



# GSSA Cemetery Recording News

Vol 11 No 2 – 2013

## Welcome

And so, the second quarter's Newsletter goes to press. What strikes me every time around is the number of reports of the desecration of gravesites, vandalism and gross neglect that are being received. Unfortunately, it is not possible to discuss this matter in this media nor is it possible to report on all the instances being forwarded to Peter and myself. So I have selected a few which were highlighted.



*Mountain Rose Cemetery – State of neglect before clean-up*



*After the clean-up*

*Submitted by Vernon Vogt/John Deare*

## **Country-wide Round-up**

**(Period 01.04.2013 to 30.06.2013)**

- CemID 4711 GPSID 5629; RSA, Northern Cape, District Gordonia, Augrabies, Nel Cemetery, Padrooi 13, photographed by Adrian Moss.
- Adrian Moss with the help of Duncan and Ashley Barker, found and photographed CemID 4712 GPSID 5630; RSA, Northern Cape, District Namaqualand, Alexander Bay, Korridor Wes 2,
- Peter and Beverley Moss (seems to be a family affair) also submitted info and photographs for CemID 93 GPSID 93; RSA, Kwazulu-Natal, District Kliprivier, van Reenen, The Reproach 4237, "Springvale". Cemcount: 1 of 2 (3 names)
- CemID 1541 GPSID 1633; RSA, North West, District Rustenburg, Mooinooi, Buffelsfontein 344, (9 names); CemID 1542 GPSID 1634; RSA, North West, District Rustenburg, Mooinooi, Buffelspoort 343, (101 names) were photographed by John Schwartz and CemID 804 GPSID 1632; RSA, North West, District Rustenburg, Marikana, Kafferskraal 342, . Cemcount: 2 of 2 (6 names) was completed.
- Dirk and Daniel van Heerden have completed the recording of the Wall of Remembrance at the Rebecca Street Cemetery, Pretoria. (307 names)
- Afgunst 527 in the Tandjiesberg area of the Free State was submitted by Geraldine Johnson (2 names)
- Hendrik Steyn has provided information on the following cemeteries:  
Tygerfontein 488, Venterskroon, North West (9 names);  
Rietkuil 551, Gauteng (6 names);  
Baltrasna 339, Mpumalanga (4 names); and added a second cemetery to Patriotsfontein, Gauteng (11 names).
- Various snippets of information such as correct names of cemeteries, GPS coordinates, etc, have been provided by Hendrik Steyn, Henry Northall, Rut Cloete, Peter and Beverley Moss, Mark Rodel, Johannes and Andrea Myburgh, Janet Melville, Koos and Amanda Stander, Adriana Barrett, Freek Myburg, Caren Louw, Peet Schabort, Attie Delpport, Melt Loubser, Jos von Fintel, Daan Botes, Tian Schutte, Alta Griffiths, Barend Leach, Pieter Buys, Janette Rossouw, Patrick and Wilna Eygelaar, Adrian Moss and family, Rina Venter, Stoffel Willemse, Anna Oettle, James Houston-McMillan, Bets Terblanche, Shannon Adams, Dirk van Heerden, Alex van Niekerk, Petro Naude, Horst Muller, Carol Coney, Dal Good, Doug Forsyth, Emilie van Heerden, Mike and Beverley Moll, Leander Fourie, Tammy Wellbeloved, Willie Solomon, Nantes Kruger, Victoria Francis, Jacques Damster, Arnoldus Bestbier, and Lourens van Heerden.

