilly, then an example of this was found in my husband's family. His paternal great grandfather Robert Leak, born in Ireland but living in Cape Town at the start of the war, fought for the British against the Boers. He was a trooper in The Imperial Light Horse and was wounded in battle at Rietfontein in the Transvaal in 1901 and died a day later.

In the photograph Sergeant-Major O'Reilly is seen third from the right in the back row. The photograph came from the book 'MacBride's Brigade, Irish Commandos in the Anglo-Boer War' by Donal P. McCracken. We would like to believe the family stories that Sergeant-Major O'Reilly, a commando in MacBride's Brigade, was our Frank Henry Reilly.



MacBride's Brigade



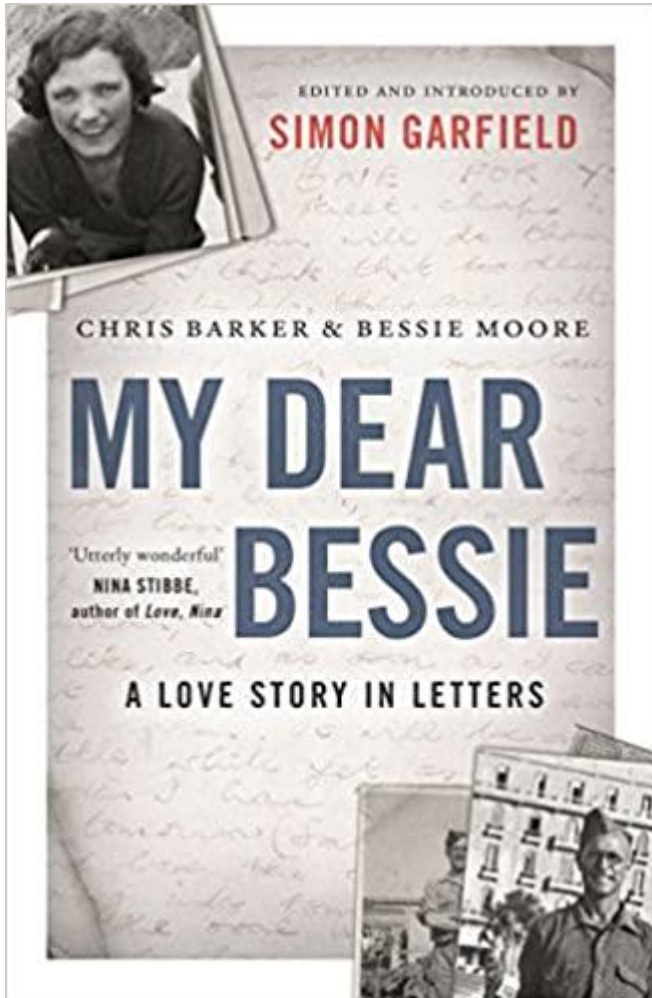
Sergeant-Major F. O'Reilly

SERENDIPITOUS

Jean Tuckey

Lockdown, oh lockdown! I read all my library books, re-read all my library books, hunted along my shelf for old favourites to read again...I need to read...I am addicted to reading even more than I am addicted to Genealogy, and I was at my wits end, so decided to bite the bullet and teach myself how to access e-books and voila! - a new world opened.

Amongst the books that seemed interesting was a non-fiction collection of letters written by an army fellow to his pen-pal, then sweetheart in WW2... I soon was totally immersed... my era really, and I found myself nodding at some of the things the two of them found hard, and laughed at others and truly, truly enjoyed every word of each letter.



Chris Barker was gifted with words, some of them, as their romance progressed, incredibly raunchy - the contemporary writers have nothing on him! The book is called **My dear Bessie** and the letters were collated by Simon Garfield. Chris, the author of the letters, writes to his pen-pal Bessie to start off with, as they knew each other vaguely from working at the Post Office, and he was lonely...she writes back enthusiastically, equally as gifted with words as he was. The tone of the letters gradually changes and they fall in love... I won't go on as it would spoil it if you choose to read it too... the letters lead you through their lives, and their getting together and then their lives after the war. At the end, it is enchanting - he sends little notes to her from each stage of his journey to her and then a telegram 'I am nearly at the gate' and he was! The final chapters are written by one of his sons to update the reader - a most satisfactory ending to the story. So many books leave one to guess the ending and not really, really know.

However, the whole point of this story is that on Page 209 (the page seared in my brain) he writes '*am in Rome and knocking around with my pals waiting to be blessed by the Pope*'... now, he is an agnostic, and is quite amusing in his description of the Swiss Guards and the priests (*weird looking lot*) and so on, and the fact that he was amongst about 450 other army types of all nations being blessed, and out of all the Latin words he only understood 'blessing'.... but the next words rivetted me... '*I knock around with my three pals*'... '*Tuckey, and two others*'... Tuckey!!... Golly! My research

nose twitched. Now, my husband was in the Signals, as was the author of the letters. 'Tuc' was in the South African 6th Division and they too had been sent to Italy... I stopped for a while and thought about things, like Winnie the Pooh, and then I turned/clicked or whatever onto the next page and there in a tiny black and white photograph of the group of them in Rome, was my best beloved and Chris and all the others... Tuc was very young, only 21 in that year, and I had not met him then but recognised him straightaway... in a total stranger's letter then the book! I was flabbergasted, delighted and set about finding more in true research fashion.

My son snipped the photo and lifted it out and increased its size for me, and then said 'Show me which is Dad I never knew him that young.' One doesn't give that a thought really, to my boys, he was old - their Dad - not 21 and a soldier.

I wrote to Simon Garfield with my tongue in my cheek... he is a well-known author but he has a friendly website and to my amazement, back came his reply almost immediately and I quote:

Dear Jean,

Very good to hear from you. What a remarkable thing this is - it's one of the reasons I love to write, making these unexpected connections.

I can certainly obtain a high-resolution digital image of that photo. Next week I will also put you in touch with Chris's son Bernard. He may be able to obtain a print copy and possibly have some other stories about Chris and your husband's time together.

Very best wishes, Simon

So, to all fellow Genealogists remember the past is ever with us, in some form or another, and makes researching and genealogy a truly exciting and amazing thing to do. This story bears it out for me. I am now waiting for the picture and hopefully the son will have a few more snippets to share. I know my husband only spoke of the fun things they did... and he learnt enough Italian to chat up the girls 'Ciao Bella come stai' (*hello beautiful how are you*) he used to chant with a big grin. I knew all the happy times, little of the war bits, he was careful about that... and he certainly never came home with an Italian lass on his arm as we married in 1952 – single both of us!!

