



GSSA Cemetery Recording News

Vol 11 No 1 – 2013

Welcome

As always the year rushes on and one battles to keep up with one's commitments. Here we are in the second month of the second quarter and at last I am able to put pen to paper. Oops, I mean, pound the keys with my two index fingers. I trust you all had a blessed and peaceful 2012 festive season. The Cemetery Project progresses unabated, with Peter's emails coming in on an almost daily basis. Alta Griffiths has also provided an interesting read, "The Gravehunters", reporting on the results of the Photo Project. **Please note that there is an updated version of the Cemetery Recording Project Outline (March 2013) as an annexure to this Newsletter.**



Voortrekker Street Cemetery, Alberton

Aerial photo supplied by Annel Meyer

Country-wide Round-up (Period 01.01.2013 to 31.03.2013)

- Peter & Beverley's son Stewart Moss has provided photos of the single stone and the surrounding areas of Moorddraai, Van Renen, near Harrismith, where 5 male members of the Pretorius family and a Smit were murdered in 1865. This can be seen on the eGSA website at http://www.eggasa.org/library/main.php?g2_itemId=2348856

- The headstone for ‘Just Nuisance’, the Great Dane of Royal Navy fame was recorded by Amy Griffiths.
- CemID 4580 GPSID 5481; Malaysia, Malacca, District Malacca City, Malacca City, Old Dutch Cemetery: 37 headstones photographed by Colin Pretorius, one of them being the wife of Jan van Riebeeck!
- Alta Roux sent in this info: Louisa Maria Holtzhausen *van Dyk
12.1.1925 - 23.12.2012 begrawe Klippoortjie Ogies 4.1.2013
Sy was die weduwee van Gerhardus Daniel Holtzhausen, twee seuns, nl Izak en Ernst.
- CemID 4589 GPSID 5490; RSA, Kwazulu-Natal, District New Hanover, Noodsberg, All Saints Anglican Church (61 names) was photographed by Peter and Beverley Moss while on vacation in Natal (**Ed** They don’t just talk the talk!)
- Tian Schutte has provided photos of the Riversdale New Cemetery burial registers. This has been transcribed by Sunelia Heath for the DVD Project. (4 622 names)
- Carol Beneke provided updated information from the Forest Hill Cemetery, Port Elizabeth, burial registers up to 20th Jan 2013. (92 names).
- Jonathan Dawson who works for the same firm as Peter Moss has kindly obtained photos as well as the GPS co-ordinates, of the Kansanshi Mine cemetery at Solwezi in Zambia.
- CemID 773 GPSID 773; RSA, Northern Cape, District Kuruman, Kuruman, Moffat Mission Station Cemetery: Adrian Moss (Peter’s son) has provided us with photos.
- Photos of the headstones of 1968 Miss South Africa, Mitsi Stander and her husband, Dawie Fourie were submitted by Peter and Beverley Moss. (Mitsi was Bev’s cousin.) Both are buried at Westpark Cemetery, Johannesburg.
- CemID 4647 GPSID 5553; RSA, Kwazulu-Natal, District Lions River, Karkloof, Nootgedacht 1149, Benvie. This cemetery was found by Adrian Moss on a cross-country run. (2 names)
- Gauteng, VEREENIGING district, Alberton, Alewynspoort 145, farm cemetery – overview photo posted by Annel Meyer on behalf of SEWFHS
- Gauteng, ALBERTON, Voortrekker Street, cemetery: photos supplied by Annel Meyer (See photo on page 1)
- Gauteng, JOHANNESBURG district, Alberton, Rietvlei 101, farm cemetery no 1 (68 names) and no 5 (16 names) taken and submitted by Annel Meyer on behalf of SEWFHS

