

Genealogical Society of South Africa

Durban and Coastal Branch

Volume 20 Issue 3/2004

New Members

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new members, Brian Dix, Allan and Daphne Durham and Judy Letard, and wish them lots of success in their research and a fruitful association with the Society.

Speaker – Dr Cubbins

We would like to apologise to members who were looking forward to Dr Cubbins's talk on the Origins of British Settlers to Natal, and were disappointed, as we were, when he changed his topic on arrival! However, his Talk on the Origins of the Settlement of Durban was quite interesting, and it was good to get together and see some new faces as well!

Meeting – 14th August to PMB Archives

Just a reminder that this meeting is the morning visit to the PMB Archives, and because of our private commitments this year we, Nigel and Cynthia ask members to please call for their files on arrival at the archives. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Meeting – 9th October – Speaker Kevan Mardon

Kevan is the Transport Historian of the Durban Corporation (Ethekweni Municipality) and he will give us a talk on the last hundred years of Durban transport – trams, trolleys and busses. In addition he will provide us with fond memories of Springbok Radio, LM Radio and Radio Port Natal and even bring the gong that Eric Eagan used on his radio shows - "Old Time Radio Days" In addition, if time permits he will show us rare colour footage of Durban's last tram and the Royal visit of 1947. We are assured of a very entertaining afternoon.

DEATH NOTICE TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT

Article submitted by Jaq Benade

The Family History Centre has started a project of transcribing into text files the various photocopies of South-African Death Notices and Estate Files that were photographed long ago. Copies of these photographs are obtainable from FHC but due its popularity this service is being strained to the limit. The final objective of the transcription project is to be able to put this text information onto the Family Search website so that people will be better able to search for their ancestors, online and for free. From the information being collected it might well be that in future it will no longer be necessary to request copies of Death Notices because all the information you need might already be on display at Family Search. Alternatively one will be better able to identify precisely which photograph to order rather than ordering many in the hope that the one you are looking for will be amongst the bundle you ordered.

A small number of volunteers have already started this transcription but we do need some more volunteers. If you are willing to offer your services (for free) you will need a Personal Computer with a CD reader and a stiffie drive onto which to write the results. You will be given the necessary program and training in the use thereof along with say 150 photographs at a time which you will have to read and rewrite into text format, all of which is controlled by the software provided.

The Durban branch of this project is presently administered by Jaq BENADIE who lives in Pinetown and who comes to the FHC centre in Silverton Road once a week so exchange of data could be arranged with him or CD's could be left at the Silverton Road centre to be picked up there whenever the centre is open. For people out of town the postal service might work but the initial training may be a problem. The results file is usually small enough to be attached to a e-mail so collection is a factor for consideration but not necessarily the return of results. CD's need not be returned but people living close enough could use re-usable Read Write CD's to help keep costs down.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should contact Jaq BENADIE at one of the following;
 e-mail : jaqb@telkomsa.net
 Phone / Fax : 031 - 708 3746 (Phone between 8:00am and 19:00pm and expect the answering machine from time to time)
 Postal : PO Box 2337, Pinetown. 3600

Help with Family Trees

(Taken from the Highway Mail)

Submitted with permission from John Perfect

Editor – I am a family tree researcher and I am looking for information on several families and would like to appeal for assistance through the Highway Mail.

Anyone with information or knowledge they would like to share with me on the following families and projects I am researching can contact me at the below mentioned address.

My major project is focussed on the history of the entire BEZUIDENHOUT family and all sub-families such as BREITENBACH, WESSELS, VIVIERS AND VIVIER.

I am also researching 1820 Settler families HULLY, CAWOOD, DELL, ESTMENT, and MILLER. Other main families I am working on are PERFECT, PIETERSE, REX, McMASTER, SANDERS, DE KONING, ANDERSSEN and EMMET.

I have interest in LE ROUX, KRUGER, FOURIE, HATTINGH, GROBLER, BARNARD, JOUBERT and BOTHA FAMILIES and I am working on the 1922 Riots in Johannesburg.

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Van Wyk CD

A note from Andre Heydenrych

I am again wading through my correspondence, notes, etc. and see with shame that I promised you a write-up on the Van Wyk CD. I was expecting it today, but will have to be satisfied with Tuesday.

I attach the notes which are on the CD, but you see it is in Afrikaans. What I can give you as well is the cost, etc.

The CD will cost R110,00 for members of the Society and R130,00 for non-members. Orders can be placed by e-mailing me. Cheques may be sent to the address of the Society, which is Suite 143, Postnet X2600, Houghton, 2041. Direct deposits may also be made and the bank details are GSSA, Nedbank, Killarney, cheque, code 191605, account no. 191605 1332.

(If anyone would like to have the notes, please contact Nigel or Cynthia and we'll forward them to you.)

