

eGGSA Newsletter

virtual Branch of the GSSA

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eGGSA Management Elections

This is the time of year when the branches of the Genealogical Society of South Africa elect their management teams for the new year.

All the present holders of these posts were asked and indicated their willingness to continue for another year if required. During January notices were sent to all eGGSA members asking them if they wished to nominate themselves for one of these positions.

Only one member, Hendrik Louw, offered his services so it was not necessary to hold elections and the eGGSA chairman, Martin Zöllner, reports as follows:

The following nominations were duly received by 29 January 2009. The nominees confirmed that they would be available for 2009. Since there were no additional nominations, the nominees below are duly elected as the eGGSA management team for 2009.

Chairperson: Martin Zöllner

Technical: Richard Ball

Treasurer: Daan Hamman

Membership and PRO: Lynn Couperthwaite

Projects: Alta Griffiths, Hendrik Louw

I thank these members for being willing to dedicate effort and time to this (sometimes unthankful) cause.

Our Thanks to Lance Roth

Over the last year Lance Roth has been one of the cornerstones of the eGGSA document ordering service. He can, unfortunately, no longer continue helping with this project and we would like to thank him, on behalf of eGGSA and its members, for all the work he put into this. Thank you, Lance.

*This issue of the eGGSA
Newsletter was produced by
Richard Ball.*

Martin Zöllner

Chair of the eGSSA management team

Martin was born on 22 January 1942 in Potsdam, Germany, son of Gerhard and Ruth Zöllner. In 1949 the whole family came to South Africa and lived initially on a mission station of the Berlin Mission Society in Sekukuniland and later in Bloemfontein, where Martin matriculated at the Sentrale Hoërskool. He studied at the universities of the Free State and Potchefstroom.

From 1978 to 1995 Martin was an officer in the SA Defence Force, since when he has worked as a business and system analyst for Q Data, Business Connexion, and Telkom. He and his spouse, Linda, have two children, a son and a daughter.

Martin became involved with genealogy for two reasons, the first being his computer literacy that started in 1965 on an IBM 1401, and his ability to apply these skills in the field of genealogy. In 1987 he received PAF 2.0 as a gift and started to play around with it. After entering his own family's data and that of his wife's family, he was faced with the problem of producing a printed genealogy according to the South African format. As computer expert and enthusiast he developed the first prototypes of the current GEN2SA utility as well as the cemetery utility CemRec. GEN2SA is in widespread use in South Africa.

The second reason was that his wife, Linda, worked for the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) as genealogical researcher and served on the management of the Northern Transvaal branch of the Genealogical Society of South Africa (GSSA). At that time the branch went through a difficult phase and, as becomes a good husband, Martin accompanied Linda to the branch's Annual General Meeting in 1987, where he was elected branch chairman, despite not even being a member of the GSSA. He held this position until 1996 when he was elected national president of the GSSA, a position he held until his resignation in 2005. A substantial number of current genealogical products can be traced back to his initiative and drive during his term of office, including the setting up of the eGSSA branch. In 2008 he was asked to become chairman of the eGSSA branch.



Sue Mackay's Newspaper Transcripts

Sue Mackay has transcribed extracts from a large number of South African newspapers located in the British National Archives at Kew. She kindly agreed to her extracts appearing on the eGGSA web site.

In the September newsletter we asked for volunteers from among our members who would be willing to help index this valuable material. Unfortunately only one of our 250 or so members volunteered her services and what was envisaged for the original project was therefore abandoned.

Instead the newspaper extracts have been added to the eGGSA web site in a different form and with a search facility. This is not as detailed or immediately informative as an index would have been but is the best we have been able to in the circumstances:

[eGGSA Library Newspaper Extracts](#)

Our grateful thanks to Sue for the enormous amount of time and effort she has devoted and is still devoting to this very valuable project.

Africana Library, Port Elizabeth

Becky Horne reported on the [Rootsweb Eastern Cape Mailing list](#), January 2009, as follows:

Good news everyone. The Port Elizabeth Main Library's email system is up and running after no contact for almost two years, details as follows:

Africana Library, Port Elizabeth, kontakpersoon/contact: Africana Librarian, Ruby Tumela, epos/email: Africana@mandelametro.gov.za.

Hierdie biblioteek het hoofsaaklik inligting oor Port Elizabeth en sy distrik. Hierdie diens is gratis. As jy 'n vraag aan Ruby stuur maak seker asb dat die Onderwerp lui: Att. Ruby [en die onderwerp van die vraag], en gee Ruby asb soveel inligting as moontlik.

This library deals mainly with information from the Port Elizabeth district. This is a free service. When sending a query to Ruby, please ensure that the Subject line of your email reads - Att. Ruby [and the surname look-up], and please give Ruby as much information as possible.