- A member of SEWFHS & GSSA (Jhb), Margaret Gundry, paid a visit to St Helena, in October 2012, in the company of her husband. She proceeded to obtain the overview photos and GPS co-ordinates of the following cemeteries and memorials on the island: (1) Baptist Chapel, Knollcombes, (2) Baptist Church, Market Street, Jamestown, (3) the Cenotaph on the sea-wall, Jamestown, (4) St John's Church, Market Street, Jamestown, (5) St Paul's Cathedral, 2 miles south of Jamestown, (6) Boer Cemetery, (7) Waterwich Memorial in the Castle/Botanical Gardens, (8) St James Church, Jamestown. In addition she took photos of the headstones in the smaller cemeteries. (**Ed** Well done, Margaret!)
- CemID 4687 GPSID 5599; RSA, Kwazulu-Natal, District Underberg, , Reichenau 5798, Reinchenau Mission Station,(20 names) Photographed by Eckhard von Fintel
- De Brug 1243 (9 names) and Danielsrust 1071 (5 names) in Clarens District were recorded by Adrian Moss.
- Dirk and Daniel van Heerden submitted The Wall of Remembrance at the Rebecca Street Cemetery, Pretoria. (307 names)
- An Excel document containing the burial registers of Port Shepstone was forwarded to Peter Moss by Amanda Stander.

Branch News

eGSSA HEADSTONE PHOTOGRAPHS PROJECT

The Gravehunters – report from the Photo Project

By Alta Griffiths

24 March 2013

This is a first. A detailed report of our cemetery project always appear in eGSSA's quarterly journal, the Genesis; but we received numerous requests, end of last year, to also publish an update in John's Cemetery Newsletter.

Project target

eGSSA members and supporters are working very hard to reach our year-end target of 550 000 photos on the web. We have already received 25 000 photos so far this year, bringing the total to just over 500 000 on the web, including the photos in the pipeline, awaiting transfer to the public page. We only need another 50 000 photos!

Photo contributions

Can be submitted via e-mail, DVD or Dropbox.

We require:-

A trip to Gauteng

March is GSSA's AGM month. A group of us travelled from Cape Town up to Krugersdorp by car; and we stopped at a couple of cemeteries along the way.



One of the cemeteries we visited was the old Historical 1847 cemetery in Victoria West. The cemetery previously very neglected, now features barb wire and a huge lock. The grounds are clean and well maintained. Unfortunately, some of the headstones have not survived vandalism.

The historical cemetery in Victoria-West

Finding the key to the cemetery was quite a mission – we were directed to the bar on the corner. The friendly barman explained that his father keeps the grounds clean but does not normally keep the keys and directed us to 'Oom Dirk Human, die NG Kerk koster'.

Simone Kay, Mariana Olivier and Petro Coreejes-Brink helped to take photos of all the graves.

It pays to plan your visit to a cemetery in advance. Our visit to the Victoria West cemetery was unplanned and we paid the price. We ended up in the graveyard when the sun was at its hottest. The temperature reading in the car was 37 degrees in the shade, when we finally got back to the car.



Crocks and flip flops are not graveyard shoes!

A Merit Award to North West

The North West branch received a Merit Award for their contribution to both the DVD and Photo Project. The North West branch has supported our projects over many years, but in the last 2 to 3 years they have put a huge effort in to photograph all the graves in Lichtenburg, Bakerville, Potchefstroom and Klerksdorp. Some of these photos are already on the eGSSA website

http://www.eggasa.org/library/main.php?g2_itemId=43

Dirk Bloem received the Merit Award on behalf of the North West branch.



One of the nicest parts of the weekend was to finally meet some of the people who always send their photos to us: Kriek Fourie, Eckhard von Fintel, Simon du Plooy, Dirk Bloem, John Deare, Petrus Fourie and Margaret Gundry.

Margaret recently visited St Helena, and she spent her days in the cemeteries there; the photos should be on our website soon.