A Real Life Adventure

(Continued from Vol. 20 Issue 1/2004.)

James McFerran has been in three wrecks, and he saw seven drowntold to R.W. Tungay

The wrecking of the **Kathleen Anderson**, when she struck a submerged rock when about to round Cape Morgan was a drama of heroism at sea. She was a new ship which had arrived from Aberdeen six months before, and was skippered by that grand old man of Durban, Captain Alex **Anderson** now 95 years old. The ship was named after his daughter.

This is Mr. **McFerran's** story:

“The bottom of the ship was torn out and she was making water rapidly. The pumps were of no avail. Captain **Anderson** was on the bridge. I rushed up to him and told him to beach her as fast as he could as I could not keep the engines running any longer. In this attempt he was only able to get within some 800yards of the shore. We had the lifeboat launched and most of us got into it, but a breaker capsized it. Three Arab firemen were drowned and one killed by the propellor. Sandy **Anderson** and **Jacobsen**, seaman, got ashore by lashing their clothes to an eight foot ladder to which they clung. Captain Alex **Anderson**, the mate, **Neilson**, another man called **Anderson** and myself scrambled up the main mast. There we remained, sitting in bowlines and scantily clad for 28 hours. We were expecting help from East London only 30 miles away. But it did not come. The shrouds started to give way and the masts were becoming unstable. Every time the wreck was hit by pounding seas we were in danger of being jerked off.”

‘Hobson’s Choice’

“Then Captain **Anderson**, although 62 years of age, said to us, ‘Well boys, it’s no use our sitting here, for if the masts go we’ll all go. It’s a case of Hobson’s choice. I’m the oldest of the lot of you and have had my day. I’ll go first’, With those words he jumped into the water and weakened as he was by exposure, he managed to get within 50 yards of the shore when he was helped to the beach. Spurred on by his example we all followed. Two of the men could not swim but they were washed ashore. It was then that I had the finest meal in my life – black bread and coffee full of grit.

The police patrol saw our peril on Sunday morning and tried to row in the life-boat, which had been washed ashore, but the boat capsized. They sent a messenger to Kongha (Komgha?) to telegraph for assistance but the operator could not get through to East London. It was not until 10 o’clock on the Monday morning that they got the message through but then it was too late.

The accident was due to a faulty compass and rainy and misty weather. We were returning to Durban from Bird Island near Port Elizabeth with a record catch of 25,000 soles, a cargo weighing 40 tons and worth nearly £1,000. Captain **Anderson** was a skipper in every sense of the word. His every thought and action from the time he was dragged ashore were for his men”

Mr. **McFerran's** third shipwreck was on the steamer **Agmeer** on June 15th 1895, when the ship was conveying pilgrims from the Red Sea for Bombay. In the bad weather after they had not seen the sun for days, they stranded on rocks about 60 miles out of their course on the coast of Nandgaan. Fortunately no lives were lost, but Mr. **McFerran** fell from the ship in getting into the boat and was washed ashore.

Mr. **McFerran** first came to Durban in January 1890 from Bombay in the **Henry Bolchow**. He had vivid memories of the shallowness of the bar in Durban’s early days.

“We were only drawing 16 feet of water” he said. “The pilot asked the enginemen to keep a good head of steam, to open out and hold on. We found it necessary. It was bump - shake – bump three or four times. I remember an occasion in 1897 when although the ship I was in only drew seven feet of water we hit the bar. All the wharves were wooden and at that time there were only A,B and C sheds. When in the **Nautilus** I took part in the dredging of the Maydon Channel. It was heart-breaking. With the pumps going day and night we could not get more than 200 tons, although we had a capacity of 1,500 tons an hour. We later had to get the **Oceanus** and **Labryus** to cut the virgin clay”

FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE – DURBAN

Article submitted by Adrian Rowe

U.K. General Record Office - Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes (UK GRO - BMD)

Use of the microfiche at the Durban FHC has been made easier by a project, which has been carried out by a member, Adrian Rowe. He has listed and catalogued all the fiche, which are in stock, and has initiated a programme of purchasing, in consultation with the FreeBMD website and the centre director, Jenny Harries,

those fiche for the years, which FreeBMD has only completed a small percentage. It should also be remembered that the FreeBMD website does not guarantee that there are no errors in its transcriptions, which have been carried out by volunteers, and they recommend that one checks ones results against the GRO Indexes, before ordering certificates.

As the purchase of Fiche or Film is an expensive project and the FHC has limited resources, Adrian is appealing for contributions from members, and people ordering Index fiche or films on loan are being asked to contribute a little extra so that we can purchase the Fiche or Films on permanent loan. Any contributions received or pledged by members will only be used as and when orders are placed, to top up to the cost of a permanent loan.

