

G N U S



Richmond Museum

**The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Natal Inland Family History Society and
Natal Midlands Branch of the Genealogical Society of South Africa**

No. 3/2004



The Natal Inland Family History
Society



The Natal Midlands Branch of the
Genealogical Society of South Africa

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2004 Annual Membership Fees (Due by 1 January 2004)

Natal Inland Family History Society (NIFHS): R75 (Overseas R190)

Natal Midlands Branch of GSSA (NMGSSA): R90 (Overseas R130) plus R35 for quarterly newsletter.

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CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial Note	3
About the Archives and Museums of South Africa	4
Exploring Family Names	7
Where in KwaZulu-Natal is that place?	8
Computer Corner	10
Memoirs of Archibell Spenser Dunn	11
Correspondence Received	15
From the Lives of our Grandparents	19
Diary of events	20

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

I must say that our outing to Richmond and Byrne Valley was one of the highlights of this year's events. We all enjoyed it. A bonus was that we had Brian Spencer with us, who is the "expert" on the history of the area. As family historians we are always on the look out for places where we can find more information on how our families lived in the early years as well as data on them. Richmond Museum is an ideal place to find information on families of that area. In this issue we start with a series of articles on what one can find in which museum and archive in this country. I hope everybody will find new leads to additional sources of information on their families.

Under correspondence received, I have published details of the Tarboton query. Apart from the information derived from the correspondence it also shows how researchers can complement each others work by communicating with each other. Lastly I would like to pass the thanks expressed in the letter to those people involved in the erection of the fence around the Commercial Road cemeteries.

Eckhard von Fintel

FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

The LDS Family History Centre is situated at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon Church), 321 Alexandra Road, Pietermaritzburg, and is open on Tuesday evenings from 17h30 to 20h00 (by appointment only) and Thursday mornings from 09h00 to 12h00. Closed for public and school holidays. Contact Mrs Ruth Cockbain (Tel: 033-3965419 for further information.

ABOUT THE ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS OF SOUTH AFRICA

ABSA GROUP ARCHIVES, JOHANNESBURG

Address: Street: 187 Fox Street, Johannesburg, 2000; Postal: Group Communications, ABSA Group, P.O. Box 7735, Johannesburg, 2000

Telephone: (011) 350-4167

Fax: (011) 350-4964

Enquiries to: Consultant, Group Heritage (Dr PHR Snyman)

Hours of opening: Not yet determined

Access: Closed. Policy still to be determined. Requests by bona fide students/researchers would be considered, however.

Brief history: An archives for the ABSA Group was scheduled to open in June 1998. Prior to amalgamations of 1991-1992 (to create the ABSA Group) archival material was kept on a limited scale at Volkskas Museum in Pretoria and United Museum at Gold Reef City.

Acquisition policy: To be determined. Broadly: All relevant archival material relating to the history of the ABSA Group and its predecessors.

Areas of specialisation: Banking and business history. History of the ABSA Group and its predecessors. Numismatics.

Core holdings: Records of: ABSA Group and ABSA Bank Ltd. (1991-). Former Volkskas Group and its subsidiaries (1934-). Former UBS Holdings Ltd. and its forerunners such as United Building Society (1889-). Former Allied Group Ltd. and its predecessors (1888-). Former Bankorp Holdings Ltd. and its forerunners and subsidiaries (including Santam Bank, SAS Bank, Trust Bank and Bankfin) (1918-). Records include minute books, financial records, correspondence, circulars, annual reports, staff magazines and photographs of persons, buildings and events.

Finding aids: To be compiled - currently none.

National register participation: Not yet.

ADLER MUSEUM OF MEDICINE, JOHANNESBURG

Address: Street: SAIMR, cnr Hospital and De Korte Streets, Hillbrow, Johannesburg, 2000; Postal: P.O. Box 1038, Johannesburg, 2000

Telephone: (011) 489-9480

Fax: (011) 489-9001

E-mail: 099adler@cosmos.wits.ac.za

Website: <http://www.paperless.co.za/>*

Enquiries to: The Curator.

Hours of opening: 9h00-16h00

Access: Accessible to researchers on request.

Brief history: Founded by Drs Cyril and Esther Adler in 1962. Functions as part of the Faculty of Health Services, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

Acquisition policy: Only archival material of medical interest accepted.

Areas of specialisation: Medical history of South Africa.

Core holdings: Undefined at this stage as they are not listed.

Finding aids: No finding aids available.

National register participation: Not at this stage.

AFRICANA LIBRARY, KIMBERLEY

Address: Street: 63-65 Dutoitspan Road, Kimberley; Postal: P.O. Box 627, Kimberley, 8300

Telephone: 053-8306247

Fax: 053-8331005

E-mail: <afrilib@global.co.za>

Website: <http://home.global.co.za/~afrilib*>

Enquiries to: The Africana Librarian

Hours of opening: Weekdays only 08h00-12h45 and 13h30-16h30

Access: No restrictions.

Brief history: The building of the Kimberley Public Library was opened on 23 July 1887 and vacated by the Public Library in 1984. The building was later restored and inaugurated on 30 March 1986 as an Africana Library to cater specifically for researchers. In February 1990 the building was declared a National Monument.

