

# HERITAGE of ZIMBABWE

PUBLICATION No. 6

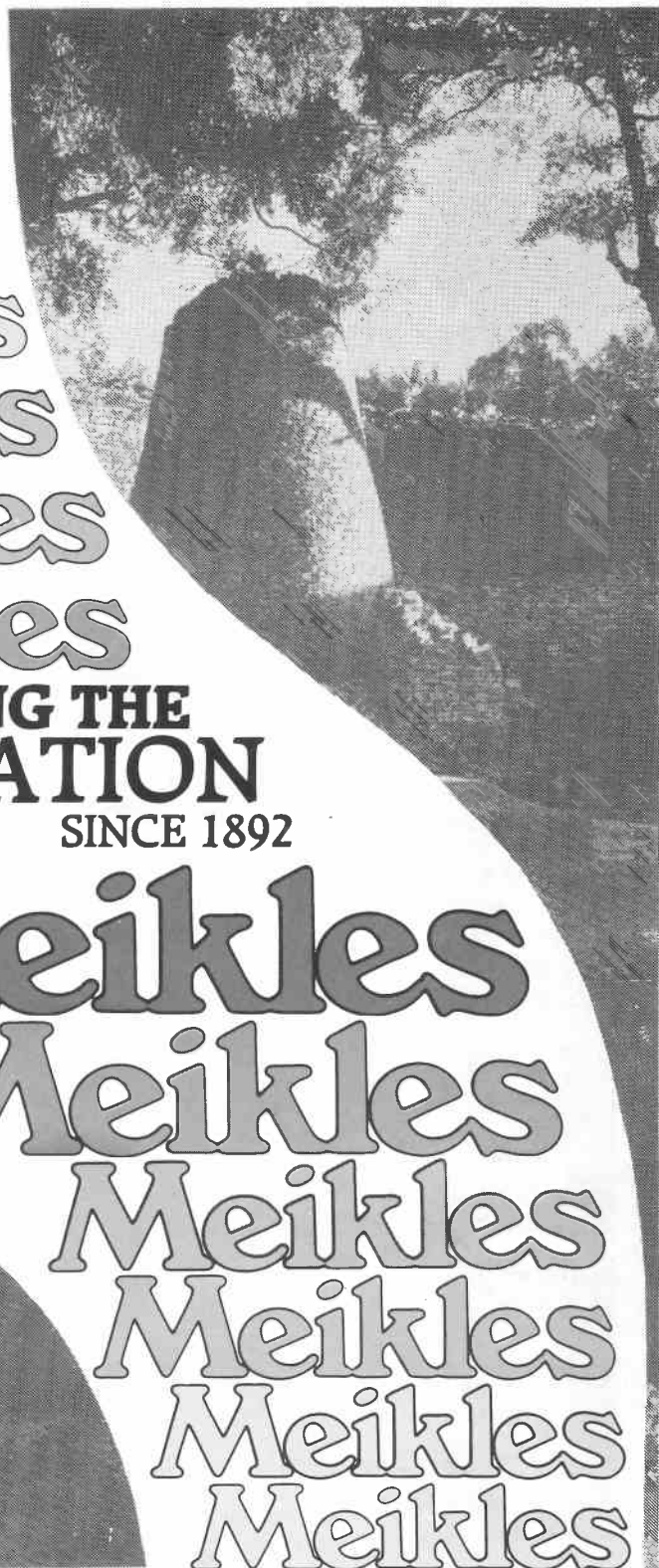
1986



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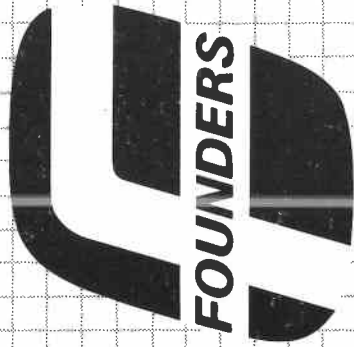
**SERVING THE  
NATION**  
SINCE 1892

Meikles  
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**GET IT.**

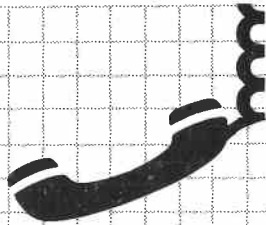
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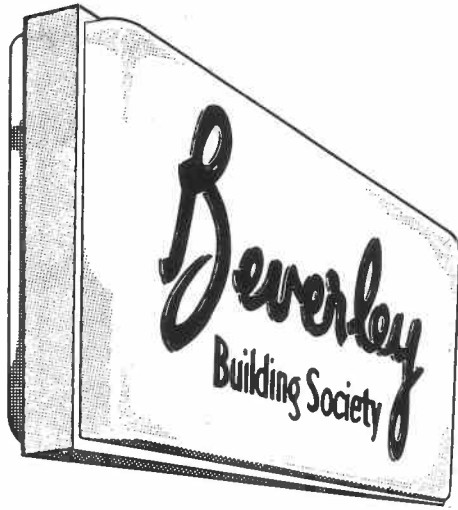
HARARE  
BULAWAYO  
CHEGUTU  
GWERU  
KADOMA

KWEKWE  
REDCLIFF  
MARONDERA  
MASVINGO  
MUTARE



*Get it. If you really want it.*



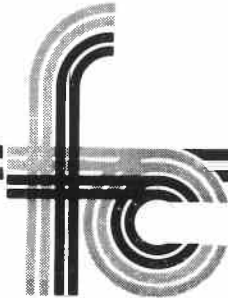


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# **HERITAGE of ZIMBABWE**

Publication No. 6 — 1986

**THE HISTORY SOCIETY OF ZIMBABWE**  
Harare  
Zimbabwe

*Edited by*  
*R.W.S. TURNER*  
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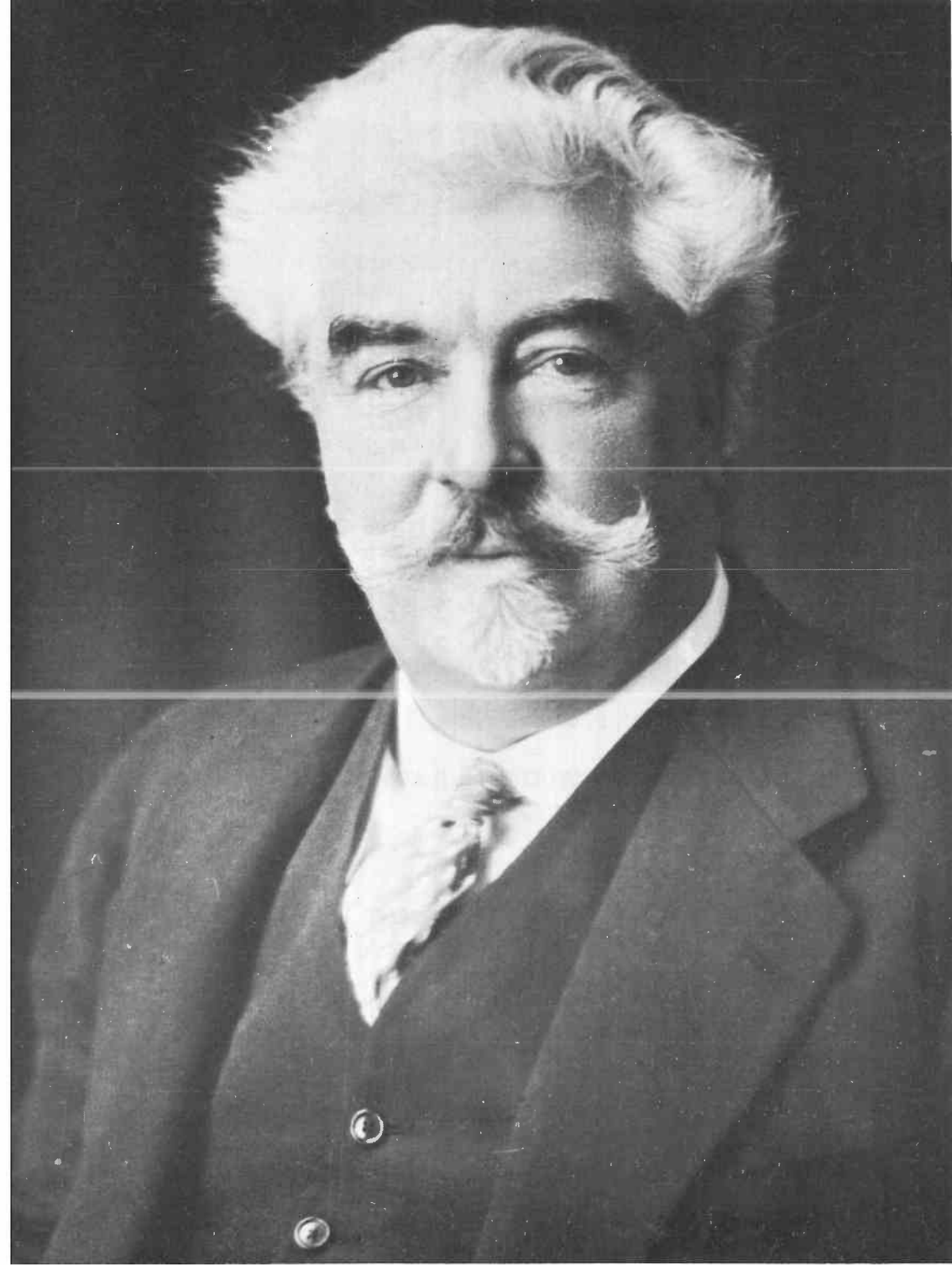
COVER DESIGN — *Front*: Zimbabwe Bird, from a cast in the National Archives of the soapstone original which was removed from Great Zimbabwe by the archaeologist Theodore Bent in 1891; masonry from a passage wall in the Great Enclosure, Zimbabwe (photograph c. 1904). *Back*: Masonry with chevron decoration, from the outer wall of the Great Enclosure (photograph c. 1894); Conical Tower (photograph c. 1930) National Archives.

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**James Alfred Cope-Christie**  
1870–1953

*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*

# Looking Back Over Fifty Years Portions of the Following Address Were Given at a Rotary Club Meeting on 15 June 1944

by J.A. Cope-Christie

## INTRODUCTION

*More than any other individual architect, James Alfred Cope-Christie O.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., 1870–1953 can be said to have given the early town of Salisbury its own special image and character. Sufficient of his important buildings still stand within the City of Harare, to provide an excellent impression of its early character, as well as to demonstrate Cope-Christie's great talent and capability as an architect.*

*Cope-Christie received his training in London but it was not until much later, 1925, that he applied to be and was made a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He was clearly a very active member of the community, serving twice as a City Councillor, and being a founder member of the Southern Rhodesia Institute of Architects in which he also served as President. He was a prominent Freemason, being a Grand Lodge Officer in two constitutions. He was awarded the O.B.E. for his public services in the King's New Year Honours List of 1948.*

*Cope-Christie was a master of the neo-classical style, which he applied to both commercial and public buildings. Good examples of this were the Queen Victoria Memorial Library 1903 (demolished); Lonrho Building 1910, Standard Bank, Union Buildings and Arnold Building all built in Manica Road during the tremendous building boom of 1910–1911. He was familiar with the **art nouveau** style which he successfully applied to Store Brothers in Manica Road. For many of these buildings he was in partnership with Thomas Sladdin until 1914. He was a particularly skillful domestic architect. His own house "Lo Kia" built in 1902, on the corner of Fife Avenue and Moffat Street, still stands in good condition. A curious house he designed in 1910 on the corner of North Avenue and Moffat Street recently attracted sufficient public acclaim to ensure its conservation. The most well-known of his private houses and also one of his most mature works is probably the house on the corner of Montagu Avenue and Second Street, built in 1923 and today occupied by the Royal Norwegian Embassy.*

*The last years of Cope-Christie's professional career were spent in partnership with S. Austen Cowper. The work that they produced lacked the vitality of his earlier work and tended towards the late style of classicism known as art deco. Bechuana House (1930) in Manica Road, and Edward Building (1936) in First Street are good examples of this late work.*

*The architect is still remembered as a dramatic figure striding along with flowing white hair. He lived for his last twenty five years in rooms at Meikles Hotel. An obituary after his death at the age of 83 noted that he was "a water colour artist of no mean*

ability." *The images and values of the late Victorian and Edwardian eras are encapsulated by him in the many grandiose and decorative monuments which so enrich the street-scapes of Harare.*

Peter Jackson RIBA MIAZ.

author of "Historic Buildings of Harare"

## THE ADDRESS

Before we start "looking back" on the past fifty years I would like to thank you, Mr President, and the Members of the Rotary Club for the invitation to be present at your luncheon today.

Well, here I am after fifty years in S. Africa and over forty-eight of them spent in Rhodesia. To confine my experiences of fifty years into twenty-five minutes — which time I am allowed — I shall have to be very brief.

It is one of the privileges of old age to look back — a good memory is helpful. Some memories improve with age, in fact some "olduns" remember things that have never happened.

Lets start with my arrival in Cape Town from London on May 23rd 1894 — travelling on the maiden trip of the *Tantallon Castle* of 6,000 tons — the Castle Line Company's crack boat. She was wrecked on Robbin Island a few years later in a fog.

Cape Town appealed to me as picturesque, both old and new. There was a table-cloth over the mountain when I arrived, adding to the picture. Only one street — Adderley Street. Malays and Coloured people predominated. With so much shipping, the town was always busy. I spent my holiday last Christmas in Cape Town. What a difference has taken place in fifty years.

I was lucky in getting engaged by a well-known Architect, but found he was most unprofessional — being agent for Macfarlañs, Castings and Plate Glass. Naturally every building had these materials freely used in them. The present expanse of plate glass shop fronts in Adderley is due greatly to old Charlie Freeman, the Architect, and a well-known figure in those days, walking the streets in shirt-sleeves with his coat over his arm on hot days.

During my first year I took the most eventful and happiest step in my life — I got married. Travelling then was difficult but my wife chanced the long boat journey from England and arrived safely after a very rough passage. She travelled on the old *Norham Castle* which arrived one day late — so the wedding had to be postponed. But February 2nd next year will D.V. be our golden wedding.

Shortly after this great event I entered an Architectural Competition for a Stock Exchange building to be erected in Fort Salisbury in Rhodesia. Much to my delight I received a telegram stating — "Directors Stock Exchange award you first prize £100 letter follows". This news was duly honoured amongst our friends in the usual manner and when the £100 arrived was more than honoured. The letter enclosing the cheque contained an invitation to come up to Salisbury and carry out my design. After due consideration I agreed to do so. Arrangements were made for my wife to stay with friends until I had settled down in Salisbury. A seat on the Zeederburg coach from Mafeking to Bulawayo was arranged and I started on my new venture to carry out my first work on my very own.

At Kimberley I learned that the Matabele had risen. At Mafeking, the end of the train journey, I was told that the coach which I had booked on could not go further than Bulawayo; this upset my plans so I decided to return to Cape Town. I disposed of my seat on the coach to a fellow railway traveller who was most anxious to reach Bulawayo. I saw the coach off, full of passengers and mails. Some time later I learned that this coach never reached Bulawayo — the Matabele had set it on fire; there were no survivors.

From Cape Town I wired the Directors of the Stock Exchange what had happened and was instructed to travel via East Coast and Beira. On this trip my wife agreed to accompany me. We reached Beira after a very pleasant voyage but on arrival heard of the unrest amongst the Mashonas around Salisbury. I was advised to send my wife back to her home in England.

There happened to be a boat in Beira — strange to say called the *Fort Salisbury* — starting for Cape Town to connect with the *Drummond Castle* which my wife decided to travel by. The *Fort Salisbury* arrived in Cape Town a day after the *Drummond Castle* had started for England — what luck — for the *Drummond Castle* went down off Ushant and all but two persons were lost. As far as I remember, about 475 persons including two ladies from Salisbury were drowned. Our baggage was all lost — including wedding presents and numerous prizes I had won for various sports, chiefly cycling.

My trip from Beira to Fort Salisbury was described in the *Sunday Mail* about a year ago.

A few extracts from this article will help us to follow subsequent events:- “It was on this journey that I met the late Mr Jeffreys on the steamer at Durban. He was travelling from England with Mrs Jeffreys on their honeymoon trip. Mr Jeffreys arrived in this country before the 1890 Pioneers and discovered the Rezende Mine near Penhalonga.” His son is now assistant manager of the Standard Bank in Salisbury.

“The first portion of our trip was from Beira to Fontesvilla or Ponte-do-Pungwe as it is now called. This we did in a small paddle steamer. I remember when starting, that Jeffreys made a bet of a fiver with the captain of the boat — Dickie, by name — that he would run the boat on the sands during the trip up the river. We did not get stuck, and when Jeffreys paid out smilingly, he said it was a cheap fiver’s worth. Dickie usually got stuck if he wanted to sell the drink he had on the boat.

“From Fontesvilla to Chimoio was the next portion of the journey, which we did on the narrow-gauge railway. We had not gone more than a few miles when in the long grass at the side of the line we spotted a lion and three lionesses. We stopped the train, but the lions cleared off in the long grass. I wondered what country I was coming to. At Chimoio, the rail head, thanks to Jeffreys I obtained the loan of a horse which had been ridden down by George Pauling, the railway contractor. His wife and others had journeyed in a Cape cart in which Mr and Mrs Jeffreys returned in to Umtali. As I had never been on a horse before in my life one can imagine my feelings when I got off or fell off at the end of the first day’s journey. Anyhow, I thought it better to ride than walk, for that is what it meant. Just before arriving at Old Umtali and going over Christmas Pass, Jeffreys pointed out the site of the proposed new Umtali township. I little thought that shortly after I should be visiting the spot with Cecil Rhodes, Colonel Beal and Captain Scott-Turner to choose the sites for the cemetery, park, brickfields, native location etc. At Old Umtali I said goodbye to the Jeffreys and proceeded to Fort Salisbury by a Zeederberg coach and arrived there on May 10th, 1896. I put at the old Avenue Hotel, which has now been demolished; the

Vintcent (*now named Mapondera-Editor*) Government Buildings now occupy the site.”

On this trip from Cape Town, I met Mr and Mrs Norton, who were returning from England to their farm on the Hunyani River, near Salisbury.

During the boat trip Mrs Norton had become friends with my wife and had many talks about Rhodesia. On this trip my wife was travelling with me to Salisbury, but when we heard of the Matabele rising and possible trouble with the Mashonas, she decided to return to England. When leaving Beira, the last words Mrs Norton spoke to my wife as we started on our journey up to Pungwe River were:- “I’ll look after Mr Christie until you come out to him.” One can imagine my wife’s feelings when reading an English newspaper she saw: “Fort Salisbury — Mashona Rebellion — Mr and Mrs Norton, child, nurse and two Englishmen — names unknown — have been murdered.”

There is one incident which happened on the train journey which I remember. Trains did not travel at night — at the end of the first day they always stopped at the 80 mile peg. This part of the country was supposed to be fairly healthy. A railway hospital had been built — with a doctor in charge — and there was an hotel run by “Fatty” Lawson who later came to Salisbury and became the Mayor of the city. After dinner Jeffreys invited me to accompany him to the Doctor who was a friend of his. The house was some hundred yards or so from the hotel and on our arrival we found a merry party in progress; the place was full of smoke and everybody seemed to be drinking. Jeffreys joined in; being new to the country I refused but had a cigar. The talk was all about lions visiting the place and of the recent numerous deaths from fever. The doctor casually mentioned that unless a fellow got through a bottle of gin a day he would not give him 12 months to live in the place; I brightened up at this and when the next round of drinks was suggested I took a gin. Every round after that — and there were many — I took a gin and was well on my way to carry out the doctor’s advice — a bottle of gin a day. Quite suddenly I noticed the room going round so I told Jeffreys that I was feeling giddy. He suggested my getting back to the hotel and with his assistance I got outside but the fresh air finished me off. It was quite dark and I could not remember which way I had to turn — right or left — when I got to the railway track. My legs then gave way, so taking a chance I turned to the right and crawled on my hands and knees between the narrow rails, and after sundry rests and wondering when the lions were coming I was finally stopped by a blow on the head — I had cannoned into our railway carriage, which had been left there for the night. I managed to get on to the platform and then inside the carriage — after that a blank. But the morning!!! I have since had some mornings after the night before, but never one like that. The Doctor must have given up drinking a bottle of gin a day, as he died a few months after.

Another incident I remember happened during my horse ride from Chimoio to Umtali. It was on the second day and I was feeling the effects of the previous day’s exertions. The road was only a rough track through grass 6 to 8 feet high. The Cape cart with the Jeffreys was well ahead. To my surprise I saw a lady’s hat box just off the track in the grass, so I stopped my horse — it struck me at once that the box must have fallen off the Cape cart. I did not know what to do. If I got off the horse, how was I to get on again — especially with a hat-box in my hand. Still, Jeffreys had helped me getting the horse and I must play the game, so I dismounted and got hold of the hat-box. I was quite right, I could not get on the horse — at every attempt the damned horse moved round and round. After various tries I gave up the struggle and started walking on my journey, dragging the horse with one hand and holding the hat-box in the other. By and by I came to a solitary tree — what a godsend. By putting the horse against the tree I stopped his little game of moving

round and eventually managed to mount and reach the hotel we had arranged to stop at. When I handed the hat-box to Mrs Jeffreys you cannot imagine her feelings — being men. Jeffreys, to show his appreciation, arranged for the horse to be taken care of at the hotel and gave me a seat in the Cape cart. We eventually reached Umtali, where I said good-bye to the Jeffreys and continued on my journey to Salisbury by coach. The journey was uneventful except passing through a swarm of locusts which made the day into night.

