



The Cape Almanac

THERE IS NO FUTURE WITHOUT A PAST

June 2005

Sir Benjamin D'Urban

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Sir BENJAMIN D'URBAN was the first English governor of the Cape Colony who was without powerful family connections. His father was a commoner, and his relatives had little or no influence with those in whose hands lay patronage. He owed his position to merit alone. He had served through the Peninsular War as commander of a division of cavalry in the Anglo-Lusitanian legion, and since the fall of Napoleon had been employed chiefly in the West Indies. In 1815 he was made a Knight Commander of the Bath, and in February 1831 received the civil appointment of governor of Demerara. When sent as governor to the Cape Colony his military rank was only that of a major-general. He was a man of ability, and still more of honesty and purpose, who did what he believed to be right regardless of consequences to himself. Benevolent in disposition, he came to this country impressed with the belief, then common in England, that the coloured people were harshly dealt with by the Europeans, and that a better relationship to the border tribes could be brought about by kindness and confidence.

The new governor was sent to South Africa to carry out the views of the ministry of the day with regard to several important matters.

1. The civil establishments were to be greatly reduced, and such retrenchment was to be effected as would not only bring the expenditure within the revenue, but leave a balance to be applied to the gradual extinction of the public debt.

2. The system of dealing with the Kaffirs was to be altered, and a policy of conciliation by means of alliances with the chiefs be entered upon.

3. The emancipation of the slaves in accordance with imperial legislation for the purpose was to be carried into effect.

The financial condition of the country at the time was extremely bad. From the conquest of the colony in 1806 to the close of the year 1835 the public revenue remained almost stationary, notwithstanding the large increase of quitrents, the imposition of a poll tax and taxes upon incomes, servants, and carriages, and the addition in January 1828 of the local revenue of Cape Town and the district revenues, previously collected and administered by the burgher senate and the boards of landdrost and heemraden. Several causes contributed to this.

It is evident that D'Urban's rule was significant in his attempt to face the problems of the Cape and the interior as a whole. In addition to the treaties, already mentioned, with Waterboer and Mzilikazi, he sought to bring some stability to the settlement at Port Natal. While he failed to secure formal British government for the territory, his support of Allen Gardiner and the Natal merchants justified their using his name for the new township at the coast, now called Durban. D'Urban remained at the Cape as governor until his successor, Napier, arrived in Jan. 1838; he did not finally depart until April 1846. He became a lieutenant-general in 1837 and ten years later accepted command of the forces in Canada, where he died. [Source: Theals' History of the Cape]



Up Coming Events



July 16th Brian Ingpen—Union Castle Lines

August 20th Prof Robert Shell –Land and Property of the Cape

September 17th Heritage Day

October 15th Vernacular Society

November 19th Resources Heritage Agency

December another fun Xmas Party

Précis of the Archives

Hotman (Theodorus)

of Coningsbergen; arrived in 1729 as soldier in the "Carssenhoff"; appointed the same year apothecary at the Hospital; asks for burgher papers. (No. 57.)

Honk (Hans Jurgen)

of Cleeburg; soldier; arrived in the "Westerdijxhoorn" in 1723; submits a burial certificate showing the death of his wife, to whom, during her life, a part of his wages had been paid. (Certificate attached.) (No. 68.)

Hollius (Francois)

bookkeeper on the "Paddenburg"; wishes to take with him to Europe his wife Hendrina Schellinger, whom he has married here. (No. 69.)

Hubertus (Johannes)

of Amsterdam; arrived as "adelborst" in 1728 in the "Delfsland"; served some time in the stables of the company; a saddler by trade; asks for burgher papers. (No. 84.)

Heems (Martinus)

of the C. of G. Hope; entered the service in 1720 as "adelborst"; made bookkeeper in 1730, and in 1732 superintendent of the timber store and slave lodge; asks for the rank of junior merchant. (No. 60.)

Hubener (Jochem)

—? Hubner; of Geedebus; arrived in 1729 in the "Oostrust" as soldier; asks for burgher papers. (No. 84.)