Acquisition policy: Any written material about the history of the Diamond Fields and mining, Kimberley and the Northern Cape are acquired within our very limited budget. We also welcome donations of any kind.

Areas of specialisation: History of the Diamond Fields, Kimberley and the Northern Cape. We do hold a good collection of Anglo-Boer War material as well.

Core holdings: 14 000 Africana Books, which include black languages like Tswana, San, Zulu, Xhosa etc. Early Cape and early Afrikaans printed books. Books on early travel and missionaries, Kimberley chronological, directories and Voters' Lists, geological and archaeological subjects. Local newspapers from 1870, when diamonds were discovered, until present. A Special Collection of more than 2 000 books which include 4 incunabula dated 1475, 1476, 1477 and 1493 (Schedel's *Nuremburg Chronicle*). This collection also consists of a fine collection of art books, especially the Old Masters and English Literature. 12 000 Photographs depicting the Diamond Fields and its people, mining and the Siege of Kimberley. 640 Manuscripts, dealing with Siege of Kimberley, diaries, discovery of diamonds etc. Ephemera like pamphlets, programs, invitation cards, medals, coins etc. SA and Kimberley maps.

Finding aids: Two alphabetical card indexes according to surnames and subjects.

Index to news items on computer (old newspapers still in the process of being indexed), INMAGIC program. Indexes to NAREF and NAREM national registers. Africana and Special Collections are on INMAGIC computer programme. Kimberley and Northern Cape pamphlets and newspaper cuttings filed according to subject. Other pamphlets and newspaper cuttings filed according to Dewey decimal classification system.

National register participation: NAREM and NAREF. Also participate in SABIB, and SABINET. We are a non-lending library, therefore our material is for use in the library only. Our INMAGIC computer program is not linked to any on-line retrieval database.

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS ARCHIVES, ALICE

Address: Street: University of Fort Hare Library, Private Bag X1322, Alice, 5700; ANC Head Office, Street: 51 Plein Street, PO Box 61884, Marshalltown, 2107, Johannesburg

Telephone: (04060) 2-2275/(011) 330-7391/7

Fax: (04065) 3-1423/(011) 033-7242

E-mail: <ramdhani@pixie.udw.ac.za

<Maamoe.mm@ufhcc.ufh.ac.za>

<Yolisa@ufhcc.ufh.ac.za>

Enquiries to: Archivist: P.M. Maamoe, University of Fort Hare

Hours of opening: 08h30-13h00, 14h00-17h00

Access: All collections available for research at the University of Fort Hare. Restrictions on certain collections available in Johannesburg and at Fort Hare.

Brief history: The University of Fort Hare was officially designated as the repository of the ANC Archives in 1992 by Pres. Mandela. The archive was opened to the public in 1996. The Archive Project is co-ordinated by the Archives Department which is based at the ANC headquarters in Johannesburg. All collections are sorted at the headquarters before being transferred to Fort Hare for final processing and public access.

Acquisition policy: Items are acquired by donation and by transfer from ANC offices and missions abroad.

Areas of specialisation: History of the ANC. History of the freedom struggle in South Africa. Roles of certain individuals within the struggle. Nelson Mandela.

Core holdings: Official records of the 33 foreign offices that the ANC operated abroad in the exile period. Non-current departmental records of the ANC. Official ANC publications. Private collections such as: The Nelson Mandela Collection, the Frene Ginwala Collection, the Walter Sisulu Collection, the Oliver Tambo Collection. Records of the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College. Nelson Mandela Photographic Collection. ANC Photographic Collection. ANC Poster Collection.

Finding aids: Finding aids available on request.

National register participation: No.

Exploring English Family Names :

BENTLEY: Variations Bentall, Bendell, Bendle, Bentham, Benton

A widespread surname which derives simply from grass or crops bent over in a “ley”, which was usually a habitational clearing in a wood. It is therefore not surprising that several villages bear the same title. Australian-born Dick Bentley (1907-1995) was a famous comedian who appeared in the popular post-war comedy programme “Take It From Here”, with his co-star Jimmy Edwards urging him to take it “Gently, Bentley!”.

BERRY: Variations Berryman, Burke, Bury

This originally meant a small fortified place, associated with the ancient word *burg* which, when applied to small towns, evolved into the more modern form of *borough*. Anyone who lived near or worked in a reinforced building or settlement, was liable to be named in this manner. The actress Gwen Berryman became synonymous with Doris Archer, the matriarch from the long-running radio programme about country folk, based on the fictitious Midlands village of “Ambridge”.

BLACK: Variations Blake, Blacke

The meaning of this name is not as straight-forward as you might think. Most obviously it is a nickname that goes back to the earliest times for a dark-haired or swarthy character, from the Middle English *blak* and Old English *blac*. Yet almost the exact opposite meaning could apply, when you take the Old English word *blác* meaning pale and fair. Another explanation is a corruption of the Norman name *Blanc*, which English speakers found too hard to pronounce.

BRAGG; Variation Bragge

Nicknames - both complimentary and otherwise - pointing up particular characteristics of an individual's disposition, either moral or mental, are extremely common as the sources of many modern names, though as time passes they do not always bear the same meaning as the original. Bragg in Middle English meant not boastful or vulgar, but brisk, lively, mettlesome - bold, even, but with no suggestion of being a braggart. One of the best-known bearers of the name today is, of course, Melvyn Bragg.