Salisbury, early in 1896, had a few brick buildings. These were divided into two townships, one called Kopje and the other Causeway, with a vlei between. Little building material was to be made. Timber and iron were an awful price, 2/6 per foot for 9" x 3" deal, and £5 per cask of cement if you could get it; very little glass for windows, limbo taking its place — tin-tacks for fixing same almost unobtainable.

Everybody seemed happy and there was plenty of money or I.O.U.s.

At my first visit to the Stock Exchange Directors, it was decided not to proceed with their building, owing to unrest amongst the Mashonas and rinderpest amongst the cattle. I received a very nice cheque for work done and I gave an undertaking to "carry on" whenever called upon. Up to the present, after 48 years, I am still waiting for instructions to "carry on". So Salisbury still waits for its Stock Exchange.

There was no qualified architect in Salisbury on my arrival. Years before the "Architects Registrations Bill" was passed, I remember an old professor of architecture saying that the qualifications of an architect were — sufficient money to buy a brass plate and sufficient impudence to put it up. There was one so-called architect who had these qualifications — as a result a double storey building had been erected by him without a staircase. This had to be placed outside the building when it was remembered, as there was no space for it inside.

In 1896, the present House of Assembly was in course of construction and waiting for building materials. Strange, how history repeats itself. There are buildings in Salisbury in the same state today — waiting for materials. This building was originally intended for an hotel to be called "Cecil Hotel". Major Snodgrass, the owner, failed to complete it and the building was taken over by Cecil Rhodes for the B.S.A. Coy. Snodgrass went to New Umtali where he erected the present Cecil Hotel; naturally many additions have been made to the original building.

In less than two months after my arrival the Mashonas joined the Matabele and the rebellion started.

We were all placed in jail — I should say laager, the jail being formed into the laager; some babies were even born in jail. There is a blue print of the laager on the wall of the private reading room in the public library which I prepared at this time, showing the population of Salisbury. The total was 767; 514 men including the Natal Column — 126 women and 127 children.

On the Saturday, June 13th, before the actual rising, I happened to meet Norton at the Old Avenue Hotel where I was staying. He invited me out to his farm for some shooting, also to help him find the corner pegs of his farm. I was very busy at the time but promised to go with him the following Saturday. It was lucky I did not go with him, as he and Mrs Norton, the baby and nurse and two farm assistants were murdered on the following Wednesday June 17th. By a remarkable coincidence the *Drummond Castle* was wrecked off Ushant on the June 17th. My wife might have been on board and got drowned and I might have been with the Nortons on that date and got murdered. You can see the



**Lonrho Building 1910. Architect J.A. Cope-Christie**

*Photo: Niels Lassen*

**Arnold Building 1910. Architect J.A. Cope-Christie**

*Photo: Niels Lassen*



reason of us thinking of June 17th. Another date is also remembered — June 18th 1896 — when Salisbury went into laager. Godfrey King, the late W.S. Honey and myself — all non-commissioned officers at that time — always went through a pleasant ceremony if we happened to meet together on that date.

The news of the Norton murders was brought into Salisbury by a young fellow named Talbot, a farming pupil of Norton, on the night of June 17th. I met Talbot looking a complete wreck. He told me that Norton, not liking the attitude of his farm boys, had sent him to Salisbury in the morning on his bicycle with a letter to the Police asking for advice and assistance. The distance being about 25 miles, the police immediately sent off a mounted trooper with Talbot to the farm. On their arrival they found nobody about, the place looted and bloodstains everywhere. Eventually they traced the mutilated bodies of the nurse and baby to the long grass. The trooper and Talbot cleared back to Salisbury as fast as they could. It was just the moment of Talbot's arrival that I met him, thoroughly exhausted. He had travelled about 75 miles during the day — practically all on bush paths — a wonderful performance on a bicycle. After a little rest and refreshment I took him to the Administrator, Judge Vincent, and reported the murders. The Judge was very upset with the news; next day, June 18th 1896, we were all ordered into the laager and martial law proclaimed. On our way to the Judge's house we met Blakiston and Harold Rawson, waiting in the darkness, for permission to go to the help of those who were known to be living in the Mazoe district. Permission was granted for them to go and they started that same night. As you all know, Blakiston never returned from that journey; he and Routledge, another post office official, were murdered when trying to get a telegraph message through to Salisbury. The message was received but broke off before completion. The portion received was so serious that a party was sent out to Mazoe immediately. The patrol had a hard and trying time in fighting its way back and some members lost their lives. This action was considered so meritorious that the leader of the Mazoe Patrol — Inspector Nesbitt — received the V.C.

A few years ago the Manager of Meikle's Hotel brought a grey-haired gentleman to my table, and said that the gentleman would like to have a talk with me as he understood I was in Salisbury in 1896. He said that he was in Salisbury then and that his name was Talbot. We had quite forgotten each other, but in a few moments the past came back again. What a strange meeting after all the years.

I took Talbot and his wife out to the Hunyani and showed him the grave of Mrs Norton, child and nurse. Mr Kelly is the owner of the farm where the grave is. The body of Norton was never found.

It was whilst saying good-bye to Norton on his last trip to the farm — whilst walking along Pioneer Street to the outspan and waggons, that he pointed out a tree which Lord Randolph Churchill had sat under in 1891. The tree is still growing at the back of a motor garage at the end of the street, near the railway crossing. The tree has changed very little in 48 years.

My first job in the laager, where I was a full blown corporal, was to pull buildings down. A few brick buildings were standing near the laager which it was thought advisable to remove; natives were put on the job. They started at the bottom of the walls, which came down on the top of them, so an Officer instructed me, as an architect also a corporal, to superintend pulling down buildings. My first actual work in Salisbury.

It was pretty slow in the laager. There were the usual grousing and jealousy — the



town clock in the old market building was “kept going” by a Mr Carter, who refused to sleep in the laager but slept in the clock tower.

“Look outs” on the Kopje in the day and “Pass words” at night, not that one wanted to do any visiting after dark.

Possibly the most exciting event during the laager time was the arrival, on the second night, of the Mazoe Patrol and residents of Mazoe, who had travelled in a small coach. Some steel plates were fitted to the sides which acted as armour. When those in the laager found out what had happened and the safe arrival of the majority of Mazoe people, a mighty cheer was given, even in the dark. Later news, that some well known people had been killed and the bravery and death of Blakiston and Routledge, cast a shadow over the laager. Next day brought the news of the loss of the *Drummond Castle* and the drowning of Mrs Mack and Mrs Morris — wives of two leading citizens.

The weather was extremely cold that year. Sleeping in the open with only 2 blankets on top of one and a sack of grass under for a mattress, manning the walls in the early dawn, night picket, native guard etc. were necessary evils which did not worry us when young.

There were two laughable incidents which I remember of the laager. Every night pickets were placed round the laager. They were in parties of 3 or 4 and spaced some 100 yards or so apart. One got so used to this duty that mattresses and blankets were taken down ready for the night. Fellows could have a sleep in comfort whilst the remainder were on duty. In one of these parties was a very objectionable fellow — who was always grousing and threatening lots of us with what he was going to do when the laager broke up. One night whilst not on guard duty, he removed his trousers and turned in. He was soon snoring enough to warn any prowling Mashona who might be about. The remainder of his party thought they would get a bit of their own back on him. One pinched the sleeper’s ear as hard as he could whilst another fired his rifle close by, all shouting “here they come”, “look out chaps, here they come.” The sleeper awoke with pain and rifle fire and cleared to the laager for all he was worth, crying out as he ran — “here they are — here they come”. The sentry at the laager hearing the noise let fly with his rifle, whilst those in the laager waking up and hearing all the row started firing their rifles in the dark. The noise and confusion was most exciting until it was found out what really was the matter.

Next day the sleeper was duly punished for leaving his post and losing his rifle — he was also cured of his grousing.

The other incident still makes me smile when thinking of it. There were numerous friendly natives in Salisbury — house-boys, servants generally and those of other tribes with their wives. These were all required to sleep in a compound — the Rhodesia Horse Volunteer stables. These stables were spacious and in the form of a letter E with the centre portion of the letter missing. Across the open side of the letter a row of waggons was arranged so as to give two entrances to the compound, one each end, and every night 4 troopers with a corporal in charge were posted on duty here. One night much to my consternation I found my name down for native guard duty. I was a very raw recruit — why I was ever made a corporal goodness only knows. I turned up outside the main guard building at 6.30 p.m. as required. Just then four troopers from D company — all Dutchmen and connected with transport — came along. One only could speak a little English, myself no Dutch. We were given instructions and marched off to the native compound. I posted two of the troopers at the far end of the waggons whilst I took up my position at the other end with the remaining two troopers — naturally keeping the English speaking trooper with me. I was very proud of my first command — all went well — the natives either occupied

with cooking, eating or sleeping. Then things began to get quiet; the night was not so dark, but dark enough for me. After a general look round I sat down with my back to the building to have a little sleep. One of the native police boys was standing close by — he was quite 6 feet tall and armed with an assegai almost as long as he was. I was armed with a rifle, a revolver and about 100 rounds of ammunition for both of them. A lot of the cartridges had slipped through a hole in my pocket and got mixed up with the lining of my over-coat. We were settling down nicely when all of a sudden shooting started quite near our compound, and a little later in the darkness I saw two figures running for all they were worth towards the laager. As soon as my two troopers saw them, they started off in the same direction and tried to catch up with their pals. The natives still quiet and the policeman by me still unmoved by the shooting. I thought that I might catch up with my men whom I was calling to come back; no notice of my command being taken, I thought it about time to get a move on myself. Starting off at a record pace I soon came a cropper, my revolver and cartridges at the bottom of my overcoat doing the trick. I dropped my rifle as I fell and lay there until I had got my wind. The laager being some distance away, I thought it safer to return to the native compound where I found everything as before and the native policeman with his assegai just as I had left him. About half an hour later, away in the distance, I saw a swinging light; it was the night guard. I challenged the party in the proper military manner — having learnt how to do this in the past few days. The officer enquired why I had not come up to the laager when the bugle calling all pickets in was sounded. I replied that I thought it was my duty to stay where I was under the circumstances. I was complimented for keeping to my post. From this brave action on my part, one can see how medals are won.

Later there was an enquiry into the shooting. It was found that certain pigs were trying to get into the laager and were mistaken for natives. A little later some of us who had never fired a rifle were taken to the range to have a try out. It was lucky this was done, as it was found that the cartridges which had been served out, and of which I was very proud, having my photo taken with my corporal stripes and a bandolier full, were cartridges taken from the Portuguse at Massi Kessi and did not fit my Lea-Melford rifle. It was also found that there were others who had cartridges which did not fit their rifles.

Given the chance to act as one of an escort to a convoy which included some women who wished to leave the country, I accepted. Little happened between Salisbury and Old Umtali except burying the remains of white people who had been murdered by the Mashonas and re-burying the bones of those that had been disturbed by animals. Only in the Makoni district was there any scrapping and then the Mashonas kept well away from us and it only lasted two days.

On our arrival at Old Umtali I learned that Cecil Rhodes together with Earl Grey would soon be visiting the district. This was shortly after the Jameson raid and Rhodes was still under a cloud over that affair. I decided to leave the convoy, especially as one gets tired of footslogging and I had walked all the way from Salisbury.

I have pleasant recollections of the early days in Old Umtali. The town was prettily situated. When the proposed railway was being surveyed it was found impossible owing to the mountainous state of the country to take the railway to the town, so Rhodes said “take the town to the railway”, and the town was taken. Later on, Old Umtali was handed over by Rhodes to the American Mission, together with all buildings and improvements — what a gift. Later on I accompanied Cecil Rhodes and Captain Scott-Turner to the site of the New Township where various town planning schemes were decided on.

A few months later my wife, who was still in England, decided to join me, bringing our little baby daughter with her. I went to Cape Town to meet them — it was then that I got my first and only dose of malaria fever. I was carried off the boat to a friend's house where my wife met me whilst I was very bad. As soon as I had recovered we started via the East Coast and Beira for Old Umtali. Since my previous journey the narrow gauge railway had been laid between Beira and Fontesvilla, so there was no paddle steamer to worry about. A bridge over the Pungwe River at Fontesvilla had been constructed, but was in such an unfinished state that passengers had to walk over the bridge whilst each carriage was pushed over separately. The bridge was too unsafe for engines to cross so there was an engine one side and one the other side to continue the journeys. Chimoio was still the rail head. We continued our journey by the old Texas coach and mules which was then running. How well I remembered my first trip on horse-back over this track, especially the spot where I had picked up the hat-box.

I can assure you that it was no easy journey for a young mother and her baby to take in those days. Anyhow after sundry trials and tribulations we arrived at our journey's end. Our baby girl being the first English born baby to be taken into Old Umtali — that baby is now a mother herself and has a son fighting with the 8th Army in Italy.

Our trials and tribulations did not end with our arrival. Our first home was a hut — naturally my wife had cause for grumbling — still it was all we could get to live in. What made things worse was the door had no lock or fastenings and was kept shut by placing a walking-stick propped against the inside. There were wild animals of every description round and about the town. One night we had a visit from one. What with the beast smelling and moving about, the stick fell down and the door was being slowly opened when I let fly with my revolver. What with the noise of the revolver and the baby crying and there being no matches to light our candle, it was a night to be remembered. We found plenty of spoor in the morning, also that I had fired through a valuable dressing case of my wife's in the dark.

The price of bare living necessities frightened my wife. There was no fresh milk. A tin of butter or condensed milk cost 10/-. Cabbages, if you could get one, 2/6 to 3/-; eggs 5/- to 12/- per dozen, according to the time of year. A baby's feeding bottle was unprocurable; no one had ever given them a thought. Still there were plenty of empty bottles in Umtali which answered the purpose as whisky was only 3/6 per bottle. There was no duty then on wines and spirits.

In the meantime New Umtali was going ahead under the leadership of Scott-Turner. One day he mentioned that the new Government buildings were about to be erected and that plans for some had been made by someone in Salisbury. I told him that I had prepared plans for some Government buildings for Umtali whilst I was in Salisbury, for a so-called architect — we will name him "Smith" — and that I had signed *both* our names as architects on the drawings. I asked Scott-Turner to make enquiries in Salisbury to see if my name appeared on the plans or had been erased. It was found that my name had been carefully erased, "Smith" no doubt thinking I had left the country for good.

Cecil Rhodes happened to be in Umtali about that time, so I mentioned the matter to him — he could hardly believe me, but said he would make enquiries. He must have done so, for a short time after, Scott-Turner told me to prepare fresh plans for the New Government Buildings, and that I was appointed sole architect for the work. I had a lot to thank Cecil Rhodes for.

New Umtali was ambitious. Not to be outdone by Salisbury, they started on a Stock Exchange Building. A tramway was laid up the main street. Tractor transport was tried out. A brick and tile company registered. Horse racing, athletic and cycling events were run. A Caledonian Society formed, also a Freemason Lodge.

The first train from Beira to Umtali arrived on the 2'0" gauge line and the first train from Salisbury on the present gauge, about the same time. The narrow gauge was not altered for some years after. It was then laid from Salisbury to Mazoe, as far as I can remember.

There was one event in Umtali I remember very well. It was a boxing contest between Captain Marley of the 7th Hussars and myself. There is only one person I know living who was present — J.W. Dunlop, well known to some of you. In the second round I had the good luck to get a "nice one" in. The result of this was to make good friends with Marley, but Mrs Marley never spoke to me or my wife again. Funny creatures women are sometimes.

Another funny incident that my wife and I often laugh about. One afternoon, walking along the main street, just a rough track from which grass and trees had been cleared, we saw a chicken quite close to us, suddenly fly sideways into a window. On reaching the building we saw the chicken struggling in the hands of a most respectable townsman, who was taking a fishing hook with a mealie attached out of the chicken's mouth. I said "naughty naughty" — we were invited to dinner next day and became "accessories after the fact". The chicken was very tender.

Shortly after this a big fat duck began waddling every day past my office window. I did not have a fishing rod but a little assistance with a hefty stick on the part of my native boy soon had the duck inside. The feathers went up in smoke.

We invited our fisherman friend of the chicken and two others to dinner next day. The duck was delicious and enjoyed by all of us.

Two or three days later one of the fellows we had invited to partake of the duck told me that he had had one which he was fattening up for his birthday, but had missed it lately. After describing the duck we came to the conclusion that it must have been the one we had all enjoyed. He said that he was going to invite us to dine with him on his birthday, but instead of that we invited him first. So all was well that ends well.

In 1899 just before the Boer War I took a holiday in England, where my wife had preceded me. When I wished to return it was difficult owing to war conditions to travel by boat, but eventually I managed it. On arrival in Salisbury I met the late Captain Charlie Wells who was recruiting for Kitchener's Scouts — so I joined up. The armistice was signed as soon as they learned I had done this!!

Things in Salisbury were very quiet after the Boer War so I went to Johannesburg. I was very lucky with my introductions and soon had plenty of work given me. One job I well remember — a Masonic Lodge. There was a big ceremony of laying the foundation stone one Saturday afternoon. On the following Monday morning someone brought a set of plans of the building with my name and address on them which he found in the street. These plans had been placed under the foundation stone, together with various documents and other articles. On visiting the building I found the brickwork round the foundation stone had been dislodged and everything missing. I hope the thieves were pleased with the haul. They did not want my plans anyhow. I could not get settled down in Johannesburg and was glad to find myself back again in Salisbury. I seem to have arrived at a most opportune time, for shortly after I was busy on the Standard Bank for Umtali. A little later the African Banking

Corporation Bank for Salisbury came along. This bank was afterwards taken over by the Standard Bank. Then followed the Standard Bank in Salisbury, and Barclay's Bank, which was then known as the National Bank. Things generally were looking up, especially in mining properties and building generally.

The next important event to look back on was the Great War of 1914 — 1918. When it was considered necessary for the Reserve forces to be formed in Rhodesia, I was gazetted Captain and O.C., receiving my commission from Lord Buxton, the High Commissioner.

Early in 1915 I decided to offer my services in England. I arrived in London with a letter from General Edwards, our Commandant General, addressed to the Director of Personnel Services at the War Office. I thought with such a letter I should have been appointed on the Staff, instead of which I was politely — and yours obediently — told that they could win the war without my services. After some time I got in touch with Sir Starr Jameson, better known as "Doctor Jim". He at once appointed me O.C. "Building and Equipment" of the British Red Cross and Order of St John of Jerusalem Prisoners of War Department, of which he was the head.

After four years service I had the honour of being thanked by the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace. A pleasant incident happened when I was shaking hands with Queen Mary. She said "I think the last time we met was in a lift" — I was so surprised that I really forgot what I answered, but whatever it was the Queen smiled very nicely. I thought, what a remarkable memory. What really occurred regarding the lift was that one day Queen Mary visited the Central Prisoners of War Committee and was shown over the various departments. The lift in the building was self acting and sometimes self acted in the wrong way. I suppose as I was head of "Building and Equipment" it was thought proper for me to accompany Her Majesty. The lift was rather small and there were three ladies in addition to the Queen. On arriving at the first landing the lift automatically opened its doors with a bang. Well, the Queen looked at me and I looked at the Queen. I wondered who had to get out first. After a little hesitation I said to the Queen "I think it will be better if I get out first — it will give you more room." There was a slight pause — and then the Queen smiled rather loudly — in which I joined. Those waiting on the landing for our arrival must have wondered what all the laughter was about. I must add that the Queen was on the big side — so was I, and the lift door was small.

I think that most of us can look back on what has happened since the last war. I suppose the chief event has been the granting of Responsible Government and the appointment of the first Governor of Rhodesia, Sir John Chancellor. The country generally and Salisbury in particular has certainly advanced since this happened.

Looking back on the past fifty years I must say that things generally have gone very well with me. Some will say "luck" — it might be, but I really have worked hard. This has been easy for I love work. Many of my clients can be counted as my personal friends.

Besides which I have found time to put in two spells on the Municipal Council, and have been connected with the following:-

Formation of Tattersalls Club — Chairman one year and director for many years.

Mashonaland Turf Club, and Gun Club — winning championship cup, 1914 — 1915.

Mashonaland Boxing Association, and Swimming Association.

Judge and Referee in many sporting events.



**Norwegian Embassy 1923. Architect J.A. Cope-Christie**

*Photo: Niels Lassen*

**Edward Building 1936. Architect J.A. Cope-Christie**

*Photo: Niels Lassen*



Taken part in Amateur Theatricals and now President of Salisbury Amateur Dramatic Society.

Associated with Gold Mining and Diamond Mining (this is where my luck did not come in).

A member of 5 Masonic Lodges, and foundation member of 3 of them.

Then in my spare time I have done a lot of water colour painting.

For the past 25 years I have lived at Meikles Hotel and am still alive to tell the tale. Not a bad advertisement for any hotel. For a few years past I have not worried much about business, but with the State Lottery Trustees scheme for swimming baths I am now busy again.

Talking of swimming baths I remember preparing plans in 1897 or '98 for one in Umtali. Practically everyone in the town was present when the foundation stone was laid by Sir Alfred Milner. This bath was never completed and the stone is now lying about somewhere in the Umtali Park. The mention of Umtali again reminds me of a tale told to me by the late Bishop Gaul.

