



GSSA Cemetery Recording News

Vol 5 No 2 – December 2007



*Bloukrans Monument, in memory of the Battle of Bloukrans 1838.
Photograph submitted by Peter Moss.*

Welcome

A warm welcome to all the people out there. The year is once again rushing to a close and Christmas is literally around the corner. We would like to wish all researchers, contributors, members, friends and correspondents from around the world a joyous and peaceful festive season, mindful of the true meaning of this time of year.

Contributors & Volunteers

The response to the resurrected Newsletter has been truly heartening. As you will note, enquiries are arriving from all corners of the world. It seems that this is also encouraging researchers to come forward and lodge their information for inclusion in the national database, for which we all are very thankful. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!!!!**

E-mails are still arriving apace, and Peter and Beverley are packing the data into the database as quickly as they can. Small cemeteries are literally being loaded within 24 hours of receipt of the information. By the time you receive this newsletter, the closing date for new submissions to CD 6 will have passed. However, **DON'T LET UP** – in January work begins on CD 7!! Remember, the more we can record and load onto CD now the more use we personally will enjoy and, just maybe, you'll find that missing link for which you've been searching for years.

Country-wide Round-up (Period 01.08.2007 to 15.11.2007)

Again, a warm 'thank you' to all those who are making it possible to expand our database. The following mentions originate from e-mails received over the past 14 weeks.

- Janet and Koos Lourens have provided us with photos of Reward and Eenzaamheid, **farm cemeteries in the Harrismith and Reitz districts.**
- Blikkies Blignaut and his team have completed and submitted the several sections of the old **Parys Cemetery.**
- Ralph Anderson has submitted recordings of the **Methodist Cemetery in Beaufort West, Cape.**
- Errol Dollenberg has provided a file on the **Wittenberg Cemetery**, near Piet Retief.
- Alta Roux continues to uncover farm cemeteries in the districts close to where she lives and submitted recordings and photos of three farm cemeteries, **Schoongezicht 120, Wakkerstroom and Steenkoolspruit 302, Devon and Salpeterskranz 351**
- A solitary gravestone in **Benoni West** was photographed and recorded by Paxie Kelsey.
- Graves in the grounds of the **D R Church at Robertson** were sent in by Richardt Wolfaardt.
- Lynn Middendorp has recorded the graves at **Shepherd's Bush, Tsitsikamma.**
- Vic Olivier has been particularly busy of late, submitting no less than 14 cemeteries, recorded by himself and numerous acquaintances of his, some of whom are obviously part of the local radio ham fraternity:
 - **St Agnes Anglican Church, Swartkops, P.E.** – Vic Olivier;
 - **St Peter's Catholic Church, Swartkops, P.E.** – Vic Olivier;
 - **Hoedjie Kop, Saldanha** – Vic Olivier;
 - **Farm cemeteries in the Ladismith and Calitzdorp districts**, for which he does not have names, but, for which he has GPS co-ordinates.

- **Farm Doornboom**, Bedford District – Estelle Gibson;
 - **Farm Misgund, Jeffreys Bay**, Humansdorp – Gail & Bert Behrens;
 - **Woodridge Prep College**, Van Staden’s Heights – Gail & Bert Behrens;
 - **Windy Gates Estates**, Van Staden’s Heights - Gail & Bert Behrens;
 - **Farm Akkerboom**, Kabeljous, Jeffreys Bay - Gail & Bert Behrens;
 - **Farm Rooihoek**, Kabeljous, Jeffreys Bay - Gail & Bert Behrens;
 - **Farm Fontein**, Kabeljous, Jeffreys Bay - Gail & Bert Behrens;
 - **Farm Sonop**, Kabeljous, Jeffreys Bay - Gail & Bert Behrens;
 - **Tweekloof Boedery (sic)**, Kabeljous, Jeffreys Bay - Gail & Bert Behrens;
 - **Lovemore Forrest**, west of P.E.: single grave – Hester Marx
 - **Leeuw Kop farm** cemetery between Ficksburg and Rosendal – Vic Olivier;
 - N.B. Farm Fontein Cemetery has now been cleared to make way for development.
- On their recent vacation, Peter and Bev Moss recorded and photographed the **Concentration Camp Memorial and the Burger Monument at Harrismith**.
 - Herman du Plooy has photographed the headstones of the **Old and New Standerton Cemeteries** and is busy transcribing them for submission to the national database (approx 4000 graves)
 - Ferdie van Wyk of the Northern Transvaal Branch of GGSA has intimated that the Branch would like to reactivate their Cemetery Recording activities. (**Ed Welcome aboard! Baie welkom!**)
 - Derek Walker, an avid recorder, has provided us with useful info and photos of many 15 small cemeteries in the Joh’burg suburbs, with more to come. In addition, Derek hunts down and records more obscure war grave sites and has his own website at <http://www.allatsea.co.za/cems.htm>
 - Dianne Riley has typed up the details of the **Bloemfontein Monument for the Concentration Deceased** (1080 names) and has provided GPS details.
 - Gina Shepherd has photographed the **Clouston Cemetery Memorial** as well as the **Old Colenso Cemetery** headstones.
 - John Schwartz has done an update of the **Van Reenen Family Cemetery** in the Golden Gate National Park.
 - Braam van Jaarsveld has undertaken a research tour of the Barkly East, Elliot, and Ugie areas, so we are expecting feedback from him over the coming months.
 - Sarel Burger has provided details of **Steenbokfontein** Cemetery.
 - John Stephens has provided info on **Wolwespruit** and **Kommandodrif** cemeteries.
 - Marie Meyer has been in contact with us again after some time, and has sent in more data that will be digested next year.
 - Amanda van Blerk submitted information for 9 farm cemeteries in the Clarens/Fouriesburg districts, and we understand there is more to come.

