



# GSSA Cemetery Recording News

Vol 12 No 1 - 4 2014

## Welcome

You have not heard from me for the past year and I would not like to make excuses for my dereliction of duty. Suffice it to say that as of 20 September 2014 I am a happily married man. While I have been idle in my Society responsibilities, the members who record and photograph headstones have been anything but idle. The DVD Project ended on 702061 (3010 cemeteries), an increase of 65257 (29 cemeteries) while the Photo Project has ended on 600000. Keep it up! A very blessed Festive Season to you all.

It was also a year of birthdays, GSSA turned 50 and eGSSA turned 10. Wonderful achievements



*Rooidam British Military Cemetery, Bloemfontein*

*Contributed by John Schwartz*

## Country-wide Round-up (Period 01.10.2013 to 31.12.2013)

- Levien Smuts and Annette Goussard were responsible for lodging photos of a small farm cemetery, Samehaling, between Aroab and Karasburg.

- Farm cemeteries Buffelspoort 343 and Buffelsfontein 344, Mooinooi are now available on the eGGSA site. The former is a predominantly Janse van Rensburg cemetery and the latter contains Janse van Rensburg, Viljoen and Barnard headstones. Both were photographed by John Schwartz.
- An overview of De Doorns N G Kerk's Wall of Remembrance is also on eGGSA
- Overviews of various farm cemeteries in the Worcester/De Doorns area Ludwigphotographed by John Schwartz, are now available on the eGGSA site.
- Corrie Evert has again supplied the details of four Hobhouse cemeteries for the DVD: District Ladybrand, Hobhouse, Zuurbult 156, . Cemcount: 1 of 1.(9 names); District Ladybrand, Hobhouse, Waschbank 220, . Cemcount: 1 of 1 (4 names); District Ladybrand, Hobhouse, Uitkijk 486, Cemcount: 1 of 1.(2 names); District Ladybrand, Hobhouse, Claremont 19, . Cemcount: 1 of 1 (11 names).

Amanda van Blerk photographed: Free State, District Bethlehem, Golden Gate, Madrid 281, . Cemcount: 1 of 1. DVD Status: Published DVD. No of names on

- DVD: 2. GPS: -28 32.175, 28 30.985. No of Names in Album: 1. Album Completeness: Complete.
- Five farm cemeteries of the Northern Cape were recorded and photographed by Dirk Bloem: Prieska, Copperton, Main Cemetery, . Cemcount: 1 of 1 (3 names); District De Aar, De Aar, Brandfontein 87, Rhenosterpoort. Cemcount: 1 of 2; District De Aar, De Aar, Brandfontein 87, Brandfontein. Cemcount: 2 of 2 (10 names); District Victoria-West, , Middeldam 57, Middeldam. Cemcount: 1 of 2 (5 names); District Victoria-West, , Middeldam 57, Tweefontein. Cemcount: 2 of 2 (9 names)
- Simon du Plooy provided a transcription of the Potchefstroom Cemetery, amounting to 21 022 names for the DVD Project. The transcription was done by Pieter Potgieter.
- District Rustenburg, Mooinooi, Buffelshoek 468. Cemcount: 4 of 4 (10 names) was photographed by Jan Jones.
- As mentioned in a previous Newsletter, Carol Beneke continues to update the Cemetery Register of Forest Hill Cemetery on an annual basis for our DVD database.
- District Oberholzer, Carletonville, Welverdiend 97 IG, . Cemcount: 1 of 1 (7 names) submitted by Annemarie Smit. (Not a complete record).
- On 16.12.2013, we received the following from Riana le Roux:

“Hi Peter, so glad you can remember our little town, and rest assured, nothing has changed since your last visit!! Roelf and Chris are also doing very well, no complaints, thank you.

I have started a book about my ancestors, from my dad's side - the Du Toit's. When I finish, I will let you have a copy. It is such fun!! Needless to say, I got quite a bit of info from the graveyard photos on eGGSA, not only the Du Toit's but also the Krugers, Kasselmans and Bruwers. (All family from mom and dad's side)

I have submitted quite a few photographs to Alta, taken at the Piet Retief cemetery when I was there a couple of weeks ago for a funeral. The graveyard project has inspired me to do the rest of Barberton's town cemetery as well. I have made a list of all the headstones which are already on the website under Barberton's main cemetery, and plan to do the rest of the headstones as soon as the rain stops. (We've had rain every day for the past two weeks!)

I would like to assist where I can with the DVD project, as I have the time, I have a good camera and I have Internet. Or if you need me to do data capturing, please let me know? Concerning the dvd, is it only text, or photos as well? “

Little did we realise at that stage that Riana would be taking over from Alta a year later. Congratulations Riana. Groot voetspore om in te tree. **Ed.**