Photo donations

Our sincerest thanks to the photographers who shared their photos with us. Grave contributions received since our last report in the Genesis:-

Adrian Moss	Derek Walker	Len Combrink	Pieter Buys
Alex van Niekerk	Dirk van Heerden	Lettie du Preez	Pieter van Aardt
Alistair Knox	Doug Forsyth	Liz Oberholster	Pieter van der Merwe
Alta Griffiths	Douglas Ewan	Louis Botha	Riaan Coetzee
Alta Roux	Eckhard von Fintel	Louise Engelbrecht	Richard Seddon
Amanda Stander	Emmerentia de Kock	Louw du Plessis	Rina Venter
Amy Griffiths	Erna Buber-de Villiers	Margaret Gundry	Robert Bolus
André van Dyk	Ester Stieger	Mariana Olivier	Rodney Strydom
André van Wyk	Fanie Fourie	Marillac Robinson	Rut Cloete
Anette Smith	Freek Myburgh	Marlene Goosen	Ryan Smith
Anna Oetlé	Gert McCarthy	Mathilda van Zyl	SEWFHS
Annel Meyer	Gideon van Tonder	Melanie McIntosch	Shannon
Annelie Els	Glen Swemmer		Simon du Plooy
Annie Campbell	Glynis Millet-Clay	Melt Loubser	Simone Kay
Arnoldus Bestbier	Guy Barker	Mike and Beverley Moll	Stander Jansen
Attie Delport	Hennie Steyn	Mishack Nunu	Stephen Botha
Becky Horne	Henry and Maryna Northall	Nantes Kruger	Steven and Nellie Myburgh
Belinda Nothnagel	Ilze Nieuwoudt	Neil Holmes	Stoffel and Nicolene Willemse
Ben Leach	Jacob de Clerq	Neill Freeman	Swannie Swanvelder

Bets Terblanche	Jacques Damster	Nico Burger	Tammy Wellbeloved
Brian Johnson	James Anderson	Ockert Mostert	Tanite Smart
Carika Matthews	James Houston-McMillan	Pat Crouse	Tharina Coetzee
Carol Beneke	Jan van Jaarsveld	Paul le Roux	Tian Schutte
Carol Coney	Janet Melville	Paul Mare	Tombi Peck
Corrie Evert	Jean van Helsdingen	Pauline Swanepoel	Victoria Francis
Dal Good	Johan Stadler	Peet Fourie	Wilfred Duckitt
Dave Hudson-Lamb	Johan Swanevelder	Peet Schabort	Willem du Plooij
David van der Merwe (eGGSA)	Johan Vermeulen	Peter and Beverley Moss	Willie Solomon
David van der Merwe (Vaal Triangle)	Johan Viktor	Petro Coreejas-Brink	
Deon Goosen	Jonathan Dawson	Petro Naude	
Derek Austin	Kriek Fourie	Piet and Elna Conradie	

Photo contribution, queries and corrections can be sent to Alta Griffiths at cemphoto@ggsa.info

SOUTH EAST WITS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

SEWFHS celebrated their 25th Anniversary on 9th February 2013. Among the 43 attendees were Peter and Beverley Moss, who are members and have a long association with the Society. SEWFHS are progressing apace at the Brenthurst Cemetery in Brakpan. About 8 000 photos have been submitted so far, with probably another 8 000 to 10 000 still to be done.

Other Branches have been relatively quiet during this first quarter of 2013.

Enquiries

From: Chris Schonken [mailto:chris@interiorimages.co.za]
Sent: 07 February 2013 06:55 AM
To: sfred@vodamail.co.za
Subject: Lindley Rd Cemetary Cemetary 2 Bethlehem OFS

Dear Sir,

I am trying my luck now very hard. I am researching the life of my grandfather , Johannes Theodorus Schonken. I am trying to get hold of a photograph of his grave. He was buried at "Lindley Rd Cemeteries, Register Bethlehem , Page 116 , Grave No 1966 on 8th December 1958. Cemetary 2. My grandmother was buried next to him grave no 1965. Her names: Helena Aletta

Schonken, nee Van Rooyen. Do you think a photograph of the grave exists? Who may I contact to get such a photo? I did try very hard to get some assistance from the Municipality, but believe me, in vain. Please can you help or direct me?

Thank You

Kind Regards

Chris Schonken

Fortunately, John Schwartz was able to assist him via a friend, Adri Viljoen of Bethlehem.