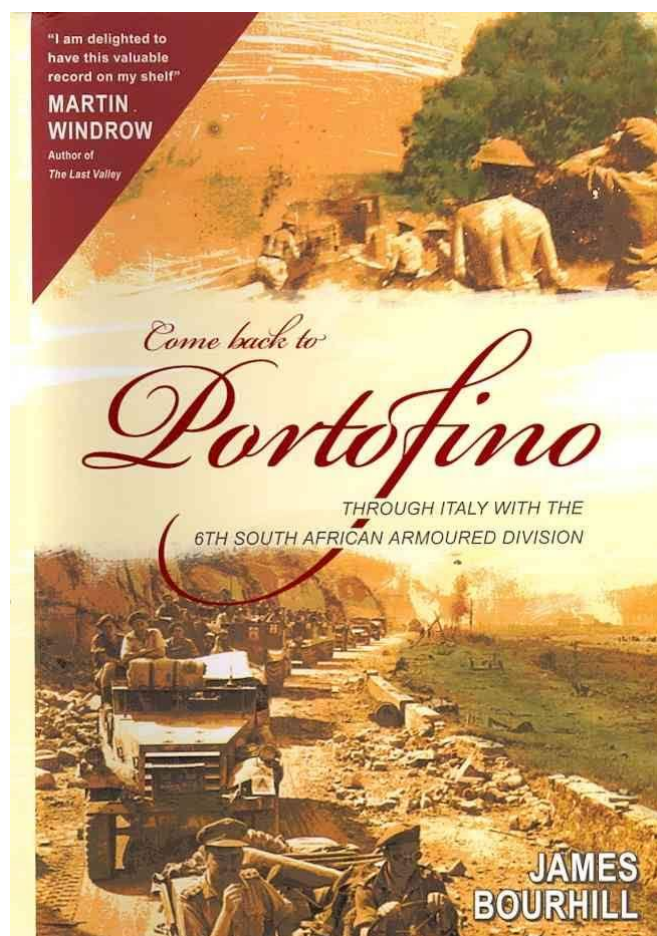
***Jean Tuckey
Waihi 2021***

Post Script

Jean Tuckey later emailed to tell us that the story had a disappointing ending. Bernard, the son of Chris, the main character in the letters, wrote to her and sent her the whole letter. In the book it had been abridged very cleverly. Bernard sent her a huge enlarged photograph and it showed that it is not her husband, 'Tuc' Tuckey. The man in the picture is a Tuckey but a Tuckey from England, and short in height while her husband was neither - he was 6' 3" tall and born in Sydney-on-Vaal near Kimberley. Bernard goes on to say his father lived a few doors down from the house that Bess had bought for them to live in and was a carpenter by trade. Jean Tuckey is now trying to find out more about that side of the Tuckey clan. Her husband's branch was based in Wiltshire but she so doesn't think there is any connection other than they were all Signallers during the war but in different regiments. Her husband became the OC's driver so had many an adventure there. Jean Tuckey says that it is a lovely book and she encourages us to read it.

She also recommended another book dealing with the SA 6th Division in Italy, she says: 'Anyone keen on army and World War 2 history should read the book *Come back to Portofino* by James Bourhill as it describes the 6th Division in Italy amazingly well. My husband was in the Corps of Signals in the 6th Division and sent to Italy and Egypt and was very young when he joined up and even grew a moustache to look older... I am trying to collate all the things I know so that my sons in turn can read about their Dad's WW2 army career.'

Jean's husband's Tuckey family branch started in Wiltshire then emigrated to New Zealand. Her father-in-law went with his horses from New Zealand to South Africa in the Boer War. She says: 'His diary is amazing...so, so interesting...I have typed all that up too... as I am a total history nut!' The diary is becoming a thing of great interest in New Zealand because he is a Kiwi by birth and then moved to South Africa, where he lived and died and it was here that Jean Tuckey's husband was born. They married in Rhodesia (as it was then). On Jean's side of the family there is a living demonstration of the worldwide nature of the British Empire because her family came from India but she was born in England, she married in Zimbabwe, now lives in New Zealand.

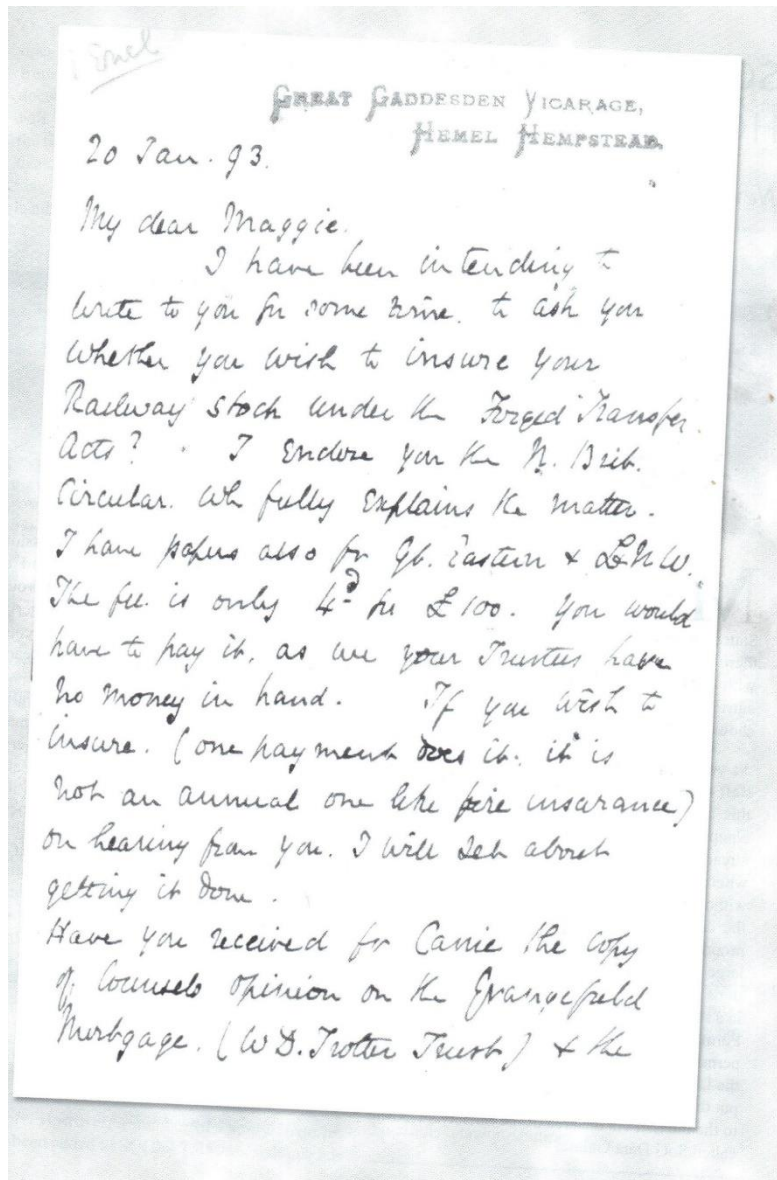


A VICTORIAN SCAM?

Barney Tyrwhitt-Drake and Derek Pratt

Two years ago, when we could still meet, our library was giving away free genealogical magazines to anyone who might be interested in them. I picked up a few that looked interesting – as usual they weren't! Well, not all of them. I found in the **Genealogists' Magazine: Journal of the Society of Genealogists Volume 32 No. 1 of Mar 2016** a very interesting article titled, as this one is too, **A Victorian Scam?** It was by Barney Tyrwhitt-Drake and I'm unashamedly stealing the main storyline but adding a few more points to the original.

This possible scam took place among the shareholders of the Great Western Railway (GWR) and other railway companies. I am sure all of us at some time or other while looking through the subscription sites such as www.ancestry.com and www.findmypast.co.uk have suddenly found someone with the same name as your ancestor among the list of shareholders of the Great Western Railway. Tyrwhitt-Drake tells us in his article that the SOG¹ had indexed the shareholders' register. It seems that in those days if anyone had some money to invest, then railway stock was the place to invest it. It reminds me of the scene in *The Graduate* where the character played by Dustin Hoffman is told by his onscreen father's friends that he should 'Go into plastics because that is where the money is.' That statement hasn't aged well, has it?!