## Branch News

### eGGSA HEADSTONE PHOTOGRAPHS PROJECT

#### The Gravehunters – report from the Photo Project

By Alta Griffiths

4 July 2013

A big thank you to all the branches supporting our project. Photos were received from

- The West-Gauteng branch - Panorama cemetery, Roodepoort
- The Free State branch - Smithfield, Rouxville and Reddersburg
- Durban and Coastal branch – Stellawood, Durban
- Northern Transvaal – various farm cemeteries and Bainsvlei
- Diamond Field – Stella
- Vaal Triangle – various farm cemeteries



Photo: DaanBotes

Special moments: Herero ladies holding hands at the Pioneer cemetery in Windhoek

#### Individual contributions received

Adriana Barrett	FanieBlignaut	Magda Meyburgh
Alex van Niekerk	Francois Joubert	Marielle Ford
Alta Roux	Francois Visser	Marius Strauss
Amanda Stander	FreekMyburgh	Maureen Schnittker
Ann van WykWessels	Fritz Fourie	Melt Loubser
Annel Meyer	Glynis Millet-Clay	Monica Schumann
AnnemieLourens	Hannes Meyburgh	Morné van den Bergh
AnnemieLourens	Hannes Saaiman	Natalie Searson
Annie Campbell	Hennie Steyn	Nick Hinde

ArnoldusVisser	HettaScholtz	Nico Olivier
AttieDelpport	Isabel Jones	Peter van der Merwe
Charles Wait	Janine van der Merwe	Pieter and Beverley Moss
Connie Griessenc	Johan Morgenthal	Pieter Erasmus
Corrie Evert	Johan Pottas	Pieter Oosthuizen
Corrie van Biljon	Johan Viktor	Pieter Taljaard
DaanBotes	Johan Wessels	RenierFeldtmann
Daantjie Strauss	John Deare	Riaan Coetzee
David de Klerk	John Schwartz	Richard Seddon
De Wet Steenkamp	John Webb	RinaSteyn
Derek Walker	JoostHogewoning	Rob and Isabel Jones
Dirk Bloem	JorriePotgieter	Rose McArthur
Dirk van Heerden	Kipie Human	SEWFHS
Douglas Ewan	Kobus de Klerk	Shannon Adams
Duncan and Ashley Barker	KriekFourie	Sharon Immelman
Eckhard von Fintel	Leon Jansen van Rensburg	StoffelWillemse
Elsie Zinsser	Linda Gropp	Suzette de Goede
EmmerentiaGeldenhuis	Louis Botha	Suzette Haines
Ester Stieger	Louis Hurn	Tertius Marais
EttieneWeideman	Lynette Paul	WietzBeukes
	Lynn MacLeod	Wilfred Duckitt

### Corrections on the webpage

It is unfortunate, that there are errors to some of the captions on the web. While the volunteers tried to do their best, these things slip through; and we are happy to make the corrections.

If you should come across an incorrect caption in the cemetery album, please e-mail the correction to us at [cemphoto@ggsa.info](mailto:cemphoto@ggsa.info)

Kindly give us **the link** to the data that must be corrected, eg

BROH Susanna Maria neé PIETERSE 1903-1979

Link: [http://www.eggsa.org/library/main.php?g2\\_itemId=233660](http://www.eggsa.org/library/main.php?g2_itemId=233660)

The surname should be BROH not BROLI

**Please refrain from sending an email that reads:**

'My uncle's surname is incorrect on your webpage'

*Problem: Please tell us who your uncle is!*

or

'The surname should be BRITZ not BRITS

*Problem: We have over 1000 Britsse on the web, which one? No way are we going to look through all 1000 entries to find the correction! We simply do not have the staff or the energy for that!*

**Stellawood team need more photographers**

Maureen Schnittker, cemetery co-ordinator for the Durban and Coastal branch reported in. They are in serious need for more volunteers. If you are prepared to help, please contact Maureen at [h.rudman@pixie.co.za](mailto:h.rudman@pixie.co.za)

Maureen shared some photos with us, taken at her last visit to the cemetery. Some of them are very disturbing!

**PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF**

Crematorium:-



The team working on ladders to get to the plaques right at the top. Some of those walls are 3 meters high



Vandalism at the crematorium



... and more



Plaques found scattered on the ground.

### Lonely grave at the Ogies station in Mpumalanga

The photo team was very upset, when they once again received a photo for the grave at the station. Not because we got the photo for the third time, but because we checked the English War Grave lists and could not find the soldier on it.