**(Period 01.01.2014 to 31.12.2014)**

- “Ek het verlede week met Koos Swanepoel gepraat, hy is in besit van die begraafplaasregister en sal my help om dit te skandeer. Ek wil probeer om Vrydag dit by hom te kry en ook dan die grafte te gaan fotografeer.” This was received on 15.01.2014, but we've heard nothing further from Theodorus Maree.
- Ockert Malan completed the two cemeteries, District Somerset East, Somerset East, Ou Pastorie Museum Cemetery and District Somerset East, Somerset East, N G Kerk Begraafplase, Gedenktekens, for the DVD Project.
- Western Cape, District Ceres, Lamerskraal Cemcount: 1 of 1 (4 names) was provided for the DVD by Elly Harrison. Elly also provided Peter Moss with many snippets of information relative to Ekhureleni cemeteries.
- Ludwig (surname unknown) has identified that all the recordings shown as Booyens in the Florentia cemetery in Alberton should be Booyens.
- North West, District Lichtenburg, Biesiesvlei, Main Cemetery - Headstones & Register (556 names) has been transcribed by Theodorus Maree.
- Alan Buff of Johannesburg Parks provided Peter Moss with a spreadsheet of the Dobsonville Cemetery headstones.
- Commercial Road Cemetery, Pietermaritzburg has been recorded and lodged for the DVD by John Deare and Malcolm Brown. The sections of the cemetery are Anglican (5 089 names), Catholic (499 names), Concentration Camp (213 names), DRC & Presbyterian (4142 names) and Wesleyan (2833 names) A total of 12776 names.
- Old stalwart, Alta Roux made copies of the Robertson NG Moedergemeente Cemetery Register and transcribed them. An additional 2474 names have been added to the 744 done previously by Richard Wolfaardt (recorded as Old Cemetery Register) and will appear in the next DVD.

- Kwazulu-Natal, District Durban, West Street, Emmanuel Catholic Cathedral, . Cemcount: 1 of 1 has been photographed by Jane O'Connor.
- Bob Saunders provided photographs of Mpumalanga, District Balfour, Dasville, Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk (199 names)
- Gauteng, District Krugersdorp, Hekpoort, Doornspruit 507, West of R 465. Cemcount: 3 of 3 (6 names) & Gauteng, District Krugersdorp, Hekpoort, Doornhoek 392, Askari Lodge. Cemcount: 1 of 1 (7 names) were recorded by Peter and Beverley Moss after a tip-off by Stephanie Geysler.
- John Deare and Celeste Rossouw photographed Kwazulu-Natal, District Pietermaritzburg, Edendale, Voortrekker Cemetery, Edendale Hospital (3 names)
- Daan Botes, on a visit to Zambia was able to visit a number of cemeteries identified to him by Peter Moss and in the process took numerous photos and established GPS readings for cemeteries already on the DVD as well as some additional ones, about which we are most excited. These included Kabwe Old Cemetery (GPS reading), Ndola Settlers Cemetery (12 names), Ndola Military Cemetery – Kansenji (71 names), Ndola Jewish Cemetery – Kansenji (39 names), and the Bwana Mkubwa Mine Cemetery at Ndola (38 names). These cemeteries' headstones, and in some cases, registers were recorded by Peter and Beverley Moss when they lived in Zambia and are on the DVD, but this was during the pre-digital camera days. In addition, Daan submitted photos and GPS readings for Mufulira Old Mine Cemetery (15 names), and GPS readings for Kitwe, Nkana East Cemetery , Ndola Main Cemetery-Kansenji and Lusaka, Aylmer May Cemetery. Great job, Daan!!
- Peter Moss has completed the transcription of the following cemeteries: Gauteng, District Vereeniging, Vereeniging, Jacobskop Begraafplaas – Register (18127 names) and Gauteng, District Vanderbijlpark, Vanderbijlpark, Main Cemetery – Register (15874 names) . This comes from the “Additional Data” contained on the DVD, which are files submitted, but in an incompatible format. Well done, Peter!
- Free State, District Parys, , Renosterpoort, . Cemcount: 1 of 1. DVD (1 name). This cemetery was lodged by Koos Joubert.
- Zimbabwe, Manicaland, District Mutare, Nyanga, Pioneer Cemetery – three photos of headstones in this cemetery were forwarded by Geoff Hawksley and Ian Carruthers.
- Stephanie Geysler reported seeing a small cemetery in the Askari Lodge complex, Krugersdorp, as she was leaving the property, but, due to time constraints she could not record it.
- Charlette Barron provided additional information and corrections in respect of the last DVD issued.

## Branch News

### eGSA HEADSTONE PHOTOGRAPHS PROJECT

## The Grave Hunters

By Alta Griffiths

5 December 2014

And just like that another year is gone! The Photo Project will end the year off with just over 600 000 photographs on the web.

Looking back - the year was not without its hiccups. The volunteers were bombarded with personal matters, hampering the process of releasing the photos to the public site; frustrating the people who submitted their photos for publication. But as we come to the end of the year, we regrouped and the back log has been wiped out and we are ready for 2015.

While we received many small contributions - we also received bigger contributions:-

Heilbron

Stellawood (project ongoing)

Brakpan

Philippolis

Swellendam

Graaff-Reinet (ongoing)

Bredasdorp

Hopetown

Barberton

### Boy Scouts working for their Genealogy Badge

The 1<sup>st</sup> Gordon's Bay Sea Scouts & 2<sup>st</sup> Somerset West Scouts are recording the Old Strand cemeteries in order to obtain their Genealogy Badges. The first of the photos arrived this week on our



side and will be available on eGSA early in the New Year.