Business scams, whether it is selling tulips for enormous prices, or shares in South Sea Bubbles or Nigerian Princes with extra money willing to place it in your bank account, will always be with us. Needless to say, the Criminal Fraternity soon realised that many of the shares in the GWR were being held in trust accounts by trustees who didn't always keep a careful eye on them. The criminals simply forged a transfer certificate to show that they had acquired the stock and they would then use this certificate to sell the stock on in the open market. It became so rife that the UK Parliament was forced to take action and they passed the **Forged Transfer Act in 1891** making this a criminal offence.

Here is where the scam creeps in. The insurance industry realised that shareholders might like insurance against this counterfeit transfer certificates 'stealing' of the shareholders stock and so they introduced a protection policy against it, in spite of the Act of Parliament making the need for such an insurance policy unnecessary.

In Barney Tyrwhitt-Drake's family there is a distant second cousin, who knew Barney's family history interest. He contacted him to say that while clearing out papers they had come across correspondence between his grandmother and their shared great-grandfather. This great-grandfather was a trustee of the trust fund for the support of his daughter-n-law from her late husband. Great-grandfather was a clergyman and vicar of Great Gaddesden, Hemel Hempstead in

¹ Society of Genealogists

Hertfordshire. He wrote to his daughter asking her to consider taking out this insurance against having her stock in the GWR being fraudulently sold. [See picture of letter]

In the letter he wrote:

I have been intending to write to you for some time to ask whether you wish to insure your Railway stock under the Forged Transfer Acts? I enclose you the N. British Circular wh fully explains the matter. I have papers also for the Gt. Eastern & the L&NW. The fee is only 4d per £100. You would have to pay it, as we your Trustees have no money in hand. If you wish to insure (one payment does it; it is not an annual one like fire insurance). On hearing from you I will set about getting it done.

There was no response from 'dear Maggie' among the letters Tyrwhirr-Drake had inherited from his great-grandfather, but he does say that a short while later his great-grandfather, dispirited by his daughter-in-law's lack of response, resigned as Trustee.

It appears that great-grandfather had fallen for the insurance companies fear scam. Four pennies per £100 doesn't sound much and the insurance company, North British Insurance playing on the fears of the investor-public must have still raked in quite a lot of money even though the 1891 Act had provided shareholders with protection. Of course, this is similar to the Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) which the modern insurance companies sold to the borrowing public and had to refund them, but in those days it all went as profits for the insurance company.

And another thing!

This brings me to my other point. People our age often battle to read the SMS or texts that our children and grandchildren send us with all their abbreviations and slang terms used. I still spend time looking up abbreviations used in Twitter and I'm thankful that there is a 'slang and urban street dictionary' available on Google. Some of you might be concerned that today's generation will soon not be able to write in English. But just think back to some of the documents, especially personal letters rather than legal documents, that you've tried to read. How many of them used abbreviations?

Some of the most common are one dealing with dates – 'Your letter of 23 Ult' or 'I will send it to you by 1st prox' are two I've seen. Names are another bugbear. We all know that Jn = John and Geo = George or does it not perhaps = Geoffrey? My problem is when I cannot find an ancestor search through a transcribed index. After trying all the alternative spellings of the surname, I often eventually find it by entering the name of the domestic servant or another family member. And then I see that Henry Smith that I've been searching for is written as 'Hry Smith' on the original microfilmed sheet and the transcriber entered it as 'Hry' but the search engine used by the site does not have the versatility to convert my typed in Henry to Hry or vice versa.

As you can see from the scanned in letter, it is peppered with abbreviations such as **wh** for which; **N. Brit** for North British Insurance company; **Gt** for Great so our wonderful English-speaking and -writing forbears used short forms and abbreviations just like us but at least they didn't use emoji's!

1921 UK Census

Derek Pratt

Many of you who follow the SA Genealogical Facebook group or other genealogical groups and sites would have heard about the January release of the 1921 Census Records. The records are going to be available on www.findmypast.co.uk However, don't rush off and subscribe with them thinking you are going to have free access to millions of records. **Each record will cost \$3.50 USD per transcript and \$4.90 US per record image (i.e. about R53 per transcript and R75 per image).** Existing Findmypast subscribers will also have to pay this fee, though those with a 12-month subscription will receive a **10% discount** on purchases of 1921 records. According to findmypast site, the fee structure covers the cost of digitizing and transcribing the 18,235,242 images created from the records supplied exclusively to them by The National Archives.

Why is the issuing of the 1921 census so important? Ignoring the marketing hype of findmypast, the 1921 census is important because the 1931 UK Census was destroyed in WW2 bombing and no census was taken in 1941, so there will be a thirty-year gap till the 1951 Census. The 1921 Census will also tell us a lot more about our ancestors than

previous Censuses. It was the first census to recognize divorce, and to capture people's employment details. So perhaps all your family secrets will be revealed.



Thomas PRATT 1919-1974



1928 Marriage of Tom Pratt's half-sister, Margaret BOARDMAN with Philip SANDERS. Standing are Sarah PRATT formerly BOARDMAN born PARRISH, Mr SANDERS (bridegroom Philip's father), Philip and Margaret SANDERS, Lesley BOARDMAN (Tom's half-brother). Tom Pratt would have been 9 years old so not in this formal picture in Birmingham. His father, Charles PRATT had died in 1924.

Speaking personally, I'm looking forward to its release as I know very little about my paternal grandfather. Charles PRATT married the widow Sarah BOARDMAN born PARRISH on 21 June 1919. On the marriage register he said that he was a widowed house-painter aged 49y (born 1870) whose father Thomas PRATT was an engineer. He was living in Rowton House, Alcester Road, Birmingham. A bit of research showed that Rowton House was a large hostel for unemployed men.

Sarah and Charles had a son (my father) on 26 Sep 1919. So, it looks like Sarah aged 45y was pregnant with my dad when she and Charles decided to marry. Now, all this is not an issue for me. My trouble is that I can't find any Charles PRATT with a father called Thomas PRATT who was an engineer in the Birmingham area. After much searching, I decided that Charles PRATT was perhaps telling little lies because he was not a widower but a bigamist. I suspect that his wife had left him and being down on his luck moved into the unemployed men's hostel and later met my paternal grandmother and married her. Charles's first wife, Isabella PRATT born Elizabeth Isabella CALLAGHAN only died in 1939.

Charles PRATT died of pneumonia, pulmonary abscess and cardiac failure on 18 May 1924 when my dad was 5 years old. What I'm hoping to find out from the 1921 Census is more about Charles, where he was born, when he was born and whether he have any second names because the Charles PRATT who I think is my grandfather was born Charles Henry PRATT in 1866 not 1870 as given on his marriage and death certificate. So, there are lots of differences between the two Charles PRATTs which I hope the 1921 Census will resolve.

To see how the 1921 Census was conserved, captured and made ready for us to download data go to:
<https://youtu.be/WdkpePDervc>

SERENDIPITY IN FINDING A NAME IN A REGISTER.