The years 1837 to 1865 are particularly expensive as there are many fiche per quarter. Adrian has completed an exercise to compare the cost of purchasing, on permanent loan, Microfilm as against Microfiche and in nearly all cases it is cheaper to purchase Fiche.

Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Adrian has compiled a file using MS Excel, which lists all the Film/Fiche numbers for each quarter from July 1837 to Dec 1910 for the UK GRO BMD Indexes, and has included the percentage complete of FreeBMD for each year up to a specific date. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy may do so by e-mailing him at rowe@xsinet.co.za.

A Message from the Chairperson

Nigel appeals to all members to give serious consideration to support the projects that Jaq and Adrian are facilitating. We, and future members will all benefit from these worthwhile efforts.

List of Occupations

Continued from Newsletter 1/2004

CADDY BUTCHER - butcher that dealt in horse meat
 CAFENDER - carpenter
 CAFFLER - rag and bone collector
 CAINER - made walking sticks
 CAIRD - term for a tinker
 CALCINER - burnt bones to make powdered lime
 CALENDER - listed documents
 CALENDERER / CALENDERMAN/ CALENDER WORKER - operated machine which pressed using two large rollers 9calender0 used to press and finish fabrics or paper
 CAMBRIC MAKER - made fine linen or cotton called cambric
 CAMISTER - minister of the cloth
 CAMBIST - banker
 CAMERIST - lady's maid
 CAMLET MERCHANT - seller of camlet, cloth used to make cloaks and petticoats
 CAMPANER - bell maker
 CANDY MAN - travelling candy salesman and also slang name for a bailiff
 CANDELLARIUS - chancellor
 CANTING CALLER - auctioneer
 CAPER - cap maker
 CAPILLAIRE MAKER - made orange flavoured syrup
 CARNER - granary keeper
 CARNIFEX - butcher
 CARTOMANCER - fortune teller who used cards
 CASHMARIE - sold fish usually at inland markets
 CASTOR /CASTORA - made small bottles used for sprinkling salt, pepper, sugar etc.

Ned. Geref. Kerk in S.A. (Cont.)

When and from where churches were seceded

(These dates are very useful when sending for a film)

Congregation	Date	Seceded from
Steynsburg	1876	Molteno
Steytlerville	1876	Uitenhage
Strydenburg	1893	Hopetown/Philipstown/Prieska/Britstown
Sutherland	1855	Worcester
Swartland (Malmesbury)	1745	Cape Town/Stellenbosch
Swellendam	1798	Stellenbosch
Tamboerskloof (De Nieuwe Kerk)	1891	Cape Town
Tarkastad	1863	Cradock/Queenstown
Three Anchor Bay	1879	Cape Town
Toverberg/Torenberg		(see Colesberg)
Transgariep		Congregations in OFS and Natal
Troe-Troe		(see Van Rhynsdorp)
Tulbagh	1743	Cape Town/Stellenbosch
Tijgerberg	1826	(see Durbanville)
Uitenhage	1817	Graaff-Reinet
Umtata	1891	Dordrecht
Uniondale	1866	George
Upington	1893	Fell outside the boundaries of existing congregations

Membership Fees

Those members who have still not paid their fees for 2004 are reminded to please let Joan Rachmann have same ASAP. If you do not intend renewing your membership please notify Joan.

Newsletter Articles

Members are reminded that they are very welcome to submit articles for inclusion in our forthcoming newsletters. They may also submit names from their brick walls.

Notice Board

There is a notice board hung in our section at the FHC and members are invited to post their area of interest to connect with others who are researching that same area to enable the sharing of films. e.g. Umtata, Sussex etc.

The longer it takes to unwrap the layers of life, the more precious the gift when you find it!! - Cynthia

Diary Dates

14 th August	PMB Archives
11 th September	Personal Research
9th October	Speaker – Kevan Mardon
13 th November	Personal Research
11 th December	Ancestral Tea
15 th January 2005	AGM

Committee Members 2004 - 2005

Chairperson

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Secretary

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Librarian

Ann O'Brien - Phone: (031)208-2910

Preservations/Archives

Paul du Plessis - Ph: (031) 767-2676

Octogenarian

Annelise Peters - Ph: (031) 208-2910

Our Venue for Meetings

Family History Centre,
Church of the Latter Day Saints,
144 Silverton Road.
Entrance in Montgomery Road
Phone: (031) 202 3024

Our meetings are held at 2.30 pm on the 2nd Saturday of every month except in August when we have an arrangement to go to the Pietermaritzburg Archives between 8.30am and 12.00pm. Our AGM is held on the 3rd Saturday in January.

For the record, the F.H.C. is also open at the following times:

Wednesday 9 am – 12 pm
Thursday 9 am – 12 pm and 6.30 pm - 9 pm
1st Saturday of every month from 10 am - 4 pm