Here, there & Everywhere

The Life of Lily Niezel

by Marilyn Crawford

At our February meeting we were very honoured to have Marilyn and Martin Crawford who belong to the Post Card Society of Cape Town, They came along and brought the incredible display and history of Lily Niezel to share with us.



We acquired this collection of ±330 postcards at an auction in 2000 in a magnificent album. Initially, we bought it because it contained quite a few St Helena cards and I am very interested in the island, since many generations of my family were born there. When we got the collection home, I realised that the cards were nearly all addressed to “**Lilly Niezel**”, and after I put them in date order, I saw that the collection had more potential than we had previously thought, as I could trace Lilly’s movements for ten years.

So this exhibit takes a look into the life of Lilly Neizel (who was born at Emangweni and who grew up in Ladysmith), as well as Charles (Carl) McKean who she met and later married. Lilly’s postcards are dated from 1900 to 1910, but I have subsequently found other postal articles addressed to Lilly and/or Carl and where appropriate these have also been included. The timespan has been extended to include Carl’s movements, prior to his meeting Lilly and has been continued to their respective deaths. The cards required much research to piece Lilly’s story together. As the story unfolds, one can see romance, tragedy, joy, friendship, loneliness and travel all through the messages on the cards! It is amazing how much one can learn from a little postcard – births, deaths, engagements, marriages etc are all recorded on these little pieces of card. Lilly stayed in touch with so many people and the cards have been fascinating to read. This has been an exciting collection to study in an effort to unravel Lilly’s life. It has provided me with much enjoyment – even if it is not *my* family history. And the research continues! Lilly’s family, who did not know of the existence of these cards, have been amazed at how much I have learnt about Lilly, just from the cards, in fact, I have been able to tell them things, which they did not know about. They have been very helpful in providing me with copies of family documents, photographs etc.

The display was originally set out as a social history exhibit using postcards and other philatelic material to tell the



story. However, as a social history category is not always offered at philatelic exhibitions, the exhibit was rewritten to give the story a philatelic slant. Postal routes have been noted, postmarks have been examined for unusualness and if a stamp is of interest, attention has been drawn to it. In some instances the picture sides of the cards have been used, where they have been of significance. In others, the address sides have been shown, where the postmarks, stamps, or addresses have been of importance. Where it has been necessary to show both sides, reduced photocopies have been used.

Wynberg– The History

WYNBERG. A Thriving commercial and residential suburb of Cape Town, 13 km south of the City Hall and situated in the district of Wynberg. The name derives from the vineyard laid out by Van Riebeeck in 1688 on his farm Bosheuvel (now named Bishopscourt), on the slopes of Wynberg Hill. Van Riebeeck also planted a hedge of wild almonds, intended to keep the Hottentots out of the settlement. It ran across Wynberg Hill, and portions are still visible and have been declared a historical monument. On the recommendation of the acting Governor, Sir Richard Bourke, part of the Wynberg military camp was sold off in building lots, and land was granted to the Dutch Reformed Church in 1831 and to the Anglican church of St. John (much altered since) in 1836. The old D.R. church, built in 1839, is still in existence, but was extensively altered in 1889 and proclaimed a historical monument in 1965. Most of the area of the future village lay on the estate of Klein Oude Wynberg, part of the farm Oude Wynberg which dates back to the early days of the Cape settlement. Klein Oude Wynberg was subdivided, houses began to spring up under shady avenues, and prosperous Capetonians began building country villas there. British officials on leave from India favoured Wynberg as a holiday resort and by 1840 over a hundred visitors from India were living there, mostly in the suburb named Kenilworth. The streets were lined with rustic cottages, interspersed with handsome houses.

By the 1850's this influx of Indian visitors was checked by the Indian Mutiny, faster transport, and the attractions of Australia. Wynberg consequently became neglected, but in 1886 the authorities decided to con-



struct extensive barracks and other military works at the Wynberg camp, and the village revived. There was a spate of building and grocers, butchers, bakers, launderers and tavern-keepers prospered, catering to the thousands of soldiers who passed through the camp. Wynberg became a separate municipality in 1886 and retained its identity until 1927, when it was incorporated in Cape Town. It even had its own water-supply from three reservoirs on the top of Table Mountain. The second railway in the Cape was built from Salt River junction to Wynberg in 1862. After the Second Anglo-Boer War the importance of Wynberg camp dwindled, and in consequence Old Wynberg gradually deteriorated, the centre of activity moving down toward the main road and the railway.