Photo with the compliments of Adri Viljoen

New DVD

The 2013 DVD can be ordered from the GSSA at orders@genza.org.za or on-line via the eGSSA web page <http://www.eggasa.org/>

Items of Interest

- 1 An interesting article from the Ancestry24 website was submitted to me by Peter Moss. We publish this excerpt, with due recognition of the Ancestry24 copyright.

Kmdt. Henning Petrus Nicolaas Pretorius (Ed Wife buried in the Preller Farm Cemetery – see eGSSA site)


(born 1844 in Natal, South Africa; died 1897, Farm Abrahamskloof, Albanie, Cape, South Africa) nicknamed “Skote Petoors” When a young boy, he was nearly present when his paternal grandfather was murdered in 1865 in Moorddraai, but rode ahead to see his fiancée, and therefore was saved from being murdered too. In 1876 he became a

Cornet in the Z.A.R. in the Sekukune wars. His heroic conduct during the First Boer War in Elandsfontein made him famous. He was wounded twice. In 1882 he was commissioned as a Kommandant. In 1890 he was made Acting Kommandant Generaal in place of P.J. Joubert. In 1896 he was promoted to Lt. Colonel of the reorganised Artillery Corps under the new name of Staatsartillerie. He made several improvements to the Artillery, rendering them equivalent to those of most nations at the time. He died while on a mission in the Eastern districts of the Cape, while looking for the beam on which the accused were hanged in 1816 for the Slagtersnek opstand. He was buried with full military honours at the Helde-akker in Pretoria. There is a statue of him in front of Military Headquarters in Potgieter Street in Pretoria.

His father was Marthinus Wessel “Swart Martiens” Pretorius (1822-1864) born in Graaf Reinet and who died at the Battle of Silkaatsnek, during the First Boer War. Farmer in Welgegund, near Pretoria. His mother was Debora Jacoba Retief (1815-1900), born at Mooimeisjesfontein, in the Cape. She famously painted her father’s name on the cliff face of Kerkenberg in the Drakensberg. A sculpture of this deed is on display in the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria. Her father was Gen. Pieter Retief (1780-1838), known as Piet Retief, Voortrekker leader. Retief was born in the Cape Colony, South Africa. (For the rest of the story refer to <http://ancestry24.com/articles/battle-of-silkaatsnek/> (Ed The Battle of Silkaatsnek was not during the First Boer War, but during the Anglo-Boer War in July and August of 1900 – there were two battles. I think that he died in a civil war skirmish between Kruger and Schoeman at Silkaatsnek in 1864, in the early days of the ZAR.)

2 In response to our story in the previous Newsletter, I received the following email:

John,
How kind of you to include my story!
I still smile at the recollections of it!
FYI, I plan to raise a headstone on Dr Budd's grave at some stage and when I do I'll write that up and send it over to you.
Thanks again for all your help.
Here's to a successful 2013 for you and your wonderful team.
With best wishes,



John Hennessey
John@thehenesseys.co.uk

3 Received from Shelagh O’Byrne Spencer:

From: Brian and Shelagh Spencer [mailto:spencer@sai.co.za]
Sent: 23 January 2013 08:58 PM
To: John Schwartz
Subject: Re: Lydenburg area graves

Dear John

Vol. 8 is not ready as I got a chest infection in Oct., and only now am I trying to pick up the threads. I meant to tell you that the photo on p. 5 of people with Peter and Beverley were photographed with them as they had all had a lot to do with the Commercial Rd cemetery. They are: back row - Dr Mike O'Connor, Eckhard von Fintel, P M, Lynn Gilbert, me, Rodney Coyne

front row _ B M and Jenny Duckworth (she recorded all the Catholics, and her tools besides pencil and paper were a spade and an iron rod to discover the tombstones buried under ages of earth!) The ones who both copied inscriptions and collated them, Diane Scogings and her son Michael are now in Auckland, NZ.