Derek Pratt

info@thefamilyhistorian.co.za

This is another story that relies on serendipity. Not on the chance finding of a photo in book that could be a family member but seeing a name in a register that opened up research in other interesting fields.

As one goes through Baptism, Marriage and Burial registers one comes across names that are connected with some historical event other than the one you were looking for. In between the SMITHs, the JONESs and other common names suddenly a name pops up and with it, some interesting connections.

The other day I was paging through the 1849-1937 St Francis, Simon's Town Burial Register looking for a specific name when my eye was distracted by this entry:

James Moyes Deas M.D. No. 12.	Convict Ship Neptune.	October 1 st 35 1849. Years	Edward Judge M.A. Colonial Chaplain
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	---	--

James Moyes Deas M.D. Convict Ship Neptune October 1st 1849 35 years The Rev Edward Judge, MA Colonial Chaplain

This entry has at least four things that perhaps deserve more attention.²

A. Convict Ship *Neptune*

The first thing that did attract my attention was 'Convict Ship Neptune'. I first came across this ship when I was at school over 50 years ago! We had an Afrikaans setwork book dealing with the attempt to land convicts at the Cape. My Afrikaans was appalling then, so besides the name 'Neptune', I remember nothing about the book! More recently I seem to remember someone talking at the Cape Town Family History Society (CTFHS) meeting about Sir Robert Stanford who had supported the 'Neptune' by providing fresh produce for the feeding of the convicts (and crew) which the British government were hoping to disembark in the Cape Colony.

Once again, some questions arose in my mind. Never mind the story of the *Neptune* (I will deal with that below), I was curious why the British Government were trying make the Cape a penal colony? I found a fascinating doctoral thesis by John Marinowitz submitted to the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London in 1985. His thesis looked at labour and production in the rural areas of the Cape Colony, particularly the wheat growing region, in the 19th Century. His opening chapter tells of the growing tensions between ex-slaves who sought to reduce their dependency on farm wages and the farmers who sought measures to ensure they remained as wage-labourers (or as Dr Marinowitz, using Marxist terminology, called them 'proletarianization of the ex-slaves'³). This tension culminated in the years 1848 to 1853 when the Colony hovered on the brink of civil war.

The Need for Convict Labour at the Cape?

In the first chapter of his thesis, Marinowitz presents the numerous ways labour issues were addressed at the Cape. The slaves of the Cape (as in the rest of the British Empire) were emancipated in 1834 but were forced to work as apprentices with their former owners until 1 Dec 1838. It was feared that once this date arrived there would be a

² A. Convict Ship *Neptune* B. Dr Deas himself C. Date of Death – Comparison between date of death and date of burial and why *Neptune* still in Simon's Bay? D. Colonial Chaplain.

³ John Marinowitz, *Rural Production and Labour in the Western Cape, 1838 to 1888, With Special Reference to the Wheat Growing Districts*. (Unpublished Doctoral Thesis SOAS, University of London, 1985) quote from the Abstract.

labour shortage as the ex-slaves refused to continue to work. The Dutch, British and other European settlers were not willing to work as employees of other settler farmers and thus labour sources were sought. One of the solutions between 1833-1839 was the sending of juveniles from the Children's Friend Society, to work at the Cape. They, too, were apprenticed to farmers and employers at the Cape but soon complaints were being made in London that they were being treated as if they were slaves. Another source of labour were the slaves freed from slave boats captured on the high seas by the Royal Navy. Many of these slaves were brought to Simon's Town and they were distributed to work for minimum wages on farms for the payment to the government of £1. Other freed slaves had been taken to St Helena and from there they were brought to Cape Town in order assist with the labour shortage.

Many of the town-dwelling merchants such as John Bardwell Ebdon, were keen that British labourers should be encouraged to come to the Cape. Most Farmer saw them as being too expensive to pay when compared to 'the cheaper and more malleable' black labourers⁴. Some attempts were made by the Cape Legislative Council to have aided immigration from the UK. Esme Bull lists in the appendices of her book, *Aided Immigration from Britain to South Africa: 1857-67*, those who came under this initial scheme between 1848 and 1851.

Sir Harry Smith proposed to the British parliament that British labourers be imported to the Cape but the British Parliament changed 'labourer' to 'convicts.' This created an uproar at the Cape with a large number of objections from people across a wide spectrum. They thought a large number of criminals would create instability as the rural areas had few policemen. As Marincowitz puts it so succinctly 'Employers at the Cape did not want convicts: they wanted labourers; in the mind of the British ruling class there was little distinction.'⁵ It turned out that the prisoners that were planned to be sent to the Cape were not common criminals or as Earl Grey said: 'not the refuse of English gaols'⁶ but political offenders mainly from Ireland many of whom had risen up against the English landowners as a result of the potato famine. Being political offenders rather than common criminal didn't help to change attitudes at the Cape. In the past the Cape had experienced two politically active Irish seamen, James Hooper and Michael Kelly, who together with the slave Louis from Mauritius and Muslim slave Abraham van die Kaap, had fermented a protest march of slaves in Cape Town in 1808.

But it wasn't just the labour shortage that led to convicts being sent to the Cape. Magistrates in the Ireland were sentencing more and more people to be transported. In 1846 six hundred and ninety-seven offenders had been transported but two years later in 1848 the number had risen to two thousand seven hundred and thirty-three. As Lord Grey told parliament: 'the parishes throw their burden on the counties, the counties upon the nation and the nation is forging schemes to throw it upon the colonies'⁷.

Thus, the *Neptune* filled with 282 prisoners⁸ and 55 crew was thrown upon the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope and arrived in Simon's Bay on 19 Sep 1849.

Even before the ship arrived at the Cape a mass meeting was held on the 5 Apr 1849 where a crowd of 5,000 formed the Anti-Convict League. The League was headed by John Bardwell Ebdon, Hamilton Ross, Hercules C. Jarvis, H. E. Rutherford and Dr. James Adamson, all well-known settlers at the Cape. They launched a vigorous campaign to boycott supplying the ship or have dealings with any of the convicts that might be landed. A large number of people in the Colony signed in agreement. However, there were a few local businessmen who did not sign and they supplied the ship with provisions while it waited for a total of five months in Simon's Bay. These few who had not signed the petition found that local shops would not serve them and they could buy no foodstuffs for themselves.

Among these people was Robert Stanford – more about him below. A brief search for him on Google produced a few Irish sites who praise this Irish-born man for his humanitarian support of the convicts and crew of the *Neptune* by selling produce to the ship. Stanford was later awarded a knighthood, by the same British government who had arrested those Irishmen on the *Neptune* for fighting for their political freedom, so was it not as a support of the Irish independence struggle that Stanford supported the *Neptune*. I also found a history of the *Neptune* crisis on a wine

⁴ Marincowitz, p70

⁵ Marincowitz, p73

⁶ Marincowitz, p75

⁷ Marincowitz, p76

⁸ There is some variance in the numbers found at different websites. An Australia convict site lists 306 'passengers' <https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/neptune/1849>. However, The Irish Times says 18 died at sea before arriving at the Cape



A Thomas Bowler water-colour of the protest meeting. It must have been a windy, wintery day. The orange arrow points to the smoke from the smoke-stack going horizontally towards the S.E. It must have been a gale-force North-Wester as the blue arrow shows the driving rain. Yet there

estate website. This wine estate is on the estate, Kleinrivier Valley which was the estate originally owned by Robert Stanford. On their website is an interesting comment:

'...the colonists believed [those on board the Neptune] to be convicts and would not stand for this and declared that anyone associated with the ship or its occupants would no longer be supplied with any provisions or services. Thus, when the "convict" ship Neptune arrived its passengers, who were ordinary Irish men, were kept at sea for five months.'