BRENNAND: Variation Burnand

Nickname for someone whose hand had been scarred by burning, as a punishment or in trial by ordeal rather than by accident, from the Middle English *brent*, for burnt, (past principle of *brennen*, to burn) and *hand*, hand. The eminent academic philologist Dr. P H Reaney ascribes the origin of forms such as *Brenhand*, (North Yorkshire 1229) to a nickname for the official who carried out the punishment, though independent evidence for the existence of an official so named has not been discovered.

Where in KwaZulu-Natal is that place?

(Taken from Where on earth? **Place Names** of Natal and Zululand" by Don Stayt)

INHLUZANA PEAK: Towering over some of the most attractive country in central Natal is the Inhluzane Peak (1978m) or enHlosane, "The Hill which Resembles the Developing Breasts of a Young Woman." In the Impendhla district.

INKONGWENI: "Where the Bushbuck Are" - early name for Margate on the South Coast proposed by Hugh Chicheley Ballance who owned the original farm. So-named after the Zulu name of the river that flows through Margate.

INKONISA VALLEY: Near Nkandla, the valley were Dickson and Gundersen prospected for gold in Zululand and where Dickson found a reef which he called the Inkonisa Reef.

INKWELO MOUNTAIN: 2094m mountain near Ingogo. Preferable spelling enKwelo.

INNER TOWER: Mountain peak in the Royal Natal National Park.

INNES BREAKWATER: Early name for Durban's South Pier, so-named after Mr. E. Innes who was appointed resident engineer of Durban Harbour in 1881 and whose plans for the improvement of the entrance to the harbour were approved by the Harbour Board under the chairmanship of Harry Escombe.

INSELENI RIVER: Preferably enSeleni - a river with a course that resembles an "artificial channel" or "umsele". Flows into Richards Bay.

INSUZI: Or eNsuzu - descriptive of water being driven with force along a deep and narrow channel - this is the name of two streams, one in the Nkandhla and the other in the Mapumulo districts, both of which flow through deep and narrow valleys. The Dickson and Inconisa gold reefs run for about 64km into the Insuzi Valley near Nkandhla.

INTABAKAMTHWASI RIDGE: In the Hluhluwe Game Reserve.

INTUMENI MOUNTAIN: A mountain about 20km north- west of Eshowe. The name suggests "The Mountain with the Gap." The Rev. George Champion, the American missionary, who passed this way described it as "finely timbered, a region full of elephants and buffaloes."

INVERUGIE: Railway station and RMT halt between Umzinto and Ixopo.

INYAMITI PAN: A largely unknown paradise of bird-life near the Pongola.

INYANYATWA: 1756m Mountain near Dannhauser.

INYEZANI: Scene of Zulu War engagement near Isandhlwana.

INYONI: "Place of the Bird" - Chaka was called "The Eagle" and this was reputed to be his favourite spring. There are, too, the Inyoni Rocks at Amanzimtoti.

INZINGA RIVER: In the Loteni.

ISANDHLUNDHLU: Or Isandlundlu, a curiously-shaped sandhill not unlike a pyramid, near Port Edward, on the Lower Natal South Coast. The name suggests "That Which is

Shaped Like a Hut" and it was the scene of the massacre of a Zulu impi at the hands of a Pondo force in Chaka's day.

ISANDHLWANA: Or Isandlwana, Post Office near Dundee and the site of the "Flodden of Natal" - the massacre of British forces at the hands of the Zulus on January 22, 1879. Lugg prefers eSandlwana and says it means the "second stomach of a cow." Tradition has it that the curious hill was given its name by Chief Sihaye Ngobese or one of his predecessors because its shape reminded him of this organ. Sandlwana is the diminutive form of Isandlu, a small elevated hut used for the storage of grain, and such a structure is known as an eSandlwana, or "second stomach of a cow" which is also used for storage purposes. It has nothing to do with "a small hand," says Lugg - that would be isandlana.

ISIPINGO: There are several versions of how Isipingo, just South of Durban got its name. Some say it means "The River that Twists", others that it is "The Place of Adultery." Lugg asserts the name means "a long penetrating channel" which recalls the ipehngele wattle which is used for holding down the thatch on a hut.

ISLAND VIEW: Railway station on the Bluff, Durban - it looks out over Salisbury Island in the Bay.

ISLINGTON: Post Office near Umzimkulu.

ITELEZI HILL: Zululand mountain, near the site of the Prince Imperial's grave.

ITYOTYOZI RIVER: Where the Prince Imperial lost his life in the Zulu War of 1879. Queen Victoria sent an inscribed cross to mark the spot and this was erected on a cairn of stones where the Prince's body was found.

IVUNA: Post Office and telephone exchange near Nongoma.

IVY BAY: On the Lower Natal South Coast, it got its name from the 287-ton barque Ivy which was wrecked there on March 22, 1878.

IXOPO: More properly eXobha a swampy, boggy river or marshy ground which makes a sucking sound when the feet are withdrawn from it. This Natal village was originally called Stuartstown after Martinus Stuart a leading old-time magistrate. The town was founded in 1878 and the name was changed after Stuart was killed at the Battle of Ingogo.

