



GSSA Cemetery Recording News

Vol 6 No 2 – June 2008



Oudstryders' Monument, Johannesburg. Courtesy of Derek Walker

Welcome

.ED: So you thought I was joking when I said that the next newsletter should be issued during June 2008. Well, I was!!

Peter and Bev are still inundated with e-mails and one wonders just how they manage to keep up with the flow.

Contributors & Volunteers

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the number of people on our mailing list continues to increase. What is really heartening is that the number of volunteers is also increasing. Some are volunteering to help record and others to help with the typing and transcription. The following have recently volunteered their services: Theodorus & Karen Maree, Jaycee Potgieter, Margaret Nel, Zelia Mullins, Elize Pieterse, Peter Dickson, Bunny Matthysen, Doug Norval, Jan & Annette Prinsloo, en Linda Lombard.

HOW FAR HAVE YOU PROGRESSED IN MEETING THE CHALLENGE ISSUED IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER? **START NOW!!! THE YEAR IS RUNNING AWAY FROM US.**

Country-wide Round-up (Period 16.03.2008 to 07.07.2008)

A hearty 'Thank You' again to all our contributors. The following information has been extracted from e-mails received by Peter & Beverley over the above period. There is always a possibility that someone's contribution has been overlooked. If we have not given you due recognition, please e-mail the editor.

- Ken and Connie Mutch have recorded the **British Military Memorial at Petronella**, Dist Wonderboom as well as the cemetery at **Pienaarsriver**.
- We have received some excellent guidelines for the photographing of cemetery headstones from Francois Greeff who now resides in the UK. **(ED: If anyone requires a copy of these guidelines please contact the editor.)**
- Marie Meyer continues to lodge recordings of **Biggarsberg cemeteries** – 14 have now been included in the database.
- Doug Norval visited Peter and Beverley for an in-depth introduction to the Project database and the associated Google-Earth Project.
- More and more cemeteries are being discovered in the **Longmore and Otterford Forest Stations forests**. These have been collected and recorded by Hester Marx who has passed it on to Vic Olivier.
- Recordings of one of the cemeteries at the now defunct **Westfort Leprosy Hospital** to the west of Pretoria, has been submitted by Mari Mostert via Vic Olivier.
- Again via Vic Olivier, we have received a recording of graves at **Bapsfontein** from André Pieterse of Wisconsin, USA.
- Wow!! What a major effort? Ockert & Sasa Malan have recently lodged 1059 names from 84 small cemeteries!!!!!! Wonderful-congratulations.
- Danie Malan recently completed the **Zandfontein** cemetery in Pretoria – over 7000 names. Another stout effort. Congratulations, Danie.
- We can never miss an issue without mentioning Alta Roux who has found a single grave on the farm **De Wittekrans** and 8 graves on the farm **Vrolikheid-Suid, Olifantshoek**. She has also submitted photos of the main **Olifantshoek** cemetery.
- **Donkerhoek**, District Cullinan has been forwarded by Jan & Annette Prinsloo.
- Tina Roos has provided us with photographs of the graves of her great-great-grandfather Tielemann Roos and of Stephanus Roos.
- A year ago Richard Wolfaardt advised us of the contact details to obtain a copy of the registers for **Rawsonville** cemetery. We then approached Petro Coreejes-Brink in Cape Town, who contacted David de Klerk in the Worcester area; David has followed up and obtained the information, which Petro is now processing.
- Peter & Bev Moss, with the help of Kim (bethany@iafrica.com) found their way through the canefields to record graves at **Emtendeni**, near Zinkwazi;

they will also be re-recording the well preserved cemetery of **Bethany** at a later date.