The Bishop was very fond of walking. One day he was travelling from old Umtali to Penhalonga and when taking a sharp bend in the road or track, he met a full grown lion sitting in the middle of it. He said that the lion and he looked at one another for some time, so he thought that he would try the power of speech on the lion and started on the thirty-nine articles. By the time he had got through half of them he was feeling quite tired and so must the lion have been for it rose and cleared off into the long grass — “and about time too” said the Bishop. I don't know if this tale is true, but it was told to me by a Bishop — so it must be.

One more incident with the Clergy. I had been carrying out extensive alterations and additions to a church, and when it came to the question of fees I suggested that as it was Church work I was prepared to do the work for half fees. The parson was quite shocked or pretended to be, and said that I was to charge full fees. The Almighty never wanted anybody to work half price for Him. Its a pity that all one's clients are not like this.

In conclusion I must add that I feel proud of having been associated with Salisbury in some manner with the present appearance and progress of the town and its history. During these fifty years I consider that Salisbury, starting from scratch and bare veld, has progressed just as much as any town in S. Africa, and that we should all be proud of our city.

And now, what of the future. That is in the hands of the Gods. We pray that this awful war will soon end and may the day soon come when peace is declared after a great and glorious victory over our enemy. And may we all see and take part in the start of that New World which we are fighting and all hoping for.

# Gertrude Page Authoress and Farmer's Wife

by Mrs Shielagh Bamber, being the transcript  
of a talk given at Mvurwe on  
Sunday 3 August 1986

Gertrude Page was born in England in 1872 and married Alec Dobbin early this century. They spent some time in London before coming to Rhodesia in 1904. To begin with, they lived and worked at the Home Farm at Borrowdale. This farm became the inspiration and setting for her book, *Jill's Rhodesian Philosophy*. She was a lady with a sense of humour, and referred to the farm as the Dam Farm, perhaps because it had a dam on it and perhaps because it reflected her feelings about the farm! She was a very popular writer in her day, with a large following of readers. Some of her books ran to over 100 000 copies each, totalling just short of 2 million overall, which was quite considerable in those days.

As well as her novels, she published some work in the *Rhodesia Herald*, and the *African World Annual* of 1914. She also collaborated with her friend, Jack Foster-Mellior on a book titled *The Course of My Ship*. If that wasn't enough, two of her books were dramatized! One of them was *Paddy the Next Best Thing (to a boy)* which had a record breaking run in London, apparently outlasting Gilbert and Sullivan's *Mikado*. The other book which was dramatized and which also achieved considerable success, was *The Edge of Beyond*. This play was on the point of being brought out to South Africa when Gertrude died in April 1922. Incidentally, Gertrude is said to have had a cottage on Impinge Ranch, north of the Great Dyke, and is said to have written *Edge of Beyond* there.

She was not quite fifty at the time of her death and seems to have suffered from ill-health for a large part of her life. Possibly, this was one of the reasons why she had no children and why she spent considerable lengths of time in England. Speaking generally, and in spite of her spells of ill-health, she seems to have been a lady of great energy and enthusiasms, with a well-developed sense of humour, definite ideas and was no doubt a thorn in the side of her adversaries.

Part of the success of her novels can be attributed to the British National Pride in The Empire which was still cresting the wave, and God was still very definitely an Englishman. In her obituary, Gertrude Page was described as a 'Rhodesian of Rhodesians', and so she was, but only in so far as Rhodesia was a part of the British Empire. This is beautifully illustrated in her book, *The Rhodesian*, and I quote (p 219):

"Later in the day they reached Enkeldoorn and once more pitched their tent beside the police camp; but the place is not inviting ... for Enkeldoorn is the centre round which many Dutch speaking people gather to farm small farms in what must be confessed is often the most slovenly and lazy fashion conceivable. And some of them speak quite openly of how they hate the English, and look forward to a day when they will be strong enough to turn them (the English) out of the country."





**Gertrude Page**  
**Frontispiece *Jill's Rhodesian Philosophy***

*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*

She goes on to say that she hoped that England would soon send out lots of intelligent young Englishmen, to form a majority in this country and uphold Cecil Rhodes' high aims and hopes of 'Splendid Imperialism'. When I read this for the first time I had to laugh out aloud at the sheer conceit of it!

In reading Gertrude Page's books over the past few weeks — and I must confess that I didn't manage them all — certain themes present themselves repeatedly. I thought it would be interesting to chat about these points, the first of them being kopjes. In fact, it is rather appropriate that we have this talk on this particular kopje, not only because Gertrude lies buried here, but also because it was one of her favourite places where she used to do a lot of her thinking and writing. It also features in her book *Where the Strange Roads go Down*, which I found most enjoyable, and from which I quote now. Joe the heroïn  is about to be reunited with a long lost love (p 282):

"She strolled away to climb a mass of grey granite not far from the house, decked very picturesquely with waving trees and bronzing grass.

"From a little distance up its boulders she was able to command a most beautiful view of the country all around, including the road across the ranch, which swept past its foot ... And she, high there upon her lichen-decorated, tree-shaded boulder, waited in dreaming stillness."

And "There is probably no district of Rhodesia where the scene is quite as beautiful and impressive as upon the high plateau beside the grass grown summits of the Umvukwe Mountains. Here on the roof of the world, as it seems, one may look to the mountains sixty miles away in one direction and thirty to forty in another."

Perhaps Gertrude was speaking for herself, when in her novel *Follow After*, we find the same heroine experiencing a moment of truth on "her own particular kopje, the kopje which had become as a temple in her mind". In yet another novel, *The Veldt Trail*, the heroine plans the construction of a temple on a kopje, something which I found a bit extreme. Perhaps this was because Gertrude herself was very involved with a religious trend of the time, known as 'Higher Thought'.

So kopjes, with all their shapes, sizes and beautiful colours, find their way into all her books dealing with this country, often taking on a special and magical quality in her imagination. On the whole, they are beautiful and benevolent places where her heroines achieve clarity of vision, both physically and spiritually. However she does vary this theme on one occasion, in *The Edge of Beyond*; far from being a source of light and inspiration, she brings these masses of grey granite to life as an oppressive, malevolent force, threatening the life of yet another heroine caught up in the loneliness and hardship of life on a colonial farm.

Something which I would like to point out, is the road which was mentioned in the first quote from *Where the Strange Roads go Down*. It is still known as the O'Meath Road — O'Meath being the name of the Dobbin ranch. The interesting thing about this road was that it ran through the center of the Dobbin household. To be more precise, the kitchen was on one side of the road and the rest of the household on the other. Fortunately they didn't have great fleets of buses passing through, or who knows what might have happened to the cook, not to mention the Sunday roast! I gather that Gertrude was rather proud of her divided household. It had another interesting aspect, in the form of an outside loo. That in itself was the norm then, but this one had no door and also faced onto the O'Meath road!



**Gertrude Page**  
**Frontispiece Jill on the Ranch**

*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*

I'm told that at least one of Alec Dobbin's friends used to sit on a low wall outside the loo and chat to Alec while he graced the throne!

Gertrude's husband, Alec, was rather a character himself, and he continued to live and farm in the area until his death in 1945, although I think he did become rather eccentric. On one occasion, according to Hazel Townsend's book *A History of the Umvukwes*, a lady visitor reprimanded him for feeding his Red Setters at the table. Whereupon he replied that it was his bloody house and he would do as he pleased. He then threw the entire roast to the dogs!

In spite of the aspersions which Gertrude casts upon many of her household assistants, Mr Dobbin's cook seems to have been something of a legend. Once again referring to Mrs Townsend's book, on the occasions when it was Dobbin's turn to host the Farmers' Association meetings, he would merely inform Cook, 'Fifty for tea and lunch!' Cook apparently produced the goods without batting an eyelid.

Speaking of the Farmers' Association, Gertrude describes a delightful incident in *Where the Strange Roads go Down*. On one occasion when some young bachelors had hosted the meeting, they had dished up a lump of old cow, which was rather inedible, by way of lunch. When their turn to play host came up again, it was rumoured that one of their horses had died. They received a polite note to say that the meeting would be postponed until it was proved that they had disposed of the carcass. Incidentally, Gertrude Page was one of the first women to be admitted as a member of the Farmers' Association, (a piece of information passed on to me since this talk was given). There is a Gertrude Page Floating Trophy in both Beef and Dairy at the Zimbabwe Agricultural Show, apparently first competed for in 1949 (Information from Mrs Joy Wood, via Mr C.J. Ford.)

Something which I found both interesting and amusing in Gertrude's books was her description of the colonials' form of dress, or in some cases, the lack of it. She describes three young bachelors in *The Edge of Beyond* who farmed together, but who were never all able to make a decently dressed appearance in Salisbury at one time. They possessed between them only one complete set of respectable clothes, which were referred to collectively as the 'Salisbury' clothes. One of these three young men became the first to wear what has become traditional farmers' working clothes, and I quote:

"He appeared an apparition in knickerbockers cut off just below the thighs and stockings reaching only to his knees."

Add the bush hat pulled down over the eyes, and you have a picture of a farmer who hasn't changed very much from 1913 to 1986!

However, this form of dress wasn't quite the norm in 1913 and this particular gentleman was duly embarrassed by his appearance when he called on a neighbour and was invited to stay for tea. He had no sooner sat down to the table, than a young girl entered the room and was introduced as the host's daughter. The visitor stood up clutching the edge of the table cloth to cover his bare legs. No sooner had the girl left the room, than another entered to be introduced and so it continued through six daughters. The visitor began to feel himself the victim of a practical joke and was so distraught at the last girl's appearance, that he pulled the tablecloth up to his chin, so upsetting all the china!

According to a description of Gertrude herself, she adopted a rather unfeminine appearance, probably to suit her lifestyle. If she was anything like her heroine, Joe, in *Where the Strange Roads go Down*, she wasn't too particular about her own appearance, and on trips home to England Joe used to throw a lot of her clothes out of the port-hole,

knowing that they would be quite unsuitable at home. Luckily, her sister-in-law used to equip her with an entire new wardrobe before letting her off the ship!

In another lovely incident, Joe describes men's colonial attire to an 'English Rose'. And I quote once again:

"He (her husband) would be quite happy in a piece of limbo and he was once seen even without that. We had a lady staying with us, who commandeered the bath. Cyril, being in a hurry and seeing nobody about, took a plunge into the tub standing on the back veranda to catch the rainwater. He was no sooner in than a large eagle came sailing by. Cyril is death on all large eagles, for they take his fowls and sometimes a kid, so he humped out of his tub, twisted his towel around him, and dashed for his gun. He then ran several yards out into the open, to get a better shot. He fired and brought his bird down wallop, but in his excitement he forgot his carelessly adjusted towel, until he looked around and saw our lady visitor, attracted by the shot, stepping out onto the back veranda. He then discovered it (the towel) was on the ground several paces away. The lady spared his blushes by retiring hastily, but she certainly saw him in the altogether pose!"

As far as the themes of plots of Gertrude Page's books are concerned, I feel that they are rather weak, generally concerned with hopeless love affairs which all end happily ever after. So while the plots are not particularly startling in themselves, it is their background which is so entrancing. Gertrude was not shy about using her books as a means of commenting on the events of the day, often being highly critical, both of people and situations. The Chartered Company was one of the objects of her ire as she didn't feel that it was doing her beloved Rhodesia justice. To us, in 1986, it doesn't seem particularly remarkable that she should voice her criticisms, but one must remember that in the early part of this century, women had not yet been liberated.

Another point which warrants mention, is her knack of portraying the country, Rhodesia, as an animate being, not just a tract of land whose destiny was being shaped by men, but rather that Rhodesia was doing the shaping, influencing the lives of men and women who came here, apparently accepting or rejecting them at whim. In my reading, I extracted a large number of quotes to support this idea and had great difficulty selecting one to illustrate the point best. From *Follow After* we have the following:

"Rhodesia is like a siren (for) when you are in her grasp she sometimes crushes your spirit; but when you go away, she sings to you alluringly and you have to come back."

"She bewilders and allures, baffles and draws, delights and infuriates, gives and withholds, gratifies and disappoints all in one breath."

From *Jill on a Ranch*:

"After all there are so many things to tear your hair and rave about in Rhodesia and it is just as well that newcomers should know. If they are afraid they should stay away, as Rhodesia has no use for cowards."

The tone of the last quote is very critical and I must say that I found *Jill on a Ranch* rather different from the others in that her tone is both peevish and critical. In earlier books she emphasised her role as a pathfinder; in *Jill on a Ranch* she apparently resents the easier time had by newly arrived colonists. The book was published the year before her death, and perhaps her ill health had a lot to do with its tone.

But perhaps the most descriptive quote on Rhodesia comes from her book *The Rhodesian*:

“And she, the siren, lies there in her sunshine and loveliness, locked in the arms of the deep, luscious, dreaming nights whispering and murmuring softly under the embracing, softly-lit heavens; making wild riot when the splendid storms fling after each other across her bosom, while the thunder rolls deafeningly amidst her kopjes, and the lightning pierces brilliantly the riotous clouds and makes a glory of the mighty scene. Sulky and colourless when she is waiting impatiently for the delayed rains; resplendent with a colouring that is like a Te Deum when the reviving has come, and all her soul sings aloud in the joy of spring, and all her flowers and trees lend her a loveliness past telling, and her hills a yet deeper blueness under yet intenser rainwashed skies. All this — all her moods and whims and waywardness going serenely on — splendidly, superbly indifferent to the men who come to tame her and stay to love in silent enchantment.”

As you can see, she went in for rather long sentences!

It's rather difficult to separate Gertrude Page as Mrs Dobbin, farmer's wife, from Gertrude Page, authoress. The matter of women's roles in the business of Empire building and pathfinding was one close to Gertrude's heart and she had great sympathy with the women who were caught up in the process. Her book *Edge of Beyond* was dedicated to “all the women of the Colonies of the British Empire who are roughing it for the sake of husbands, fathers, brothers and THEIR COUNTRY.” See these last words in large capitals and flashing neons!

I don't think that she was that enamoured of her life as a farmer's wife and in fact I think she found it downright boring at times. From *The Edge of Beyond*:

“It was only for the women that the hours held deadness and dragged themselves by with lagging footsteps.

“Men have so many other things to fall back on, what their pipes and guns and open air life and just those things make it heaven for them.

“There sometimes isn't much for the women except occupations as they can manufacture.”

Being a woman of considerable energy herself, she used this to advantage and we have a stream of novels pouring forth from her pen. It was a man's world and a man's country that she lived in, and she made the point repeatedly in her books. She was an outspoken feminist and involved herself in issues such as campaigning for Responsible Government for this country, openly criticising the Chartered Company for its handling of affairs.

As far as being a farmer's wife went, I don't think she was very good at it in the traditional sense of working herself to the bone, making jams and preserves and so on. In fact, her attitude to her household chores was decidedly cavalier! A pantry described in *Jill on a Ranch* I feel could have been her own, and was rather a jumble of horse tack and household provisions! Not the most hygienic of places. But she did see herself as a pathfinder, charting a lifestyle in an untamed country. This theme of pathfinding is another point which appears repeatedly in her books.

In *The Veldt Trail* we have the heroine, Elizabeth, saying:

“Someday I like to think that there will be charming homes and lovely houses

dotted about these ranches, with tennis and nice men. And Rhodesia a progressive and enlightened country. And when I think about those jolly girls and boys who are to live here with their dances and tennis parties someday, I can feel quite glad about being one of those helping to make the trail for them in the beginning.”

Well, there are lots of lovely homes dotted about, but I think we may be a little thin on the ground with the dances and tennis parties, as farming takes on a more serious face now than it did in those days.

At the time it was a very tough life for the women. They were isolated from all that was familiar to them, contact with other women was limited because of transport and distances. In general, they came out to Rhodesia totally unprepared for the realities of the life they were to lead, carried along by a fever of imperialism and their men’s enthusiasm to lead the life of the eternal Boy Scout. From *Where the Strange Roads go Down* we have

“Life on a colonial farm was rarely picturesque ... yet because it is a battlefield of the future, one knows that a race of women will rise to meet it.”

But the men were having a marvellous time as in *The Edge of Beyond*:

“Then he went on with his farming which consisted of prowling around with his gun; with occasional intervals of sowing seed which invariably came up in the most annoying patches.”

So the day-to-day life of the farmer’s wife was harsh, and I’m sure that Mrs Dobbin’s was no exception in that respect. Labour relations weren’t all that they could have been either, and most white women coming to this country were rather bewildered by the local domestic help, and vice versa. On one occasion, a newly arrived Jill commented to her veteran neighbour that her cook and houseperson insisted on wiping the perspiration from their brows with the dish towels. The reply was:

“Oh, your man must knock them down for that! One under the left side jaw from the Boss will give you peace in the kitchen for a week.”

Which perhaps illustrates just what an enlightened and progressive country we have become!

So, to sum up: as an authoress, Gertrude Page was tremendously popular in her day and is important to us in 1986 in that, through her books she recorded a way of life, be it good or bad, that is gone forever; but which is a very important part of the history of this country. As a traditional farmer’s wife I would say that she was a failure, but as an individual she was an achiever who immortalized the lives of all those other farmer’s wives, traditional or otherwise, who worked themselves to the bone, and who, except for Miss Page’s writings, would have been forgotten forever.

# Some Relatives of Lobengula and Close Associates of the Khumalo Family after the Occupation

by R.S. Roberts

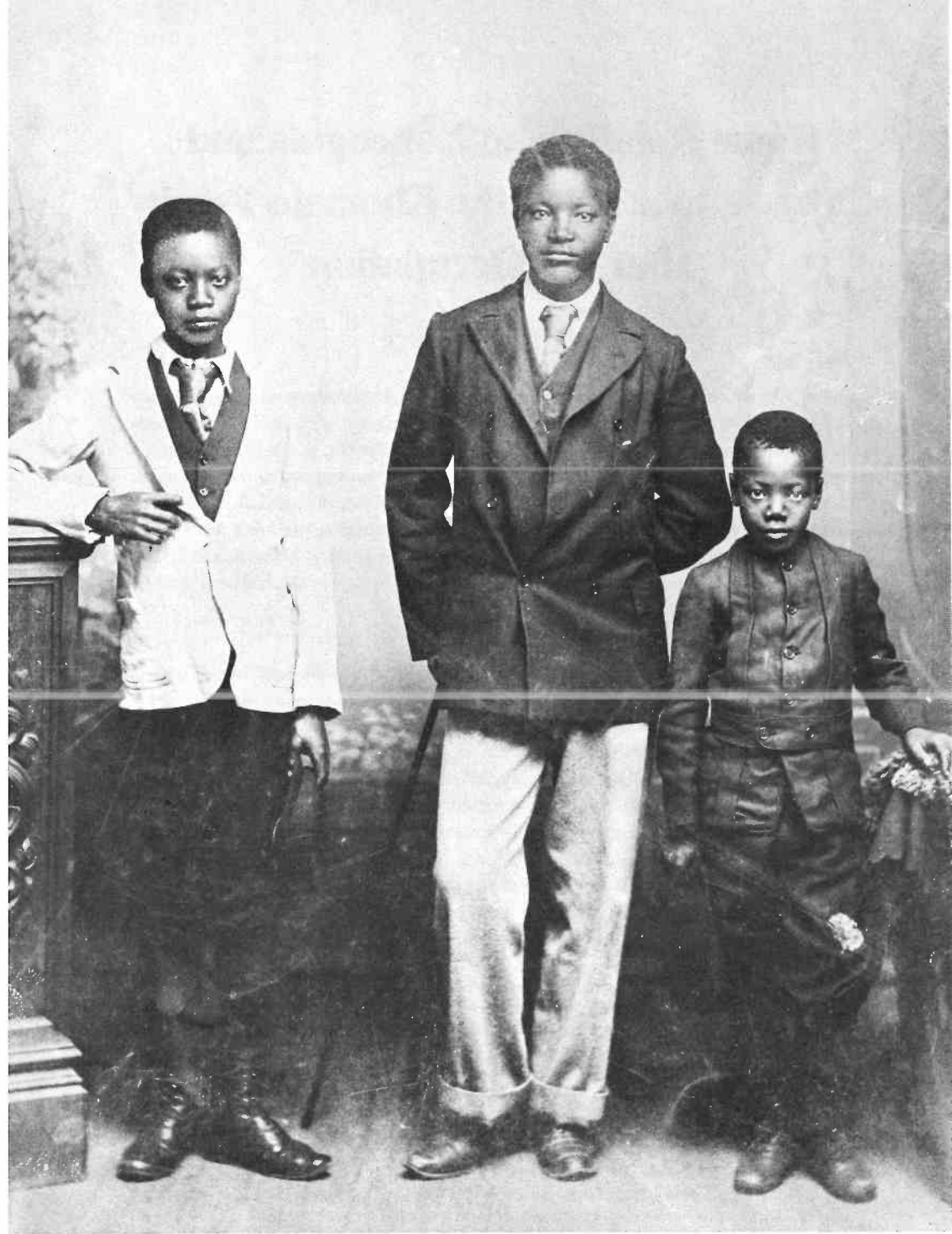
Much has been written on Lobengula and the Occupation but there has been no systematic study of the Khumalo family either before or after the Occupation. Consequently when I began my study of the political careers of Lobengula's grandsons, Albert and Rhodes, in the 1930s, I found it necessary also to do considerable research on the Khumalo family background. Some of the results of this research are presented in the form of a series of biographical sketches with full citation of the scattered sources, which may be of use to other researchers. It is interesting to see how much can be gleaned from colonial records, but it is a matter of regret that conditions in Matabeleland have so far made it impossible to corroborate and extend these sketches in the way that had been planned.