This statement opens up some interesting ethical discussion points. Two things needed to be confirmed. Firstly, were all the convicts Irish and secondly, can they be called 'ordinary Irish men'?

The Australian website <https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/neptune/1849> lists by name all those who were on the *Neptune* off Simon's Town and later sent on to Van Diemen's Land. It lists where the people were convicted. This shows that of the 306 passengers or convicts, 46 were convicted in English, Welsh and Scottish courts as well as 9 military personnel convicted by Courts Martial in such diverse places as Malta, Athlone, Barbados, Belfast Barracks, Gibraltar, Salford Barracks, and St Johns Newfoundland. Some of these (Athlone and Belfast Barracks) perhaps might have an Irish connection but certainly the majority of the forty-six people were convicted for criminal activity. There were 192 Irish 'convicts' many of whom had turned to crime because of the infamous 'Great Potato Famine' of 1848⁹. André Morkel summarises the situation very well when he wrote on the Morkel family website:

In April 1849 the Privy Council in London decided to make the Cape Colony another convict settlement, similar to those in Australia. The third Earl Grey, Colonial Secretary, intended to send a special class of convicts to the Cape. They were Irish peasants who had been **driven to crime**¹⁰ by the famine of 1845. They were also towards the end of their sentences and the idea was that they could obtain a 'conditional pardon' to settle as 'free exiles' at the Cape, provided they did not return to Ireland, England or Scotland. Earl Grey sent a letter to the Governor at the Cape asking to ascertain the feelings of the colonists regarding this special category of convicts. Due to a misunderstanding, the *Neptune* arrived unannounced before the sailing vessel with Grey's letter landed at the Cape. The ship also had the famous Irish rebel and activist, John Mitchel on board. In his book, *Jail Journal*, Mitchel is eloquent and scathing about the treatment of the Irish and the transportation system.

Although one can sympathise with these Irish men who, through hunger, turned to crime but they were still arrested, tried, found guilty and sentenced for transportation as convicts.

⁹ André Morkel, *Breaking the Pledge: The Family Ostracised*. Revised August 2018. Published on the family.morkel.net website. <https://family.morkel.net/wp-content/uploads/Neptune-Ostracised-1.pdf>

¹⁰ My emphasis

One of the convicts transported on the *Neptune* was Michael Morton (Moreton on the list of convicts). His Australian descendants have written a short history of the Moreton family. Two brothers – John who had been transported earlier for an attempted assassination of Theophilus Roe¹¹ and Michael who had stolen a cow. The writers of the story suggested that many cow-stealers were given a short sentence but maybe Michael Moreton was hoping to join his brother in Van Dieman's Land. Perhaps at the trial, the judge passed a harsh sentence because of Michael's brother, John Morton's connection to the Young Irelanders protest group. However, to call the people onboard the *Neptune*, 'ordinary Irish men' is, I think, stretching it a bit.

Sir Robert Stanford



Robert Stanford was born in Ballinastanford near Claremorris, Co. Mayo in Ireland in 1806. He served in the British army including in South Africa. He retired on half-pay from the 27th Foot Regiment in 1838. He then bought the Kleine Valley estate. This is near Hermanus and where the village of Stanford is today. The estate covered almost 27,000 acres, making Stanford a prominent land owner. Stanford was amongst the most enterprising of the Cape colonists. In 1848 he purchased another holding of more than 52,000 acres at a place called Gustrouw, near present-day Gordon's Bay, which he intended to rename Ballinastanford, in honour of his birth-place.

Stanford originally supported the blockade of the *Neptune* but he finally relented to a plea from the government at the Cape, after a visit from the Derry-born Attorney-General, William Porter, to offer assistance. This, Stanford believed, would bring "timely assistance" and thus "open rebellion and civil war would be averted". He was given the option of providing supplies or a state of martial law would be declared and the provisions would be taken by force. Duty-bound to comply, Stanford complied with the Governor's request but was not seen as a hero in the eyes of the colonists. They regarded his actions as treason and ostracised Stanford and his whole family. Stanford and others who provided help were persecuted, banks refused to do business with them, their children were expelled from school and the servants left their farms. The persecutions continued even when Stanford's youngest daughter fell ill and the doctor refused to even see her, let alone treat her. Tragically this resulted in her death. Desperate, Robert Stanford travelled to England to plead his case and ask for compensation for his losses. His plea resulted in him being knighted and receiving £5,000 for his return to the Cape. Upon his arrival, he discovered his farms were in ruins and had been stripped, some even sold by the people he left in charge. His farm Kleine Riviers Valley was sold for a pittance to a Phillipus de Bruyn at auction. Reduced to poverty and defeated by life, Sir Robert Stanford returned to England, where he passed away in Manchester at the age of 70. On 30 September 1857, De Bruyn sold the first plot of the new village he decided to call Stanford.

Outcome for *Neptune* and the Cape Colony

By February 1850, Earl Grey realised a resolution could not be reached and he ordered that the *Neptune* continue on its voyage to Van Dieman's Land (the name used by Europeans for the island that was renamed Tasmania, in 1856). In London, Lord Adderley pleaded the Cape Colony's case and this helped in leading the Imperial Government to change their mind and the *Neptune* was sent on its way to Tasmania. In gratitude, the main street of Cape Town, *Heerengracht*, was renamed Adderley Street.

In his memoir (later published as *Jail Journal*) John Mitchel wryly remarked about the stand-off in Cape Town: "So the contest is over, and the colonists may now proceed about their peaceful business. Long may they sleep in peace without bolt or lock on their hospitable doors!"¹²

One of the good things to come out of this event was that the British Parliament asked the governor, Sir Harry Smith, to report whether the Cape was ready for self-government. This was granted in 1854 with a liberal constitution.