IZINGOLWENI: Preferably ezinGolweni, a village in Alfred County in the far south of Natal. Its name suggesting "The Place of Many Shallow Holes or Hollows". Railway Station and Post Office.

IZOTSHA: Railway station and Post Office near Port Shepstone. The river of that name was called after the Zotsha clan which lived on its banks in the very early days.

COMPUTER CORNER

KEEPING YOUR COMPUTER HARD DISK IN ORDER:

(Tested with Windows 98)

It is quite a simple matter to check for, find and repair various file problems on your computer hard disk, and the procedures as shown below should be carried out at regular intervals as a regular routine.

1. **SCANDISK:** You can use the SCANDISK command to recover lost *clusters* that are taking up space on your hard disk. A cluster is a unit of storage that can get “lost” when a programme unexpectedly stops running without saving or deleting temporary files properly. A lost cluster is marked as being in use, but it actually contains no useful data. Over time, lost allocation units can accumulate and take up disk space.

Using Windows: Click on *start* on your task-bar at the bottom left of the screen then highlight, (move your mouse to, in turn), *programs, accessories, system tools*, then click your left mouse button on *scandisk*. On the screen that now appears, ensure that the drive you wish to scan (normally *drive C:*) is highlighted, that *Standard* has a dot in the adjacent circle and *Automatically fix errors* contains a tick in the adjacent square box. If any are not as shown here, click your left mouse button in the appropriate places to comply. Then click on *start* and scandisk will perform its duty. On completion you will see a small screen showing various information about your computer hard disk, including: Whether scandisk found any errors on the disk, total disk space, bytes in bad sectors, bytes in No of folders, bytes in No of hidden files, bytes in No of user files, KB available on disk, Bytes in each allocation unit, total allocation units on disk and available allocation units on the disk. When this screen appears you can click on *close*, and again on *close*, to complete the operation.

Note: A standard *scandisk* should be performed at a regular time once per week, and a thorough scandisk once per month.

2. DEFRAGMENTING YOUR HARD DISK:

The Disk Defragmenter utility re-arranges the data on your disk so that each file is stored in contiguous blocks, rather than being scattered across different area of the disk. This defragmentation of stored information helps to speed up disk performance. The time required for defragmentation depends upon the size of your hard disk and the amount of data on the disk.

To defragment your hard drive:

- 2.1 Click *start*, as in 1 above point to *programs*, point to *accessories*, point to *system tools*, then click on *Disk Defragmenter*.
- 2.2 In the select drive dialog box, select the hard disk you want to defragment.
- 2.3 Click on OK
- 2.4 Defragmentation begins. The process will take a long time, depending on the amount of data in your computer. On completion the “Disk Defragmenter” menu appears, asking you if you want to quit defragmentation. If you only have drive “C” on your computer harddrive say “yes”. You can now start operating as normal. If

your hard drive is split into drive “C” and “D”, or if you have more than one hard drive, you need to repeat the above process for drive “D”, or the other hard drive, as well.

MEMOIRS OF ARCHIBALD SPENCER DUNN

(Part 3)

These memoirs were penned over 40 years ago for his family and do not represent the views of the editor or committee of NIFHS and is published purely for the information that it contains.

There used to be a large swamp lying between Havelock Road and Botanic Gardens and below the present railway line to the Dorpspruit. It teemed with snipe and my father and young army officers who liked shooting used to have good sport bagging them. He once met a young shottist with a “bag” of tick birds (Zulu gwigwi) which he proudly (and ignorantly) claimed were snipe. Mother’s brother Richard was a hard case and cared for no one who crossed him. He once “had words” with the magistrate in Maritzburg and in the “mix up” he barked “His worship’s” shins for which he was made to apologise and was forgiven. While at Howick the following event occurred. A local farmer drove a trap and pair of horses to the village and after dismounting the horses took fright and galloped down towards the waterfall edge. A native saw this and raced on foot to “head them off.” He had to dash across the brink of the falls and just managed to stop them before they plunged over the brink.

My father was transferred to the magistrate’s office at Harding 1887/1888. Harding was then a very small place. As you entered it, you came to the large police camp across the Umzimkulwnana (Zulu “the small town”). After crossing, came the doctor’s house then the court house and jail, store, post office, hotel, butchery and here the road turned at right angles and on it were the homes of Donald Mackenzie (Court messenger), Mrs Rethman, Congregational Church, our old home, Mr Holland, Mr Harcourt Tyrrell and lastly the residency (Mr J. O. Jackson R.M.). The village overlooked a huge reed grown swamp teeming with snipe, duck, and other waterfowl as well as birds such finches, quail etc. Part of the swamps was drained and the residents had fields allocated to them. Great ditches had been dug to carry the water away and the peaty soil was deep and good crops resulted. It was here that I learnt to trap birds with various kinds of traps and snares used by the natives such as the isife (dead fall stone trap) izilunga (twisted or single horse or cow tail hair looped) igwijo (a whippy bent stick with a looped string).