*In photo: Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Gordon's Bay Sea Scouts & 2<sup>st</sup> Somerset West Scouts, cooling down on the beach at the Strand, after spending all morning in the cemetery*

### Photo contributions

Thank you to all the photographers, who were so kind as to share their photos with us:-

Adel Pretorius	Frik Venter	Marielle Ford
Adele Richardson	Gail Röthlin	Martie du Toit
Allison Mulder	Gansie Coetzee	Maureen Kruger
Alta Roux	Gary Gray	Maureen Schnittker
Amy Griffiths	Geoff Hawkesley	Melt Loubser
André van Dyk	Gerard Schmidt	Mike Taljaard
Andrea Furness	Gert van der Merwe	Naas Olivier
Annel Meyer	Gina Shepherd	Neels du Plessis
AnnemieLourens	Graeme Chittenden	Nellie Tait
Annette Meyer	Guy Barker	Nico and HanneliDenner
ArnoldusBestbier	Heather Peyper	Nico Burger
AttieDelpport	Hennie Steyn	Nico Swart
Barbara van der Schyff	Henry Rudman	Ockert and Sasa Malan
Barry and Susan Stieger	Hentie Liebenberg	Pam Smith
Basil Royston	Hermien du Plessis	Pat Crouse
Bernice Jacobs	Hilary Burger	Paul le Roux
Billy Baard	HobbieStoffberg	PeetSchabort
Boris Gorelik	Ian Carruthers	Peter and Beverley Moss
Brian Barrett	Ignatius Smith	Peter and Henriette Sonemann
Carel Barry	Isabel Jones	Peter Kirkman
Caren Louw	Jan Jones	Peter Moss
Carol Beneke	Jane O'Connor	Peter Silbernagl

Carol Coney	Jannie and Annelize de Villiers	Peter Taljaard
Cathy and Colin Cotterrel	JannieHanekom	Petro Coreejas-Brink
Celeste Pretorius	Jenny Duckworth	Petrus Fourie
Celia Fourie	Joan Maher	Pieter Taljaard
CharleenVoster		Pieter van Aardt
Charlette Barron	Johan Pottas	PoppieRobberts
Charlie Els	Johan Victor	Reon Heard
Charlotte Barron	Johan Visser	RianVisser
Cheryl Stoner	Johann Claassen	Riana le Roux
Chris and Petra Lombard	Johann Hamman	Riana Schumann
Chris Boyle	Johann Kotze	Rina le Roux
Chris Dreyer	John Deare	RosaleenFlanegan
Christo Schutte	John Schwartz	Rose McArthur
Clarence de Meillon	John Stanley	Rowena Nelson
Corrie Evert	JP Swart	Roy Oosthuizen
DaanBotes	Juan-Pierre Jacobs	RuslouKoorts
Dave Wardle	Judi and Illona Meyer	Ryan Griffiths
David van der Merwe	Junia Rust	Sampie and Pietie Orton
Dawie Burger	Kallie D'Alebout	Sarel Burger
DayneSkolman	Kelly Fourie	SEWFHS
Derek Walker	Kevin Janse van Rensburg	Shannon Adams
Dewald Jean Vogts-Van Zyl	Kirsten Jee	Shaun Geldart
Dorothy Adendorff	Koos and Janet Lourens	Shayne van Rensburg
Douglas Ewan	KoosLourens	Simon du Plooy
Eckhard von Fintel	Leslie de Klerk	Simone Kay
Eddie Otte	Levien Smuts	Stewart Moss
Ellen Smale	Liz Eshmade	Sunelia Heath
Eric and Yvonne Flanegan	Liz Graham	Tharina Coetzee
Esmé and SakkieNel	Lizette Svoboda	Theodorus Maree
Ester de Beer	Lorna Sleigh-Nicholl	Tian Schutte
Etienne Weideman	Louis Botha	Tobie de Villiers
F J K de Villiers	Ludwig Döhne	Vanda Chittenen
FanieBlignaut	Lyn Paul	Vincent Eastes
Fleur Way-Jones	Magda Streicher	Warwick Hojem
Flip Crouse	Malcolm de Beer	Wayne Peyper
Frankie Coelho	Maria Damon	Willem van Aardt
FreekMyburgh	Maria Victor	Willieta de Swardt

1<sup>st</sup> Gordon's Bay Sea Scouts & 2<sup>st</sup> Somerset West Scouts

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**On a personal note...**

This was then also my last contribution to the Cemetery Newsletter.

The time has come for me to move on and for the Photo Project to get new blood (ha), fresh ideas and motivation in the project.

We are fortunate in that Riana le Roux will be taking over as the Photo Project's Cemetery Co-ordinator in January 2015. While I will still be involved with eGSSA; and support Riana in her new role, the cemetery project will no longer be my baby.



*Riana Le Roux*

*Photo Project's New Cemetery  
Co-ordinator*

The cemetery project is quite involved and Riana's training already started in October; and already proved herself to be more than capable to handle the project. As from January all new photo contributions can be sent to Riana at [graves.eggsa@gmail.com](mailto:graves.eggsa@gmail.com).

Saying goodbye is the difficult part! Since taking the project over as co-ordinator from Gail Röthlin in 2007, we added more than 550 000 photos to the collection. In that time many people contributed to the success of the project; thus to all the photographers, volunteers and friends - thank you for support over the years - you are the ones who made the project special.

A special word of thanks to my two mentors! Peter Moss who taught me all the ins and outs of map work and cemetery indexing. And to our eGSSA Webmaster - Richard Ball, who had to teach me everything about the software (sometimes even computers itself). I value your wisdom, dedication, friendship and endless patience.