## MPEZENI LOBENGULA

Mpezeni was born in Bulawayo<sup>1</sup> in about 1880,<sup>2</sup> the second of the four<sup>3</sup> 'royal' sons of Lobengula who survived into the Occupation period. His mother was Lomalongwe,<sup>4</sup> who has not yet been further identified, but according to Ntabeni Kumalo she was the most important wife after Lozigezi and consequently Mpezeni might have been chosen to succeed his father.<sup>5</sup> Ginyilitshe, the Khumalos' praise-singer in the twentieth century, differed in his view of the likely succession, but the Native Affairs Department had earlier believed that Mpezeni might have succeeded.<sup>6</sup> European views on the succession, however, were not noted for their consistency and there was always a tendency to inflate the importance of those no longer in the running — as can be seen in the report that of all Lobengula's sons, Mpezeni was the best of the bunch.<sup>7</sup> As with Njube and Nguboyenja, the real importance of Mpezeni was that he was of the age to be taken by C.J. Rhodes to Cape Town for education in 1894 (see photograph).

1. N/3/19/1, Statements by Lonkubu, 15 Sept., and by Nyamanda, 22 Sept. 1923 encl. in N[ative] C[ommissioner] Nyamandhlovu to S[uperintendent of] N. Bulawayo, 22 Sept. 1923 [all archival references, unless otherwise stated, are in the National Archives of Zimbabwe, Harare; full details of these are listed at the end of the article.]
2. University of Cape Town Library, Manuscripts Department, BC 636/D1.2(Zonnebloem College Papers, Admissions Register 1876 – 1900), Admission No. 596, where he is described as about fourteen years old in February 1895.
3. The eldest was Njube (see a forthcoming paper), the third was Nguboyenja (see a forthcoming paper), and the fourth was Sidojiwa (see below). The 'non-royal' sons to survive into the Occupation period were Nyamanda and Tshakalisha.
4. N/3/19/1, Statements by Lonkubu and Nyamanda; J.D. White, 'AmaKosikasi . . .', *NADA* (1974), XI, i, 112. Lomalongwe does not appear to have lived long into the twentieth century.
5. Hist[orical] M[anu]s[cript]s Collect[ion], W18/1/2, f.65. Ntabeni was not entirely consistent in his opinion, however; cf. f.33.
6. Hist. Mss Collect., W18/1/1, f. 22 (for more on Ginyilitshe, see below); RC/3/7/17, C[hief] N.C. Matabeleland to Sec[retary to the] Adm[inistrator], 20 Oct. 1910 encl. in Act[in]g Sec. Adm. to Priv[ate] Sec. Resident Commissioner, 24 Oct. 1910.
7. Mislaidd reference.





**Mpezeni, Njube and Nguboyenja Lobengula in Cape Town  
between 1895 and 1898**

*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*

Mpezeni's career at Zonnebloem College, however, was very brief, for in October 1899 he contracted pleurisy and was sent to Somerset Hospital where he died on 9 December.<sup>8</sup> For some reason (probably shortages of staff at the Company's Cape Town office) Mpezeni's death was not formally reported to the Administration in Salisbury or the London Office or, presumably, his relatives in Matabeleland although they would have soon learned the news from Njube and Nguboyenja. This not unnaturally upset the Ndebele and, indeed, the Native Department in Matabeleland who heard rumours of it in March 1900.<sup>9</sup> Mpezeni's death aroused considerable feeling among the Ndebele and many indunas went to pay their condolences to his mother.<sup>10</sup> It was probably as a consequence of this unfortunate episode that the Administration reconsidered its former opposition to a visit home by Njube and later in 1900 agreed to his leaving Zonnebloem and returning to Matabeleland in order to allay any fear among the Ndebele that the boys were in effect being detained and not properly cared for.

It appears that the Ndebele have never made any attempt to mark Mpezeni's grave, even with a headstone, and nothing is named after him in Bulawayo.<sup>11</sup> The conclusion must be that he was not regarded as of great importance by the Khumalo family.

### SIDOJIWA LOBENGULA

Sidojiwa was born at Nsindeni<sup>12</sup> in about 1888, the youngest of the four 'royal' sons of Lobengula who survived into the Occupation period.<sup>13</sup> His mother was Ngotsha,<sup>14</sup> a sister of Lozigezi Dhlodhlo,<sup>15</sup> and she was presumably one of the younger wives as she lived on as a

8. See Zonnebloem Estate, Cape Town, Zonnebloem College, Register of Burials . . . Zonnebloem, July 1875 – Sept. 1947, entry 10 Dec. 1899; the Divisional Council of the Cape, Cape Town, Maitland Cemetery, Register of Interments, 1 Nov. 1895 — 8 Dec. 1900, entry 11 Dec. 1899 (the grave, without any headstone, is No. 10155 B (new enumeration), Maitland Cemetery No. 1, Cape Town). He appears to have been baptized in hospital but I have not been able to discover the details. The date of his death is usually given as 1898 (see, for example, R.K. Rasmussen, *Historical Dictionary of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe* (Metuchen NJ, Scarecrow Press, 1979), 200, and T.O. Ranger, *The African Voice in Southern Rhodesia, 1893 – 1930* (London, Heinemann, 1970), 30) but this is obviously incorrect.
9. NB/1/1/9, Secr. B[ritish] S[outh] A[frica] Co[mpany] Cape Town to Secr. Department Adm. Bulawayo, 14 Mar. 1900; LO/1/1/17, Agenda, 4 Apr. 1900, Item 5: Secr. B.S.A. Co. Cape Town to Secr. B.S.A. Co. London, 14 Mar. 1900; AM/1/5/3, Adm. Matabeleland to J.A. Stevens, Cape Town, 26 Mar. 1900.
10. LO/5/7/3, 'Report of the Native Commissioner, Insiza, for the Month of March, 1900'; 'Report of Native Commissioner, Mzingwane District, for the Month of March 1900'; 'Monthly Report of the Native Commissioner, Bulalima-Mangwe for April 1900'. 'Monthly Report of the Native Commissioner, Malema for April 1900'.
11. His name was suggested once as the name for a new township (now Njube), *The African Home News*, 1 Sept. 1955.
12. N/3/19/1, Statements by Lonkubu, 15 Sept. and by Nyamanda, 22 Sept. 1923, encl. in N.C. Nyamandhlovu to S.N. Bulawayo, 22 Sept. 1923.
13. Mrs Lippert in 1891 described the youngest son of Lobengula as a three-year-old, *The Matabeleland Travel Letters of Marie Lippert 1891* . . . transl. and intro. E. Rosenthal (Cape Town, Friends of the South African Public Library, 1960), 50. A birth-date of about 1892, given by the Native Department in 1906 (A/11/2/12/8, C.N.C. Matabeleland to Priv. Secr. Adm., 24 Dec. 1906) is clearly wrong; see also below, for his adventures after the Occupation.
14. White, 'AmaKosikazi', 112.
15. N/3/19/3, S.N. Gwelo to S.N. Bulawayo, 27 Sept. 1919. Not much is known about her but references to her being of royal Gaza descent ('Sikobole Ndhlovu', *NADA* (1958), XXXV, 40) or, alternatively, of low birth (RC/3/7/17, C.N.C. Matabeleland to Secr. Adm., 24 Oct. 1910) are probably equally wrong.

pensioner until 1955.<sup>16</sup> A young Shona slave who had charge of Sidojiwa at the time of the war of 1893-4 gave his reminiscences some sixty years later and claimed that the two youngsters tried to get to Gazaland on foot but Sidojiwa's age does not seem to fit with the story, which is rather muddled chronologically anyway.<sup>17</sup>

Being that much younger than Nguboyenja, Sidojiwa was not sent to Cape Town after his father's death and he probably lived in the Insiza District with his mother under the control of a guardian, former induna Masongo, who married his mother.<sup>18</sup> In 1900 Njube visited him and raised the question of taking him south to be educated but nothing came of this.<sup>19</sup> In 1903 he was reported to have run away from his guardian's home and in 1906 he was described as 'unruly'.<sup>20</sup> Because of this, the Native Department decided that he should not be allowed to go to Cape Town to school, as he wanted, but should be employed as a messenger at the Bulawayo office.<sup>21</sup> This was agreed but whether it was ever implemented is not certain, for the next that is known of Sidojiwa is that he was attending the Anglican Church School in the Bulawayo Location.<sup>22</sup> He then repeated his request to go to Cape Town but the Chief Native Commissioner still advised against it on the ground that he might have 'Ethiopian' sympathies and be under Nguboyenja's influence.<sup>23</sup> The Administration then debated the arguments for and against giving him permission in view of the fact that there was no direct way of stopping him if he found the money himself by selling his cattle.<sup>24</sup> Therefore, it was decided to sound out his relatives and the Chiefs.<sup>25</sup> The general response was to prefer him to be educated in Southern Rhodesia rather than to go to South Africa but there was no great interest and many Chiefs simply left it to the Administration: 'Sidojiwa appears to hold some social influence among the older natives but no political, and there is little interest exhibited in his movements or destiny'.<sup>26</sup>

In reporting all this the Chief Native Commissioner Matabeleland said that Sidojiwa's real interest in leaving Bulawayo was that he disliked being taught with, and treated the same as, the *holi*; and, therefore, a school in Mashonaland would be acceptable.<sup>27</sup>

This was agreed and a place was found for him at government expense at St Augustine's, the

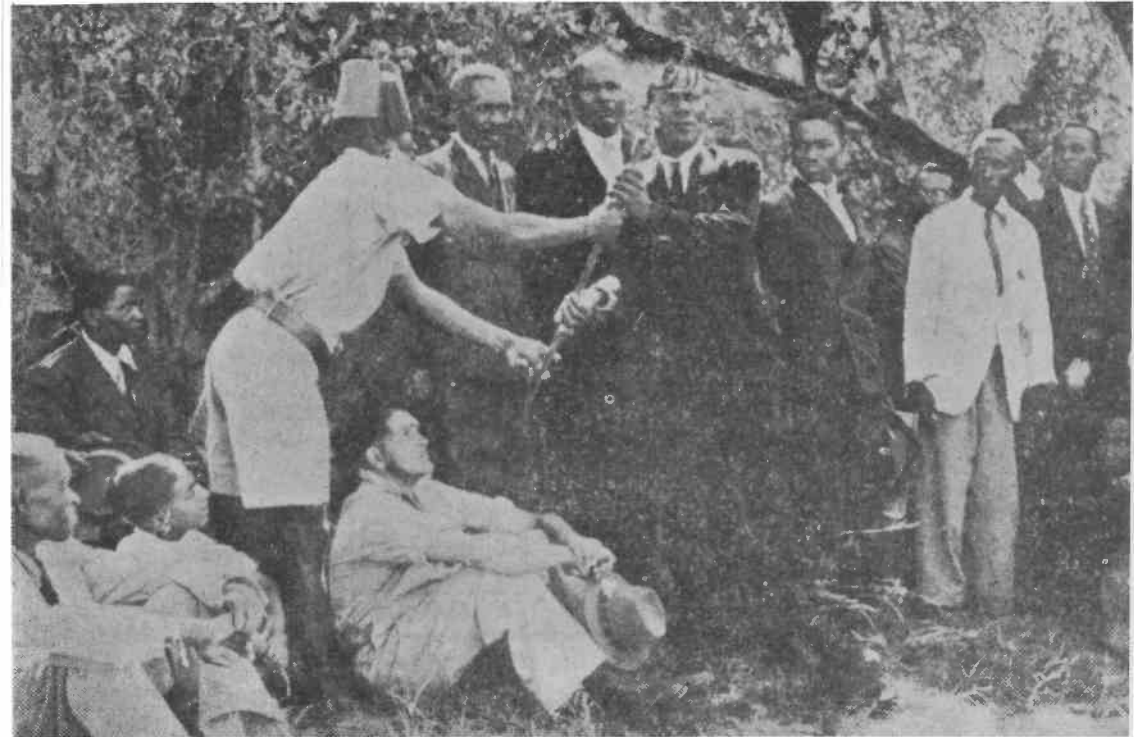
16. Minist[ry of] Local Gov[ernment], Rural and Urban Develop[ment, Harare], X/40 [Relatives and Retainers of Lobengula], Secr. N. Aff[air]s to Controller and Auditor General, 17 Nov. 1952; *The Chronicle*, 19 July 1960.
17. 'Sikobole Ndhlovu', 40-1.
18. NB/4/1/1, C.N.C. Matabeleland, Circular 20, 29 Apr. 1903; A/11/2/12/8, C.N.C. Matabeleland to Priv. Sec. Adm., 24 Dec. 1906; NB/1/1/10, List of Queens. Masongo Kanye was a nephew of Tjumane, Induna of one of the two sections of the Nxa *ibutho* whose son Fudu was too young to succeed (S1561/10, XVI, N.C. Fort Rixon to S.N. Bulawayo, 11 Oct. 1933 and encl: genealogy); consequently Masongo acted as chief from December 1896 (NB/3/1/5, N.C. Insiza to C.N.C. Matabeleland, 13 Dec. 1905) until Fudu succeeded in January 1906 (EC/3/1/2, meeting 15 Jan. 1906, minute 1631).
19. NB/1/1/11, C.N.C. Matabeleland to N.C. Insiza, 27 Aug. 1900; C.N.C. Matabeleland to N.C. Malema, 13 Sept. 1900
20. NB/4/1/1, C.N.C. Matabeleland, Circular 20, 29 Apr. 1903; A/11/2/12/8, C.N.C. Matabeleland to Priv. Sec. Adm., 29 Dec. 1906 (telegr.).
21. A/11/2/12/8, C.N.C. Matabeleland to Priv. Sec. Adm., 24 and 29 (telegr.) Dec. 1906.
22. *Ibid.*, Priv. Sec. Adm. to C.N.C. Matabeleland, 2 Jan. 1907; NB/3/1/16, C.N.C. Matabeleland to Priv. Sec. Adm., 16 Apr. 1909.
23. NB/3/1/16, C.N.C. Matabeleland to Priv. Sec. Adm., 16 Apr. 1909.
24. *Ibid.*, *idem* and Priv. Sec. Adm. to C.N.C. Matabeleland, 22 Apr. 1909.
25. *Ibid.*, C.N.C. Matabeleland to N.C.s, 3 May 1909
26. *Ibid.*, N.C. Insiza to C.N.C. Matabeleland, 14 May 1909; see also *ibid.* for other replies to the C.N.C. Matabeleland: N.C. Bulalima, 3 May 1909; N.C. Mzingwane, 22 May 1909; N.C. Fort Usher, 23 May 1909.
27. *Ibid.*, C.N.C. Matabeleland to Priv. Sec. Adm., 26 May and 14 July 1909.



**Sidojiwa Lobengula taken not long before his death**  
*Photo: Bantu Mirror, National Archives of Zimbabwe*



**Manja Khumalo (standing). Taken outside the Bulawayo cottage where he cared for Ngnboyenja (seated) who lived there as an unspeaking recluse from 1929 until his death in 1944**  
*Photo: Sunday News, National Archives of Zimbabwe*



**Simon Mhlatuzana, Chief Ntando, receiving Mzilikazi's sword from Native Affairs Department official on 15-16 December 1945.**

*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*

Anglican mission school near Penhalonga.<sup>28</sup> Sidojiwa settled down happily and, in accordance with government wishes, applied himself to carpentry and building as well as his academic studies. The school was satisfied with his progress over the next two years, although, it was said, he showed no special ability.<sup>29</sup>

Early in 1912, however, Sidojiwa (who now called himself Kenneth, although not yet baptized) was thrashed in front of the whole school over trouble with girls; not unnaturally he then wanted to leave the school but his teachers and the Chief Native Commissioner said he should stay on until September at least.<sup>30</sup> In fact he went home for a holiday in June and never returned; and the Chief Native Commissioner did not object in view of his mother's husband having just died.<sup>31</sup> Little is known of Sidojiwa thereafter, but it is possible that he worked for the Native Department in Bulawayo again.<sup>32</sup> If so he would appear to have resigned from that, for in 1918 he claimed a pension from the government on the ground that he had reached adulthood (and already had two wives to support) and so deserved to be treated the same as his brothers; thereupon he was granted a pension, initially of £2 a month.<sup>33</sup> He then appears to have gone to live in the Gwelo District and to have played little or no part in Khumalo political activities, although there is one reference to his having appeared in the Insiza District area shortly before the Chiefs made one of their periodic requests for a Khumalo as paramount.<sup>34</sup> Also about this time, Queen Lozigezi died and Sidojiwa claimed that he as her nephew and nearest-descendant, had been recognized as her heir and so had transferred from the Nsideni section to join the Bulawayo one for that reason.<sup>35</sup> Thereupon he went to the Queens' Kraal and allegedly took a shotgun, two mules and a carriage, although he denied this.<sup>36</sup> He later dropped his claim in face of Nyamanda's opposition but in a general compromise he received some of Lozigezi's cattle for the use of the family.<sup>37</sup> Both in this particular episode and in the so-called movement for a national home, according to the Native Affairs Department, Nyamanda's 'motives are self-interest and self aggrandisement',<sup>38</sup> and it is noticeable that Sidojiwa, unlike Tshakalisha, does not appear to have supported Nyamanda's various manoeuvres. Not too much weight should be placed on this, however, as Sidojiwa does not appear to have had much contact with Albert and Rhodes when they returned in 1926; furthermore the revival of interest in Nguboyenja, incapable of action as he was, indicates that either for reasons of the status or character Sidojiwa was not regarded by the Khumalos as of any importance or value to their cause. Consequently it is of no surprise that he appears not to have interested himself with Nguboyenja or the Matabeleland Home Society. Perhaps because of his obscurity one official in

28. Ibid., Priv. Secr. Adm. to C.N.C. Matabeleland, 16 July 1909 (telegr.); C.N.C. Matabeleland to Revd Canon S.H. Etheridge, Penhalonga Mission, 16 July 1909.
29. Ibid., Revd S.H. Etheridge to C.N.C. Matabeleland, 6 Dec. 1909; 18 May 1910; 28 Feb. 1911.
30. Ibid., Sidojiwa Lobengula to C.N.C. Matabeleland, 1 Jan. 1912; Kenneth Lobengula to C.N.C. Matabeleland, 29 Jan. and 9 Feb. 1912; C.N.C. Matabeleland to Kenneth Lobengula, 3 Feb. 1912; Revd S.H. Etheridge to C.N.C. Matabeleland, 23 Feb. 1912; C.N.C. Matabeleland to Sidojiwa, 26 Feb. 1912. NB/3/1/27, Kenneth Lobengula to C.N.C. Matabeleland, 17 Mar. 1912; Revd S.H. Etheridge to C.N.C. Matabeleland, 28 Mar. 1912.
31. NB/3/1/27, N.C. Inyati to Priest in Charge, St Augustine's Mission, 2 July 1912; Revd S.H. Etheridge to C.N.C. Matabeleland, 3 July 1912; C.N.C. Matabeleland to Secr. Adm., 6 Aug. 1912.
32. 'Sikobole Ndhlovu', 41.
33. A/3/18/9, C.N.C. to Secr. Adm., 3 May 1918 and reply, 7 May 1918.
34. S1561/10, III (1918-19), S.N. Gwelo to C.N.C., n.d. [Apr. 1919].
35. N/3/19/3, S.N. Gwelo to S.N. Bulawayo, 27 Sept. 1919; S.N. Bulawayo, Minute, 16 [Oct.] 1919. Lozigezi died on 23 Feb. 1919, *ibid.*, N.C. Inyati to S.N. Bulawayo, 25 Feb. 1919.
36. *Ibid.*, N.C. Inyati to S.N. Bulawayo, 3 Oct. 1919; *idem* to S.N. Gwelo, 1 Oct. and reply, 14 Oct. 1919.
37. *Ibid.*, N.C. Inyati to S.N. Bulawayo, 11 Feb. 1920.
38. *Ibid.*, S.N. Bulawayo to C.N.C., 23 Aug. 1919.

the Native Affairs Department later thought that he had died in 1933 and that it was a son of the same name who drew a pension that had now been doubled.<sup>39</sup> But this was not so and Sidojiwa was present at Nguboyenja's funeral in 1944 but, significantly, played no part in the ceremonies, not even as pall-bearer.<sup>40</sup> He appeared in the news briefly in 1954 when he told a meeting of Chiefs in the Matopos that it was against custom and the family's wishes that Albert be reburied at Entumbane; an African journalist commented on the fact that at this meeting Sidojiwa sat in some obscurity 'like a nonentity whilst the chiefs looked like big somebodies apparently higher and more important in their eyes than this member of the Matabele royalty. Ye gods!'<sup>41</sup>

At some stage Sidojiwa removed from near Que Que, where he had lived for many years, to the Marirangwe Purchase Area where he farmed with his son Cephas, his four wives and twenty-nine other children.<sup>42</sup> He died on 13 July 1960 and now, as the last of Lobengula's sons, was bestowed with honour and importance that had not been his in life.<sup>43</sup> His burial was at Entumbane near to Mzilikazi and Nguboyenja; and old Ginyilitshe Hlabangana, the Khumalo praise-singer who had been with the Insukamini at the Shangani, called on Sidojiwa's ancestors to receive him, 'the last fire in your great line'.<sup>44</sup> Other tributes, however, looked forward rather than to the past. *The Bantu Mirror* said that he was a gentleman to all, a man of no tribal feelings at all despite his birth, and that the tributes . . . [to him] will act as a symbol of oneness of the African people'.<sup>45</sup> Even more pointed was the tribute of another Hlabangana of the new generation, Cephas, who said, 'He was a solitary link with a glory that is past. The future needs such princes, though not of royal blood, to fight for the glory to come.'<sup>46</sup> The day before his burial Michael Mawema, President of the National Democratic Party, recently returned from Nyasaland where nationalists were already referring to 'Malawi', was quoted as saying that 'Zimbabwe' was that glory to come. A new era had begun.<sup>47</sup>

#### MAKWELAMBILA AND JOYI

These men were brothers of Lobengula.<sup>48</sup> Makwelambila was said to be the youngest son of Mzilikazi but this cannot be, if he really was as old as 108, as was said, when he died on 12 August 1943,<sup>49</sup> for this would have made him a grown man in the 1870s when Nyanda, also son of Mzilikazi was only a youngster.<sup>50</sup> Makwelambila became a firm Christian a few years before his death.<sup>51</sup> Joyi was active in Nyamanda's various manoeuvres and it is possible that he was cousin to

39. Minist. Local Gov., Rural and Urban Develop., X/40, Memorandum; 'Subsidies to the Wives and Children of Lobengula', 1 May 1950.
40. National Archives, Zimbabwe, Bulawayo, Papers of Revd W.A. Carnegie, Box 5443, Concertina File, 'Arrangements for the Funeral of the Late Nguboyenja', n.d.
41. *The Chronicle*, 5 June 1954; *The African Home News*, 12 June 1954 (for quotation).
42. *The African Daily News*, 14 July 1960; obituary in *NADA* (1961), XXXVIII, 105.
43. *The African Daily News*, 14 July 1960; see for example, his elevation into a suspected usurper of Lobengula's throne (at the age of six!), *ibid.*, 21 July 1960. *The African Home News*, however, gave him far less of a write-up than it did for many ordinary Ndebele; see 23 July 1960.
44. *The African Daily News*, 21 July 1960. For Ginyilitshe, see C.K. Cooke, 'Lobengula: Second and last king of the Amandebele . . .', *Rhodesiana* (Dec. 1970), XXIII, 33.
45. *The Bantu Mirror*, 23 July 1960.
46. *The African Daily News*, 16 July 1960. I take it that this Hlabangana was the one who was known as 'the first African Rhodesian to graduate', *The African Home News*, 15 Nov. 1958.
47. *Ibid.*, 19 July 1960.
48. Minist. Local Gov., Rural and Urban Develop., X/40, 'Aba Ntungwa: Royal Line'.
49. *Ibid.*, N.C. Plumtree to P[rovincial] N.C. Matabeleland, 16 Aug. 1943.
50. See the evidence of A.C. Bailie in R.S. Roberts (ed.), *Journey to Gubuluwayo . . .* (Bulawayo, Books of Rhodesia, 1979), 191. Nyanda, the last surviving son of Mzilikazi, died in 1946, Minist. Local Gov., Rural and Urban Develop., Harare, X/40, N.C. Gwanda to C.N.C., 23 May 1946.
51. *The Bulawayo Chronicle*, 18 Aug. 1943.