During our stay in Harding the Pondo Civil War took place between Sigcau (Zulu “the spider”) and his brother Umdhlangiaso (Zulu “he who eats (his enemies) with his eye”) in a dispute over the chieftainship of the Pondo tribes. The sleepy little township became a place of importance through the coming in a troop of Cape Mounted Rifleman and Natal Mounted Police who had to guard the southern border of Natal at the river

Umtamvuna. My father was sent there also as an advisor and interpreter. Numbers of Umdhlangaso's people crossed the Umtamvuna river into Natal to escape being killed by Sigcau's warriors so the Natal Government rounded up the boys who were suitable for work and "apprenticed" (isibhalo) them for three years to approved employers in Natal. We had two of these boys, Mantshontsho and Mbhizweni (Zulu for "filched piece of meat" and "at the meeting place"). Umdhlangaso was defeated and Sigcau was made paramount chief by the Cape Government.

The great swamp was crowded with countless birds and frogs and every night we could hear them singing in chorus which was really wonderful. Every winter a grass fire used to burn the swamp completely out and the roar was most awesome. The loss of bird life must have been great. Today I hear the swamp no longer exists because it was completely drained and "let" as a field which, at first, gave large crops because of the peaty soil but now has to be heavily manured.

I saw a wonderful thing once. My father and I rode to a stream south of Harding called the Inkondwane to fish. We found it to be a small narrow deep stream "alive" with smallish scalefish about 6 to 8 inches long. We used tender white mealie grains as bait and pulled out a fish almost as fast as we threw or cast our lines into the water. In a short time we had enough to take home. Once in later years I saw the same kind of thing in the Umkhobeni (yellow wood) River on my old farm "Dyke Barr", Richmond.

I had a bad fall from a horse during the Pondo War time. The police gave an At Home at which horse and man events took place. I rode (much as I disliked riding and my horse was led by a boy). On the way the boy gave the horse a cut with his switch and it leapt forward suddenly and unseated me. I rose completely blind and remained so all the afternoon but was better next morning. I was too young to recollect how I landed, whether on my head or how. However later I had a pleasant thrill. A tooth, a back one, was aching so Father took me to Dr Waghorn who drew it (in those days) without any painkiller. I was determined not to cry and must have succeeded because Dr Waghorn promised me after the tooth came out and said because I had not made a sound, he would give me a whip - which he did and I treasured it for a long time afterwards.

There was no school at Harding but a man named Thompson started teaching the few children and I was sent there. He only lasted a short time and left presenting me with an atlas. Later the magistrate's two younger daughters started a "school". My sister Bertha and I, with others, went but it also faded out. Finally a Miss Pownall of Howick started a school and I was sent to it but it too soon closed. I was then a biggish boy.

At the end of 1893 Father was transferred to the Magistrate's Office, Richmond. We, the family, travelled by ox wagon to Richmond. Renting a permanent home, we lived at a place called Springfield until Father purchased the property called "Lower Springs"

(which we renamed “Redgates”), 50 acres well developed with house, outbuildings, fields, orchard etc from Mr James Ely. It was a beautiful home. Here we spent 6 or 7 years until Father was transferred to Greytown on promotion as resident magistrate. We children went to the Richmond Governemnt School and, among other, Uncle Kenneth and Mother also. At this school we had a headmaster who ruled us properly - the cane being frequently used. I seemed to get a very full share of beatings - sometimes not justly - but we had a code which was mostly strictly kept and that was “No crying and moaning to our parents”. Father used to often ask me what the red or black and white stripes across my back meant and why I could sometimes not close my hands properly from being struck by a cane swung hard from right back over the headmaster’s shoulder and rising on his toes as the cane came down. The few of us who got this were marked boys because we refused to squeal. Two cases come to mind of my punishment. The one was where two of us began wrestling and neither would give in and we rolled on the dusty playground until we were covered in the famous Richmond dust. An old lady passerby saw this and rushed to report to the headmaster that “There Archie Dunn was killing my little Cliffie” (who was my age and size). Out came headmaster and ordered us into school and said “Just look at yourselves”. This was too much for us and we started giggling and this raised his ire. We were soundly flogged and dust filled the big room. After a wash and clean-up we went home, sore but quite happy as heroes. On another occasion we cadets were marching past a house which had a gum tree with a small branch growing out of the side. My “next door” boy broke rank and jerked this branch off the tree and I stupidly followed. Next day “Archie Dunn come here”. I went to his desk (school assembled) and he said “Mrs _____ says you broke one of her trees. Who was with you?” I refused to say but did hope N.M. would come forward but “No!” he sat tight (he was one of those who could not take it) so I was publicly flogged but refused to cry out. I give this because it disgusts me to see and hear the modern children being molly coddled and school masters getting into trouble for most trivial scoldings etc. What is going to become of the youth of today in the future (possibly most difficult and hard times) if they are protected from mostly well deserved whippings such as we had?

It was at this school that I found how handicapped I was due to my stammering. This was inherited from my father. At times I could not say two words without a tremendous effort. I must say my school companions were very “unobservant” of my strenuous efforts and seldom teased me (perhaps it was because they knew I was pretty tough even if intensely conscious of my besetting failing). As luck would have it, I was destined to enter the civil service and above it as clerk and Zulu interpreter (the latter was torture with my ailment. With the passing years I have gradually become able to speak, even in public, with a certain amount of freedom.