Also to Petro Coreejas-Brink, our National Cemetery Project Co-ordinator, who's support we can always rely on.



*Thank you!*



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

The Brenthurst Cemetery in Brakpan was completed during 2013, adding a total of approximately 20 000 names to the photo site of eGGSA. In addition during 2014 the Benoni Cemetery was photographed in its entirety. Processing is still in progress. Well done to Ken Mutch and his team for a job well done.

## **Enquiries**

- 1**    **From:** PatriciaAnn McCaffrey [mailto:patriciaann.mccaffrey@wagner.edu]  
**Sent:** 13 February 2014 19:03  
**To:** Alta Griffiths  
**Cc:** Peter Moss; 1John Schwartz  
**Subject:** Re: Hello!: Nchanga Cemetery

Thank you so much!

I cannot thank you guys enough! It really means a lot to me that you have taken time out of your busy schedule to help me. I wish there was a better way I could express my gratitude.

Thank you again !

PatriciaAnn McCaffrey

PatriciaAnn was searching for information about the Ncanga Cemetery in Zambia and Peter, who spent some years there, was able to help her. **Ed.**

- 2 Colleen Hollett was hunting for information about the graves of Hubert Walter Sherwin and Theresa Alma Sherwin – all details were provided by Carol Beneke of Eastern Cape Branch.
- 3 Peter was able to help Jeannette Ruth with some family links.

## New DVD

The 2015 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/> from April 2015

## Items of Interest

### With reference to the BOTHA CEMETERY at Chlookop.

Dear Peter and Beverley,

Thank you for coming on Saturday 2nd March,14 at 10:00am with rain and all...It was like old times with Mom...I must first reconstruct Angel and then remove the shrub on grave ...it was left like that due to vandalism, protecting graves in front of shrub area from being seen from the road.. With the fence put up on the M39 there is a little more security for the Cemetery....Will try to do everything this week...rain must stop...will keep you posted...

I think it's a good idea to have a Cemetery project web page as things are constantly changing... in and around the cemetery.. which should be documented as an ongoing history of the cemeteries survival..from the 6th April, 1943 when my Mothers father died - Mr TGJ Horn Botha-from a heart attack on the farm while sitting on a rock near the house...My mother and Father naturally took care of The Botha Cemetery.. Due to the tragic loss of her family..coming there was a "blessing" to her and later to ourselves...



Once again, I thank you for your kind interest in the history of families...cemeteries come alive when you know how the people lived....memories last forever...which is a challenge to those still living...

I appreciate your advice and experience.

Kind regards,  
Daphne Martin

## **With reference to the WORCESTER ENGLISH CEMETERY**

**From:** Cynthia Enzberger [mailto:enzberger.c@a1.net]  
**Sent:** 17 April 2014 21:02  
**To:** Peter Moss  
**Subject:** RE: Cemetery Recording Project: Old English Cem, Worcester

Dear Peter and Beverley,

Thank you both so very much! It is unbelievable - and it feels like winning the lottery! That wooden cross was from 1883 and I hope that it survived the flooding in 2007. The Worcester Council has not got back to me - so I hope they haven't dismantled the cemetery already.

John Vaughan was an engine driver on the railways - all we had was a letter from his son, then aged 77 dated 1947 asking his nephew who had immigrated to S.A. to visit the grave:

*'I do hope you will be able to visit my father's (John Vaughan) grave in English cemetery Worcester (Cape, S.A.). He was in charge at engine shed at Tulbagh while he was driving up to the diamond fields 1882-1883. He met with an accident, fractured his ribs and died.'.....*

**John Vaughan's funeral** ceremony was held on 30 June 1883 at St James the Great Anglican Church, Waterloo Street, Worcester, Cape Province, South Africa.

The hand-written scanned-in original burial records from St. James the Great church show:

Entry No. 285: **John Vaughan** - his address was Tulbagh Road -  
His cause of death was: escaped from the hospital at Touws River in delirium.

Body found 2 months after (*his escape from the hospital*), on 24 June. (*which means he died around end of April, near his birthday*). Age about 45 years. Funeral ceremony was performed by J. Alex. Hewitt.

**John Vaughan is buried** at the English Cemetery Worcester located between Somerset and Durban Streets.

The wooden cross states: Sacred to the memory of John Vaughan of England. (Photo was taken probably around mid-1960s)

Two years after John's death, his wife also died leaving 8 children the younger ones going to a Victorian workhouse, the elder ones, also in their early teens, having to fend for themselves by finding jobs as servants in various places - and tracing them all has been only possible because information is now available on-line.

I will be forwarding this exciting news and photo to my sister in Australia, and my cousin in England!

Many thanks for all your help!  
With best wishes,  
Cynthia

### **With reference to COMMERCIAL ROAD CEMETERY and VANDALISM**

**From:** Eckhard von Fintel [mailto:vonfintele@telkomsa.net]

**Sent:** 26 June 2014 20:21

**To:** undisclosed-recipients:

**Subject:** By-by PMB landmark

Today (26.06.2014) at about 16h00 I saw how our Commercial Road Cemetery is being carried away bit by bit, and that during broad daylight in front of everybody.