Nyamanda rather than his uncle (that is, a son of one of Lobengula's brothers).<sup>52</sup>

### MHWABA AND MADHLOLI

These men were sons of Lobila, brother of Lobengula.<sup>53</sup> Madhloli was Nyamanda's closest associate and it was he, accompanied by Ntando, who took the Khumalos' second petition to Cape Town and saw the High Commissioner in 1920.<sup>54</sup>

### SIKONKWANA

He is referred to as a son of Bayane, brother of Mhwaba and Madhloli,<sup>55</sup> but also as a son of Zabingane (Qalingana), a son of Mzilikazi and Lomokazi (sister of Mbigu), later a Headman under Chief Maladaniso.<sup>56</sup> In 1909 he had been deputed by the Khumalos to visit Njube in Grahamstown.<sup>57</sup> He died in 1936.<sup>58</sup>

### GULA

He was a son of Bozongwana Khumalo<sup>59</sup> who was brother of Mlugulu<sup>60</sup> and who had been keeper of Mzilikazi's grave.<sup>61</sup> Gula later became Treasurer of the Matabeleland Home Society.<sup>62</sup> In 1942 he was referred to as a Native Messenger of influence among the Ndebele.<sup>63</sup>

### MAHUBASA

He has not been identified yet, but presumably he was the Haubasa who joined Nyamanda's deputation about land in 1920, and, as Hawubasa ka Kumalo, told the story of 'The first visit of the Mandebele to Rhodesia'.<sup>64</sup> In 1937 he was described as one of the three elders of the Ndebele.<sup>65</sup>

### SIMON MHLATUZANA, NTANDO KA TEBE

His father buried Mzilikazi, and was the herald sent by Lobengula to Mbigu to call the Zwangendaba to submit in 1870.<sup>66</sup> One of his daughters, that is Simon's sister, Moro, became one of Lobengula's wives.<sup>67</sup> Simon became a Methodist at some stage and was sent to the Nengubo

52. Ranger, *The African Voice*, 79–80, 81, 83. He is described as cousin in A/3/18/18/6, 'Interview with Nyamanda and Certain Other Matabele Chiefs . . . 19th April, 1920'.
53. Minist. Local Gov., Rural and Urban Develop., X/40, 'Aba Ntungwa: Royal Line'.
54. Ranger, *The African Voice*, 72, 81, 82, 83, 85, 98, 130–1.
55. Minist. Local Gov., Rural and Urban Develop., X/40, 'Aba Ntungwa: Royal Line'.
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64. Ranger, *The African Voice*, 80; *NADA* (1927), V, 21.
65. Minist. Local Gov., Rural and Urban Develop., X/41, N.C. Gwanda to S.N. Bulawayo, 20 Apr. 1937 (the other two elders being Makwelambila and Nyanda).
66. National Archives, Bulawayo, Papers of Revd W.A. Carnegie, 5442/31 (Matabele Home Society), Agenda for Conference, 15 Dec. 1945; H.M.G. Jackson], 'A sketch of Lobengula', *NADA* (1932), X, 41.
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Training Institution (Waddilove) in 1910 where he was described as 'very good and reliable'; at the end of his three years training he was sent to the Bulawayo Circuit.<sup>68</sup> There he became a teacher at the Wesleyan Mission in the Bulawayo Location and then used his name Ntando,<sup>69</sup> *isibongo* Tebe.<sup>70</sup> He kept in close contact with Njube in exile in the Eastern Cape.<sup>71</sup> In 1920 he went to Cape Town to see the High Commissioner in support of Nyamanda's petition for more land for the Ndebele.<sup>72</sup> He became Secretary of the Matabeleland Home Society, and in 1937 he accompanied the Queens who went to Grahamstown for the funeral of Rhodes Lobengula.<sup>73</sup> He was always highly regarded by officials of the Native Affairs Department who praised his intelligence and integrity and in 1939 he was made a government-appointed (i.e. non-hereditary) Chief in the Bulalima-Mangwe District.<sup>74</sup> He died in 1949 and the Chieftainship lapsed.<sup>75</sup>

Simon Mhlatuzana is an interesting blend of old and new which shows how simplistic are the categorizations of some historians: important in Ndebele society because of the traditional role of his family and his closeness to the Khumalos, he nevertheless was one of the educated leaders who adopted new forms of organization and yet was admired by the colonial Administration.

### JULIUS MANJA MPONDO

Manja is generally referred to as a cousin of Lobengula<sup>76</sup> but he referred to his father, Somhlolo, as Lobengula's cousin.<sup>77</sup> Elsewhere he is described as son of Mpondo Khumalo, third in line to the royal family.<sup>78</sup> He appears to have been born about 1870 and after the Risings was educated by the Wesleyan methodists, like Ntando. After working in Kimberley, he returned to Matabeleland where he became influential in various causes on behalf of the Ndebele, notably the Ilihlo Lomuzi, a movement which later expanded under his initiative into the Matabeleland Home Society.<sup>79</sup> He was chosen by the Khumalo family to represent it at the unveiling of Njube's memorial in Grahamstown in 1911;<sup>80</sup> and in 1927 Manja visited Nguboyenja in Cape Town and finally brought him home in 1928 and then looked after him until his death as a recluse in 1944.<sup>81</sup> He always impressed visitors to Nguboyenja by his quiet dignity (see photograph),<sup>82</sup> perhaps for

68. Archives of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, The Connexional Office, Methodist House, Harare, 'Nengubo Training Institution: Record of Students from the Beginning', entry 60. The early Shona students at Nengubo have been studied (W.R. Peaden, 'Nenguwo Training Institution and the first Shona teachers', in A.J. Dachs (ed.), *Christianity South of the Zambezi: I* (Gwelo, Mambo, 1973), but those from Matabeleland have so far been ignored.
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70. NB/3/1/7, Njube Lobengula to Simon Mhlatuzana, 25 Aug. 1906.
71. *Ibid.*, and NB/3/1/1, A.N. Lobengula, Bathurst, to [C.N.C. Matabeleland], 19 and n.d. Dec. 1904.
72. Ranger, *The African Voice*, 82.
73. S138/22, 1930-1, [I], 'Meeting between . . . the Governor . . . and Matabele Chiefs at Fort Usher . . . on 15 June, 1931'. For the funeral, see my forthcoming article on Albert and Rhodes.
74. S1542/C6, 1939-40, N.C. Plumtree, memo, 31 May 1939; *idem* to C.N.C., 31 Aug. 1939; Executive Council Minute, 27 Sept. 1939.
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76. *The Bantu Mirror*, 14 June 1952.
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78. Minist. Local Gov., Rural and Urban Develop., X/40, P.N.C. Matabeleland to Assist[ant] Secr. Adm., 12 June 1952.
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81. S138/92, *passim*, and see my forthcoming paper on Nguboyenja.
82. G. Bloomhill, 'Khumalo royals I have known' *The Sunday News*, 16 August 1959.



this reason he had been chosen in 1936 to play the part of Somabulana, who had arranged the Matopos *Indaba* with Rhodes in 1897) in the Rhodesian pageant at the Empire Exhibition.<sup>83</sup> After Nguboyenja's death in 1944 he was given a pension of £2 per month and allowed to continue living rent free in the cottage leased from the Municipality for Nguboyenja since 1929,<sup>84</sup> but four years later it was decided as an act of policy that all pensions to the Khumalos should henceforth die with the recipients so that there could be no further perpetuation of royalty.<sup>85</sup> Thus when Manja finally died on the night of 8–9 June 1952,<sup>86</sup> the passing of this highly respected and prominent survivor of an older generation marked the end of the government's recognition of the Khumalos as a political entity. A few other pensioners survived but they were of no political importance: Albert, son of Njube, was not really regarded as heir because of his non-chiefly Mfengu descent;<sup>87</sup> and he died six months after Manja.<sup>88</sup> Rosamund, the widow of his younger brother, Rhodes, had had little contact with the Ndebele since her husband died in 1937 and she and her children had promised never to return to Southern Rhodesia; she died in 1961.<sup>89</sup> The other pensioners were five of Lobengula's Queens, the last of whom, Tshovu, died in 1964–5, and a daughter, Sixupezela, who died as recently as 1970–1.<sup>90</sup>

83. *The Bulawayo Chronicle*, 11 Nov. 1936.

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# The History of the Indaba Tree and Nurses Memorial, Penhalonga

by P.G. Locke

Situated on a rocky kopje a short distance from Penhalonga village, National Monument No. 38, the Indaba Tree and Nurses Memorial, is in a extremely picturesque and tranquil setting from which there is a commanding view of the surrounding countryside.

Progressively developed and added to over the years, the Monument is unusual in that it actually comprises a number of separate and only partly-related elements, primarily the Indaba Tree site and Nurses Memorial, but also a pre-Pioneer Memorial, Rhodes Centenary Arch and memorials to two former residents of the area. Only the Indaba Tree site was originally proclaimed a National Monument in 1941 (SRGN No. 144 of 1941) but the proclamation was later amended to include the "Memorial Works ... and a landscaped Garden" (RGN No 998 of 1969).

## Historic Background

The Monument's earliest connotations concern the Indaba Tree itself as a place of traditional spiritual significance. Of the fig species it was described at the time of the arrival of the white settlers as being the only large tree in the area, and the hill on which it was located, called Sabi Ophir Hill by the settlers, was known by the local indigenous population as the "hill of the great tree" (Blennerhassett & Sleeman, 1893).

A site held in great reverence before the advent of the European settlers, it was under this tree that Chief Mutasa's army commander, Machera we Hondo, was reputed to have sought guidance from ancestral spirits in making preparation for battle (Fothergill 1953). Chief Mutasa, whose village was cleverly concealed on a nearby hilltop, was probably the most powerful of the Manyika Chiefs and ruled his territory without fear or favour. He frequently waged war on his neighbours and when victorious he attributed his army's success in large measure to the spiritual direction received at the site of the Indaba Tree. However, as his domain was located in an area subject to dispute between the British and Portuguese spheres of influence, inevitably Chief Mutasa became embroiled in the conflict. In 1890, after his village was stormed, the Portuguese ousted and Fort Umtali founded, the Indaba Tree was no longer the scene of traditional spiritual ceremonies.

The Nurses' Memorial pays tribute to the first nursing sisters of a non-religious order who came to Zimbabwe to assist Bishop Knight-Bruce, first Bishop of Mashonaland, in setting up a mission hospital. Sisters Rose Blennerhassett, Lucy Sleeman and Beryl Welby arrived in Port Beira in May 1891 and, after travelling up the Pungwe River by steam launch, set out on foot on a 140 mile journey, from Mpanda's Kraal on the Pungwe to Sabi Ophir Hill, near Fort Umtali, on 1 July, 1891.

After a strenuous and adventurous walk the three Sisters reached their destination on 14 July, 1891, Sister Blennerhassett being stricken with fever at the time of their arrival.

Temporary accommodation was made available for them in a hut belonging to the manager of the Sabi Ophir Mining Company, the hut being part of a small encampment in front of which "an enormous tree of the fig species spread forth its branches," i.e. the Indaba Tree site (Blennerhassett and Sleeman, 1893). After some delay due to deliberation as to their siting, special hospital huts were later built for them adjacent to the Chartered Company Police lines. Their first patient was admitted on 26 September, 1891, although the huts were not yet completed and the patient had to provide his own tent! The courageous Sisters served a two-year appointment after which they were relieved by two other sisters from the Cape (Blennerhassett and Sleeman, 1893).

### **Recent History**

The foregoing is a brief resume of the historic events commemorated by the Monument, based largely on the contemporary account of their experiences by the Sisters Blennerhassett and Sleeman.

By comparison, an investigation into the more recent history of the site, i.e. the history of the Indaba Tree and Nurses' Memorial as a National Monument, reveals no especially significant events or heroic deeds. Nevertheless, the latter-day history, as deduced from correspondence and reports in the National Museums & Monuments official file on this Monument, (File MON/38), does give a fascinating insight into the obstacles encountered and controversy stirred in developing and maintaining the Monument. In addition, it discloses a number of apparent misconceptions and inaccuracies concerning the historic background of the site, several of which have been perpetuated to the present.

The recent history of the site commences in November 1940 when, at the instigation of the Anglican Bishop, the Penhalonga Village Management Board (PVMB) made application to the Historic Monuments Commission (HMC) to have the Indaba Tree proclaimed a National Monument because of its interesting historical associations. The Secretary of the Board pointed out that, in addition to it being the place where the first nurses, who had travelled from Beira, camped on their arrival in what was the first Umtali (Umtali, later renamed Mutare, was subsequently resited twice), it was also the site of the first dwellings of Captain Campion, Dunbar Moodie and others of the pre-Pioneer fraternity who were hosts to the nurses. It was also, he advised, the point where Dr Jameson, Moodie and Dennis Doyle met to arrange their trip to Gazaland.

The application was received favourably by the Historic Monuments Commission and the design and wording for a bronze plaque was prepared by the Government Archivist, who offered to pay for the plaque privately. The Public Works Department assisted by designing a stone bench to which the plaque was to be affixed, the cost of the bench being met by the Anglican Church. The proposed wording for the plaque was deemed appropriate and accepted, reading as follows:-

"On this spot  
Bishop Knight-Bruce's Nursing Sisters  
ROSE BLENNERHASSETT  
LUCY SLEEMAN  
BERYL WELBY

after an arduous up-country walk from the East Coast and within a day of their arrival in Mashonaland opened a

#### CAMP HOSPITAL

and thereby inaugurated Nursing Services in the Colony

— 14TH JULY 1891 —

Now, proclamation of a site as a National Monument necessitates the consent of the owner of the land and accordingly Stanley Bullock, who was the registered owner of Bartissol Claims, which included this site, gave written permission. Bullock also advised the Historic Monuments Commission that the Indaba Tree bore “no resemblance to our local fig” and was apparently an exotic Australian species. He added that it had been damaged by someone seeking wood for wagon brake blocks but was recovering. (The HMC expressed interest in the supposed origin of the tree and requested a specimen for examination but it appears that identification was not carried out)

On 28 March 1941, after the site had been surveyed, it was proclaimed a National Monument by Government Notice No. 144. Interestingly, although it is clear that the original intention of both the PVMB and the HMC was to have the site proclaimed mainly as a tribute to the pioneering nurses, the proclamation notice makes no mention whatsoever of the nurses of the memorial and refers only to the Indaba Tree.

However, only four days after publication of the proclamation notice, Bullock, who had previously been very co-operative, indicated to the Mining Commissioner that he was un-willing to abandon or forfeit the portion of the claim on which the Indaba Tree stood. It seemed that recent development work had disclosed a reef of some potential value immediately adjacent to the site and the exclusion of possibly valuable mining ground would likely prejudice an anticipated sale or tribute of the claims. Adding further fuel to the controversy, the Mining Commissioner, in putting Bullock’s case to the HMC pointed out that, in any event, the Mines Act made no provision for excising portion of a claim.

Understandably the HMC were indignant and responded that as legal proclamation had already been carried out based on Bullock’s former written consent that, in terms of their Act, action would be taken against anyone interfering with the prescribed area. The Secretary of the HMC wrote: “The Penhalonga people would cut a sorry figure if, after they have fenced it (the site) off and erected their memorial, someone comes along and digs it all up or, at the least, erects a notice in the middle of it”. The position was described as a “state of deadlock” by the PVMB but the matter was apparently not pursued and remained unresolved as there is no further mention made of it. Only in 1969, when the original proclamation was amended, was it discovered that the Memorial was actually situated on State Land!

On 14 July, 1941, exactly 50 years after their arrival at the site, the Memorial erected by the PVMB to honour Bishop Knight Bruce’s nursing sisters was dedicated at an official ceremony and handed over by Deed of Gift to the Hon. Lionel Cripps, representing the HMC.

Planting of the terraces with shrubs and flowers was undertaken in 1944 by the Chairman of the PVMB, Dr. W. Alexander. It was reported that the fig tree was dying back, possibly due to the severing of its main roots during excavation for the Memorial, but after pruning it was apparently growing as vigorously as ever. Cattle and goats were destroying the garden, however, as the area could not be fenced due to a war-time shortage of barbed wire. (An earlier suggestion by Bullock that the most appropriate method of

enclosing the area would be to reconstruct the rough stone circle which marked the original indaba site had not been pursued)

In 1948 Dr Alexander suggested that a Sundial memorial to the pre-Pioneers, i.e., those white men who were already in the Penhalonga Valley prior to the entry of the Pioneer Column in 1890., should be erected. This was agreed by the HMC and the Sundial was later unveiled by the Prime Minister, Sir Godfrey Huggins, on 15 July, 1950, the day on which Penhalonga celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of the Colony. In the same year enquiries were made to the HMC as to whether they would be prepared to proclaim the pre-Pioneer Memorial as a National Monument, but this was not carried out.

The next addition to the site was in 1953, the centenary of Rhodes's birth, when a Memorial Gate was erected symbolizing Rhode's first entry, at Penhalonga, into the country which subsequently commemorated his name. Rhodes actually visited the nurses at their newly opened hospital huts and presented them with a donation for the hospital's funds.

In 1955 the HMC's inspector reported that "the tree no longer exists having been destroyed by the fire some years ago by (an African) smoking out bees. Another tree of the same species stands closeby and a sapling has been planted on the same spot". In 1957 he reported: "New tree growing well". (Other published accounts of the fate of the tree claim that it was "struck by lightning" (Bolze, in Blennerhassett & Sleeman, 1969 reprint) and "lost in a veld fire" (Cooke, 1972). At least all are consistent in attributing its final demise to a conflagration! Today two magnificent fig trees within several metres of each other dominate the Monument, the one on the site of the original Indaba Tree having been propagated from the other, itself probably an offshoot of the original. Thus lineage is maintained!

The Memorial gardens were cared for by Dr Alexander personally (and his wife) until 1955 and then, with the assistance of a small annual grant from the HMC, by the PVMB until the early 1960's. Thereafter it is apparent that the site fell into neglect, prompting His Excellency the Governor, Sir Humphrey Gibbs, after a visit in 1965 to suggest that the SR Nurses Association should undertake the upkeep. However they were unable to do so due to financial and logistic difficulties and the responsibility for maintaining the Monument was assumed in 1966 by Lady Wilson, wife of the then Chairman of the Penhalonga Local Board, Sir Ian Wilson, on behalf of the HMC. In the same year two further memorials were added to the site, a stone table and a bird bath dedicated respectively to Dr Alexander and E.W. Mills (also a former Chairman of the PVMB).