It was at the Richmond School that I met Mother. I was 10 and she was 7 and the attraction grew and never died although I was sometimes accused of “casting sheep’s eyes” elsewhere. To which I reply “The proof of the pudding is the eating thereof” and

there was only one pudding. From Richmond School I went to Weston College near old Highlands Railway station beyond Mooi River and was admitted to the civil service as clerk and Zulu interpreter at £100 a year.

I went to Weston College (not to be confused with the Weston Agricultural College below Mooi River) in 1900 and left in 1901 to enter the civil service. The College was a private school founded by Mr E. A. Thompson M.A. first at Bishopstowe southern Natal and later transferred to near Highlands Station on the old Natal main railway line between Mooi River and Estcourt. The old school had been ransacked by the Boers at the end of 1899 and when I got there I found they had done a good job of pillaging and destroying and then retired in the face of an attack from our army at Mooi River. We used to dig up live shells at times by finding where the ground had been disturbed. Rifle bullets, empty cartridge cases and shell cases were scattered about so we had plenty of fun. We could hear the roar of big guns at Ladysmith and Colenso area and then the Relief of Ladysmith ended in a big noise.

My school days here were quiet. I played rugby for the First XV as a forward and really enjoyed it. Cricket was also compulsory but I never excelled at it. I was keen on bodily strength and several of us formed a party where we boxed, wrestled, skipped, ran, had parallel and horizontal bars, club swinging and other practices. My scholastic attainments were very medium because I was one who required special handling which happened occasionally and I was able then to surprise the others.

When I hear about the way boarding schools are run today in comparison with my days, I can readily see why one sees so many sissies running about today. In sport, very few of our boys owned bats, racquets etc. A certain number of bats belonged to the school and we had to "make do" with them. We had sports kit for the games. There were no coaches so each boy had to fend for himself. I think we lost every match we played but it certainly did not dampen our ardour. One of our boys, Tim Chamberlain, son of the Rev. Archdeacon Chamberlain of Umzimkulu, disappeared one day from school and was next heard of in the fighting forces round Ladysmith.

In 1901 mid year, the Duke and Duchess of York came out to Natal. This meant the assembling of all Natal's Boy Cadet troops which, in those days were an important part of the schools, to form the Guard of Honour at the Maritzburg Town Hall. The Richmond School had a troop as well as a drum and fife band. When I left at the end of 1899, I was the sergeant after having passed through all the ranks from "unarmed" (no rifles) little boys to real cadets. Our uniforms were a forage (kepi) side cap, French cavalry peaked cap with white cover, dark blue jersey, knickerbockers, stockings and boots all paid for by our parents and an old Martini Henry carbine. Some schools had old soldier (settler, jailer, pensioner etc.) Instructors but it was a rough and ready physical drill, marching in line and fours etc. with snapped out orders not like now - drawn out until a certain step

movement had been arrived at. At Weston College I was made corporal because the troops had already been formed for the duty. In due course, Alexandra Park was readied for the receiving of the troops, assembling of chiefs, notables etc. In front of the grandstand was where the royal party and notables assembled, the regular army (West York) battalion, Natal Volunteers (R.N.C., R.D.L.I., Natal Field Artillery, Natal Royal Rifles and other volunteers) and the 1000 odd Natal school cadets formed a hollow square facing inwards. Presently the one side opposite the grandstand opened out to admit the large crowd of chiefs who walked in and the gap was closed behind them. I noticed a distinct stopping of the chiefs and a suggestion of a stampede on their part but it was hastily quietened by the Native Affairs officials. It happened that the chiefs were suspicious that by getting them into the hollow square they were to be massacred and it looked as though we boys formed the easiest side to break through. When "order" was restored the Duke walked round the three sides inspecting the guard of honour and then the chiefs. He was accompanied among others by his A.D.C. Captain Ames, a tall officer with a helmet topped with plumes, a busby, and he towered above the Duke who seemed to be half buried under a huge busby. A thunderous salute was fired by the artillery guns which made the chiefs doubly scared. The chiefs roared their "bayetes" to Captain Ames because a chief was generally associated with great height and size and the Duke was for the time being almost ignored until certain means were employed to put things right. After this the town hall was visited by the royal party and selected cadets were given the honour of forming the guard of honour at the town hall entrance. I was one of them. The Duke passed very close to us. He stopped in front of a Hilton College cadet next to me who was wearing a ribbon on his jersey front. The Duke asked him about it and it turned out that he had left college, like Chamberlain, and was with the army fighting the Boers although still a school cadet. His name was Ginger Bain of Harrismith. Mother and her parents were there too. At that time the streets were not as well lighted as they are now and as Mother's mother was walking past Greys Hospital she was blinded by the flash of fireworks in the Park and missed the gutter's edge and fell heavily on to her shoulder and injured herself badly and all had to abandon going further. Although Greys was so nearby all doctors were in the Park and it took time to find one. After a pain racked night they left early next morning for Richmond. It was about six months before she recovered. It is difficult to now think there was a time once when even Church Street had open water furrows running down where there are now gutters.

(To be continued)

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Tarboton Graves,

Dear Eckhard,
A Happy New Year to you.