Please forgive me if anyone has been overlooked, and “Thank you, once again for your continued efforts”

International Enquiries

- David Jamieson of Montrose, Angus, Scotland. (Refer our last newsletter) Peter and Bev visited Harrismith on their recent vacation, but were unable to find a Burger recorded on the Concentration Camp Memorial; possibly to be found in Standerton. Peter & Bev will follow up again, when possible.
- Margaret Reece from New Zealand enquired about a J Kinleyside, buried in the Old Cemetery, Kabwe, District Kabwe, ZAMBIA. Amazingly, Peter was able to assist, as Peter and Bev had recorded the Kabwe Burial Registers many years ago
- George Cogswell from Manchester, UK made enquiries re Inkster family members buried in Braamfontein Cemetery; no headstones found, but at date of going to print, Peter had discovered one person in a register and was still pursuing some other sources. With the assistance of Alan Buff, one grave site was located in Braamfontein Cemetery.
- Margaret Truter of Jujunga, California, USA made enquiries re the Nylstroom Registers mentioned in the previous newsletter, and has been referred to Johan de Villiers, who is busy transcribing these records.
- Hilary Bird of Australia is interested in any Leppans, possibly buried in the Primrose Cemetery; Ken Mutch of SEWFHS was able to assist with one name.
- Trish Meldrum of Victoria, Australia is looking for info regarding her grandmother, Alica Ann Larkin, who lived in the Germiston area about 1910/12. Unfortunately Ken Mutch had to report that no such person was found in the Primrose recordings. *However, on checking the burial registers, Ken succeeded in finding the record of Trish's grandmother. (Ed Makes it all worthwhile.)*
- Sonia van Heerden of Toronto, Canada has offered to do translations of Greek and Cyrillic gravestones or other material. Her address is soniavanheerden@hotmail.com

Cemetery CD

The closing date for submissions to the database for inclusion in CD 6 is 24th November 2007, which date will probably have passed by the time you receive this newsletter. To the best of my knowledge, copies of CD 5.1 are still available. If you have not yet made this investment in your hobby, contact Andre Heydenrych at aheydenr@mweb.co.za . Cost is R80,00 for a first-time buyer and R50,00 for members who have purchased previous issues.

Further corrections to CD 5.1 have been received from R W Atkinson and Cindy Binks and together with other corrections will be included in CD 6.

NEWSFLASH: the final count for CD6 is 269 233 names in 2 757 cemeteries, an increase of 17 549 names in 113 cemeteries!!!

Recording Experiences

The following is a write-up of Peter and Beverley's recent trip to Natal.

A visit to Tongaat September 2007

We have recently returned from a week's break at our flat in Umdloti, on the KZN North Coast. Not content with relaxing while typing up the several Harrismith memorials we recorded on the way down from Benoni, we had to have our "fix" by visiting the Council at Tongaat, in search of the burial registers to the Old Cemetery.

We had visited the Cemetery (adjacent to the Crematorium) some years back, it does not have many headstones but was open and liable to vandalism, indeed some headstones were already lying face down. We had marked it down for further attention. Since then it has been well fenced (though the gate was not locked) and grass cutting etc was in progress. Well done Tongaat!

The man at the Council was most helpful, and we had a long discussion over what registers he had available. Surprisingly, the office in Tongaat also has the registers for the Settler Cemetery in Verulam, the headstone data for which is in our names database.

To summarise, we located the following:

1. Tongaat Central Cemetery, located on Laure St (now Plein St)
 - The cemetery plan in reasonable condition and can be copied onto useful A3 pages
 - The Register was not available in the Office, unfortunately the man in charge was away that afternoon. He would hopefully know where it is (maybe at Parks and Gardens who had charge of the Cemetery until a few years back)
 - Interestingly, there is one headstone (name of Peachey) commemorating the loss of 5 family members on the ship RMS Drummond Castle, which sank in the English Channel during 1896. (There is another victim of this incident shown on a memorial at the Fairview Cemetery, in the hills above Barberton). During that earlier research we obtained the full passenger list, etc from the Johannesburg reference Library.
2. Verulam Wick Str Cemetery (known to us as the Settler Cemetery)
 - Small register book Dec 1920 to Apr 1941
 - Small register book from May 1941
 - Register foolscap book size, sorted by block and grave number
 - Cemetery plan, on linen backed paper. Still legible, but in very poor condition, in desperate need of scanning using a large, platen type scanner.
3. Obviously, there has to be a plan here! When we come down after Christmas we will contact the necessary staff and attempt to have the registers copied. It occurs to me

that the old Natal North Coast Museum in Stanger may have copies, but we cannot locate their contact number.