- **Schuinskloof 175**, Dist Lephalele, Limpopo and the **Delville Wood Memorial in Ladybrand** has been submitted by Stewart Moss.
- Peter & Bev have been at it again: **Fort Pearson, Tugela**, Dist Lower Tugela, KZN. This information was taken from a very interesting book by H Achtzehn on the subject of the Zinkwazi area.
- We have received photographs of **Jubilee Park in Uitenhage** from Marielle Ford.
- Koos & Janet Lourens have come to the fore again with further recordings in the Reitz area – **Kleinfontein 862, Danies Rust 280, Outuin 665, Vetpan 378 and Katdoringfontein 1171**.
- Photos of the **Chievely cemetery** have been received from Gina Shepherd.
- Gwyneth Thomas has offered photographs of **Vredefort** and **Venterskroon** headstones.
- Simon du Plooy en Kie of North West GSSA, are busy with a number of cemetery recordings (Hoogs geheim!?) which will soon be lodged.
- Fanie Blignaut, in spite of a very busy personal schedule, still continues to provide info from the northern Free State areas.
- Janet Melville has submitted details of a small cemetery (5names) at **Kransfontein** in the **Edenburg** district as well as of **Tarkastad** cemetery and war memorial.
- Alta Griffiths of eGSSA has forwarded photos of the **Boschpoort** and the **Glengarry** cemeteries, (taken by Willien Olivier).
- Marie v d Walt has provided details of the cemetery on the farm **Good Hope** near **Fraserburg**.
- Hentie Joubert has photographed British graves on **Grootsuikerboskop**, above **Dullstroom**.
- Simon du Plooy has identified that the cemetery which is now on the farm **Klipkraal 54**, was, at the time of the second ABO, on the farm Doornkraal, of which Klipkraal represents a small piece.

Judging from the increase in activity around the country, it looks like we should end the year with a substantial increase in the size of the database. It is however saddening to notice that some areas of the country and some branches are conspicuous by their absence. **PLEASE COME ON BOARD.**

International Enquiries

Enquiries were received from Gary Shaw and Finalo Golan, both of Brisbane, Australia, as well as from Lyn Teig of the UK.

Cemetery CD

This is CD 6 and is available from Andre Heydenrych at aheydenr@mweb.co.za . Cost is R90,00 for a first-time buyer and R60,00 for members who have purchased previous issues.

Corrections to the CD have been submitted by H S Steyn, Derek Walker, Ann Tiran and Lucas Rincken. These are always welcome. Please continue to submit corrections to the CD to Peter or the Editor.

Branch News

Not much news has been received from the branches. At the moment, other than N-West Gauteng's activities, which were mentioned in the Country-wide Round-up above, the only projects that we are aware of are the following:

- **Braamfontein Cemetery:** Dennis Pretorius and his team of helpers have completed the scanning and are currently busy with the typing of these headstone recordings..
- **Boksburg Cemetery:** This is the next project being tackled by the South East Wits. Family History Society. The recording started five months ago. The turnout of volunteers has been phenomenal with 12-18 members arriving for a recording session. About 3500 names have already been recorded, of which about 2000 have been proof-read. It is anticipated that the ultimate count will be of a similar size to Primrose Cemetery.

General

When recording cemeteries, please provide Peter and Beverley with the GPS co-ordinates of the entrance to the cemetery if you have a GPS unit. This should be based on the WGS84 datum. All these GPS readings are being recorded in Google Earth.

The Primrose data input has been completed and will definitely appear on the next CD. Well done, Peter.

It is also pleasing to note the increasing measure of cooperation between the National Cemetery Recording Project of GSSA and the Headstone Photos Project of eGSSA.

Questions & Answers

Q: Is the National Cemetery Recording Project of GSSA and the Headstone Photos Project of eGSSA one and the same project?

A: No. They are two entirely separate projects. However, let it be said that the cooperation between the two is of utmost importance. Where the former receives photos these are passed to the latter; and where the latter receives printed recorded data, this is passed to the former.

Q: Is the data on the CD based on recordings made of the headstones or of the burial registers?

A: Generally and, definitely in the beginning stages, only headstone data was recorded. However, where it has been possible to obtain copies of the registers, these are now also utilized. It must however also be pointed out that in many instances the registers have become seriously damaged or have disappeared due to lack of control by the relevant authorities.

Editor's Note

Many encouraging e-mails have been received from recipients of the last Newsletter. It really makes the effort worthwhile. Criticisms will also be welcome. The criticism received in respect of the last newsletter was that it should have been in a pdf format to reduce the size of the file. The Editor wholly agrees with this sentiment, but still has to master this aspect.

Next Issue

The next Newsletter should be issued during September, 2008. Please forward comments, criticisms and relevant interesting material for inclusion in the Newsletter to reach the Editor, not later than 31 of August, 2008.

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

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[Further information re the Project can be obtained on the GSSA homepage www.ggsa.info. Follow the menu to Projects/Cemetery Project. Information re present Status etc is provided via Excel files.](http://www.ggsa.info)