When I entered into Miller Street onto Prince Alfred Street I noticed these two guys carrying metal surroundings of graves walking towards Prince Alfred Street. I passed them, stopped, got my camera ready and turned around. Stopping opposite them I quickly took a photo, but they already have noticed me and hid their faces. They turned right into Prince Alfred Street and walked at a fast paste. I passed them and stopped to take another photo. When I looked back they had disappeared, leaving their haul on the pavement.



As my wife was waiting for me at home and as I doubted that if the police were called to the scene, these guys would show their faces again, I left for home. Maybe I should make the police aware of the incidence tomorrow.

How can we prevent this? I don't have an answer.

Eckhard

Here are the Links to:-

The Witness, A GRAVE SITUATION: the death of a historical cemetery 04 Dec 2013 by Trish Beaver

[http://www.witness.co.za/index.php?showcontent&global\[\\_id\]=110876](http://www.witness.co.za/index.php?showcontent&global[_id]=110876)

& the link to her video on YouTube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9V9pmUq08c&feature=youtu.be>

### **With reference to an email from Ferdie van Wyk**

Good morning all,

Kindly visit <http://www.genza.org.za/index.php/en/branches/durban-and-coastal-branch-durban> to read the story of "A Tiny Grave." People from three continents worked on this saga. In the article just below this one you can read how Maureen and her team of the Durban and Coastal Branch went about finding the tiny grave.

### **With reference to MOWBRAY CEMETERY**

Middag julle

Reg hier onder my neus in een van ons sekretaresse se kas le drie baie ou boeke. By nadere ondersoek is dit toe die grafregisters van Mowbray Begraafplaas. Vanaf 1887 tot omtrent 1960. Verder daarmee saam is drie indekse (iemand het dit in 1980 op 'n hoofraam ingetik) gesorteer volgens 1) grafnommer, 2) volgens naam, en 3) volgens datum.

Ek het dadelik die naamindex geneem en gaan dit nou kopieer. Hierdie kan dalk 'n projek word as ons dit kan oortik in 'n Xcell spreadsheet. Julle slimmes op die begraafplaasprojek moet asb net vir my dubbel seker maak dat ons dit nie al reeds iewers het nie.

Lekker naweek.

Andrew Kok

### **With reference to BRAAMFONTEIN CEMETERY**

Hi, This is why recording of Cemetery

info is essential. John Wilmot East Cape





### With reference to a place called RIETBRON

Waar in die wêreld is Rietbron? **LoL....dis naby Willowmore.....jy's is deur hom voordat jy weet jy was daar.☺**

Baie van die **VAN ECKS** is daar rond gebore en het geboer....getrou en gesterf.....

Ek is vir die eerste keer daardeur in 1956 toe ons vir my oumagrootjie gaan kuier het.....sy het in so klein twee vertrek huisie gewoon saam met haar broer.....

Rietbron is in die Oos-Kaap, geleë in die groot vlak tussen Beaufort-Wes (80km) en Willowmore (60km) op die R306. Ander afstande is; Oudsthoorn (150km), Graaff-Reinet (200km), Prins Albert (124km) en George (250km). Dis bereikbaar slegs deur grondpaaie.

GPS: s 32° > 54,573', o 023° > 08.562'

Die eerste indrukke van Rietbron is dat dit 'n verlate, bouvallige ou Karoodorpie is. As jy dit sou waag om hier 'n bietjie tyd deur te bring, rustig te raak, die sonsondergang en die Karoostilte in te neem, egte Karoo gasvryheid te voel, sal jy verseker met ander oë na ons dorpie kyk. Wat hier saak maak is "die mense".

Verskillende tipe boustyle is te sien. Van huise met Gewels tot die platdak Karoo boustyl. Heelwat huisies, drie-vertrek, is aanvanklik gebou vir nagmaalnaweke. Minder as 20 huise word tans permanent bewoon. Die res is naweek of vakansiehuise. Party naweke, soos met die jaarlikse Dankfees betrek die distrik hul



dorpshuise. Dan word hier gekuier van Vrydag se veeveiling af tot Sondag na die Nagmaalete. Heelwat van die huise behoort al aan mense van buite, selfs van Johannesburg, wat die Karoo leer ken het en hier kom vakansie hou.

Op die dorp is 'n Kerk, 'n laerskool, koshuis, polisiestasie, Museum, 3 algemene handelaars, 'n Tuisnywerheid, biblioteek en tennisbane, lees later meer hieroor. Selsorg gastehuise is beskikbaar. Sien Akkommodasie

**RIETBRON** in die "kom" tussen die Nuweveld- en die Swartberge.

**RIETBRON** op die kruispaaie waar die water vroeër jare tussen die riete, by die bron uitgeborrel het.

**RIETBRON** met sy ritme tussen droogte en reën.

**RIETBRON** ons tuisdorpie in die Karoovlakte, met sy Karoobossies en sy biltongklippe, sy droë rivierlope en sy doringbome, sy stofstorms en sy onvergeetlik mooie sonsondergange.

**RIETBRON!!**

### **Meer oor Rietbron**

Teen die middel v.d. 19de eeu was die meeste van die vlakte tussen Beaufort-Wes, Prins Albert, Willowmore en Aberdeen nog kroongrond en onbewoon. Wilde volstruise en springbokke het in groot getalle voorgekom. Alhoewel die veld as weiding uitstekend geskik was vir kleinvee, was water skaars en het in droë tye feitlik heeltemal verdwyn. Die eerste plase het ontstaan waar water verkrygbaar was.