A brief year had but passed when the Monument was the centre of yet another controversy, for in 1967 Dr Bryce Niblock drew the HMC's attention to the fact that the inscription on the Nurse's Memorial was erroneous. To quote from his letter:

"The book of Rose Blennerhassett and Lucy Sleeman ... shows that there was no Camp Hospital ... till the BSA Company agreed to build one. When this was built, it was of wattle and daub and consisted at first of one hut, which was not yet ready for occupation when their first patient arrived on the 26th September, 1891.

"Mother Patrick of the Dominican Order and her Sisters, who came in the wake of the Pioneer Column, arrived in Rhodesia at Tuli where there was already a Camp Hospital and nursed there from the 25th March till 5th June

1891 when they left for Salisbury. They began nursing in the Hospital at Salisbury 1st August 1891.

“The book of Sister Blennerhassett and Sleeman and the diaries of Mother Patrick and the Archives in Salisbury prove that Mother Patrick and her Sisters were nursing in what became the Colony of Southern Rhodesia at Tuli six months before and at Salisbury two months before Sister Blennerhassett and her Sisters commenced nursing in the Colony.”

(In fact it would appear that the inscription on the Nurses’ Memorial is incorrect in another respect, i.e., that the Sisters commenced their nursing activities at a Camp Hospital on the site of the Memorial within a day of their arrival on 14 July, 1891. Firstly it is clear from Blennerhassett and Sleeman’s book that the first hospital huts, where their first patient was received on 26 September, 1891, were erected at the Police Camp on Fort Hill approximately 1 km distant from Sabi Ophir Hill. Secondly, at the risk of being pedantic, there is nothing in their book to suggest that any medical treatment was administered by the Sisters at the Indaba Tree site. Although Sister Blennerhassett was herself stricken with fever at the time, only the doctor who accompanied the nurses to Fort Umtali is recorded as having himself received “feeding up and rest” in the care of the nurses, early after their arrival.)

At the time of Dr Bryce Niblock’s revelation, the HMC made no attempt to correct the error as the Nurses’ Memorial was not proclaimed and they believed that legally it did not fall under their control — a rather curious interpretation as it had been gifted to the HMC at the time of its dedication! Eventually, however, the original proclamation was amended 1969 to include the memorials and land-scaped garden (RGN 998, 1969). Still the inscription on the Memorial was not altered but the correct facts are indicated in the official Monuments guide book (Cooke, 1972) — a position which persists to the present.

Finally in 1975 an earlier mystery was clarified when the reputedly exotic Indaba Tree (or more correctly its successor) was identified by the National Herbarium as *Fiscus vogelii*, the Giant-leafed Fig, a species indigenous to Zimbabwe!

## The Future

Today the Indaba Tree and the Nurses’ Memorial are maintained in excellent order by the Mutare Rural Council, successors to the PVMB. It has retained its status as a National Monument although it is likely to be reclassified in the not too distant future as a Proclaimed Memorial in terms of a proposed reclassification of National Monuments countrywide. But aside from being a fitting memorial to the people and events associated historically with the site, perhaps it will also be seen as a tribute to those persons who, with foresight and determination and often at their own expense, persisted in their altruistic efforts to develop the site and gain for it official recognition, thus preserving for future generations a small but unique facet of Zimbabwean history.

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The Monomotapa represented as an Emperor in a French print

Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe



LE GRAND ROY

MONO-MOTAPAI

*[Faint, illegible text in French, likely a title or description of the emperor, possibly mentioning 'Le Grand Roy' and 'Monomotapa']*

Map of Southern Africa by Nicholas Sanson 1656. Shows the Monomotapa's empire stretching over the whole of south-central Africa

Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe



# Two early Portuguese in the Mutapa State

by R.G.S. Douglas

being a talk given in Centenary district, on 3 August 1986

We are now in the heartland of what was known at one time as the Empire of Monomatapa. In Europe towards the end of the mediaeval era this empire was believed, on the basis of Arabic sources of information transmitted through Venice, to be rich in gold and silver. It must be, they thought, the Eldorado of the Ancients, the Ophir from whence derived the Queen of Sheba's wealth; it was also confused with the land of the mysterious Christian king called Prester John. In the newly expanding western world of the 15th century these rumours worked with magnetic force. They were particularly attractive to the ears of the Portuguese — energetic seafarers and ardent for their faith, but poor. By 1507, within only a few years of their amazing expansion across the globe, they had established bases at Sofala and on Mozambique Island, not primarily as stepping stone to the interior but to safeguard the trade-routes to India and the fabulous East.

Since these attitudes to Zimbabwe showed, at least to begin with, a confusion between illusion and reality, what was the truth? Well, the only real lasting eldorado the Portuguese found was in Brazil, the mysterious Christian civilisation turned out to be in Ethiopia, and even Rhodes's settlers of the 1890s soon realised that Mashonaland was not quite the great northern extension of the Rand of which dreams are made. Yet the myths persisted and in combination with the actuality of the African world produced a historical background which is that much the richer.

The earliest western exploration of this terra incognita was made in response to the first written description of any substance. This was a report — at second hand since based on hearsay — by Diogo de Alcáçova in 1506: '... the kingdom whence the gold comes to Sofala is called Ucalanga', he wrote, 'it is a very great kingdom in which there are many large towns... and the king is called Quesaryngo Menomatapam.' Generalised stuff, but sufficiently intriguing to make the Portuguese authorities at the coastal stations want to know more, and a mission of exploration was entrusted to one António Fernandes. The man they sent inland to penetrate the secrets of the gold routes and sources, as well as to investigate food supplies, was a *degredado*, a banished criminal, and a ship's carpenter by trade. His *jornada* (journeys) were undertaken on at least three occasions between 1511 and 1514, and although several people from Hugh Tracey to R.W. Dickinson have attempted to reconstruct the routes taken by him it is extremely difficult to identify with certainty the places to which he refers. Unfortunately Gaspex Veloso, who transcribed what Fernandes had to tell, confined himself to unhelpful statements like 'The king of Monomatapa is five days from the king of Mazofe (Mazowe)' and one isn't always sure that the place-names and persons listed are ordered sequentially. Tracy got into trouble by computing Fernandes' progress on the basis of an uninterrupted 15 miles a day, which is not realistic, and some of his identifications were unacceptable to Dickinson.

However, imagine Fernandes, the first white man to penetrate this area, setting out with a string of porters carrying gifts, mostly, including muzzle-loaders, rather than provisions. 'Furunanda', as he became known to the Shona, made quite an impression apparently, and like Selous was still remembered years afterwards. The first of his journeys seems to have been across or by the Eastern Highlands to the gold areas of Shamva and lower Mazowe. Beyond was the great king, Chikuyo Chisamarengo, whom Fernandes visited at his headquarters, 'a fortress of stone without mortar which he is now building, called Camanhaya,' in a district called 'Embire'. This, says Dickinson, is 'generally agreed to lie in the area of Mount Darwin.' Mount Darwin, incidentally, is known to the Shona as Fura; Fura has been claimed as the biblical Ophir. Dickinson goes on to say that positive identification is complicated by the fact that the capital moved about from place to place. There is a Mbire area in the arid Dande lowlands directly to the north, beyond the Mvuradona Hills and between the Angwa and Musengezi Rivers and bounded by the Zambezi, where a *zimbabwe* site is still visible at Kasekete by the Kadzi River on the border with Mozambique. Another *zimbabwe* site is well to the south at Bedza on the Musengezi/Utete confluence over the escarpment; not particularly close unless Mbire was once a more widely-encompassing area than it is today. The pioneer Shona historian Donald Abraham certainly believed this area to be the Mbire visited by Fernandes, but his conclusions do not have very wide currency today. Bedza is more than probably where Silveira met his death.

Now, one might expect a more substantial capital here in the fertile highlands and closer to the gold sources of the upper Mazowe and it so happens that there is another Mbire (called Mbire II by Beach) much nearer the general area of Fura (Mount Darwin), specifically on the upper Ruia River. This is where the Zvongombe complex still exists, an extensive lichen-covered *zimbabwe* in a splendid valley site on Mr Philip de la Farge's farm 9 km north west of Centenary village. It might seem plausible, in the absence of other important structures in the vicinity, to identify Zvongombe with the uncompleted fortress at 'Embire' visited by António Fernandes nearly five centuries ago. The chronological possibility, however, would need to be confirmed by archaeological investigation (extensive digging has not yet been done, as far as I am aware), just as the place-name 'Camhaya' as given by the chronicler Veloso needs further scrutiny. Another historian, Eric Axelson, thinking possibly of Chitako or Chiwawa, where there are ruins, placed it in Sipolilo, now Guruve, district. Abraham, however, identifies 'Camanhaya' with Samanyai Hill which he locates atop the escarpment near the Musengezi. This could be somewhere overlooking Mzarabani aerodrome — presumably, because the name does not appear on the Surveyor General's large-scale map of the area and other references have not been forthcoming.

For his services as emissary cum spy Fernandes earned a remission of his time as a convict. More significantly, the information he carried back helped to influence official Portuguese policy which became more directly concerned with controlling the gold trade from source to destination. The trade, which was being channelled to Kilwa and the East Coast, was largely in the hands of islamized Swahili entrepreneurs (*mouros*), and in smashing the islamic influence the Portuguese would be striking a blow not only for the Royal Exchequer but for the Holy Faith.

Before turning to the Jesuit mission to northern Mashonaland of Gonçalo da Silveira, a word about the Shona interior, now becoming a little less unfamiliar to the white men on

the coast. The Mutapa state was less an empire than a confederacy of Karanga chieftainships on the Zimbabwean plateau and the Zambezi lowlands. It is misleading to use terminology borrowed from archaic Portuguese usage since the term 'empire' makes no distinction between the central authority and the many outlying tributaries. Direct control was sometimes effective though satellite tribal groups were often at war with the Mutapa authority and could be largely independent of it, bar nominal tribute. It is this that makes it so difficult to demarcate the extent of this Shona confederation that in the loosest terms stretched from central Mozambique through much of modern Zimbabwe to the lower Zambezi. The Mutapa nucleus itself encompassed the much smaller area from about the Tsatse River on the south to the Mazowe-Ruenya on the east to the Zambezi and up the Zambezi to the Manyame on the west, centering on the modern districts of Makone, Mvurwi, Centenary and Darwin.

Nor do the terms 'court' or 'capital' mean much: as has been mentioned, there were several headquarter areas, some with *zimbabwe*-type stone structures, that were used in rotation, seasonally or for political or other reasons such as to relieve over-used soils. When the Portuguese referred to the Mutapa's court or *simbãoe* it is consequently not always possible to know exactly which one was meant: there were Bedza and the Kadzi site in the flatlands; Nhunguza on the Mazowe, built it is thought in the mid-15th century; Chisvingo; Chitako in Guruve district; and there are others. The stone building tradition, as shown in the loop-holed wall defences on kopjes in former Mutapa areas, lasted up to the end of the last century. Outside the granite regions greater use was made of wooden stockades around hut conglomerations.

The nominal head of this state was a dynastic leader of northern people of the Zimbabwe culture whose independence had developed with the decline of the state system at Great Zimbabwe, which had re-established itself at Khami by the time the Portuguese began to go inland. It was not only Portuguese intervention in the internal politics of the Mutapa state, from about 1607, that hastened its decline. The seeds of decay were within itself in so far as the rulers were drawn at different times from two houses of the dynastic line, the Chikuyo and the Karembere; competition led to civil war, abetted by the Portuguese policy of supporting one or other of the claimants for their own benefit. The Mutapa chief, or *Mambo*, was not the gorgeously-attired personage like an eastern potentate as depicted in a well-known engraving of c 1650. Yet it is some interest to note, in connection with the early effect of Europe on Africa, that as a token of vassalage or feudal dependence on Portugal Philip IV had despatched, about 1630, a european-style crown and throne to the Mutapa Mavura whose security had been assured at the expense of Portuguese military support.

After Fernandes, the *vazungu* directed efforts at securing the Zambezi river route to the interior, as far as Cabora Bassa. Tete was established by the 1540s and it was via this new settlement that the singular figure of Dom Gonçalo da Silveira of the Society of Jesus entered what is now Zimbabwe at the beginning of the rainy season in the year 1560.

Silveira was a Portuguese *fidalgo* (nobleman) by origin, a priest by vocation and a martyr by destiny. A child of the Catholic counter-reformation burning with the zeal of a first-generation follower of St Ignatius Loyola, his way to high sanctity had been through ascetic extremism. As recounted by his first biographer Godigno, Silveira's behaviour during his noviciate at Coimbra was eccentric and violent, of the sort that would be considered highly embarrassing today: shaving his eyebrows, feigning madness in order to



**The Martyrdom of Silveira from a print by Cornelius Hazart 1668**

*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*

bring on himself the contempt he believed was deserved, living in verminous squalor to mortify the flesh. It may have stood him in good stead against the rigours of African travel, but at the time of his death — wearing a nail-studded shirt — he was white haired, only thirty-four years old. But he was evidently highly capable and an outstanding personality.

After three years spent as Provincial of his order in India he arrived in Mozambique and embarked immediately on a mission inland where he made about 400 nominal converts and must have learned something of indigenous ways. His dream was to achieve the conversion of all southern and central Africa by means of the conversion of the most powerful local figure available. The Monomatapa myth was still potent.

Silveira's route from Tete could have been one of several. It was probably up the Ruenya and Mazowe Rivers to the *feiras*, Portuguese trading stations, at Luanze and Bokuto in the Pfungwe region of north Mutoko. He could not swim and we are told that he and his Mass equipment were pushed across the Mazowe in a large earthenware pot. From the *feira* at Masapa, near Mount Darwin, he may have passed with his guides and porters down the valley of the Musengezi to the town at Chitako near Gota Hill, which he reached on Christmas Eve, 1560. ('Chatacuy' as recorded by Fróes and Godigno; 'Quiticuy' as spelt by the great Portuguese historian João de Barros; Harald von Sicard identified this place with Kasekete). The following day, in the company of a trader by the name of António Caiado (from whom came information on the few remaining months of Silveira's life), he celebrated the first Christmas Mass recorded in Zimbabwe.

It was at Bedza, probably, the temporary headquarters of the Mutapa Negomo Chisamhuru Mapunzagutu beyond that wide declivity between the ends of the Great Dyke and the Mvuradona Hills, about 20 miles due north of our position, that the Mutapa heaped lavish gifts on the stranger — cattle, gold, slaves. Chisamhuru, who was a grandson of the Mutapa who had received Fernandes, had been told in advance of Gonçalo's virtue, nobility and importance, and in return hoped for military support against one of those perennial rivals for the leadership. It must have been perplexing as well as annoying to have the gifts returned politely. To the missionary it must have been disappointing to find that cultural level of this relatively inextensive and precarious chiefdom seemed to be about that of the peasants of his native land. Silveira thought that the conversion of the Shona would be made easier by the monotheistic beliefs that Christian and African held in common. But while Jesuit enterprise elsewhere, in Japan for instance, made headway by concentrating on social and political dissidents, here it was the integrated strength of social and religious organisation that made real as opposed to token conversion virtually impossible. Livingstone found this, so did Moffat.

And so, curious about the strange *mufundisi* who wanted nothing more than to sprinkle water on heads, about his picture of a lovely woman with a halo, still in hope of material aid, and according to the African custom of polite acquiescence, the Mutapa accepted baptism under the name Sebastião. Some 300 important persons followed the example. The story, however, was moving to a swift and tragic close. In the normal course it is probable, as Fr W.F. Rea says, that Chisamhuru would have 'tired of the novelty of Christian teaching, would have become disgruntled when he realised that its profession had not won him any armed support, and would have found its moral standards increasingly irksome and so would have abandoned Gonçalo and perhaps allowed him to die of exposure and starvation'. It was the presence of islamized traders, *mouros*, that precipitated the climax. Alarmed at the Christian priest's success and fearing Portuguese influence for commercial reasons, they worked on the young king. Silveira, they said, had

come as a spy to prepare for the Portuguese invasion of his kingdom, and he was denounced as *muroyi*, a wizard, the most serious of accusations. In conclave Chisamhuru acquiesced in the decision to kill him. Gonçalo was aware of the plan but did not flinch: 'I know that the chief will kill me but I am delighted to receive so happy an end from the hand of God.'

In the early hours of Sunday 16th March (the Feast of St Susanna), asleep after praying, he was strangled. His body was cast into a pool on the west bank of the Musengezi somewhere to the south of its junction with the Utete River.

The Portuguese made of Silveira's death what the British made of General Gordon's at Khartoum — pretext for an inland expedition. An armada described as the most brilliant ever to set sail from Lisbon — trumpets shrilling, pennons fluttering — arrived in Mozambique in 1570, but Francisco Barreto's great expedition never reached Mashonaland. While the details of its disastrous tsetse-ridden course belong elsewhere, it was prelude to interventions that were to have far-reaching effects on this region and indeed on the sub-continent as a whole.

# The 1898 Criminal Sessions

by R.H. Wood

Recently discovered in a storeroom at the High Court, Harare, was the Judge's record of the criminal trials heard in Harare in 1898. The trial Judge was Mr Justice John Philip Fairbairn Watermeyer who was appointed to the Bench as second Judge to Mr Justice Vintcent. Prior to this he had been a barrister in Cape Town with a fairly busy practice and a good reputation as a lawyer. If he had not been a bachelor it is unlikely that he would have accepted the appointment and exchanged the gracious living of Cape Town for the rough hurly burly life of a frontier town at war.

He arrived here when the Chimurenga (Shona for fighting in which everyone joins, hence may be interpreted as uprising, revolution, war — Editor) was at its height and after the revolt had been quelled it was his duty to preside over the 1898 Criminal Sessions. In his notebook he kept meticulous notes which are well preserved by the quality of the paper and the book's leather binding. The book has now been accepted by the National Archives of Zimbabwe and no doubt it will be treasured as a source book for the history of the Chimurenga.

The trials recorded in the book include those of many of the important resistance leaders such as Nehanda and Kagubi. In addition trials not relating to the rebellion are also recorded. This article is limited to a commentary on a few of the trials but also contains a list of all the trials recorded in the book.

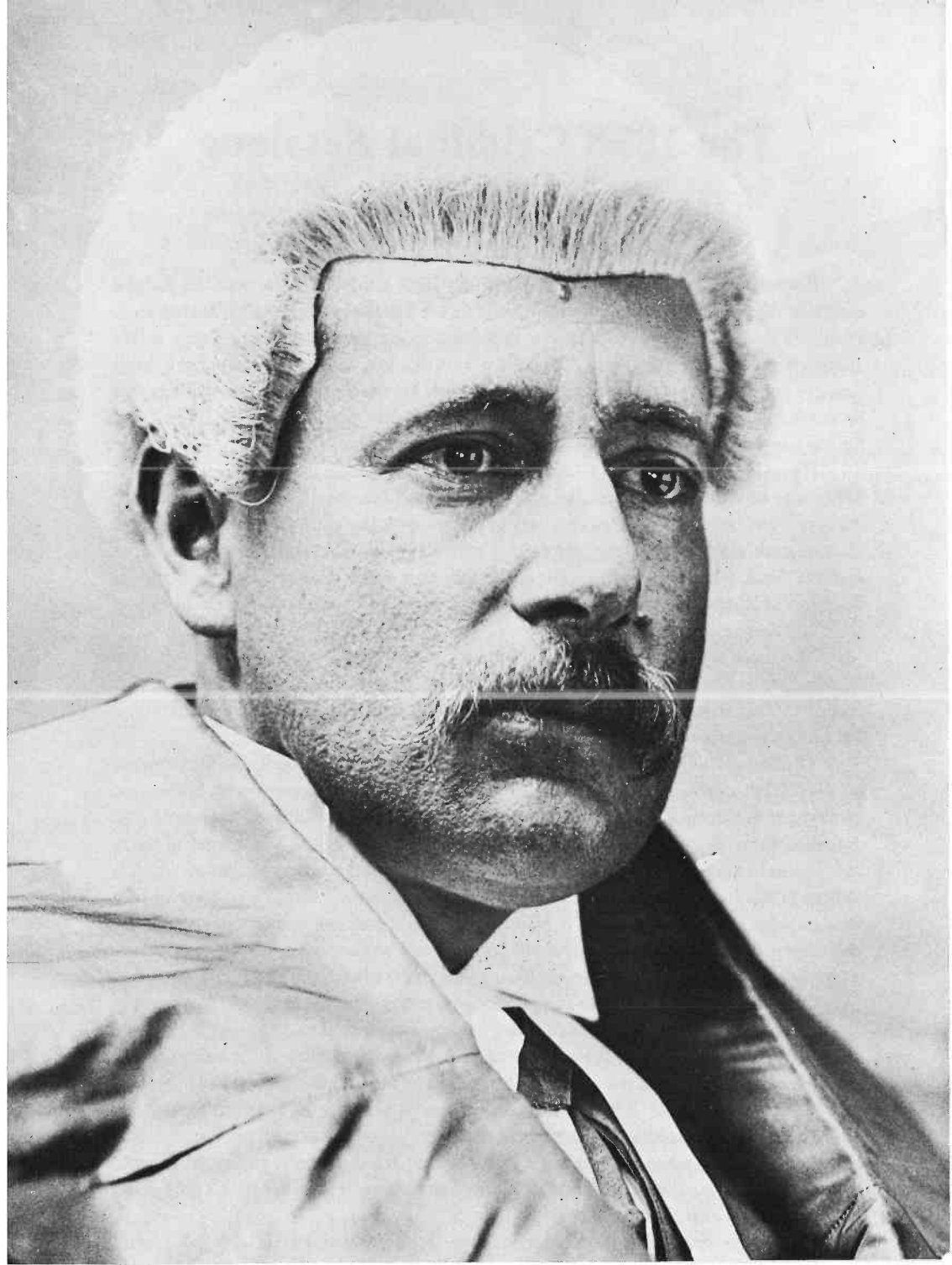
The first is the Queen versus John Callaghan which was heard by Judge Watermeyer on the 21 February, 1898. The Public Prosecutor was H.H. Castens who prosecuted throughout the Session and the Defence Council was Murphy (initial's unknown) who defended most of the prisoners tried in 1898. Castens leaves the impression of being industrious but long winded. Among pages of the book there is a scrap of paper on which is written in the Judge's clear hand "this is the witness whom Mr Castens said would take four minutes". The four minutes is heavily underlined and one can imagine the Judge impatiently passing this note to the Assessors on a hot afternoon while the worthy Castens painstakingly led the witness through his evidence perhaps for the third time.