B. James Moyes Deas M.D

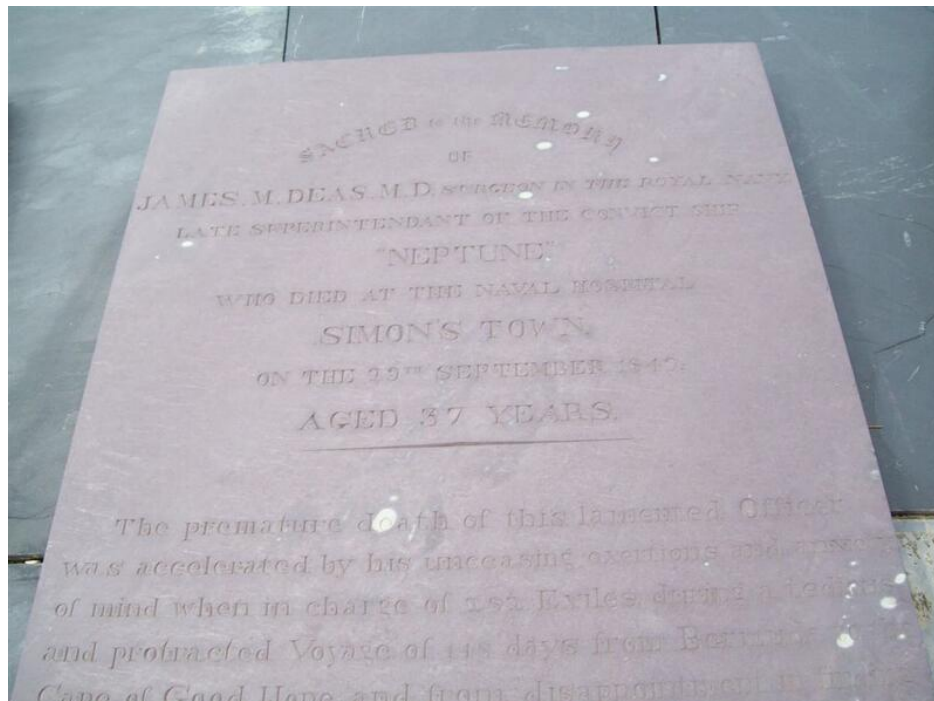
The medical officer on the *Neptune* was the Royal Navy surgeon, Dr James Moyes Deas. He died 29 Sep 1849 at the Naval Hospital, Simon's Town and was buried 1 Oct 1849 in the old Seaforth Cemetery. His age in the burial register

¹¹ Theophilus Roe was a wealthy Anglo-Irish property owner

¹² <https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/abroad/why-the-famine-irish-didn-t-emigrate-to-south-africa-1.3397555>

is given as 35 years but on the tombstone in the Seaforth Cemetery it states 37 and this matches his Baptism record. An Ancestry online family tree has a comment next to his death:

Surgeon, RN. He was the surgeon on board the Convict Ship, Neptune, which was prevented from docking in Simon's Town due to protest. The stress of the situation led to his having what appears to have been a "nervous reaction", which led to his death.¹³



The source for this entry in the online family tree was the Royal Naval Officers Service Index which states only his name and appointment date to the *Neptune* as 16 Jan 1849. No mention is made of his death or "nervous reaction" in this record. The *Neptune* had arrived in Simon's Bay on 19 Sep 1849 and within ten days Dr Deas had died.

James Moyes Deas was born on 11 Nov 1811 in Falkland Parish, Fife where he was baptised on 16 Nov 1811. His parents were Francis Deas and Margaret born Moyes. James's father, Francis Deas, was Provost¹⁴ of Falkland. His mother, Margaret Moyes, had

connections with slave-owning Moyes family from The Hermitage, St Elizabeth, Jamaica, a coffee plantation and they were paid compensation after the emancipation of slaves.

James Moyes Deas had two brothers who appear in the *Oxford National Dictionary of Biography*. They are Sir George Deas (Lord Deas) 1804-1887 who was a judge, and Sir David Deas (1807-1877) who, like his brother James, was a Naval Surgeon. He fought in the Crimea War and was awarded a knight hood. Sir David Deas had gone to Edinburgh High School and trained as a doctor at the University of Edinburgh, so probably this was the same route James Moyes Deas took as well.

C. 1 October 1849 Burial

In these modern times with walk-in refrigerators and crematoria, the family often delay funerals until overseas family members can arrive or they cremate the deceased and have a Memorial Service weeks or even months after the person has died. Because of this, the 'next-day' burials always come as a bit of a surprise to us modern researchers. Muslim burials take place 'before sunset' on the day of death. Jewish burials, according to Wikipedia take place 'in as short an interval of time after death as possible.'

James Moyes Deas was buried in the Seaforth Cemetery originally called the 'Old Burial Ground' after the new cemetery at Dido Valley was opened. The cemetery was established in 1813. For more info on its history and who was buried there see <http://www.theheritageportal.co.za/article/visiting-historic-simons-town-old-burying-ground>

¹³ https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/151739409/person/372009933790/facts?_phsrc=jBv22&_phstart=successSource

¹⁴ In Scotland Provost is equivalent of a Mayor in England



The Naval part of the cemetery is well looked after as this falls under the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The eGSA database of cemeteries has 211 names of persons buried there. The Dutch Reformed section was where many Boer Prisoner-of-War who died in the two camps at Simon's Town were buried. Besides the individual graves there are numerous monuments and memorials to sailors who died at sea or while on patrol up and down the African coast while their ships were based at Simon's Town.

D. The Colonial Chaplain Rev Canon Edward (Conduitt) Judge, MA.

The Rev Canon Edward Judge who conducted James Moyes Deas funeral in 1849 named his official position of 'Colonial Chaplain' under the entry of his name in the Burial Register. Wikipedia defines 'Colonial Chaplains' as a chaplain who was appointed as a minister in a colony. The term is commonly used to refer to the minister appointed as a non-military chaplain in one of the Crown Colonies from the late 18th century or early 19th century. The more general term Chaplain is usually used to describe a minister or priest attached to a secular institution (such as a university, school, hospital etc.) In the case of Colonial Chaplain, they were appointed by the government (secular) to minister in the people of the colony. They were paid by the government to carry out this roll, rather than by the congregation.

Bishop Gray arrived in Cape Town to be the Anglican¹⁵ Bishop of Southern Africa in 1848. Most of the churches set up before 1848 would need to hand over property rights etc to the new bishop and the diocese that he would later form and administer. Some parishes (e.g., Holy Trinity, Caledon Square; St Paul's Rondebosch and St John's Wynberg) were hesitant to do this. They had been set up by ordinances passed by the Cape Legislative Council. St Paul's, for example by the *Rondebosch Church Ordinance of 1845*. These ordinances were required as the Colonial Government only paid

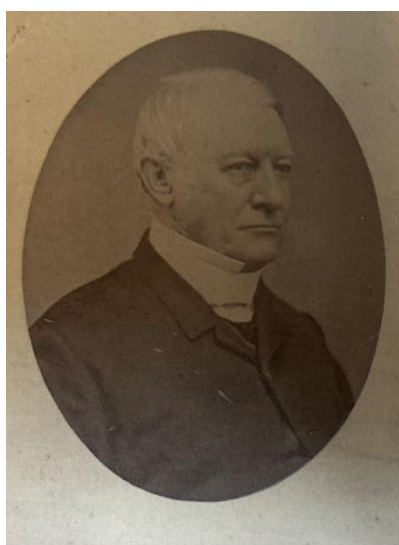
¹⁵ The name 'Anglican' was only applied later. He would have thought of himself as the Church of England or Episcopal Church Bishop of Cape Town

the salary of the minister and not the other Church officials (sexton, verger, bellringer etc.). Today the property and the running of a parish is overseen by a vestry who report to the Bishop. With these Colonial Church Ordinances, vestries consisting of elected parishioners were legally established allowing them taking charge of financial matters and requiring to report to an Annual General Meeting of church members.

Bishop Gray called for a Synod to establish a Church of the Province of South Africa. In the eyes of the courts this was seen to be a church separate from the Church of England. This caused much dissent and schism. In 1861 St Francis, Simon's Town representatives attended the Synod and joined the Church of the Province of South Africa. However, as it can be seen, the priest at St Francis continued to sign the register as 'Colonial Chaplain'. This seemed to continue right until the 1890s. It would be interesting to know when the Cape Government ceased to pay Colonial Chaplains. Was the continued use of the title by priests a protest against Gray or merely habit they failed to stop?