I telephoned this morning enquiring about the Commercial Road Cemetery and whether you may have some information on my Great Great Grandfathers grave locality. His name was David Hainsworth Tarboton, born in 1812. He arrived in South Africa with his wife and children in March 1850 aboard the barque "The Sovereign". His occupation a miller and he leased the Edendale Corn Mill among other activities. I do not have his precise date of death other than information that he died in 1893. I understand he was most probably buried at the Commercial Road Cemetery. He lived at Edendale in a home he leased from the Rev Allison, the lease had been for 100 years when it was signed together with the Edendale Corn Mill which he operated and a portion of land, The double storey house in which he lived for many years was in more recent times dismantled and re-erected at the Voortrekker Museum. This home had links to Andries Pretorius who had been given the farm Welverdiend on which the house was built and was later renamed Edendale by Rev Allison when he purchased this farm. My cousin in Pietermaritzburg had told me a while ago that there are several more Tarboton's buried in the Commercial Road cemetery and so I ask whether you would in any way be able to help me locate these graves which I would like to visit and record in my families records which I have spent the past ten years compiling. As far as I know David's wife Elizabeth who died 6 June 1896 was not buried in Pietermaritzburg but moved to Johannesburg after his death, again I have not been able to verify this fact as yet but the information I have seems to point to this having taken place. She may in fact also be interred in this cemetery. I have noted in visits to cemeteries that unfortunately some grave stones weather badly and result in the record becoming very indistinct. Is there any register recording burials in this very old cemetery to which one may refer other than that undertaken by your society? This however would only be necessary in the event of your not having this information. Please would you list the various places I may collect the key to enter the cemetery and explain where the entrance is located. Placing this fence around the cemetery was an excellent idea considering how vandals appear to have a free reign to do as they wish with little fear of punishment or of ever being apprehended. I shall be most grateful if you can assist me and take this opportunity of thanking you for the work you have done in securing records of this nature,

sincerely,

Des Tarboton.

P O Box 37, Underberg, 3257 Tel/Fax 033-7011016.

email: desair@telkomsa.net

Dear Des,

the only information that I found in the registers is:

Anglican Church Section

Tarboton, Henry: date buried 1886.08.20, age 47, tombstone exists (Refer Map 7 section B plot 41)

Tarboton, Henry : date buried 1903.05.02, age unknown, no tombstone, grave No. 1458 (Refer Map 7 section B plot 41)

Tarboton, Henry: date buried 1920.01.07, age 48, tombstone exists, grave No. 2993 (refer map 7 section B plot 41) (Husband of Isabella Alce Tarboton)

Weslyan Church Section

Tarboton, Mary: date of burial unknown, age unknown, tombstone exists,, buried in block A, row B, Plot 18 (Illegible stone) (She died 18-05-1862)

I will ask around to see if someone has more information, maybe the historians from the Voortrekker Museum. I will contact you again as soon as I get more information.

Regards

Eckhard von Fintel

Dear Eckhard,

Thank you for your prompt reply together with the useful information you have provided. I notice no record of David Hainsworth Tarboton. Was there ever a cemetery at Edendale where David may have been buried ? Or is there is any other locality in the Pietermaritzburg area where a person being buried may have been placed in the year 1893? I have established that David Hainsworth Tarboton's wife Elizabeth died in Johannesburg. He may have moved to Johannesburg after 1890 when he resigned as Postmaster in Edendale and so may have died up there and not

Edendale as I have been led to believe. I shall follow that up and try for some leads. He would most likely if he was buried there have been in the Wesleyan Section as was his daughter. I do know two of the Henry Tarboton's listed below, the first buried in 1886 was the father of Henry buried in 1920. Henry buried 1886 was the second son of Henry and Elizabeth Tarboton who were Byrne settlers and a cousin of my G, G, Grandfather David Hainsworth Tarboton. I do not however have any records of the Henry who was buried on 02-05-1903, GN 1458 Map 7 Section B Plot 41. As he is buried in the same Plot No 41 as the other two Henry's. I am sure he must be the son of Henry and Isabella Alice Tarboton although I have found no record of this birth, is there any other source for information on this persons death ? The illegible grave stone you have listed under the Wesleyan Church Section is the grave of David Hainsworth and Elizabeth Tarboton's fourth child, "Mary Tarboton born 06-02-1844 in England, she died aged 18 years at Edendale on the 18-05-1862". She is listed in my records as being buried in Plot 18 so I trust this will help you to fill in the missing pieces regarding Plot 18. The spelling shown as "Tarbotton" has often been used within our family, it has however been spelt "Tarboton" for centuries and reflects this latter spelling in the family Bible records. Thank you for the gravestone information you have kindly provided. I shall contact you one day when I visit Maritzburg with some time on my hands and get the directions to find and look at the graves you have listed.

sincerely,
Des

Dear Jos, Many thanks for passing on the Tarboton info. - I don't think David Hainsworth Tarboton cd have died in Pmb, as he's not in the official Pmb.govt register of deaths - very intriguing.
Best wishes,
Shelagh