Die plaas Rietbron (in die wandel bekend as Kaalplaas), waar 'n standhoudende fontein was, is op 15 April 1841 uitgemeet en aan Hendriena Momberg toegeken teen 'n erfpag van R2 per jaar. Die plaas was 5964 morg groot en was omtrent in die middel van genoemde dorpe geleë. Die ou plaashuis bestaan vandag nog, op die hoek van Keulder en Voortrekkerstraat. Dit is die eerste huis regs as jy die dorp van Willowmore af inkom.

Kaalplaas het baie van eienaar verwissel. In 1907 het Miller, toe die eienaar, 'n dorp by die fontein laat registreer as "Morrison" (sy vrou sy nooiensvan was Morris). In

1910 het die NG Kerk Willowmore dit vir R6000 gekoop, hoofsaaklik met die idee om 'n kerk te stig. Byna 100 jaar later is die kerk steeds die middelpunt van Rietbron en sy mense.

## MUSEUM



Die Museum is in die ou ACVV saaltjie. Dis gebou in 1925. Baie Rietbron geskiedenis is hier bewaar. Die Kurator is Corrie Snyman. Kontak haar by 044 934 1118

## Omgewing

Rietbron is angorabokwêreld. Rietbron/ Willowmore is die grootste sybokhaarprodusent in Suid- Afrika. Op verskeie plase kan daar na angoraboerdery gekyk word. Beervleidam, die bekende "droë dam" op die Aberdeen / Willowmore pad is ook iets om te sien. Jy is ook welkom om net die Karoo stilte, natuurskoon, sonsondergange, sterreheemel, en vars lug te kom geniet. In die Rietbron omgewing is daar heelwat akkommodasie beskikbaar, van 'n luukse huis tot 'n tente kamp.

Beervleidam is 'n vloedbeheerdam op die Sout- en Kariegariviere. Dit is die dam met die tweede grootste opvangsgebied naas die Gariep in Suid-Afrika.

## NG KERK RIETBRON

Dis die enigste kerk met 'n springbok in plaas van 'n weerhaan op die toring. Kom kyk gerus na ons indrukwekkende eenheidspyporrel met pragtige Embuia-hout insetsels wat "die vlug van klank" simboliseer. Dit is gemaak deur oorlede Paul Snyman, 'n gebore Rietbronner.



### **\*Geskiedenis**

In 1910 is die eerste kerkie gebou, toe nog bedien vanaf Willowmore. Eers in 1913 is 'n afsonderlike gemeente gestig. Die eerste dominee, J. R. Alheit is op 18 April 1914 bevestig. Die ou kerkie is gesloop en die huidige kerk is gebou in 1953. Huidiglik is ons 90 siele.

*Ann/Annatjie Tiran*

*\*Pelser*

*fax 086-610-5567*

*Cape Town*

### **With reference to RIETFONTEIN HOSPITAL CEMETERIES**

In short, a developer wants to develop low cost housing on this open land. Although fewer than 100 headstones still exist, it is reputed that between 2000 and 7000 people were buried there, having died of smallpox and other infectious diseases - this is but one of many emails about the above subject:

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**From:** Marian Laserson [<mailto:laserson@telkomsa.net>]

**Sent:** 10 July 2014 11:09

**To:** Lynne van der Schyff; Naomi Dinur; Zabeth Zuhlsdorff; Cecilia Kruger

**Subject:** Re: Development intended for Farm Rietfontein

Good Morning Cecilia,

The situation is as follows:

1. The property is owned by Province. The portion which they wish to develop is about 171 ha.
2. It contains the Sizwe Tropical diseases Hospital, currently treating mainly TB and AIDS. This hospital is over 100 years old and contains some buildings which have been declared as Heritage Buildings. The Heritage Foundation does have a file on some of these, but I am not sure if all the buildings are listed. I saw the file (if I remember - 3 folders) when I went to Heritage. However, I did not look into the files because I was there on other business.
3. Currently, Province has engaged a company called Equicent Infrastructure Developers (who are about 4 years old but seem to be a consortium of other developers, Centurion being one). The proposal is 8 400 "Affordable" housing, of which 4 000 are to be in single stands and the others in 3 - 6 storey buildings. Affordable housing is pitched at people who earn between about R3 500 to R15 000 per month. They also want to build two schools, a recreation centre and a shopping centre.
4. Equicent has commissioned Bokamoso (Land Scene Architects) to conduct the EIA. We are currently awaiting the Draft EI Report from Bokamoso. Their Scoping Report contained virtually nothing on Heritage and I have taken them to task on this.
5. Equicent has also commissioned Urban Dynamics (Town Planners) to apply to the City of Johannesburg for establishment of township. Objections to this closed end of April 2014. There were about 3 000 objections, according to CoJ Urban Management. I have heavily criticised this application for township establishment - before the completion of the EIA.
6. Heritage issues: Estimates and reports vary regarding the number of graves, (anywhere between 1 000 and 7 000) but all the graves are over 60 years old. Most of the metal markers of the graves have long since been stolen, and there has been illegal dumping on many of the graves. Thus the locality of probably two-thirds of the graves has been lost. Records are very slim, apparently being lost in a fire at the hospital.
7. The site also contains rubbish dumps of hospital waste of archaeological value dating back over 70 years. I have also heard that they buried their contaminated bedding in unmarked pits on the property
8. There are also many environmental issues - wetlands, grasslands, high water table, 100 year flood line, red data species, etc. which have not been addressed yet in the EIA.