The Rev Edward Judge

In *Messengers, Watchmen and Stewards*, William de Villiers gives a brief biography of all Anglican priests who were licensed by the bishop (later Archbishop) of Cape Town between 1848 and 1911, as well as those who were in the Cape Colony from the first British occupation till a bishop was appointed. Below is the entry for the Rev Edward Judge¹⁶.



Born: London in 1801, the son of Joseph Judge, of the London Custom House.

Educated: St Paul's, London; and at Gonville and Caius (admitted pensioner, 12 January 1820), and Trinity (migrated, 11 May 1820; matriculated, Michaelmas 1820; Scholar, 1823; BA, 1824; MA, 1825) Colleges, Cambridge.

Ordained: Deacon, 7 November 1824, by the Bishop of Ely for the Bishop of London, and Priest, in the Reformed Church, Cape Town on 9 September 1832, by the Bishop of Calcutta, the Rt. Revd Daniel Wilson, under special commission for the Bishop of London. (One of the first two Anglican priests ever ordained in Africa.)

Career: Arrived at the Cape, 2 May 1825.

Rector, Government Grammar School, Cape Town, 1825-1829.

Committee member, South African Infirmary Fund, and the Philanthropic Society for aiding deserving slaves and slave children to purchase their freedom (established 1828).

Joint secretary, Church of England Prayer Book and Tract Society (afterwards Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge).

Professor of Classics, South African College, 1829-1830. Resigned from the South African College "in consequence of a resolution of the Council not to allow religious instruction", August 1830.

Founded his own private grammar school in Cape Town, 1830.

Provisional Chaplain of Wynberg (1832-1834);

Colonial Chaplain of Rondebosch (1834-1840);

Colonial Chaplain of Simon's Town (1840-1874), all in Cape Colony.

Priest-in-charge (later Rector) of St. Frances', Simon's Town (licensed by the Bishop, the Rt. Revd Robert Gray, 2 August 1848; served until 1874), and Canon of St. George's Cathedral (1852-1875), both in the diocese of Cape Town.

Fell ill, May 1852, and sailed for England on leave, June, 1852, returning to the Cape in November 1853. Attended the first synod of the diocese of Cape Town, January 1857.

Died: Simon's Town, on 6 January 1875.

"His history is written in the hearts of many, and many a Cape family. What the present great educational enthusiasm of the Cape owes to him it might be hard to apportion exactly, but we are inclined to call him 'the Alfred' of it. At all events, with that calm, quiet resolution so characteristic of him, he strove hard to give to the Cape boys of nearly fifty years ago the same refined and liberal education which he had received and so highly prized himself. His sweet temper, sportive humour, never failed him to the end" (The Cape Argus, quoted in The Church News).

Sources:

1. Archives of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa, AB 1159Fol,
2. Records of the Diocese of Cape Town, 1847-1865, pp. cvii, cx, clix.
3. Bishops court Archives, Licences to Clergy, 1848-1963, p. 1.
4. African Court Calendar, 1827, pp. 40, 47; 1829, pp. 108, 111.

¹⁶ Andries William de Villiers, *Messengers, Watchmen and Stewards* (Johannesburg: Historical Papers, The Library, University of Witwatersrand, 1998) p.118-119.

5. The Church News, no. 89 (1 February 1875), p. 2.
6. MHM Wood, *A Father in God* (1913), p. 87.
7. PA Millard, *S. Paul's, Rondebosch Centenary 1834-1934* (1934), pp. 4-7.
8. JA Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, part II, vol. III (1947), p. 618.
9. K Vos, *The Church on the Hill, St. John's Parish, Wynberg* (1972), p. 12.

CONCLUSION

A chance spotting of 'Convict ship, Neptune' in the burial register of the parish of St Francis Simon's Town resulted in further research into the area of labour shortage at the Cape in 1840s; the attempt by the Colonial Secretary and the British parliament to make the Cape Colony a penal settlement; the varied response of the people at the Cape; the death of the medical officer or surgeon on board the *Neptune* and his family, and a brief look at the Rev Edward Judge, the Colonial Chaplain. This research has opened a desire in me to visit the Seaforth Cemetery again (last time I visited it was in 1970s) as well as a huge growth in and respect for the people of the Cape in the 1840s and 1850s.

Source Bibliography

1. Australian Convict arrivals. The Neptune 1849 <https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/neptune/1849>
2. Day, E. Hermitage. Robert Gray: First Bishop of Cape Town. London: SPCK, 1930. found at http://anglicanhistory.org/africa/day_gray.html
3. de Villiers, Andries William. *Messengers, Watchmen and Stewards*. Johannesburg: Historical Papers, The Library, University of Witwatersrand, 1998.
4. Deas Family Online found at https://www.ancestry.co.uk/familytree/person/tree/151739409/person/372009933790/facts?_phsrc=jBv22&_phstart=successSource
5. Gravestone Database eGGSa Database at <https://www.graves-at-eggssa.org/librarySearch/searchGraves.htm>
6. The Irish Times: Why the famine irish didn't emigrate to South Africa <https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/abroad/why-the-famine-irish-didn-t-emigrate-to-south-africa-1.3397555>
7. Marincowitz, John. *Rural Production and Labour in the Western Cape, 1838 to 1888, With Special Reference to the Wheat Growing Districts*. Unpublished Doctoral Thesis SOAS, University of London, 1985 found at <https://eprints.soas.ac.uk/34059/1/11015868.pdf>
8. Morkel, Andre. *Breaking the Pledge: The Family Ostracised*. Revised August 2018. Published on the family.morkel.net website. <https://family.morkel.net/wp-content/uploads/Neptune-Ostracised-1.pdf>
9. Royal Commonwealth Society. Cape Town Anti-Convict Petition, 1849. found at <https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/rcs>
10. Royal Navy Records: Dr James Deas. The National Archives at <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D7609101>
11. Scotland's People Birth Marriage and Death Records. <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>
12. Simon's Town Old Graveyard <http://www.theheritageportal.co.za/article/visiting-historic-simons-town-old-burying-ground>
13. St Francis, Simon's town: Burial Register <http://www.familysearch.org>

HAVE YOU A CONNECTION WITH...

Perhaps time to try to break down brick walls again. If you have a branch of your family that appears to be going nowhere, send me the details you have so far and perhaps, we can find someone with a connection. My email is dpratt@mweb.co.za or info@thefamilyhistorian.co.za]

JENKINSON Family

Barry Thomas from Australia has been in contact with us. He has got quite far with his tree but is wondering if any of our members have a connection with his South African wing. His great-grandfather John JENKINSON (1850-1912) was a carpenter-joiner but when he came to SA he became a builder and built in Bonair Estate, Rondebosch where he and his wife Agnes born ARUNDEL lived in Lothian House. When he retired, they moved to Canty Bay House Muizenberg, that well-known stone house right next door to Labia House on the Main Road overlooking the sea. John and Agnes JENKINSON had six children:

1. John 1876-1952
2. Annie L. 1878-1944
3. Thomas J 1881-1917
4. William A 1884-1960
5. Allen G 1890-1967
6. Edward Hogg 1886-1927 who was Barry's grandfather and lived in Rhodesia.