About 1954 the architect Brian (Sonny) Heseltine started on the restoration of Old Wynberg. He realised that the village contained some fine examples of Regency architecture and that many of the cottages could be saved. He renovated several dwellings in Durban Road and Victoria Road, and others have faithfully restored their own charming cottages. Through their combined efforts Old Wynberg was renewed as an aesthetic, architectural and cultural entity promptly dubbed 'Little Chelsea' that is unique in South Africa.

Wynberg Park, on the slopes of Wynberg Hill, comprises 38 ha of parkland and forest. Maynardville, with its unique open-air theatre which has maintained an annual Shakespearean season since 1956, is another public park.



District: Area 430 sq km, containing the west coast of the Cape Peninsula from Chapman's Peak to Llandudno, which includes Hout Bay and the peninsula of the Karbonkelberg. The district comprises

the southern suburbs of metropolitan Cape Town from Observatory to Lakeside; the residential areas of Constantia, Bergvliet and Meadowridge (to the west of the railway); the Cape Flats suburbs of Athlone, Crawford, Wetton, Southfield, Grassy Park and Steenberg; the residential areas of Ottery, Matroosfontein, Lavistown, Welcome Estate and Surrey Estate; and the Bantu townships of Langa and Nyanga. It also includes the agricultural settlements of Philippi, where a large part of Cape Town's vegetables is produced, and the railway junction of Eerste River. The production of potatoes in the district in 1967/8 was 176 767 pockets (of lb or r kg). The district contains a section of the False Bay coast from a point west of Strandfontein to the mouth of the Eerste River, east of Macassar Beach. The University of Cape Town, Groote Schuur Provincial Hospital, Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden, Kenilworth racecourse and Youngsfield aerodrome all lie within the Wynberg district.

Military camp: During the rule of the Dutch East India Company a military camp had been in existence at Wynberg, which was occupied by the British in 1795. Maps of 1780 and 1796, however, show that this camp was situated on the plain, in the vicinity of present-day Plumstead. During their first occupation the British did not use Wynberg Hill as a camp; the bulk of their troops were quartered in the barracks in Cape Town and in the Castle. When a move

was made into the country about 1800, it was to Rondebosch Common (the Camp Ground), where reviews were held. Under the Batavian regime, Rondebosch Common continued to be used as a military camp, but in 1809 the Colonial government acquired an area from Alexander Tennant, and Wynberg Camp came into being. At first it had no great concentration of troops. In 1826 it consisted of a military hospital, five or six tumbledown barrack huts, and a ruined store. In 1886 the British decided to construct extensive barracks and other military works at the camp. After the second Anglo-Boer War, Wynberg Camp lost some of its former importance, but the Union Defence Force restored it to eminence. [Source: Standard Encyclopaedia of South Africa]



(Image) Top right Martha Solomon's. Above: Queen Rebecca genteel shebeen queen and mother Martha Solomon's Duchess of Stamford from Wynberg

The Surgeon from Wolfenbüttel by Lois Harley

When I first visited Tokai and noticed the plaque on the gateway of Tokai Manor, I was mildly interested as I noticed that the name “Teubes” was the same as that of my husband’s grandmother. I had understood that she had come from Germany so was unlikely to be related, except possibly very distantly, and I thought no more about it.

However, once I became interested in family history, I started to explore these links more closely.

When I enquired of her surviving grandchildren what they knew of her origins I found that very little was known. One grand daughter said she wasn’t sure whether the surname was Teubes or Thebus but she thought that one of her brothers was called Francis Xavier and became a priest; the other was fairly sure the name was spelt Teubes and that the family came from Cape Town and had moved to Pretoria. They thought that she was one of 17 children. Neither knew what her first name was – they knew her as ‘Nanna’. She had married R. Basson, possibly Robert.