Callaghan was charged with raping Mongoyi a very young African girl at Mrewa in December 1897. The district surgeon giving evidence at the trial said "the girl is certainly under 9 years of age — I am giving a wide margin. Personally I think she is much under 9 but I am certain that she is not over 9. She has certainly not attained the age of puberty".

Callaghan's defence evidence is recorded thus — "I know the little girl Mongoyi. I admitted having connection with her. I did not force her — it was with her consent. She asked me for money when I first met her. I considered her a sufficiently grown girl; she told me that all the boys in her Kraal had had connection with her. I gave her 10/-, a gold piece. She understood everything and said she liked it".

The injuries seen by the district surgeon were certainly inconsistent with Callaghan's evidence, but surprisingly the little girl did volunteer in her evidence that before the event she had been offered £2 by the accused who afterwards told her that he was not going to waste his money. The Judge found Callaghan guilty and sentenced him to 9 years' imprisonment with labour.





**John Philip Fairbairn Watermeyer**  
**Judge of the High Court of Southern Rhodesia 1898–1914**

*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*

The next day the Judge heard the trial of the Norton murders and this case is the first of the numerous rebellion murder trials recorded in the book. Judge Watermeyer sat with four Assessors Messrs R. Grey, Watson, Stevens and Chillingworth (presumably R. Grey is Sir Raleigh Grey, himself not long out of an English gaol for his part in the Jameson Raid, and subsequently the Lord of the Manor at Ranch House). The three accused were cited as N'dowa, Tshikerima and Marembo. The Judge's spelling of Shona names is suspect throughout the book and Tshikerima is probably Chikerema a name that features prominently in the Second Chimurenga.

Joseph Norton was a wealthy Englishman who had settled on the banks of the Hunyani River and had built a house close to Hunyani Poort. He obviously intended to farm seriously and had the money to do so. Not only did he have a white nursemaid for his baby child but he also employed three white farm assistants. On the 16 June, 1896, his farm labourers did not report for work and he left his homestead early the next morning to look for them. He was killed near Nyamwenda's village and later in the morning a group of rebels attacked the homestead.

The first persons killed were Mrs Norton and one of the three assistants, Harry Gravenor. They were struck down just outside the house. Then Miss Fairweather the child's nurse who is called "the little missus" throughout the trial rushed out of the house firing a revolver and scattered the attackers who ran away. The evidence of one of the witnesses is recorded as follows:-

"While we were hiding N'dowa came and said 'Why are you frightened?' He led us back. We all went back to the homestead. N'dowa was in front. He went up and fired through the window. I heard something fall. N'dowa said 'Tutu, I have killed'. N'dowa dragged out the little missus. After we had taken the bodies out we heard a child cry. When I refused to go Chiwauro ordered Marembo to go in and kill the child. He went in — we heard a blow — the crying stopped."

When asked why the killings had taken place one of the witnesses replied "The order came from Kagubi to murder all the white men. We were to kill all the white men. This was because Kagubi said the white men sent their police to thrash the Mashonas with sjamboks".

The Judge's notes on Counsels' addresses are interesting. He records with some feeling that Castens discussed the evidence at length. He sets out the basis of Murphy's argument as follows:-

"The killings had taken place after war had broken out. No act of war done during a war is a crime unless it is a crime according to the law of the country of the doer. Whether the killings in these cases is murder must be decided according to the laws of native custom".

Murphy's argument was to no avail. The accused were found guilty and sentenced to death.

The next case of some interest is the trial of Gonye and Rusere for the murder of Moony who was the Native Commissioner at Mashayamombes which was perhaps the birthplace of the Rising. He was killed on the 15 June, 1896. A Crown witness described his death thus —

"Moony was cantering along the road with some of his Native Police. A man not in custody fired the first shot. I believe that hit the horse. The Police all scattered and left Moony. Moony continued along the road for a short distance. He then left the road and cut

through some lands. I then saw him tie his horse up. When I got to the horse I saw it had four bullet wounds. I then saw Moony on foot climbing up the kopje. The impi came up and surrounded the kopje. When I got there I heard Moony say "I am here". He then fired one shot which missed. He fired again and hit Chiweshe on the shoulder. Chiweshe left. I saw both prisoners shoot. I saw the white man fall. The impi then climbed the kopje. I got up. I saw Moony lying face downwards. Rusere's father turned him over. I saw a bullet wound on the forehead between the two eyes."

On Saturday 26 February, 1898, Mr Castens applied for an adjournment and led evidence from Sub-inspector John De Gray Birch who told the Court that an outbreak had occurred at the gaol the previous night when 47 prisoners escaped, mainly prisoners awaiting trial at this Session. The Judge adjourned Court until the next Monday.

On the second of March 1898 Kagubi along with M'bobo, Merimo and Makatsini were brought to trial before the Judge and the Assessors Asia, Wyllie, van Praagh and Eustace. The trial commenced with the amendment of the indictment, which was for the murder of an African Policeman called Charlie, by the addition of the words "Alias Gumbarishumba" after the word Kagubi. Why the State felt this was necessary I know not, but Mr Castens or the Judge in recording the Alias erred, the correct spelling being Gumboreshumba, meaning leg of a lion, this being the name of the founder of the Roswi Dynasty in the seventeenth century, the historical Kagubi being his successor. Charlie was a Policeman employed by Mr Taberer. He had been taken to Kagubi's village which was near Mashayamombes and brought before Kagubi. A witness recalls the event as follows:

"They killed him because he was a Policeman. Kagubi ordered them to do it. I heard Kagubi give the order. I heard it with my ears. Kagubi's words were "Take Charlie and kill him. He is a bafu". The word bafu is interpreted as one who is not on our side. They caught Charlie and tied him up and took him away. They took Charlie towards the river. I then heard the reports of guns from the direction of the river. All four had guns with them when they took Charlie away. I saw smoke down near the river about a hundred yards from where I was. Immediately after the shooting the four came back. Charlie did not come back. The prisoners on their return said "We have finished him off". They said this to Kagubi. When asked whether they had anything to say before sentencing, the prisoners alleged that Mabika was responsible for the killing. They were then sentenced to death.

The next trial apparently on the same day was that of the Queen versus Nehanda (spelt by the Judge as Nianda) and Others. The Others were Wata, Gutsa and Zindoga. But Taberer told the Court that Gutsa and Zindoga had escaped from the gaol the previous Friday night and Castens announced that he would proceed with the trial against Nehanda and Wata. Murphy applied for a separation of the trials, stating that he could not defend both prisoners as the defence of the one would be at the expense of the other. The Judge ruled that the trial should continue and urged Murphy to select one of the prisoners leaving the other in the hands of the Court. Murphy was in a quandry. One of the prisoners was admitting the charge, the other denying it. To select to defend one of the prisoners would indicate to the court that he believed one and disbelieved the other. He made the ethically correct decision. He declined to select either prisoner and retired from the case. The Judge, recording that there were no other Counsel available in Salisbury, continued the case with the accused unrepresented.

The charge, that of murdering Native Commissioner Henry Hawken Pollard on about the 18 June, 1896, was put. Nehanda pleaded not guilty. Wata replied "I did it". As

it is not possible to plead guilty to a charge of murder unless insanity is pleaded, pleas of not guilty were entered for both accused.

The first Crown witness was a black Police Messenger named Pig who deposed that he had accompanied "Kunjira" the name by which Pollard was known on a hunting trip to the Mazoe Valley. On their return they were attacked at Chipadzi's but went on. Pollard sent two of his staff to buy sweet potatoes. They returned with other men who seized Pollard and took him and his messengers to Nehanda's village. Pollard was made to sit in front of Nehanda and after some conversation Nehanda shouted "Kill him some way off — don't kill him close to the Kraal". His evidence continued. "They took Pollard away. They took me away also. There were a great many people. They took us some distance. They took us down to a little stream. Wata struck Pollard on the back of the head with a battle axe. Then Zindoga finished him off with a gun".

The prisoners were asked to examine the witness. Nehanda said "I deny giving the order. I have nothing to ask the boy".

Wata said "The witness is telling the truth". Here one can see the dilemma which caused Murphy to withdraw from the case.

The next witness was Mitsakadze who confirmed what Pig had said but added the detail that prior to giving the order to kill Nehanda had asked Pollard "where her people were?" Pollard replied that it was the fault of Chipadzi. Chipadzi scattered the people. He also deposed to Wata initially being reluctant to kill Pollard but being persuaded to do so by Nehanda.

The third Crown witness Matobe echoed the evidence previously given but in answer to questions asked by the Judge had some interesting background detail. "Nehanda was the Chief of the kraal, Chitauro is her brother. Chitauro was the Chief but Nehanda has the power. Nehanda was over Chitauro. I don't know how we came to be under a woman. Nehanda is a Mondoro (it is interesting to here note that the Judge originally wrote "Nehanda is a lion" and crossed out lion and substituted Mondoro — obviously the interpreter had initially translated the evidence literally. Mondoro is one of the Shona words for lion, but in its secondary sense the word is used to describe the powerful Shona spirit — Mondoro). She gave orders, Chitauro obeyed her. All the people did what Nehanda told them. This been for a long time. I know of no other woman who rules Kraals... If people didn't do what Nehanda told them I don't know what would happen. I don't know of her punishing people. I was afraid of Nehanda. I was afraid to refuse to do anything she told me. I don't know why I was afraid. I don't know of Nehanda punishing any member of the kraal". This piece of evidence encapsulates the spiritual authority that Nehanda and the other powerful spirit mediums in Mashonaland had over the people at this time. Formal evidence from N.C. Kenny, C.N.C. Taberer, the Acting Magistrate Cecil Bayley and the District Surgeon was then given and the accused were asked to address the Court. Nehanda again denied sending Wata to kill Pollard. "If I had sent him I would own up to it. I have nothing more to say. It is not true that I gave this order to kill. It was called my Kraal but it is only a name".

Wata who had consistently said that the Crown Witnesses were telling the truth had nothing to say.

The Assessors expressed the view that Pollard was murdered. — That Nehanda gave the order. — That Wata executed the order under fear of punishment if he disobeyed. — That they wished to recommend him to mercy on the ground that he acted under fear of Nehanda.

The Judge sentenced both prisoners to death, this being at the time the only competent sentence for a murder conviction. Nehanda was hanged. Whether the executive remitted the death sentence passed on Wata I have not been able to discover.

The appendix that follows provides a complete list of all the trials recorded in the Judge's note book.

# APPENDIX

## List of Cases Recorded in Judge Watermeyer's Note Book

Date	Name of Case	Charge	Verdict	Sentence
1. 21.2.1898	Queen vs. James Callaghan	Rape	Guilty	9 years' imprisonment with hard labour.
2. 22.2.1898	Queen vs. Ndowa, Tshikerima and Marembo at Huni	Murder (of the Norton family)	Guilty	Death Sentence.
3. 22.2.1898	Queen vs. Mutuma	Murder	Guilty of assault with intent to murder.	8 years' hard labour.
4. 23.2.1898	Queen vs. Chizengeni, Mashindu and Mazwingi	(Murder of Norton's bushman driver) Murder	Guilty	Death.
5. 23.2.1898	Queen vs. Kaseke, Mashonganyika and Mazani	(of Harry Bremner at White's farm, Marandellas. Bremner was a Lieutenant in the 20th Hussars) Assault with intent to murder, charge withdrawn against Kaseke (Victim White)	Guilty	12 years' hard labour
6. 23.2.1898	Queen vs. Chisiseri	Murder (of White and a Basuto Missionary named Molela and two children)	Guilty of Murder	Death.
7. 24.2.1898	Queen vs. Gonye and Rusere	Murder of Native Commissioner Mooney	Guilty of murder	Death.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Case</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Verdict</b>	<b>Sentence</b>
8.	24.2.1898 Queen vs. Gunduza and Zidemo	Murder of Jem Steele and Frank Austin	Guilty	Death.
9.	25.2.1898 Queen vs. Zhanta	Assault with intent to murder, Tadirera (a Messenger of A.D. Campbell)	Guilty of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm	5 years' imprisonment with 30 lashes
Saturday, 26.2.1898	Prosecutor Castens applies for adjournment and leads evidence from John de Gray Birch Sub-Inspector of Police who advised that 47 prisoners had escaped from the gaol the previous night. Adjournment to Monday morning granted.			
10.	28.2.1898 Queen vs. Jones & Stokes (charge withdrawn against Stokes)	Theft of cheques	Guilty	9 months' imprisonment.
11.	2.3.1898 Queen vs. Kagubi alias Gumboreshumba, Mboho Merimo and Makatsini	Murder of African Policeman Charlie	Guilty	Death.
12.	2.3.1898 Queen vs. Nianda Gutsa Zindoga and Wata (Gutsa and Zindoga escaped from Prison)	Murder of Pollard	Guilty	Death.
13.	3.3.1898 Queen vs. Mashonganyika and N'Zampi	Murder of George Campbell	Guilty	Death.
14.	3.3.1898 Queen vs. Mvenura	Murder of John Dixon Briscoe	Guilty	Death.
15.	8.3.1898 Queen vs. Manungwa	Murder of Thurgood	Guilty	Death.
16.	8.3.1898 Queen vs. Katshowa	Murder of Native Commissioner Mynhaardt and two others	Guilty	Death.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Case</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Verdict</b>	<b>Sentence</b>
17.	8.3.1898	Queen vs. Gamanya	Murder of Miner William Birkett	Guilty Death.
18.	20.5.1898	Queen vs. Kanjando	Murder of Trader Colcutt	Guilty Death.
19.	20.5.1898	Queen vs. Chidaw and Zumuya	Murder of A.D. Campbell's Messengers Jack and Shilling	Chidaw guilty Zumuya not guilty Death. Not applicable.
20.	21.5.1898	Queen vs. Mziningani and Mshenga	Murder of Cape Coloureds Willem and Hendrick	Guilty Death.
21.	21.8.1898	Queen vs. Marongadza, Magonzo Dekero and Mgati	Murder of Native Commissioner Henry Herman Ruping	Guilty Death.
22.	Queen vs. James Lewis	Forgery	Guilty	2 years' hard labour.
23.	23.5.1898	Queen vs. Zhanta and Gonto (Gondo?)	Attempted murder of A.D. Campbell	Guilty 8 years' hard labour.
24.	25.5.1898	Queen vs. Crombie	Storebreaking and Theft	Not guilty
25.	26.5.1898	Queen vs. Chiquaqua, Rusere and Wampi	Murder of Horace Low, Dickenson and Tucker	Chiquaqua not guilty. Rusere and Wampi guilty.
26.	26.5.1898	Queen vs. Maganyo	Murder of Saunders	Guilty Death.
27.	27.5.1898	Queen vs. Mangogo	Murder of Native Commissioner Mynhaardt.	Guilty Not stated.
28.	20.8.1898	Queen vs. William Hughes	Indecent Assault on black boy ± 8.	Guilty 12 months' hard labour.
29.	25.8.1898	Queen vs. Gutu	Murder of Jack and Shilling	Guilty Death.
30.	25.8.1898	Queen vs. Chiso	Murder of Chigasa's child	Not guilty Not applicable.



<b>Date</b>	<b>Case</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Verdict</b>	<b>Sentence</b>
31. 25.8.1898	Queen vs. Mashamwa, Bundin and Mashonganyika	Assault with intent to murder Nicholas Basson	Guilty	10 years' hard labour.
32. 26.8.1898	Queen vs. Shambawonedza, Ndarima and Nekwende	Murder of Hepworth	Guilty	Death.
33. 26.8.1898	Queen vs. Chizanga	Murder of White man George	Guilty	Death.
34. 27.8.1898	Queen vs. Johnnie	Assault	Guilty	1 year hard labour and 15 lashes.
35. 27.8.1898	Queen vs. M'temaringa	Assault. Manstealing	Guilty	20 lashes.
36. 30.8.1898	Queen vs. Kanzanya, Sakara, Kugushe, Tsiwola	Murder of Box and Nyemanza	Guilty	Death.
37. 30.8.1898	Queen vs. Mpingashuta	Murder of unknown White man near the Umfurudzi River	Guilty	Death.
38. 30.8.1898	Queen vs. Chimudza	Murder of Segwere	Guilty of Culpable Homicide	8 years' hard labour.
39. 21.11.1898	Queen vs. Coward	Fraudulent and Culpable Insolvency	Guilty	6 months on each count.
40. 21.11.1898	Queen vs. Chizenjeri	Attempted murder of a White	Guilty	10 years' hard labour.
41. 22.11.1898	Queen vs. Barrabas	Housebreaking and Theft	Guilty	4 years' hard labour.
42. 22.11.1898	Queen vs. Samkanja	Murder of Herbert Eyre	Guilty	Death.
43. 22.11.1898	Queen vs. Malkop	Murder of White man	Not guilty	Discharged.
44. 22.11.1898	Queen vs. Chikwaba and Matowa	Murder of Nicholas Basson	Guilty	Death.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Case</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Verdict</b>	<b>Sentence</b>
45.	23.11.1898	Queen vs. Makughlu, Mambiri, Matapi	Murder of Harry Grant	Makughlu and Matapi guilty Mambiri not guilty	Death.
46.	23.11.1898	Queen vs. Matambudzi and Umzila	Murder of Robert Vavasour	Matambudzi found guilty Umzila not guilty	Death.
47.	23.11.1898	Queen vs. Tsinwada and Tshisaka	Murder of Pete a bushman	Guilty	Death.
48.	24.11.1898	Queen vs. Jim alias Chinsata	Manstealing	Guilty	2 months' hard labour.
49.	24.11.1898	Queen vs. Joseph Peterson	Theft from waggon	Guilty	18 months' hard labour.
50.		Queen vs. Jim Sarkwe	Storebreaking and Theft	Guilty	3 years' hard labour.
51.	20.2.1899	Queen vs. Thomas Perrold Catchpole	Rape	Not guilty	Not applicable.
52.	21.2.1899	Queen vs. Henry Ross	Cheque fraud	Guilty	18 months' hard labour.
52.	21.2.1899	Queen vs. Zuba and Umtwa	Assault with intent to murder	Guilty	7 years' with labour.
54.	21.2.1899	Queen vs. Katandika	Murder of mother	Guilty of assault with intent to murder	10 years' hard labour.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Case</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Verdict</b>	<b>Sentence</b>
55.	21.2.1899	Queen vs. James Crawford	Forgery and Uttering	Guilty of Uttering	15 months' hard labour.
56.	22.2.1899	Queen vs. Chaiya	Illegal possession of firearm	Guilty	Fined £10.
57.	22.2.1899	Queen vs. Longone and Tom	Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm	Guilty of Common Assault	3 months' hard labour.
58.	23.2.1899	Queen vs. Chibanda, Rini, Mota and Nyamkapa	Murder (ritual?)	Guilty	Death.
59.	23.2.1899	Queen vs. Nemagunde, Fingo and Champata	Accessories to above murder	Fingo and Nemagunde guilty	5 years and 2 years.



Robert Cherer Smith

## Robert Cherer Smith An Obituary

by C.W.H. Loades

When Robert Cherer Smith died while on holiday in Sweden in September 1985, the Society lost one of its stalwarts and Zimbabwe a public servant in the fullest sense of that term.

Robert was born in South Africa in October 1919 and moved to Rhodesia with his family at an early age. He entered the Postal Service of this country in 1935; he retired in 1973 as Deputy Postmaster General. In 1964 he represented this country in the Commonwealth Communication Conference in London.

After his retirement from Government Service he was Executive Secretary of the Agricultural Research Council for five years and from 1982 to the date of his death he served with the Agricultural Finance Corporation, achieving the post of Assistant General Manager (Financial). He was a Fellow and past President of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and a Fellow of the Cost and Management Accountants.

His interest in matters historical was reflected in his early membership of this Society. He was Deputy National Chairman for 1980-81 and National Chairman from 1981 to 1983 and was editor of our journal, *Heritage of Zimbabwe* for issues 4 and 5. Robert's interest in history was not confined to his involvement with the Society. His major publications were *Rhodesia: A Postal History*, *The House of Cherer*, *Avondale to Zimbabwe* and *The Maize Story*.

The Society offers its condolence to Robert's widow, Betty, and his three children.