If any reader is connected to this family and would like to make contact with Barry Thomas, contact me and I will pass on your email to him.

Some people are lucky and manage to overcome brick walls even if, as Paul Schlapoff says in the title to his story, it had '...ramparts and deep foundations.' This is a good lesson to us all – it's not just the bricks in the wall but the ramparts and the foundations which need to come down in order to break through.

My "Family Brick Walls" – with ramparts and deep foundations.

Paul Schlapoff

I have delved back into both my parent's families (Schlapoff and Clelland) and although I have been fortunate with the documents I have found and the assistance received, I have reached the point that signals "final destination".

A. SCHLAPOFF

The Schlapoff family name is not common and appears to originate from a single source in the Lüneburger Heide or heath in Lower Saxony, Germany. I could easily trace my father's parents (Georg [no e] Schlapoff & Christina Wrede) arrival in East London aboard the ships *Anglican* (1890 -Schlapoff) and the *Tartar* (1891) & *Dane* (1892 – Wrede). The various wedding and birth documents of their children are easily found with confirmation of dates in the family Bible in possession of my cousin. There are 21 grandchildren of whom I, at 74, am the youngest and the cousin that I contacted is number 17. Georg was born in Hermansburg and Christina near Hanover with all relatives and ancestors situated within the towns of this vast heath. It has a very poor quality of soil that entails careful cultivation.

My cousin Veronica's son had also started investigating the family and we corresponded regularly and I shared copies of about 90 entries concerning the family from the Cape Town and Pretoria Archives plus passenger lists. He made contact with a distant relative (also a Schlapoff) in Germany whose mother was also researching the family. Together we managed to fit the various branches together with the mother kindly translating these German records into English and explain the headings under which they are recorded.

She finally discovered an entry written in a ledger of a marriage between *Hans Schlapoff* dated **1639** to *Catherina Michaelis* together with the birth of their son, Hinrich in Steinbeck. His father (also Hans – say number 1) as a witness but her parents were not listed nor any ages. Official death records in Steinbeck were found for both, with Hans (no 2) passing in 1685 and Catherina in 1705. No other documents of any siblings have been found due to the 30 Year War in the Holy Roman Empire War that resulted in the destruction of almost all official records.

“The Holy Roman Empire 30 year War” (1618 to 1648) was a devastating religious conflict involving the Catholics verses the Protestants with Saxony supporting the Protestant movement begun by Martin Luther. Over 18,000 villages and 1,500 towns within the German conflict area were damaged or destroyed, especially the churches and town halls where the records were kept. Virtually all birth, marriage and death records were destroyed and any hidden buried records did not survive water damage. The estimated civilian deaths averaged about a quarter of the German population, but differed regionally, with up to 40% for some areas of Saxony. Virtually no records exist in the area of Lower Saxony prior to 1682 when official data recording recommenced and taking into account any informal notations – (such as the ledger)

I pondered the birth date of this Hans and suggested a theory that our working team has accepted. I suggested that the average male would probably wed between the ages of 20 to 30, but as we do not know if he was the first or last born, it could be a span of about 15 years. So the suggested birth of Hans to be around 1604 to 1619, but what of his father, Hans (no 1)? If the same principle were to apply and assuming his son was the first son (hence carrying his name) and he was born perhaps 20 to 30 years before his son’s marriage, his approximate birth year would be around 1580 to 1600. Thankfully Hans and his son survived otherwise this whole tree would be missing.

- 1) Hans Schlaphoff (the father) born between 1580 & 1600 – died unknown
- 2) Hans Schlaphoff (the son) born between 1610 to 1615 – died 16/04/1865
- 3) Hinrich Schlaphoff (g-son) born 1639 - died July 1736 + married Magarete Garbers
- 4) Hinrich Schlaphoff (g,g-son) born 1661 – died Oct 1766 + married Catharina Garbers (a cousin)
- 5) Johann Schlaphoff (g,g,g-son) born 1708 – died 1772 + married Anna Stallbaum

Only single child entries are found for 1 to 4 above. No 5 had 10 children which is the start of the tree. As no other persons named Schlaphoff have been found prior to Hans (1), he may be the family’s Adam.

* * * *

B) CLELLAND.

Of my mother’s family (father Fullarton Marr **Clelland** & mother Johanna Jemima Bendall) are well documented and easily found. I’ll concentrate on the Clellands as the the Bendalls are another interesting story.

The father arrived on the ship *Grantully Castle* in 1881 from Glasgow Scotland having been born in Govan (a suburb of Glasgow) on 9th February 1861 to William Clelland and Margaret Arnot. As the only person named “Fullarton Marr” he was easily found among the British records and he must have been a proud Scot as many of his offspring were given a second name of his associated family clan.

The British census was begun in 1841 and can be traced back until that time. However, deciphering the census takers handwriting and spelling could be a problem. I have the same person named as Cliland, Cleland (single L) and Deland where in one instance of the family in the same house.

I was able to trace Fullarton’s grandfather to a John Clelland (birth listed with 2 Ls & census - 1841 with 1L) born Oct 1791 in Coylton, Ayrshire who married Henritta Ann Whitefood Marr (Fullarton’s second name) in Monkton, Ayrshire. His occupation is listed as labourer before moving to Troon as recorded on his daughter’s birth records. By the 1851 census they are living and he is working as a gardener at “Fullarton House” of the Fullarton clan.

John’s father is listed as **Archibald Cleland** (single L & Fullarton’s great-grandfather) and his mother is **Jean Stewart** as noted on John’s birth record of 1791 in Coylton. This is where the problem begins. Neither Archibald nor Jean’s birth or death records can be verified. Besides their children’s records the only one found is their wedding recorded on 5th April 1788 in Coylton, Ayrshire (*selected Marriages of Scotland 1561-1910 FHL no 1041336*). The Church Register, first begun in 1725, lists them as “both of this parish gave in their names to be proclaimed in order for marriage & were married accordingly”. According to the parish custom at that time the local register or priest would be approached three months before this date so that their intention to wed could be displayed and announced with the couple in attendance at the Sunday service. As their families would usually attend the wedding, it could be assumed that the couple resided within the village of Coylton. The original “auld kirk” is a ruin with a new church having been built in 1821 and the whereabouts of the birth records, started in 1725, are unknown.

Which Alexander and Jean? According to Scotland's People website, 6 Archibalds are listed. Four are around 60 to 100 miles away from the village of Coylton, one within 40 miles in the village of Lesmahagow aged 30 and about 2 to 3 days travel time on the dusty tracks of those days and one in the surrounds of Coylton but would be aged 16 at the time of the wedding. Perhaps there is a mistake in the recorded birth date? The website also lists three Jean Stewarts. The first was born in Glasgow in 1755 and died between 1841 and 1851 so can be discounted. The second born in Avendale about 35 miles distant and the third perhaps the most likely, was born in May 1764 in Ayr only 8 miles from Coylton.

An enquiry to a researcher in the area gave a rough quote via e-mail in 2015 that would exceed an airfare plus a week accommodation for myself, with very bleak prospects of success on both options.

So, once again without the missing records, it is doubtful if either brick wall can be breached.