



# GSSA Cemetery Recording News

Vol 5 No 1 – September 2007



“Die Klein Genealog”

Photo: Courtesy of Alta Roux

(Ed: And all these years I thought there was a minimum entry age of 45!!)

## Welcome

Hello and welcome to everyone. I have been requested to resurrect the GSSA Cemetery Recording News. I certainly hope I shall be able to fill the shoes of Errol Dollenberg, who, in the past, did such a sterling job.

## Contributors & Volunteers

I have been inundated with snippets of information and copies of e-mails received and forwarded by Peter Moss. It is truly gratifying to know that there are so many people who take an interest in contributing to this Project.

Peter and I have decided that greater recognition should be given to the individual researcher out in the field recording farm or small cemeteries where he/she comes across them. Hence, the next heading.

## **Country-wide Round-up** (Period 01.05.2007 to 31.07.2007)

A very special word of thanks is due to each of the following individuals who have taken the time to get involved in recording and photographing in their spare time. This is truly a labour of love.

- Lettie du Preez has recorded the **Gustav Preller** graves at **Pelindaba**.
- Johann de Villiers of Edenvale is currently typing up the information from the **Nylstroom** Old Burial Register.
- Lukas Rinken and members of West Rand GGSA have completed their recordings of the **Ferndale** Cemetery
- Ken Mutch and members of South East Wits Family History Society have almost completed the recording of the **Primrose** Cemetery, Germiston; only the Greek section remains to be done. The remainder has been typed and at this stage the proof-reading is nearly done. A special word of thanks is due to member Roz du Plessis who has done all the typing, “man-alleen” – we are referring to a total of some 16000+ names!!!!
- Fay Lea & Becky Horne have provided information on the graves on the **Farm Lyndock**, in the Eastern Cape Bedford district
- Meanwhile Barend Leach has been busy in the **Ellisras** district, recording and photographing the **Smit/De Lange** family cemeteries of **Pattate Vlei**.
- Many thanks to Ockert and Tania Olivier who provided Glenda Raad with a CD of photographs of the old cemetery in **Noupoort** as well as a transcription (by hand!!!! no copiers) of the burial register from 1928 to 2007
- Richard Wolvaardt is making arrangements to obtain access to the burial registers held by the **Rawsonville** Municipality in the Cape.
- ‘n **Blignaut** familieplaas, **La Gratitude Estates, op Ermelo**, se inligting is deur Sampie Orton opgeteken en deur Blikkies Blignaut aan Peter deurgegee.
- Willeen Olivier het onlangs die grafte op **Kaapsche Hoop** afgeneem.
- Dianne Riley provided the GPS co-ordinates and headstone info of a farm graveyard in Zimbabwe: **Malundi Farm, Matopos**. She also provided photos of the Bloemfontein Monument to the Concentration Camp Deceased and has kindly offered to type this info for us.
- Richard Wolvaardt has typed up the records of the St James Cemetery, **Graaff Reinet**.
- Dennis Pretorius and Hendrik Louw are organizing the data capture team for the **Braamfontein** records – approximately 20000 names!!!! Many thanks to the willing volunteers!
- Alta Roux has been busy in the **Leslie** district, and has recently submitted recordings for Weltevreden Cemetery as well as Grootlaagte.
- Vic Olivier in the Eastern Cape has passed on details of a **Fourie** farm cemetery in **Swaziland** obtained by Johan Niemandt

The preceding list is **NOT** an exhaustive list of activities on the go; it merely reflects 3 months of e-mails received by Peter Moss. Work on other cemeteries has been undertaken by numerous individuals, such as Koos & Janet Lourens, O G & S J Malan, Jan Deneys Reitz, Simon du Plooy, Johan Pottas, A J van Wyk,

Ann Tiran, Etienne Weidemann, as well as the team from the Western Cape GSSA. Please accept my apologies in advance if you feel you should have been mentioned, but take consolation in the fact that, in the database, cemetery data recorded and submitted by you, recognizes you as the responsible person.

### **International Enquiries**

- Jenny Kirkendale of South Australia has made enquiries about the grave of her great-great-grandfather, Alfred George Champion Jones, which is on Robben Island. He died during August 1911. *(This has been referred to GSSA, Western Cape for their assistance.)*
- David Jamieson of Montrose, Angus, Scotland asked whether there were photos available of the graves in the Harrismith and Standerton Concentration Camp Cemeteries. He was interested in a Burger grave. *(Unfortunately, these cemeteries have not yet been recorded. Peter Moss will check Harrismith and keep in touch with David.)*

### **Cemetery CD**

Cemetery CD 5.1 has been available for some months. This CD contains about 250000 names from 2314 cemeteries. This reflects the major strides that have been made during the past 3/4 years. *(Ed: If my memory serves me correctly CD 2 only had 120000 names on it.)* If you have not yet purchased your copy, please contact Andre Heydenrych at [aheydenr@mweb.co.za](mailto:aheydenr@mweb.co.za). Cost is R80,00 for a first-time buyer and R50,00 for members who have purchased previous issues. A truly worthwhile investment.