Best wishes

Shelagh

4 **From:** M,J.Theart [mailto:tht@mweb.co.za]

Sent: 14 January 2013 18:50

To: Moss, Peter

Subject: Grave at side of road Velddrif

Hallo Peter,

I was searching for the "Grave at side of road" as mentioned in DVD nr 9 at Velddrif, Western Cape, and I found nothing.

While driving through the farms in Aurora district Dec 2010, I found it on the **farm Middeldkraal**. Only found the 17 year old son who did not know the whole history. Also not the Coordinates.

2012 Nov- Dec we went down again, this time with a GPS. The coordinates:

S 32° 42.247' ; E 018° 19.857'

And this time the owner and his wife were home: Alwyn and Lena Hitchcock. They explained that the farm belonged to Thomas Joël Hitchcock at the time of his death in 1939. This "Grave" at the roadside was actually a "monument". See attached photo of newspaper clippings made by Mrs Lena Hitchcock when the monument was moved to the farm at the request of a developer ± 2001. I also attach a photograph of the grave of T J Hitchcock in the Main cemetery in Aurora.

Something else:

DVD Version 10 seems to be for professional only! Where 9 was easy to find the town and also find the names in alphabetical order, 10 seems to need experts.

Thanks for your hard work

Thinus Theart

5 Visit to the Tankwa Karoo National Park

By Petro Coreejas-Brink and Alta Griffiths

GGSA was honoured to receive an invitation to help with the documentation of the graves in the Tankwa Karoo National Park. The Parks board bought numerous farms for the Tankwa; and most of the old farms have a cemetery or two. The Boland Honorary

Rangers want to plot all the cemeteries on a map and if possible expand on the social history of the Tankwa. Petro and Alta visited Tankwa in March to help with the cemeteries. Honorary Rangers Mike and Beverley Moll were our hosts for the weekend and we stayed with them at the Platfontein farm.

The park is in the heart of the Karoo. There is not much in the sense of wildlife; but we did see eland, oryx, springbok, kudu, a jackal, baboons and many bird species. If you are looking for peace and quiet, the Tankwa is the place to go.



Surnames found: -

- Augustyn
- Steenkamp
- Strauss
- Paulsen
- Herbert
- Skorts
- Lombaard
- Visagie
- Shepherd
- Pieterse
- Jordaan
- Karsten
- Le Roux
- Geldenhuis
- Du Toit
- Hough
- Lubbe
- Vlok
- Venter



Honorary Rangers Mike and Beverley Moll wearing big hats to protect them

Mike and Beverley accompanied us to all the cemeteries on the old farms. Some of the places were only accessible with a 4x4 vehicle.

In many instances we had to walk long distances to get to the cemeteries. Reports were received of a cemetery up the Langkloof. The road was blocked off about 3km from the sighting. We went through the veld, across the river beds, up and down the mountain side, we found the ruins, but not the graves!



The Karoo bushes are hard, dry and many of them covered with thorns. We all returned with huge scratches on our arms

In the end we recorded 15 cemeteries in the park. Many of the cemeteries we found had no names. On average, we drove 250km on each of our 2 days in the park.

There must be more cemeteries in the park. Mike and Beverley have promised to record them for our project should they be discovered.

Our thanks to the National Parks Board, Boland Honorary Rangers Mike and Beverley Moll and GSSA who allowed us to experience the unforgettable weekend!

Editor's Note

PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE PROBABLY SOME RECORDINGS THAT I HAVE MISSED AND I CERTAINLY HAVE NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ALL REVISIONS THAT WERE DONE. IF I HAVE MISSED YOUR CONTRIBUTION PLEASE FORGIVE ME. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOTH PROJECTS.

Next Issue

The next Newsletter will hopefully be issued during July 2013. Any comments, criticisms, articles of interest, etc should reach the Editor by not later than 30th June 2013.

If you wish to unsubscribe, send an e-mail with the Subject "Unsubscribe" to sfred@vodamail.co.za.

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The Genealogical Society of SA

Cemetery Recording Project Outline

March 2013

Mission

To preserve the genealogical information contained in cemeteries of South African interest and make the information accessible to genealogical researchers.

