

eGGSA Newsletter



International Branch of the GSSA

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Keith Meintjes retires from eGGSA

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Keith Meintjes has retired from eGGSA management after four years on the team. It was he who first proposed and edited the eGGSA newsletter and he, too, who first suggested that eGGSA provide a photography service at the four main South African archive depots, originally to aid those resident outside South Africa who, unless they have a South African bank account, find it difficult to pay for services in South Africa because of the phenomenally high bank charges for international transfers.

Thank you, Keith, for your contribution to the development of eGGSA over the years. We wish you well and hope that you will find time for your own genealogical research!

GSSA agreement with Western Cape

In October 2007 the Western Cape Archives (WCA) banned the use of cameras by individuals using the archives reading room, a practice which had previously been freely permitted. Since then there has been much discussion about the ban, its purposes, its effects, its rights and wrongs.

On the 14th July 2008, the GSSA, in the persons of Johann Janse van Rensburg, the president, and Elmien Wood, the secretary, met a representative of the WCA and issued a statement.

For the information and convenience of eGGSA members and others, the letters from the GSSA are available [here](#) together with the documents issued by the WCA; conditions of copying and application forms for copies, to which they make reference.

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

Gravestone photographs top the 100 000 mark

On 8 August 2008 the gravestone project reached its target of 100 000 graves for the year. Which means 50 000 new photos were added to our collection in 8 months. 85 people contributed photographs. 81 000 of these are currently online and the volunteers are working very hard to get the last 20 000 photos labeled and available to the public. This work is done entirely by volunteers - if you would like to help please contact Alta Griffiths at alta@pinnaclespot.co.za

Soon to be released: Upington - Somerset-West - El Almein, Egypt
Worcester - Silverton, Pretoria - Maitland, Cape Town - Onderpappegai, Stellenbosch

We cannot thank you enough for your contributions, help, support and time. The Grave Team

The Griffiths Team at work



Tanita Smart aims low.



Security Section: Mishack Nunu and Baba



There was just a little bit of one stone sticking out on which we could make out a date 1845. Matthew Mabvongwe in the process of uncovering and cleaning the stone which took him about half an hour.

It ended up being two stones belonging to the BLORE family.



Every little helps: Amy Griffiths doing her bit

A hazard you may have forgotten - a thorn in the foot!
Ryan Griffiths solves the problem.



Interesting and useful web sites

Leanne Starkey brought the following map to the attention of the Rootsweb British Immigrants email list. I think it will be of interest to our members as well:

A nicely detailed 1842 map , transposed over a mapped satellite image :

<http://rumsey.geogarage.com/maps/g4613024.html>

Charlie Els pointed out that the same web site, The David Rumsey Map Collection, contains much other interesting map material as well:

<http://www.davidrumsey.com/>

Johan Pottas, on the Rootsweb South Africa and Buitenposten email lists, provided the following useful information:

The GSSA Free State branch had on Monday night our monthly meeting and miss Elria Wessels of the ABO Museum in Bloemfontein visited us and introduced the following website to uor members on the night:

[British Concentration Camps of the South African War 1900-1902](#)

The camps were formed by the British army to house the residents of the two Boer republics of the South African Republic and the Orange Free State. They were established towards the end of 1900, after Britain had invaded the Boer republics. This database was designed to investigate mortality and morbidity in the camps during the war. Although it includes everyone listed in the registers during the war, it usually excludes returning prisoners-of-war and men who came back from commando at the end of the war, as well as the considerable movement of people which took place after 31 May 1902, when families were repatriated to their homes.

This is a database with all the camps, not only the camps in the Free State. There is also some information on the Kroonstad camp, which were compiled from other sources as the "original" camp book were never reived by the Free State Archives. The project was leaded by Elizabeth van Heyningen.

Colin Pretorius, of [CDBooks-r-us](#), offers a free e-book titled *Uniondale 1901 - a memento of the Anglo Boer War*. Written by R Morrow, a doctor resident in Uniondale during the Anglo-Boer War, this 19p booklet gives some interesting insights into the lives of the residents of Uniondale in that period.

Download the 268kb file in Adobe Acrobat pdf format from the website:

<http://www.cdbooks-r-us.com/downloads/uniondale-1901.pdf>

Searching

Some web sites, like the eGGSa site (in the menu -> Search & Help), have a search box you can use to look for a word or phrase appearing in that web site. But you can also search web sites that don't have such a box, using Google.