I was very excited when I joined the Cape Town Family History Society and Heather immediately set me on my way by sending me the NAAIRS references for death notices for Robert Owen Basson and Johanna Elizabeth Antoinette Teubes in the Archives in Pretoria.

Once I received copies of these, I knew I was on the right track although in the end I had to search through very many death notices and other documents before finding her line back to Andreas Georg Heinrich Teubes of Tokai. As a result, I have constructed quite a comprehensive Teubes family tree for a family that has deep roots in Cape Town. (I was rather surprised to find that she was born in Ladysmith, Natal although she married in Pretoria. Her parents were named as Dirk and Maria.)

AGH Teubes arrived in the Cape in 1769 as a soldier. He was born in about 1746 in Wolfenbüttel in Brunswick, a German Duchy, his father being Georg Steffens Teubes; and qualified as a surgeon in 1764. He became a burgher in the Cape in 1775 and seems to have had a varied career until his death in 1807. He practiced as a surgeon, was a transport rider and a farmer. Unfortunately, his venture in Tokai lasted only a short time and ended in insolvency.

He married twice, in 1775 to Josina Catharina van Wielligh, granddaughter of another German immigrant, Nikolaus von Wielligh, and in 1791 to Anna Catharina Bosman. All the descendants I have traced come from this second marriage.

There were four children from this marriage, two of whom were sons. I eventually identified the youngest son, also Andreas Georg Hendrik (1792 – 1858), as the one to follow. He married Maria Elizabeth de Waal (1793 – , daughter of Daniel de Waal who was Commissioner of Civil Af-

fairs and deputy president of the Orphan Chamber, and Rykie Hester van Brakel. They had at least ten children, information that took me some time to assemble as a number of them died before their parents and therefore did not appear on their parents’ death notices. AGH (2) lived in Green Point and appears in the 1849 Cape Almanac directory as a builder although on his death notice he is described by his wife Maria Elizabeth as an architect.

His second son, Johan Andreas (1820 – 1873), married Sara Catharina Henrietta Jurgens. He was a farmer in the Great Berg River district and when he died left a large family of small children. I was quite excited to find one of the sons was Franciscus Xaverius (1850 – 1927) but he did not become a priest.

Other sons Andreas Georg Hendrik (1815 – 1850) and Servaas (1826 – 1850) died within a few days of one another at their father’s home in Green Point although according to death notices and wills, they had been farming in the Swellendam district on a farm belonging to AGH (3). The record that I needed was the death notice of another son, Daniel de Waal Teubes (1818 – 1845), at the time of his death a clerk, also residing in Green Point. He married Johanna Elizabeth Antoinette van Reenen, daughter of Christian Daniel Dirk van Reenen and Maria Magdalena Becker. She was left with three small children, Maria Magdalena, Andreas George Hendrik and Christiaan Daniel Dirk.



The plaque on the gateway of Tokai Manor

The plaque read: In 1792 the farm Tokay was granted to Jan Andreas Rauch formerly head of the Armoury and from 1775 superintendent at Groote Schuur. Two months later Rauch sold the ground to the “Burgher Chirugijn” Andreas George Hendrik Teubes, who had the dwelling house built almost certainly according to plans by Louis Michel Thibault. From 1799 on Tokai belonged successively to Jan Frederik Herwig (until 1800), Johan Casper Loos (until 1802) Petrus Michiel Eksteen and his descendants (until 1883) when it was purchased by the Cape Government. Historical Monuments Commission 1967