British Census 1911

The 1911 Census was released recently by The British National Archives in association with a company called *FindMyPast*, owned by [brightsolid online publishing limited](#)

The online version, on the [1911 Census web site](#), is, as yet, very expensive. One has to buy credits and, quoting from the web site: *Viewing the images of the household pages uses 30 credits, which costs from £2.50 to £3.48, depending on the package of credits that you buy and, if I read the web site correctly, not all the information is yet available.*

The same information can be viewed without charge by visiting the National Archives at Kew, near London, by those who live nearby or can visit.

The online site can be searched free of charge but searching options are limited.

You can search by location. Fields provided are Street, County, Residential place. You must include a street name however. Trying this out, I tried my own street, adding the village name in the box marked Residential place. Result - nothing. I tried other roads and streets in the village - still nothing. My village is called Forncet Saint Mary, usually written Forncet St Mary - a very common type of village name in England. Through trial and error I eventually found that this whole village had been indexed as a street, Forncett St, and been located in the next village, Long Stratton, and its parish given as another neighbouring village, Tacolneston! I am not impressed with the indexing. At the price being charged, having a faulty index does not improve the value!

Searching for a person, you must fill in both first name and surname and you cannot use wild cards. If the name indexing is as good as the street indexing, look out!

Jeffrey's Bay Genealogiese Geselsgroep / Genealogical Group

Posted to the [Rootsweb SOUTH-AFRICA-EASTERN-CAPE](#) mailing list:

Die Jeffreysbaai Genealogiese Geselsgroep bestaan nou 'n paar maande. Hierdie week het die groep sy webtuiste bekendgestel. Die adres is <http://www.jbaygen.blogspot.com>. Alle inligting oor die groep en meer is daar te sien. Almal is welkom.

The Jeffery's Bay Genealogical Group has been in existence for a few months. This week the group announced its web site. The address is <http://www.jbaygen.blogspot.com>. All information about the group and more is to be found there. Everyone is welcome.

Japie Bosch

irjbosch@telkomsa.net

ancestor.co.za ??

A few weeks ago the following web site was brought to our notice

<http://www.ancestor.co.za>

Its main page reads:

Welcome to Ancestor.co.za, one of the largest online sources of original South African genealogy information. With over 1 million family tree records available, we hope your visit will be rewarding and that you will enjoy discovering more about your South African ancestors. Order a digital image of a death notice for as little as 50 ZAR. Other related deceased estate documents can also be ordered for 50 ZAR (subject to availability).

Intrigued, I have had a look at the web site. Its index of 'death notices' gives name and date of death but no indication of location - it offered to search between 1652 and 1989 - it produced names with dates as early as 1704. It seemed to include all the death notices plus some other material as listed on the NAAIRS online index, including material from the Cape Archives, where photography is banned.

So, in the interests of our members and as an intrepid investigator, I registered!

It accepted my registration and let me look through the index for a death notice - I found one I would like to have and ordered it - I got the following message:

The death notice for JACOB NIEMAND (1836) is not yet available for download. The document can be made available for download. The loading of new documents usually only takes a couple of days. Order the document now, and we'll notify you by email when your document is ready.

Note: By agreeing to order this document, 50 credits (ZAR 50) will be deducted from your credit balance. If you do not have any credits, please use the payment options on the screen that follows. You have 0 Credits

I clicked on the ORDER button on the above screen and received a second window:

Thank you for your order, we will send payment details to your email address, and process your order once payment has been confirmed.

Although I also received a confirmatory email this did not contain information on how to pay! Since then (4th January, over a month ago) I have heard no more.

Does anyone know anything about this site? The possibilities that spring to mind are intriguing to say the least!

Richard Ball

United States Genealogy Get-Together

Keith Meintjes will be hosting an "Open House" for those interested in South African genealogy on the weekend of June 27 - 28, 2009. This will be held at Keith's home which is in Waterford, MI, about 30 miles north west of Detroit.

The event will include dinner on the Saturday, and brunch on the Sunday (but not accommodations). This will be a chance to meet with some of the people who are prominent figures in South African genealogy, and to further your own research.

Keith has an excellent library of books on South African Genealogy, including the South African Genealogies, Genealogies of Old South African Families by CC de Villiers, revised C Pama, and many family histories.

The Detroit area is a destination for genealogists and history buffs, attractions being the Burton collection at the Detroit Public Library, and the Henry Ford / Greenfield Village museums in Dearborn. There is also an excellent Latter Day Saints Family History Center in Bloomfield Hills, MI, which has the St. George's, Cape Town (microfilm) registers in their permanent collection.

There is no charge for Keith's event, but advance notice is requested:

Please contact Keith on umfundi@usa.net

You can't always trust what you read on a gravestone!

We always get very excited when we found a grave, especially if it has much sought after dates on it. But beware, you cannot always trust what is on the stone.

Some inaccuracies that we have come across in the labelling process are:

- A person died before they were born
- A person reaching the age of 150 years
- Dates and months of the year that do not make sense!

And if you research the matter further you may find that the dates on the stone do not correspond with the information on the Death Notice or with the Baptism records.