For example, the web site, [Genealogy World](#), maintained by Delyse Brown, has a huge amount of data consisting mainly of extracts and transcripts from various books, newspapers and journals, all done by volunteers, but though it has some individual search facilities for passenger lists and some of the other pages, it has no overall search function to use if you want to see what information there might be, anywhere on the site, for a particular word or phrase - surname, place or subject, for instance.

Using Google you can search within one specific website by entering the search terms you're looking for, followed by the word "site" and a colon followed by the domain name.

For example, here's how you'd search the Genealogy World site for any page containing the name 'Cockcroft'

In the search box enter: cockcroft site:www.genealogyworld.net and click 'search'

You will then be presented with links to all the pages on that web site that contain the word 'Cockcroft'.

List of members interests?

Our [web site links page](#), lists links to the two main (only?) lists of South African surnames and their researchers. On the application form for membership of eGGSa and the GSSa we do have a section where information on families of interest can be noted. Most members do note such information and also whether they would allow this information to be made public.

It has been suggested that a list of eGGSa members and their interests might be useful, particularly if kept regularly up to date.

Does anyone have any comments to make on the above suggestion? Do you think it a good idea? If so, where would it best be located - on the eGGSa web site - available to all? in our members section, available only to members? What form should it take - a list of surnames with attached researcher name and email address?

Would there be one or two of our members prepared to produce such a list and keep it up to date?

genesis, eGGSa's quarterly journal, needs you!

If you have come across anything during your family research which you think could make an interesting article and would be of interest to fellow researchers, whether humorous, tragic or strange, or about how you surmounted your brick wall, one paragraph to umpteen pages, **genesis**, which is published quarterly, would be very pleased to consider your article for publication. The next issue is due out in October.

Douglas Ewan, editor of genesis genesis@eggsa.org

eGSSA Web site - don't miss these:

Bible and Family Register photograph collection.

This collection was originally suggested by one of our members, Alaine Kent, and started by her donation of the Hadfield family bible in December 2007. Since then we have had a good number of donations, as well as the project, originally organised by Colin Pretorius, to photograph the Family Bibles in the collection of the National Cultural History, which project is still in progress.

I consider these original records to be of immense value and I believe we should make every effort to preserve them, if only photographically. If you have any such, please consider contributing photographs to our collection. If you are not yourself able to do the photography, we may be able to arrange for someone else to do it for you. Please contact [Richard Ball](#) or [Alta Griffiths](#).

Our most recent contributions include two bibles from the collection of the Drakenstein Heemkring, [WILLEMSE and RADLEY \(1875\)](#) and [LOUW / JOUBERT \(1809\)](#), as well as the wonderfully decorated [Gideon Jacobus JOUBERT](#) bible contributed by Greg Mollink, the elaborate [BRUWER \(1873\)](#) bible photographed by Rita Quebbemann, and most recently the interesting [STANTON / WEBBER \(1864\)](#) bible contributed by Dennis Pretorius.

Transcripts - there are also a number of transcripts on the eGSSA web site.

One of these is the transcript of the baptism and marriage registers of the Groote Kerk (Nederduits Gereformeerd, Dutch Reformed) in Cape Town, 1665-1695, made from the Cape Archives document VC 603, which is a photocopy made during the 1980s of the original register in the Archives of the Nederduits Gereformeerde Church, at that time in Cape Town, now in the Theological College, Stellenbosch. This photocopy was made for the Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and a copy was donated to the South African Archives, a copy going to the Cape Town repository and to the Pretoria Repository (where it is part of the FC series).

I decided to make this transcript available since I was unable to obtain a microfilm copy from my local Latter Day Saints family history centre (from their catalogue it seems that they do not have a microfilm copy of this particular register, or it has not been catalogued) and the Church Archive Repository mentioned above is no longer open to the general public, leaving the only consultable copies that I am aware of in the Cape Town and Pretoria repositories of the South African Archives, and in Stellenbosch at the Genealogical Institute of South Africa which has a microfilm copy of the original register.

[Groote Kerk baptisms and marriages 1665-1695](#)

Newsletters - any GSSA branch which would like its newsletter made available to all can send them to me ([Richard Ball](#)) for uploading onto our web site here: [Branch Newsletters](#)

Most recently received and posted are the GSSA Cemetery Recording News for June 2008 and Vrystaat Nuusbrief / Newsletter, MAIORES for August 2008.

Richard Ball