Please do not hesitate to advise Peter Moss or myself if you discover any discrepancies.

Corrections to the latest CD have already been received from Joy Wellbeloved, Lucas Rincken, Jos von Fintel, Errol Dollenberg, Fanie Buys, Dennis Pretorius and Andre van Wyk.

### **Additions to the CD**

Although a lot of activity is taking place, and with great enthusiasm, it is a matter of concern that, up to the beginning of July 2007, only 25 new cemeteries, containing 4625 graves could be finalized on the database, in preparation for the issue of the next CD.

One must, however, take cognizance of the fact that some fairly large cemetery recordings are nearing completion. Primrose and Braamfontein could account for close on 40 000 additional names, but whether this can be completed in time for the new CD, remains to be seen. Let's pull out all the stops and help where we can!

## Recording Experiences

### ❖ Adventures of Alta Roux in the Middelburg area

❖ **Bosmanspan** I am resigning: too little danger pay!

At last I got around to a little grave recording, and guess what we found. A swarm of honey bees! We left rather hurriedly, but not before we got the info.

❖ **Rondevalley** OK, this is official – I am resigning, unless I am offered some danger pay!

This morning, an elderly gentleman and I went looking for a cemetery, with only a vague (VERY vague) description of how to find it. When we came to the fence where we expected it to be, we found very tall grass, cosmos and khakibos. So we started looking for anything that might mean that a cemetery was nearby. The next moment I felt something soft brush my foot – an enormous geelslang!!! Needless to say, I put some metres between myself and the snake – and was stung on the back of my leg by a ‘steekvlieg’ – of course, I thought it was another snake! I am certain this episode has shortened my life by years.

**Ed: Sounds like the snake and the steekvlieg were in cahoots; pity the cameraman was not around. However, I think the next story from Alta during a Leslie excursion takes the cake!**

❖ **Leslie**

Wie het gesê dat genealogie ‘n droë, humorlose stokperdjie is?

Na ‘n lang gesmeek van my kant, beloof Manlief om vanmiddag, oppad na Delmas, saam met my te gaan soek na baie ou grafte. Die aanwysings na die begraafplaas is karig, om dit sagkens te stel, maar ons gaan probeer. Die plaas is tans deel van Leslie se dorpsraadgronde, en word deur die inwoners van die swart woonbuurt gebruik as weiding vir hulle beeste.

Manlief is oppad Delmas toe, want daar is ‘n trekker waarop hy ‘n ogie het. Terwyl ons oor die kaal vlakte rondkyk vir ou, plat, byna-verlore grafte, lui sy foon. Dis die trekkerverkoopsman, wat sê dat die trekker op Delmas aangekom het. Manlief beëindig die kort gesprek as volg: “ Ek is op Leslie. Ek soek net gou ‘n graf vir my vrou, dan kom kyk ek na die trekker.” En hy druk die foon dood.  
**(Ed: And she lived to tell the tale!)**

## Branch News

As mentioned above, S E Wits Family History Society are almost ready to submit their recording of the Primrose Cemetery, Germiston.

Dennis Pretorius and his team are working on the Braamfontein records, which must surely be the most interesting collection of records in Johannesburg, since it contains

of the oldest graves in the City of Gold, including some of the Rand Lords. **(Ed: I read the other day that only during 2002 was the grave of Enoch Sontonga, composer of the National Anthem, *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika*, discovered in the Braamfontein Cemetery. He was buried on 19 April 1905, only 32 years old.)**

## **General**

The Cemeteries Project Management in the persons of Fanie “Blikkies” Blignaut and Peter & Beverley Moss were invited to the West Rand Branch of GSSA’s meeting of 18 August 2007, where Peter did a presentation of the Project.

The excellent presentation was well received by all present.

## **Editor’s Note**

During the short time I have been directly involved with the Project, I’ve noticed that a tremendous amount of work falls on the shoulders of Peter and Beverley Moss, mainly in the form of capturing submissions into the database. My personal request to all recorders, is that they endeavour to capture their data in EXCEL, preferably in the prescribed format, to obviate the necessity of retyping the information. However, if you are unable to provide the data in this format, ***PLEASE!!!!*** do not withhold it. Rather submit it as best you can.

## **Next Issue**

All things being equal, the next Newsletter should be issued during early December. 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](mailto: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)