Dear Eckhard,

Thank you for your email and your continued interest in such matters. I perhaps should also have followed up on my first enquiry with you by providing you with updated information I have now verified. After much archive research I have learnt that David Hainsworth Tarboton my G.G.Grandfather left Edendale where he had lived for more than 30 years. The reason being he must have stood guarantor for his two sons who had purchased farms and had not completed paying them off in the allotted time, so Standard Bank sold all his assets. He was however personally not declared insolvent and four years later being an old man in the year 1889-90 he finally left Edendale to live with his daughter and her husband in Johannesburg. He died in September 1893 and was buried at the Braamfontein Cemetery, general section as was his wife Elizabeth who died in 1896. The majority of his children died in Johannesburg and were buried at this cemetery, they appear to have had a family plot in which most of the family may be found. I have not visited Braamfontein cemetery but have verified these facts and shall pay a visit to their burial place when next in the city of Gold. Thank you for your willing help. I wish to ask you another question which you may be able to direct me to a source for an answer. D H Tarboton originally came out to work for James Erasmus Methley at Shafton, Karkloof in 1850. I have no knowledge of his activities once he left Shafton which he did and I believe must have been sometime around 1851 onward. Reference to him is made in the archives in 1859. He recorded the birth of a daughter at KwaNgubene in 1854 which is located about 25 kilometres South West of Maritzburg which seems to indicate he may have moved from Shafton by that time. I only find reference to him in Methleys letters in 1850. If you have any suggestions as to where I may look I would be most grateful. Of course none may be to hand as its a long time ago.

Many thanks, sincerely,
Des Tarboton.

Can somebody help Des, please?

FROM THE LIVES OF OUR GRANDPARENTS

Fritz Heinrich Thomas Küsel (29.01.1862 - 29.09.1921)

and

Anna Catharine Amalie Küsel, nee Filter (13.09.1865 - 10.08.1953)

(Part 5)

Through hard work, frugality and Gods blessing our grandparents prospered. They just managed to pay off all their debts on the farm when the Boer-War broke out, and Grandfather was called up by the commando. In February 1901 he was allowed to go home for a couple of days for the birth of his eighth child. The day after the birth, on 14 February 1901, a couple of English soldiers arrived on the farm, and took whatever they wanted. Grandfather had to hand over his gun and was taken prisoner-of-war. Three weeks later the whole family was transported by ox-wagon to the concentration camp in Volksrust. All necessities had to be loaded on the wagon in haste. Lord Kitchener tried to force the men on the front into capitulation by putting the women and children into concentration camps and destroying their houses. Grandmother, with the new-born baby, had the presence of mind to put her rocking chair in one corner of the wagon, so that she could withdraw there to feed her baby. In total there must have been 20 to 30 wagons that trekked via Utrecht to the camp at Volksrust. It rained cats and dogs with the result that they had to stop at swollen rivers till they subsided before the trek could continue into the unknown future. When they arrived at the lager their oxen were taken from them. The rocking chair was put in the tent during this horrible time. Now they lived in long rows of tents. It was a devastating situation. The Küsel children were all suffering from dysentery, and so was our great-grandmother, who has been taken there at a very old age. Her sickness eventually made the authorities give in to the negotiations that the Dedekind family from Elandskraal could fetch their Küsel relatives from the camp. (Two of the Dedekind brothers married Grandfather's sisters). Great-Grandmother died in Elandskraal in December that year. Our Grandparents with their eight children and Uncle Adolf Küsel with five children went to Uncle Wilhelm Dedekind. An outbuilding with a thatched roof was divided in half. On the one side our Grandparents lived and on the other Uncle Adolf's family. In spite of all the hardships they had to endure, they were thankful to be out of the concentration camp. The rocking chair was also brought along to fulfill its duties. The Dedekinds could not believe them when they told them of their experiences and thought they were telling stories (fairy-tales).

Uncle Wilhelm had a piece of land with sweet potatoes on it, which they were allowed to use. These they also used to roast "coffee". The sweet potatoes were cut into small cubes, dried and roasted in an oven, and then ground to a powder on a stone. In similar way they also roasted maize for coffee. If milk was available, it was given to the children, everything else was consumed without milk.

During this time the two eldest sons were sent to Pastor Hellberg in Uelzen (near

Glencoe) for confirmation classes. They were then confirmed in Uelzen. Every week Grandfather had to walk to Helpmekaar to report to the police. If you know the mountainous terrain around Elandskraal you will be aware how exhausting the journeys must have been, especially as Grandfather was almost blind. The eye-doctor in Pietermaritzburg was unable to help him, but was of the opinion that the blindness was the result of stress and malnutrition. (Could he have suffered from the hereditary disease, Glaucoma, that also is found in some of us, his descendants - Ed)

To be continued.

DIARY OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

Date & time: Wed. 20 October 2004 at 19h30
 Event: Alaister Shaw on "The Shaws of Karkloof"
 Venue: Our Club House at Natal Carbineers' Drill Hall
 Tea Duty: G Nurden, M Rei, S Spenser

NOVEMBER

Date & Time: Wed. 17 November 2004 at 19h30
 Event: "Bring and Tell" evening
 Venue: Our Club House at Natal Carbineers' Drill Hall
 Tea Duty: G Tatham, W. Venter, E von Fintel

DECEMBER

Date & Time: Wed. 8 December 2004
 Event: Christmas Party
 Venue: German House at Show Grounds
 Tea Duty: **Please bring a plate of eats**

PIETERMARITZBURG ARCHIVES REPOSITORY

The Pietermaritzburg Archives Repository in Pietermaritz Street is open on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 8.30 am to 12noon. Take this opportunity of using these facilities if you are unable to visit during the week.

Dates:

09/10/04; 13/11/04; 11/12/04