Queries about our project can be directed to Alta Griffiths at alta@pinnaclespot.co.za



Photo 1. Can you spot the error? Memorial Wall, NG Kerk, Wonderboom-South, Pretoria.
Photo submitted by Tian Schutte

eGGSA Gravestone Project Update

Help us meet our goal for 2009: 150 000 gravestones on the web site

Our biggest challenge this year comes from the fact that the GGSA Cemetery CD project and the eGGSA gravestone project are working much more closely together than before. The decision was made at the GGSA National Executive Meeting in Cape Town in November last year.

The consequences for us at eGGSA are as follows:-

One of the very first obstacles was the naming of the cemeteries on the eGGSA web site. Both the CD and eGGSA might have the same graves, but the cemetery names were different. As the CD names proved to be more accurate, we had to change some of the names of our cemeteries to correspond with those on the CD project.

Where we previously had an album labelled as BARBERTON district, Kaapschehoop, it now reads NELSPRUIT district, Kaapschehoop.

The BREDASDORP photos that were all grouped together have been divided up into two different cemeteries, BREDASDORP Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk and the BREDASDORP Anglican Church cemeteries.

It is no longer sufficient to say that the graves are in East London – we need to know where! As, for instance: EAST LONDON, Cambridge Cemetery.

Occasionally a farm will have more than one cemetery. In some instances the various graves from these cemeteries were grouped together on the eGGSA web site. These had to be split and re-labelled.

STATISTICS: Cemetery Albums on eGGSA and on the CD

267 Albums appear both on eGGSA and on the CD

610 Albums on eGGSA only

130 Unclassified (albums in various stages of the labeling process)

997 TOTAL Cemetery Albums on eGGSA

Although the 267 cemeteries that appear on both eGGSA and the CD have now been checked, we still need to continue the process with the eGGSA only albums. As your eGGSA cemetery project coordinator is still a novice in using the land surveyors map – it might take quite a while!

The Cemetery CD is also involved in a **Google Earth Project**. The cemeteries on record are to be mapped on Google Earth. A GGSA icon will be used to make identification easier. The eGGSA cemeteries will be included in this project. For this we will require the coordinates for the specific cemetery. The project is due to be launched in April this year! More details about that later.

Data will be exchanged between the eGGSA and the CD projects. Whereas eGGSA will continue to accept photos for individual graves, the CD project is only be interested in the data if it contains all the graves in a specific cemetery.

Our target this year is 150 000 photos on the eGGSA web site by the end of December. 35 000 new photographs is all that is needed.

We rely on your contributions to make a success of the project.

And if there is anybody in the Limpopo area that can help that orphan child, it will be much appreciated! We added about 200 photos to that album last year and would really to see some more growth in it this year!

For future gravestone photograph submissions: We need the exact details of the cemetery name and its location, please.

- The name of the cemetery
- The GPS coordinates
- If there is more than one cemetery, please keep the photographs separate. If at all possible, we would also appreciate the GPS coordinates for each of those cemeteries.

Queries about our project can be directed to Alta Griffiths at alta@pinnaclespot.co.za

Can we remind you?

That we need articles and contributions for **genesis** issues during the coming year, please – without your contributions there is no **genesis**, no eGGSA.

And we need volunteers to help with various aspects of running the eGGSA web site - please help.

eGGSa web site update

A large number of both photographs and transcripts of Archive documents, donated by Tombi Peck, Fay Lea and Lucky Belinfante have been added recently to the collection on the web site, as well as a large collection of Natal document photographs, largely from orders via the [eGGSa document ordering service](#):

http://www.eggasa.org/library/main.php?g2_itemId=54

All of the above have been sorted and captioned by Lynn Couperthwaite, to whom many thanks.

Recent bibles photograph donations to our Family Bible collection:

[Jan Tielman VREY and Anna Elizabeth VILJOEN](#) who were married in 1929, donated by Janetta Susanna JACOBS and contributed by Annelie Els.

[The bible of Johannes Petrus COETZEE and Margaretha Jacoba KRUGER](#) who were married in 1854, donated by Johannes Petrus Coetzee and contributed by Annelie Els.

and [The BLACKBEARD Family Bible](#), contributed by Gordon Blackbeard

The family bible of [George William SCANDRETT and Margaret FULLER](#) who were married in 1865, photographed and contributed by Donald and Rosemary Adkins

[Four Durrheim Family Bibles](#), photographs donated by Erleen West

Recent contributions to the [Stamouers](#) web site:

Additions and corrections by Demornay du Toit:

[Charles MARAIS](#), [Pieter BOSHOUWER](#), [Wynand BEZUIDENHOUT](#), [Cornelis UYS](#), [Matthys MICHIELS](#) and [Daniel NORTJE](#)

The Eloff stamvader/founding father, [Zacharias Arend ELOFF](#), by Erik Eloff

The stamvader/founding father Johann [Peter \(Jan Pieterse\) \(Jan Peters\) BLOM](#) by Elma Human and Thys Blom