Photo Peter and Beverley Moss

Derek Walker came to the rescue, when he discovered the following information

#### GRAVE UNDER A TOILET

(Story by Rob Milne from his book "Anecdotes of the Anglo Boer War")

Early in 1902, Colonel E.C. Knox's column swept across the Eastern Transvaal in a great 'drive' to round up the scattered Boer Commandos. On 1st February 1902 there was a skirmish with the Bethal Commando near Witbank in which J Bryant of the 26th Mounted Infantry was killed. He was buried in the veld, where he fell, and a metal cross was later placed at the head of his grave. After the war a coal mine was opened in the area, and it was decided to build a railway station near to Bryant's grave in the town now called Ogies, after the farm name Ogiesfontein or "the fountain with many eyes"(springs). The Railways authorities determined that the tracks would pass over the grave so they decided to disinter the remains and re-bury Bryant under the station platform. This became the only military grave in the world located on a railway station. However, there are curious links to two railway stations in England. There is a plaque between platforms 1 and 2 in Manchester's Victoria station recording that part of the old Walker's Croft Cemetary lies under platform 2. In 1988 a grave, thought to be that of Boudicia, the Icenic Warrior Queen, was discovered under platform 10 in King's Cross Station, London.

The story of Bryant's grave under the platform at Ogies Railway station does not end here. As the station got busier it was decided to build on, and again the grave was in the way. The remains were left where they were, and Bryant's cross was moved a few meters along the platform to the east of the new building extension. Now Bryant's remains lie under the new building – under the men's toilet!

Photo contributions, queries and corrections can be sent to Alta Griffiths at [cemphoto@ggsa.info](mailto:cemphoto@ggsa.info)

### **SOUTH EAST WITS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

This Society continues to submit between 1 000 and 2 000 photographs per month of the Brakpan Brenthurst Cemetery headstones. They now have about 75% completed.

**In future the Branches section of the Newsletter will be discontinued as most of the Branch activity is being included in eGGSA's report.**

### **Enquiries**

- Colleen Hollett enquired about the grave of Charles Jones, grave number 1121 in Beaconsfield Cemetery, Vereeniging. Renier Feldtmann of Vaaldriehoek branch responded but was unable to find a headstone. However, he could confirm that a transcription of the burial registers agreed with the information provided by Colleen.
- Hi Pat,

I'm sending you herewith the following:

- 1 A list of Poultnes as at 2012 on our DVD project.
- 2 An outline of our project, which has two sections:
  - (a) DVD Project which is issued annually;
  - (b) Photo Project which may be found on the internet by Googling eGGSAThere are 16 Poultney records there from all over RSA.

I'm afraid I did not notice anyone from the areas you named.

Our 2013 DVD has just been issued and I'll be receiving my copy on Saturday.

This may or may not contain additional Poultnes.

I've also taken the liberty of placing you on our Cemetery Recording Newsletter mailing list.

Kind regards,

John Schwartz

[sfred@vodamail.co.za](mailto:sfred@vodamail.co.za)

012-663-1889

082-921-6876

**From:** Pat Poultney [mailto:patpoultney@telkomsa.net]

**Sent:** 07 May 2013 08:27 AM

**To:** sfred@vodamail.co.za

**Subject:** Cemetary/grave recording

Good day John,

My request(not very I/T qualified) is for advice on how to find a list(probably Anglican burials 1880's) of graves at the following places Wepener, Dordrecht, Halseton, Sterkspruit, Queenstown . Is there an easy path? I would appreciate any advice.

Thank you kindly,  
Pat.

P.H Poultney  
Advisor: Santam Agri, East Cape  
Cell: 0823330075  
Fax: 0866984416  
[patpoultney@telkomsa.net](mailto:patpoultney@telkomsa.net)

- Merryl Squair, of Prince Edward Island, Canada enquired about the whereabouts of her grandfather, William John Rhodes's grave, but John Schwartz was unable to throw any light on its whereabouts.