Contact details:

Register office: Vegan or Morris 031 311 5469

Section Manager; Mr Ramu Govender 031 311 5486, 083 282 2584. He may be able to authorise copies to be done inside the Council as we do not want to take the books out for copying.

Can anyone assist with other comments?

(Ed: Our National Co-ordinators do not just sit behind their PC's; they're also experienced field workers.)

Branch News

Ferdie van Wyk of the Northern Transvaal Branch of GSSA has requested Peter and Beverley Moss and Blikkies Blignaut to do a presentation of the Cemetery Project to their members on 12th April 2008 at 1400 hours in the Art Gallery at the Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria.

Braamfontein Cemetery: Many thanks to all the volunteers who have been involved in the data processing. We are still assembling the files for entry into the database; so, very regrettably, there will not be any info for Braamfontein in the new CD.

Primrose Cemetery: Ken Mutch has advised that Roz du Plessis of SEWFHS has completed the typing of the approximately 20000 entries for this cemetery in Germiston. However, some more quality checks need to be performed before the data can be released for publication.

(Ed: It certainly looks as though 2008 is going to be a bumper year for additional entries for the 2009 CD!)

General

1. The following is a copy of an e-mail passed to me by Peter. I felt it warranted a mention in the newsletter, as it demonstrates so clearly the spirit of co-operation and willingness to assist, which, I believe, should be prevalent amongst our readership

From: Elmien Wood [mailto:woodem@mweb.co.za]

Sent: 06 September 2007 07:12

To: Richard Y Ford; Peter Moss; Margaret Lodder; Lucas G Rinken; Liz Eshmade; John Stevens; Simon du Plooy; Nico Gey van Pittius; Judy Letard; Vanessa Ford

Subject: Baie, baie dankie.

Wil net weer dankie sê vir die hulp wat aan Tom Hogan aangebied is om die mense te vind aan wie hy 'n boekie wou terugbesorg.

Wys net weer vir jou hoe graag mense help, veral as iemand anders vir iemand anders wil help.

So help iemand anders vir iemand anders vir iemand anders vir ...!

Groete

Elmien

Hello again Elmien,
Many, many thanks to you & all whom you contacted. It's turned out to be so easy & Leoni Barnard's info was spot on. I have contacted Margaret Epstein (née Nesbitt) & am arranging to get the little book to her. It is a hard covered exercise book with a hand written history of the Nisbet / Nesbitt family from 547 - 1662, & with a letter to her father dated 4 Jan 1937.
Ever grateful,
Tom H.

- 2 Early this year Peter and Beverley Moss visited with Dee Capell of Durban, in the company of Mr Marillier from Australia. The purpose of the visit was to examine the burial register of St Thomas Cemetery. Dee was introduced to the objectives of the Cemetery Recording Project.
Researching on another occasion in the Durban Family History Library, they came across a transcription of the St Thomas Cemetery register. A copy was obtained and was duly processed into the Project's standard Excel format and entered into the database. At the same time a digital copy of the register in Excel format was dispatched to Dee Capell, and this was her reply:

*Dear Peter,
A thousand thank yous for the cemetery info. It has been a life long dream to have it on a data base so thank you for this I have it already on my desktop. I simply have never had the time to do it.
Thank you so much
Sincerely
Dee Capell*

Please help!!

We have knowledge of some cemeteries which were recorded by a Mr R Hartzenberg (Zandfontein Bothaville, Modderfontein Parys, Sanddrift Brits, Turffontein/Mooihoek Parys). Unfortunately, the recording with the names cannot be found. Can anyone assist with the information, or how to contact Mr Hartzenberg?

Q & A

Q: Lucas Rinken has asked whether it would be possible to mark new and revised entries on the CD, to avoid having to sift through old data which has already been previously perused.

A: Lucas, this is a great idea. Unfortunately, it is not possible to do this at this stage, as the names database is held in PAF; it is difficult to add new fields, etc. However, we are contemplating moving the database to MSAccess, in which case, it will be easy to accede to your request.

Editor's Note

First of all, I'd like to express my gratitude for the positive response to the resurrection of the newsletter.

Secondly, I need to correct a statement made by me in respect of Enoch Sontonga. Alan Buff of City Parks, who is one of our readers, was the leader of the team that traced the physical position of the grave. Alan provided me with a detailed report on the detective

work which took place. Unfortunately, it is too lengthy to put in our newsletter. However, the point of error was the year in which the mystery was solved: not 2002 as reported by yours truly, but 1996.

Last, but not least, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking Errol Dollenberg for his assistance, firstly, in 'playing Postman' for my first newsletter, and, secondly, for preparing the 17 WAB files of addresses for this issue of the newsletter. The newsletter is now reaching over 400 people worldwide, though most are in RSA.

Next Issue

The next Newsletter should be issued during March 2008. Please forward comments, criticisms and relevant interesting material for inclusion in the Newsletter to the Editor.

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)