St. Paul's Rondebosch

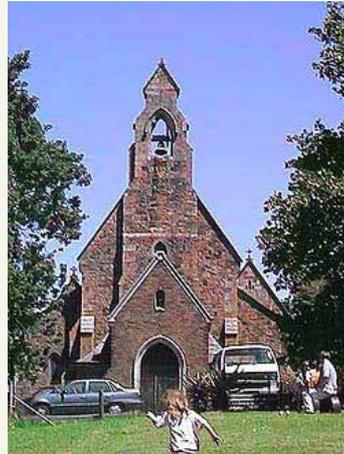
At some stage she moved to Natal. Possibly she went there to join a younger brother who had established himself as a well-to-do farmer in the Harrismith and Ladysmith districts. Her son, Christiaan Daniel Dirk, known as Dirk, was a farmer first in the Weenen and then in the Ladysmith district. He married Maria Melville in about 1867 and among the many children they had was Johanna Elizabeth Antoinette Teubes ((1871 – 1941). It appears that Dirk went insolvent in about 1886, various agricultural disasters converging to make farming impossible and his other occupation of transport rider difficult. The family moved to the Pretoria district where Johanna Elizabeth Antoinette met and married Robert Owen Basson in about 1895.

One of her younger sisters, Emma, was a nun, an interesting piece of information I uncovered in another sister's will, in which she stated that she had not left anything to Emma, not because she did not care for her but because she knew the Order in which she lived would always provide for her. In this will, she also made provision for the children of a younger brother, Frank, who had died as a young man. Possibly he was Franciscus Xaverius, but he clearly did not become a priest!

Johanna's grandchildren remembered her as a loving, gentle person but with very progressive views regarding women's rights and religion. She must have also had a good business head as she accumulated a portfolio of property to leave to her children.



Tokai Manor with Beth (a medical doctor) and David Harley, both 5th great grandchildren of the builder Andreas Georg Teubes and Colin Harley Gale, Beth's son, 6th great grandchild.



A splendid afternoon was had at St. Pauls' in Rondebosch with the Rev Derek Pratt who took us on a personalised guided tour of his Parish.

The building of the new church at Rondebosch was first opened for Divine Service on Sunday, 16 February 1834, the Governor, Sir Benjamin D'Urban, and his wife being present at the first

service. It was designed by Major Michell in the Gothic style, was roofed with thatch and could accommodate 150 people. It was much smaller than the present church and was afterwards used in the chancel of the later building. In 1843, at the ninth anniversary service in February, the collection was for the purpose of providing a gallery in the church owing to the growing demand for accommodation. In the same year, a Free school to accommodate about one hundred pupils was erected near the church, marking the beginning of the Church's provision for the education of the poorer people in Rondebosch. This building remained as a school beside the church until a few years ago when the children were accommodated in other schools and a Parish Hall replaced it.

A further scheme to enlarge the church was completed in 1854 and it could now seat 450 persons. Further development was envisaged and when the money became available St. Paul's Church as it stands to-day was finally completed in 1884 during Archdeacon Badnall's incumbency.

In 1855 the rector of St Paul's church was given permission to graze his cows on the land . There was however a stipulation that the land was



to remain open for public use. So if you ever seen a couple of bovine animals wondering around the common be sure to know that they belong to Derek.

Welcome

New Members

Nicola James sister@hbic.co.za Researching: Cammack, Janse van Vuuren, Webb, Gadd

Phyllis Webb phyllis@world.uct.ac.za Researching Cammack, Janse van Vuuren, Webb, Gadd

Jennifer & Edmund Poulter edmundpoulter@webmail.co.za Researching Poulter, Wales, Schoeman, Cammack, Shenton

We welcome you all and wish you every success with your research!!!

Welcome Committee

New committee members who have so kindly offered their support and services:

Lucille Le Roux from Fish Hoek with finance - Email: lucilleleroux@absamail.co.za

Sheryl Leslie for organizing tea + coffee at the meetings Email: cdleslie@kingsley.co.za

Tony Edwards for helping with putting out tables and chairs Email: tonyedwards@xsinet.co.za

Help Needed

We are in need of articles for our newsletters as well as photo's of "Then and Now", Family Heirloom photos, stories, lost relatives, help needed, new books or cd's available, new web sites etc.

Feedback from Meeting is important - we would love to hear your views as well as likes, dislikes and most of all idea.

If you think that you can make a contribution to your society please contact one of the committee embers at the next meeting

Get Well Soon

Lois Harley, Colin Edwards and Reg's Wife — hope you are all over the Winter coughs and colds



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