### **New DVD**

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

### **Items of Interest**

- Peter Moss and John Schwartz visited Bloemfontein Branch of GSSA on the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June, where Peter did the Cemetery Recording Project presentation. The talk covered both the DVD and eGSSA photo projects, and included details on how the projects are managed and integrated, tips on recording and photographing headstones, a tour of the Project section of the GSSA webpage and a virtual world tour visiting recorded cemeteries using the Google Earth® platform. This was well received by an almost 100% attendance by the Branch.

During the southbound journey they spent some time in Winburg, recording overviews and gps coordinates of some five cemeteries, and photographs of the plaques of the British War graves and the Concentration Camp, as well as recording photographically, the headstones of the Voortrekker Gedenktuin, in Winburg.

Before leaving Bloemfontein, they joined Johan Pottas and his team in visiting the Rooidam Military Cemetery at Tempe. This cemetery is on the DVD, but photos still need to be taken.

- Hannelie Lombaard, via Derek Walker, has brought the following to our attention:

Ek was Vrydag 10/5/2013 by Panorama begrafplaas om foto van my niggie se man se graf aft e neem, en weet nie hoe om die situasie te hanteer nie.

Vandale het die begraafplaas binne gekom en 81 stene omgegooi.



•

99% van die stene in die eerste 2 rye is omgestamp waarvan baie van die stene so gebreek is dat die stukke weggedoen is. Die groot standbeeld is genadiglik nie beskadig nie.

Daar word 'n ondersoek geloot. Dis sleg want hoe gaan naasbestaendes nou in kennis gestel word oor die skades?

Ek wou net graag vir die wat so hard werk om die inligting te publiseer in kennis stel.  
Dankie,

- Alta Griffiths and her team passed the 500 000 mark on the Photo Project on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013. **Congratulations to all contributors!!**

## Questions & Answers

A number of questions of general interest have arisen and I have chosen to publish them here at Peter's request.

**1** From Alta Griffiths:

Beste Mnr Myburgh

[Antwoorde onder in blou](#)

1. Ek het nou al van ongeveer weergawe 8 aangekoop en die laaste een verlede jaar

Weergawe 10.0 ( GGSA DVD 008) 2004-2012

Dit wil vir my voorkom jy koop met elke DVD die vorige data weer 'n keer en dan plus die wat bygevoeg is.

[Ja dit is korrek.](#)

[Die begraafplaas DVD is in 'n proses van evolusie, elke jaar word daag gepoog om die produk te verbeter.](#)

[DVD 11 spog met:](#)

\* 'n 'Index by Surname – New Additions Only' – wat ek glo u probleem sal aanspreek; asook

\* 25 200+ nuwe name; en

\* Volume 11 is ook baie meer verbruikers vriendelik as nommer 10.

Nog beter as mens die hele DVD elektronies kan aankoop en dat net gereeld altyd die nuwe inligting aankoop soos wat dit opgegradeer word?

Is dit moontlik dat daar gedink kan word aan , om die lede wat reeds die DVD aangekoop het, om net die addisionele data aan te koop.

Is dit nie moontlik dat ons die addisionele data elektroniese oor die internet van GGSA kan aankoop en die aflaai nie? Dis nou vir lede wat reeds die DVD soos in my geval alreeds aangekoop het?

Ons is nog nie daar nie, maar neem kennis van u voorstelle.

2. Hoe gereeld word die grafsteen fotos op die GGSA se webwerf opgegradeer of is die wat nou daar is reeds met die nuutste fotos gelaai?

Ons ontvang op die stadium bykans 10 000 nuwe foto's per maand. Die webblad word daaglik opgedateer. Die foto's wat nuut inkom gaan sit 'agter op die web' waar die vrywilligers dit merk. Sodra die merk proses klaar is en die begraafplaas geindekseer is word die foto's oorgeplaas na die hoofblad toe.