If I can help you further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

M A R I A N P L A S E R S O N

PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECT Registration No. 3841 Pr.Arch(SA), B.Arch(Rand), M.I.A.T., Dip.APP.

## Letters to the Editor

Emails of appreciation were received from Annatjie Tiran (Pelser), Elaine Rose Thorne of Kensington Heritage Society, James Ball of The Heritage Portal, Graham Dickason, Gail Liss, Andy Bermingham (Bermuda), Esther Stieger, Peter and Beverley Moss.

## 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 at the during April 2015. Any comments, criticisms, articles of interest, etc should reach the Editor by not later than 15<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

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

## ANNEXURE 2

### Legislation and International Conservation Charters

The National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, The *ICOMOS Australia Burra Charter* and the *ICOMOS Charter* are the main guideline documents in proposed work for cemeteries and graves.

### The value and significance of cemeteries

#### General

Cemeteries are an important part of South Africa's heritage. The burial sites of our ancestors provide a glimpse into the history of our nation's growth and insight into its development. Cemeteries may be the only place where a person's life in South Africa is recorded.

### Cemetery Components and their Heritage Values

The National Heritage Act (Act 25 of 1999), the *ICOMOS Australia Burra Charter* and the *ICOMOS Charter* define a number of "values" which may contribute to the heritage significance of a place. All cemeteries have social and historic values and most have a greater or lesser degree of aesthetic and scientific values. The natural elements of a cemetery contribute some additional values, broadly referred to as existence value and life support value. Any one or a number of these values may be important in assessing the heritage significance of a cemetery, and should be considered before commencement of any work.

#### Historical Values

A cemetery is an historic document of South African society. Through its establishment and use, the cemetery documents settlement patterns and the development and growth of a community. Graves and Monuments in cemeteries provide important demographic data about the community. Cemeteries often contain monuments that commemorate significant events in a local community. Cemeteries can also have historical significance by virtue of the graves of important individuals who have made important contributions to the community.

#### Social Values

Cemeteries have an important commemorative function within the community. The community often attaches attitudes and values to the graves, such as respect or reverence. Many cemeteries hold a special significance for individuals and communities as a result of personal sentiment and/or attachment to those buried within the cemetery. Early settlers' graves and war graves are examples of graves often considered socially significant to the whole community.

## Religious Values

Cemeteries reflect the religious beliefs and customs of different sections of the community. These are demonstrated in the customs and rituals associated with burial and commemoration. Religious adherence and beliefs can change over time, and this is often reflected in the monuments and layout of the cemetery. A cemetery itself may also be significant to a particular religious group or individuals.

## Genealogical Information

Nearly all monuments record genealogical information. Some headstones provide further information such as personal history and cause of death. Grouping of monuments often indicates family connections and consequently grave markers should not be considered in isolation.

## Artistic, Creative and Technical Elements

Many cemeteries reflect developments in architectural and artistic style and theory. Artistic values can be found in the landscape design and layout of the cemetery and in the various monument styles, grave surrounds and grave furniture.

A cemetery may be significant on account of the variety of artistic approaches represented in its monumental architecture and also in the quality of craftsmanship.

Cemeteries often contain examples of work by local artisans and manufacturers. A monumental mason often signed the monument or headstone, allowing the work of local craftsmen to be identified. As well as the monument itself, the execution of the lettering for the inscription may demonstrate fine workmanship. Iron grave surrounds may be locally produced and sometimes bear the name of the manufacturer of iron foundry. Grave markers may also show creative or technical ingenuity, through their use of materials or execution. This is particularly true in isolated rural districts where access to skilled monumental masons was not always available.

## Setting

A cemetery is often significant on account of its relationship to the natural and built environment. It may be a prominent feature of the landscape or it may be located adjacent to a church or form a significant element within the townscape.

## Landscape Design

The arrangement of burial areas, alignment of drives, paths, avenues of trees and massing of shrubs add significance to cemeteries as does the extent to which the design is still evident or has been changed. Overall landscape quality is determined by the combined effect of setting, landscape design and botanical elements.

## Botanical Elements

Some cemeteries contain significant remnants or indications of the original natural vegetation, while early burial grounds often contain a variety of plantings which are no longer evident elsewhere. Extant evergreen trees, bulbs, roses and other original grave or landscape plantings contribute to the cemetery's visual and nostalgic quality. Plantings were often chosen for their symbolic meanings, particularly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Life Support Elements

As mentioned above some cemeteries contain significant remnants or indications of the original natural vegetation. Such natural plants associations may also provide a sanctuary for animal life. Even where no rare or threatened species are identified, a cemetery may contain a rare or particularly well-preserved example of the ecosystems in an area. For this reason it is important to consider the plants as an association, not just as a collection of types.

## Human Remains

The human remains in a cemetery are not generally visible but they comprise a major element of heritage significance. Reasons for their importance include archaeological and scientific potential, issues of religious belief, their meaning to relatives and general community respect for our ancestors. These issues remain relevant to unmarked graves and burial areas cleared of previous monuments, as well as marked grave sites.