Scope and objectives of the project

- The Project is an initiative of the Genealogical Society of South Africa and as such will align its goals with the goals of the GSSA.
- The aim is to preserve information by the collecting, recording, processing and safekeeping of cemetery data. This is achieved by recording the genealogical information, including birth, death and burial data plus any personal historical data (e.g. occupation, marriage or any other family relationships) contained in the cemetery data.
- The data is collected from all cemetery type sources, including headstones, burial registers, memorials and cremation plaques.
- The project covers all cemetery data of South African interest, inside and outside of South Africa.
- A prime focus of the Project is the collection of information from the very many farm cemeteries that exist throughout SA. These have no burial registers and the headstones are more subject to neglect and damage than the town cemeteries (which are also under threat).
- Credit and acknowledgement will be given to Recorders.
- The GSSA is a non-profit organisation. All recording and administrative work is done by volunteers.

The Project is organised in two parts:

1 The DVD Project

The DVD Project collects name information from various sources (headstones, memorials, registers etc) and publishes this annually as an Index in DVD form. The Index is searchable by name, cemetery etc; DVD 11 published in March 2013 contains 571,665 names from 2948 cemeteries. In addition to Cemetery Recording efforts at the various GSSA Branches, we have a large number of individuals who record data and assist with data processing.

The DVD can be ordered from the GSSA at orders@genza.org.za or on-line via the eGSSA web page <http://www.eggasa.org/>

DVD Data Coordinators: Peter and Beverley Moss:

cemadmin@genza.org.za

2 The eGSSA Photo Project

The eGSSA (the web-based Branch of the GSSA) publishes headstone photos on the internet; these photo albums are searchable by name, cemetery etc. There is no charge for access.

The albums presently contain over 482,000 photos, with some 20,000 photos still to be processed. This effort is coordinated by Alta Griffiths: cemphoto@genza.org.za

eGSSA library webpage: <http://www.eggsa.org/library/main.php>

Postal address: PO Box 1998, DURBANVILLE, 7551.

Other Project features of interest are:

- **The Cemetery Project Newsletter**

The Newsletter edited by John Schwartz covers both aspects of the Project: to subscribe please contact newsletter@genza.org.za

- **The GSSA webpage**

Please also visit the GSSA homepage www.genza.org.za for further information. Select the required tab for PROJECTS / Cemetery Project.

The DVD Project area contains various reports giving the status of the cemetery recording effort,

which cemeteries have been recorded, etc. This cemetery recording status is recorded in excel files on the web page, go to Projects / Cemetery Recording / Cemetery DVD Updates and Reports. These files are updated monthly.

- **The GSSA Google Earth Cemetery Initiative**

Explore the GSSA cemetery locations live on line! Visit the GSSA web page and click on **GSSA Google Earth Cemetery Initiative**, where we display our cemetery locations on a Google Earth platform. You will need a broadband connection and “Google Earth” preloaded on your pc to view this (free download from www.earth.google.com)

- **About the Cemetery Index**

The Cemetery Index is used to manage the recording effort and correlate data between the DVD and eGSSA projects. It contains 3 main areas:

1. **Cemetery names**, including CemID, where we use the farm name / number as found on the 1:50000 maps of SA. There can be more than 1 cemetery location on a farm (see 3.)
2. **Documents**, including DocID, which tracks recorder and submitter names, dates entered, etc. There can be many documents for a single cemetery, due to revisions, updates etc.
3. **Cemetery locations**, including GPSID, which contains the GPS coordinates, links to eGSSA photo albums, etc, and provides data for the Google Earth Cemetery Initiative.

Cemeteries	4417	Documents	5243	Cemetery Locations	5200
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- **Recording – please help**

We request that recorders send in headstone photos, or provide a transcript of the headstone information (preferably in our standard excel format which saves time at our end), and also provide GPS coordinates and a view photo of the cemetery.

If you are interested in helping with recording work, data processing or any other aspect of the Project, please contact the Coordinators noted above for further information.

Thank you for your interest

The Cemetery Recording Team