3. Is ek reg soos ek verstaan dat lede wat die weergawe 10.0 reeds aangekoop het, vir die 11 weergawe R105+ R10 posgeld aankoop of is die prys vir lede R150.00+10 ( Sien Nota ??) Laat weet asb?

R115 vir lede se 2de en daaropvolgende aankoop – posgeld ingesluit

Groete

Alta Griffiths

eGGSA Begraafplaasprojek koördineerder

2 From Peter Moss:

Dear Janine,

Sorry that I did not contact you earlier: Welcome to the project!

The cemetery recording status is recorded in excel files on our web page [www.genza.org.za](http://www.genza.org.za) go to Projects / Cemetery Recording / Cemetery DVD Updates and Reports. There are 5 files containing various sets of information which you can explore.

Feel free to phone us after hours, but we will be out this evening.

Please explore and enjoy!

Best regards  
Peter and Beverley  
011 425 4703  
082 454 2349

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Janine van der Merwe [mailto:janine@shibbolet.co.za]  
**Sent:** 10 April 2013 11:07  
**To:** Alta Griffiths  
**Cc:** peter.moss@mweb.co.za  
**Subject:** RE: BEGRAFPLAAS PROJEK

More,

Bestaan daar 'n excel spreiblad met al die grafstene?

Hoe gaan ek bepaal watter grafte in die Pretoria omgewing is al afgeneem?  
Is daar 'n manier om dit te bepaal?

*Janine van der Merwe*

*Shibbolet (Pty) Ltd*

**3** From Peter Moss:

Hi Corrie,

Ja asseblief, baie belangrik. Photo is die makliste.

Best regards,  
Peter and Beverley

**From:** Corrie Evert [mailto:corrie@xsinet.co.za]  
**Sent:** 08 April 2013 21:28  
**To:** Peter Moss  
**Subject:** Kerk niste

Hallo Peter, ek wil verneem of julle sal belangstel in die name van niste van verassings wat oa meer en meer by kerke geberg word.

Dankie

Corrie Evert

**4** From Peter Moss:

From: Peter Moss [mailto:peter.moss@mweb.co.za]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2013 4:27 AM  
To: fritz@connix.co.za  
Cc: 1Petro Coreejas-Brink  
Subject: RE: [GSSAbestuur] GENEALOGY & POTCH HERALD

Hi Fritz,

The DVD contains all the information that was transcribed by Peter Holden going back to the 1980s. This historical information was on CD1 published in November 2001.

Additions to the data are published annually. The latest DVD ie DVD 11 contains all the data from start to finish.

You may be interested in the attached progress graph.

Please come back to me with any query.

Best regards  
Peter and Beverley

## Editor's Note

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE PROBABLY SOME RECORDINGS THAT I HAVE MISSED. 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 October 2013. Any comments, criticisms, articles of interest, etc should reach the Editor by not later than 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

**If you wish to unsubscribe, send an e-mail with the Subject "Unsubscribe" to [sfred@vodamail.co.za](mailto:sfred@vodamail.co.za).**

## Contacts

**Editor:** John Schwartz  
P O Box 1263  
Rosettenville  
2130

012-663-1889 (h)

082-921-6876 (c)

e-mail: [sfred@vodamail.co.za](mailto:sfred@vodamail.co.za)

**DVD Project:** Peter Moss  
e-mail: [peter.moss@mweb.co.za](mailto:peter.moss@mweb.co.za)

**PHOTOS Project:** Alta Griffiths  
e-mail: [alta@pinnaclespot.co.za](mailto:alta@pinnaclespot.co.za)

**ANNEXURE**



## **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](mailto:orders@genza.org.za) or on-line via the eGSSA web page <http://www.eggza.org/>

DVD Data Coordinators: Peter and Beverley Moss: [cemadmin@genza.org.za](mailto: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](mailto:cemphoto@genza.org.za)

eGSSA library webpage: <http://www.eggza.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](mailto:newsletter@genza.org.za)

- **The GSSA webpage**

Please also visit the GSSA homepage [www.genza.org.za](http://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](http://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*