## Historic Cemeteries

Historic cemeteries are found in rural and urban areas across South Africa, providing rare opportunities to study and honour our ancestors and the communities they created. They are not only memorials to past generations, but are evidence of settlement patterns, family relationships, religion, lifestyle and craftsmanship. Some cemeteries are well kept and obviously important to current generations, others exist in shadows, lost in forgotten memories.

## Cemetery Conservation Plan

When individuals or organisations undertake a cemetery conservation project, they often have some idea of what they want to accomplish. However, the task of preserving a cemetery can be overwhelming, making it hard to know how to begin the project. Creating a Cemetery Conservation Plan forces an individual or group to think about all the various aspects of the project and establish priorities, define involvement, and create a realistic work plan.

A cemetery conservation plan is an important step in the preservation of any historic cemetery. Before a tree is removed, before a grave marker is cleaned, before any work is done, an overall plan is an essential tool for establishing goals, prioritizing activities,



and developing an annual maintenance schedule. It also contains important records such as cemetery survey forms, photographs of grave markers and features, and a written history along with other historical data about the cemetery.

### Cleaning historic grave markers

Many well intentioned cemetery cleaning projects have ended up causing more harm than good. People generally rush into these projects without ever giving any thought to researching proper preservation and conservation methods. There are techniques that can be extremely harmful to grave markers and actually speed up the natural weathering process. Before you begin any cleaning project, investigate the proper preservation and/or conservation methods to ensure that the grave markers are protected. You might consider consulting with a professional who is knowledgeable about the treatment of historic grave markers.

### Masonry grave markers

The reasons for cleaning any grave marker must be considered carefully before arriving at a decision to clean.

Is it the cleaning being done to improve the appearance of the grave marker or to make it look new? The so-called “dirt” actually may be weathered masonry, not accumulated deposits; a portion of the masonry itself thus will be removed if a “clean” appearance is desired.

Is there any evidence that dirt and pollutants are having a harmful effect on the masonry. Improper cleaning can accelerate the deteriorating effect of pollutants.

These concerns may lead to the conclusion that cleaning is not desirable at least not until further study is made of the grave marker, its environment and possible cleaning methods.

Below are some general guidelines for cleaning historic grave markers.

### Suggested Cleaning Methods

1. Determine the condition of the gravestone before you attempt any cleaning. Are there obvious cracks in the stone? Is it leaning? Are there signs of sugaring of the stone? If so, leave it alone. Any pressure on the stone could cause it to break or further erode the outer layer of the stone.
2. Determine why the marker needs to be cleaned. Is it covered in atmospheric pollutants and dirt, biological growth such as pollen, fungi, moss, or algae that are harming the stone? In many cases, these pollutants and growth have gotten deep into the pores of the gravestone and simply cannot be removed. Before washing the stone, try brushing off or scraping off the biological growth with Popsicle sticks, Q-tips, or any

other material that is softer than the stone.

3. It is important to soak the stone for as long as possible 24 hours is the recommended time, but often that is not practical, especially if the cemetery has no water available on site. A good time to clean is after a heavy soaking rain.
4. Clean stones using the ***Gentlest Means Possible***. Most dirt can be removed by using water and a soft bristle brush (nylon, plastic, natural, toothbrushes, etc.). If the cemetery has no available water, you will need to bring a lot water with you. Begin cleaning at the bottom of the marker and work up. Once clean, be sure to rinse the stone with water to remove all the surface dirt. The purpose of cleaning is to remove harmful substances, not to make the grave markers look brand new. These are historic artefacts and should retain their historic character after cleaning.
5. Never use strong solutions such as acids, bleach or blasting to remove dirt or plant growth from the grave markers. While you might be initially impressed by the extremely white appearance that you get when you clean with acids or bleach, you have introduced chemicals into the pores of the historic gravestone that will infinitely increase the speed of deterioration. A product that is safe to use is Teepol Dishwashing Liquid (original type not the lemon one). Make a weak solution.

6.

#### Repairing historic grave markers

Repairing historic grave markers is perhaps the most difficult of all cemetery work. The majority of repairs will be extremely complicated and will require a professional. Just as certain cleaning techniques can prove extremely harmful to the life of the stone, insensitive repair techniques can be exceedingly more harmful to the stone. Before you begin any repair project, investigate the proper preservation and/or conservation methods to ensure that the grave markers are protected. Below are some general guidelines for repair.

#### Suggested Repair Methods

1. Remember it is important to leave the grave markers alone until the appropriate intervention is identified.
2. Repair masonry utilising ***Like Materials*** only. Always use materials that are softer than the original stone. Introducing harder materials to “glue pieces of stone together will cause great tension on the original stone causing not only new breaks, but will cause the repair to fail. Portland cement should never be used to repair stonework, to fill joints, or to adhere pieces of stone. Never place broken pieces of stone into wet concrete. Further adhesives of any sort should be avoided due to their creating a moisture barrier that contributes to breakage and deterioration of stonework. Lime

mortar is recommended for these types of repairs. Most repairs should be reserved for a professional to avoid further damage of the headstone.

3. Recreation of Walls or Building Fences: Walls or fences often surround only marked graves in a cemetery. More times than not, unmarked graves lay outside the fenced area. Therefore, it is imperative that the locations of all burials be identified before any fencing is constructed.

4. Often, historic markers were constructed of fragile materials or were held together by gravity only (obelisks, for example). It is important that these design features be respected prior to making any repairs.