**D'Urban Barry**

*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*

## **D'Urban Barry**

**by H.T.F. Went**

D'Urban Barry (1874 – 1951) was born at Swellendam in the Cape. His father was Jacob J.W. Barry, son of Joseph Barry, who emigrated to the Cape in 1817. Their ancestral home was the Buttevant Castle, County Cork, Ireland, built during the Norman times and lost to the family when the Roman Catholics were driven out.

At Swellendam, the Barry firm of bankers collapsed due to the ostrich feather slump, resulting in son D'Urban having to make his own way in life. Elder brother Captain Jack Barry came to Rhodesia with the Pioneer Corps in 1890; one year later, D'Urban trekked up, following him with four friends, to join a mining syndicate in the Mazoe Valley, Barry, Lovemore and Cripps. Cecil Rhodes and Jack Grimmer with a small party were travelling at the same time and often met D'Urban.

In 1895, he settled in the Umtali district. Three years later he imported cattle from Natal, developing a dairy and transport business, afterwards extending into auctioneering, stock sales and general agency, together with Jim English.

In 1900 he married Letitia, daughter of Doctor Fred Albertyn of Zeekoe Vlei, Bredasdorp; having a family of five sons and five daughters of whom six are still alive.

On 26th July 1900 he, with the Myburgh brothers and Mr Lloyd, founded the Umtali Club; he was also a founder member of the Umtali Municipality 1914/15, Umtali Farmers' Association, Agricultural Society, Turf and Sporting Club; he played rugby forward until he was 42, belonged to the S.R. Volunteers, became a Director of the Manica Board of Executors and served as Chairman until his death in 1951.

In 1915 he bought "Alvi" farm and renamed it "En Avant" after the family motto. It was here that he brought great benefit to the whole area by organizing and paying for the extraction of water from the Odzani furrow to his Old Umtali furrow. This was one of his major achievements.

**This biographical sketch first appeared in UMSCAN March 1982.**

# The History of the Museums in Bulawayo 1902 – 1985

by C.K. Cooke, Hon. Curator of Antiquities

## Introduction

The beginnings of the museums in Bulawayo go back as far as 1899, a short period when we consider the centuries during which the great state museums of Europe have existed. In February 1899 Bulawayo was a small settlement when a group of men met to consider the formation of a society for the investigation of both natural and human sciences with their special significance to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). This was to be known as the Rhodesian Scientific Association.

The surveyors had already laid out the town in a grid pattern, which still exists in the city centre today. There were only a few buildings mainly of wood and iron, but some important ones of brick or stone.

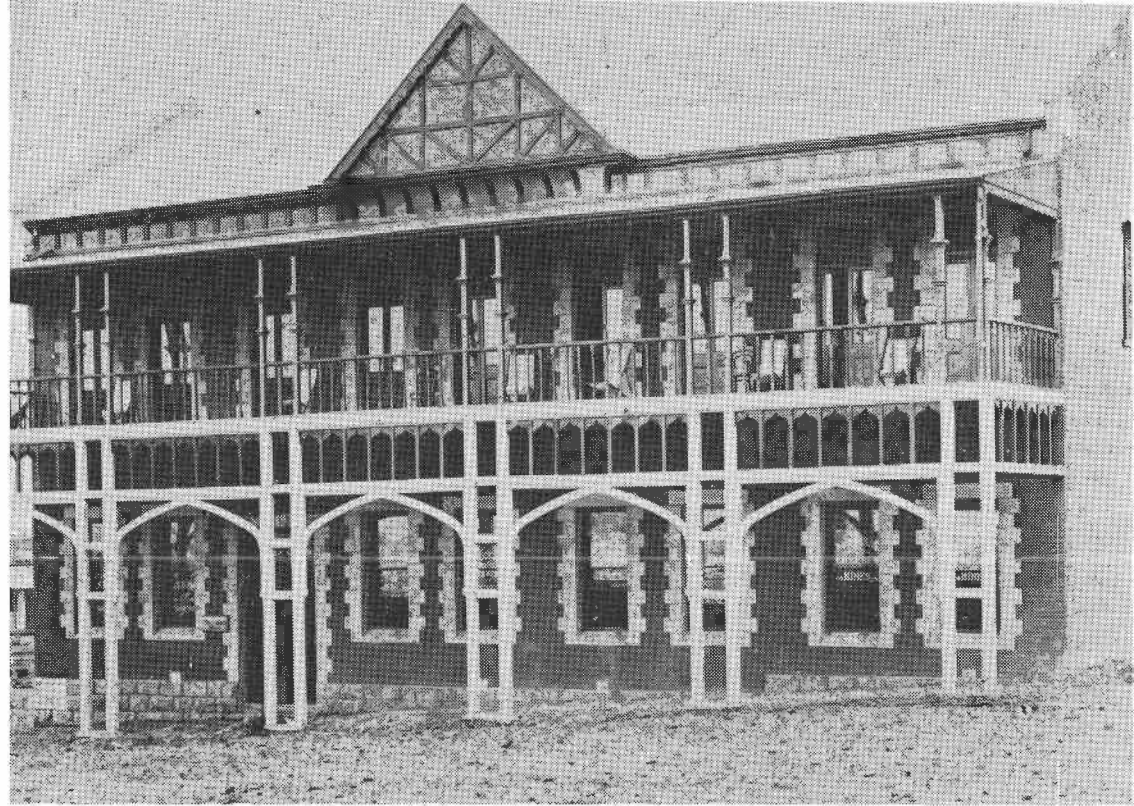
Early during 1900 the Rhodesian Scientific Association held its first Annual General Meeting at which a number of scientific artefacts were put on display in the Chamber of Mines building (so far no early photograph of this building has been located). This small collection was added to by members and by the general public, so that by the end of 1901 the accession register contained 265 entries. The objects were of varying scientific value but some of them may still be found in the collections of the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe, some in Bulawayo others in Harare, Gweru, Mutare or Great Zimbabwe.

The collections were housed in one room in the Library Buildings (see illustration) and a member of the Association acted as Honorary Curator. The safety of these items was discussed, after some had been stolen. Members felt that safety could only be achieved by the appointment of a full time Curator as soon as funds could be provided to pay his salary. The Chamber of Mines agreed to contribute two hundred and fifty pounds on condition that the Curator would be a mineralogist and geologist who would be able to help the prospector and small worker by determining minerals submitted to him. The Scientific Association put up one hundred pounds and, with help from the Bulawayo Municipality, Companies and private subscribers, more than sufficient to guarantee a Curator's salary for two years was collected. The British South Africa Company (the Government of the day) agreed to contribute a pound for every pound collected from other sources.

The financial contributions and other assistance provided by the Bulawayo City Council from the earliest days until the present has been a very important feature in the development of the Museums in the City. Without this assistance the growth from Scientific Association to the Museum in Selborne Avenue would not have been possible.

## The Beginnings

On 1st January, 1902, a separate institution to be known as the Rhodesian Museum was formed, being governed by a Committee under the Chairmanship of Ross Frames.

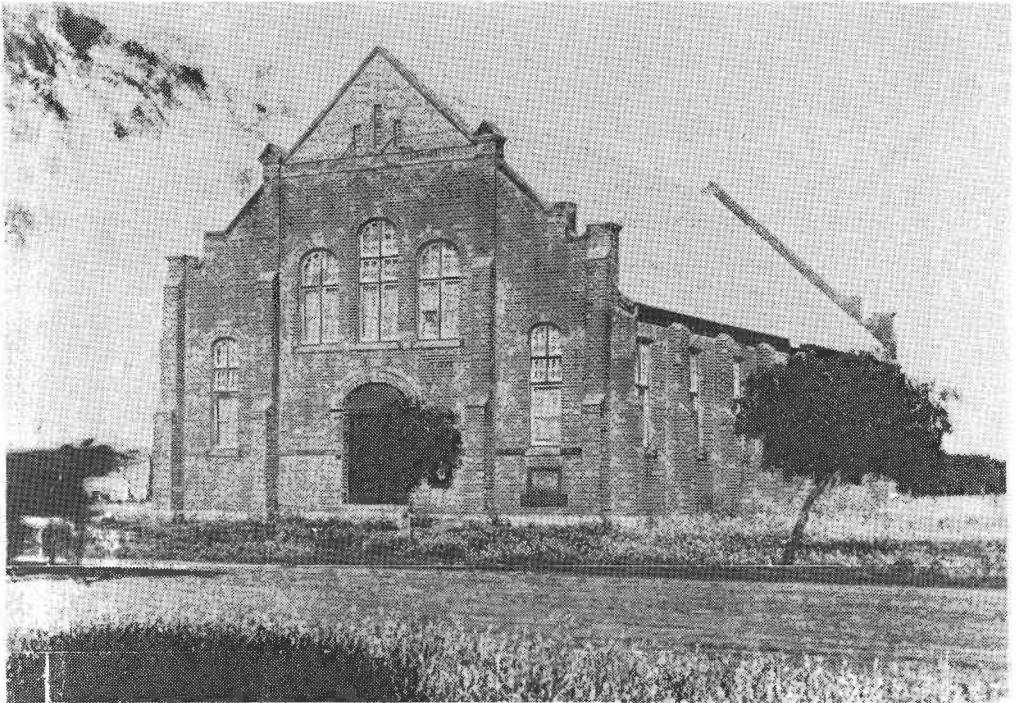


**Old Library Building about 1931. The second home  
of the Bulawayo Museum**

*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*

**The Congregational Church, Main Street, Bulawayo about 1906. The first building owned by the National  
Museums and Monuments**

*Photo: National History Museum*



F.P. Mennell, F.G.S., was appointed as Curator, taking up his appointment soon after his arrival from England in November, 1901.

Although an extra room had been rented in the Library Buildings, the ever increasing collections had become too large for the accommodation. Public criticism of the crowded conditions and dusty exhibits was almost a daily occurrence. In August 1905 the Committee acquired a building in Main Street, which had been a Congregational Church (see illustration), for the sum of one thousand four hundred pounds plus an exchange of plots in Fort Street and Main Street (which had been set aside by the Municipality for a Museum building).

The new Museum was officially opened by Professor Darwin of the British Association in September, 1905, and a special exhibit was mounted to show the relics which had been excavated by Dr Randall-McIver from ruined stone buildings in Rhodesia. Some of these relics are now on exhibition in the Site Museum at Great Zimbabwe.

Over-enthusiasm by the Committee threatened to jeopardise the position of the Curator, owing to lack of funds, but an increase in the contribution of the British South Africa Company saved the day. By 1907 the financial position was very much improved and the Committee was able to appoint E.C. Chubb, F.Z.S., as Assistant Curator, Zoologist and Taxidermist. Mennell resigned his Curatorship in 1908 and after a considerable interval A.E.V. Zealley, A.R.C.S., F.G.S., succeeded him. Owing to the contribution from the Chamber of Mines being conditional, Chubb, not being a geologist, could not be promoted to Curator.

The year 1910 was an important one in the Museum's history, for in that year it moved to a site in Fort Street (see illustration), the building is now occupied by the Department of Customs and Excise). The land was given by the British South Africa Company. The initial building was opened by H.R.H., the Duke of Connaught, on 21 August 1910. The interior was furnished with new display cases, some of which are still in use in the present Museum.

Chubb resigned in 1910, to take up an appointment in Durban, and Zealley also left, to join the newly formed Geological Survey. During the same year the Chamber of Mines, which had largely been instrumental in giving shape to the Museum, withdrew its annual grant because it considered that the Administration (The British South Africa Company) should take over responsibility for all aspects of the Museum and staff. The withdrawal of this support meant that the Curator did not have to be a geologist, so in 1911 the Committee appointed G. Arnold, M.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.E.S. (later Dr), as Curator. This was a most fortunate move, for he directed the Museum's work through some of its most difficult periods and his efforts were instrumental in establishing the fame of the Museum throughout the scientific world. A.M. McGregor, B.A., F.G.S., was appointed Geologist and Assistant Curator in 1912. He resigned to join the Geological Survey in 1914, after failing to pass the medical for military service.

Finance was difficult and for several years expenditure exceeded income. The 1914-18 War was responsible for a severe cut in the Government Grant from six hundred pounds to four hundred pounds, thus causing stringent cuts in expenditure, in spite of which it was impossible to meet demands. Dr Arnold was the only scientific officer employed for that period, carrying out all functions of the administration single handed. No funds were available for publication, maintenance or fieldwork.

By 1920 the financial restrictions had eased, so an appeal was launched for funds to





**The National Museum, Fort Street, Bulawayo, about 1930**

*Photo: National History Museum*

make additions to the building. The Rhodes Trust and private donors provided two thousand pounds. The South African War Memorial Fund, which had given money in 1905 and now stood at one thousand one hundred and seventeen pounds, was also available. Consequently in 1922 the second part of the Fort Street building was erected, providing an extra gallery and an entrance porch, which contained a list of Rhodesians who took part in the Boer War (the plaques are now housed in the Cenotaph). It is of interest to note that these additions were designed by H. Baker (later Sir Herbert) who was also responsible for St John's Cathedral, Bulawayo, and many other important buildings in southern Africa.

Although 1925 marked the beginning of a long worldwide depression, it was the first year in which the Museum's income exceeded one thousand five hundred pounds. Further additions to the Fort Street Building were completed during 1930-31 at a cost of seven thousand five hundred pounds, half of which was provided by the Government and half by the Beit Railway Trustees. The Bulawayo Municipality made a large grant towards fixtures and fittings.

By 1932 the institution had expanded very considerably, both in size and scientific importance. The first of the *Occasional Papers* was published this year. In the same year a Commission from the Museums Association of Great Britain visited Rhodesia. It reported most favourably on the Museum, recommending that the Rhodesia Museum be advanced in status to a National Museum. Four years later, after a considerable amount of correspondence, the Museum Act was promulgated and the Committee handed over the Museum to a Board of Trustees appointed by H.E., the Governor. Thus the Museum became the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia.

In 1936 final additions were made to the Fort Street Building, to house the Prehistoric and National Historical Collections. The exhibition of historical relics shown during the 40th Anniversary Celebrations in 1933 resulted in the formation of two important new bodies, namely "The Commission for the Preservation of Natural and Historical Monuments and Relics" and "The Government Archives" (now The National Archives of Zimbabwe).

### **The Later Years**

Until 1945 the Director and Keepers undertook their own clerical work, but in that year a clerical assistant was appointed. After a number of clerks had held the post for short periods, Mrs I.A. Gates was appointed in 1946. From this time onwards there were many changes in staff. Dr Arnold retired from the Directorship in September, 1947, but continued as Honorary Keeper of Entomology until his death 1962. He was succeeded as Director by Reay H.N. Smithers, B.Sc. (later Dr) Two other noteworthy appointments made at this time were G. Bond, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.G.S., as Keeper of Geology (later Prof) and R.F.H. Summers, F.R.A.I., as Keeper of Prehistory.

The Fort Street premises were occupied until 1964. During the intervening period prior to the transfer to the present Museum in Centenary Park, Dr Smithers made great and successful efforts to obtain finance for the prestigious new building. When Smithers moved to Salisbury (now Harare) as Director of Museums, he handed over control of the National Museum to Summers, who served as Director from 1960 until he retired in 1970.

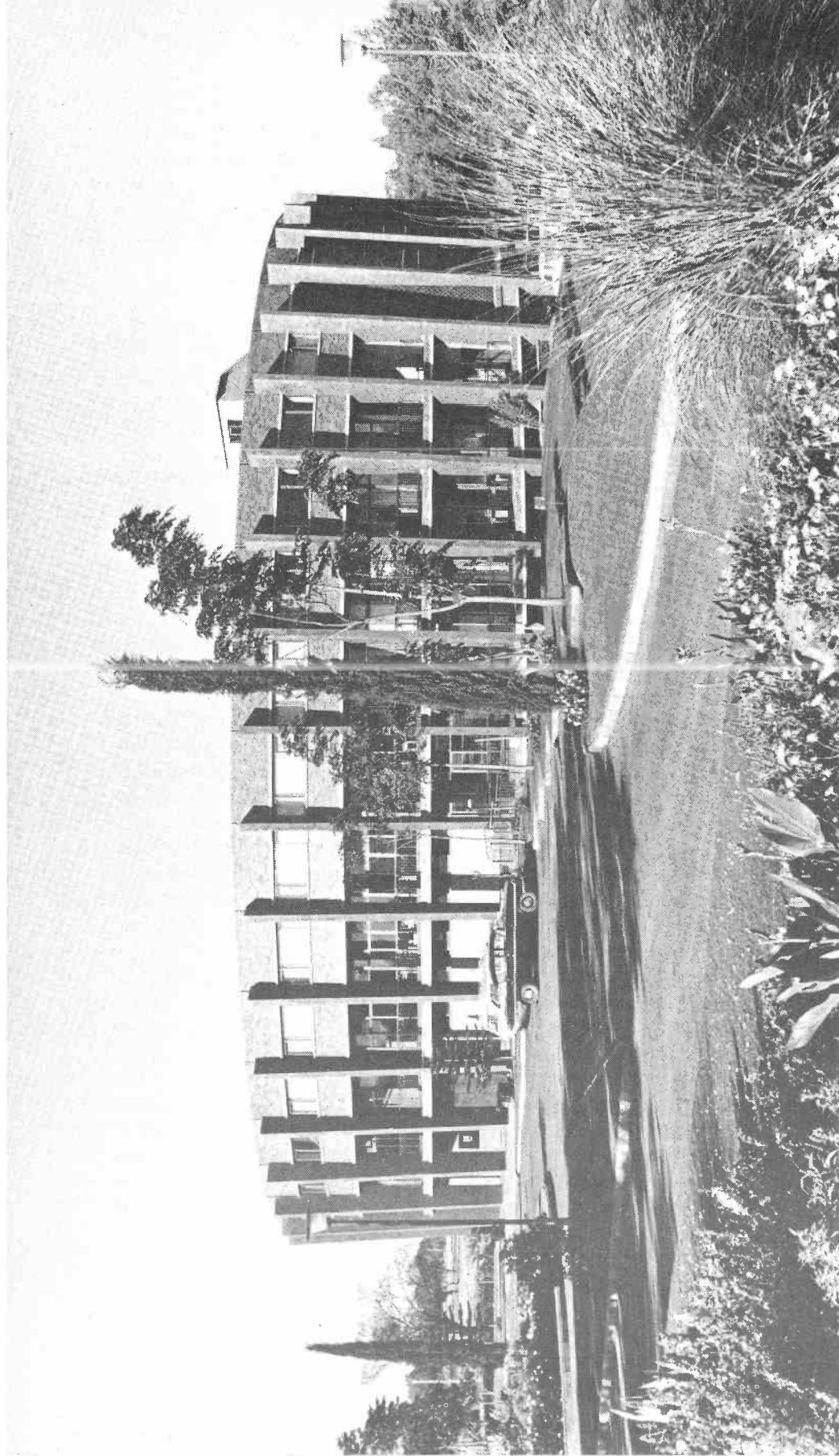
Summers was responsible for the physical move from the Fort Street premises to the present Museum. It was his drive and imagination which helped to initiate the layout of many of the galleries and the displays therein. His long service and organising abilities need very special mention.

The new Museum (see illustration) situated in the corner of Centenary Park bounded by Selborne Avenue and Park Road, was designed by James Whalley, Dip. Arch., A.R.I.B.A. It is circular in plan, with three stories and a mezzanine floor, all accessible by stairways or lift. The lower ground floor accommodates a public lecture hall and cafeteria, plus most of the research departments and workshops. The upper floors, which house the library, administration offices and public displays, enclose a central courtyard that is open to the elements. The new building was completed in 1963 at a cost of about £186 000, excluding the displays and other internal modifications.

The official opening was performed by Sir Humphrey Gibbs, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., on 20 March, 1964. He was introduced by Col. C.M. Newman, C.B.E., M.C., V.D., E.D., who served for many years as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Not all the galleries had been completed at this time, but in all museums this is an ongoing thing, with new displays being created from time to time.

Summers reverted to the position of Curator of Antiquities in 1970 when he handed over the Directorship to G. Guy, B.Sc., who served in this position until Dr E.C.G. Pinhey, Ph.D, B.Sc., F.R.E.S., was appointed during 1972. One of the most important developments took place during 1972 with the amalgamation of the National Museums of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) with the Commission for the Preservation of Natural and Historical Monuments and Relics, an event which joined together two bodies that had been closely associated for 36 years.

This event saw the transfer of members of staff from the Commission to the National



The National History Museum of Zimbabwe, Centenary Park,  
Selborne Avenue, Bulawayo about 1972

*Photo: Ministry of Information*

Museum, among other museums. The Director, C.K. Cooke, F.S.A., F.R.A.I., F.E.C., became Curator of Monuments and Antiquities, while N.J. Walker, B.A., B.Sc., retained his position as Archaeologist and Inspector of Monuments. This move brought the archaeological, ethnological and historical collections of the National Museum under the control of qualified staff once more.

Cooke served as Curator of Monuments until his retirement in 1975, when he was appointed as Curator of Antiquities in the Umtali (now Mutare) Museum. At Independence he was transferred to Masvingo as Regional Director, where he served for two years before returning to the National Museum in Bulawayo as Regional Director late in 1981. He finally retired from full-time service at the end of November, 1982, after nearly 30 years with the two organisations, but continues to assist on a part-time basis as Honorary Curator of Antiquities.

After the amalgamation with the Monuments Commission, Dr Pinhey continued to serve as Director of the National Museum until he retired in 1973, then serving as Associate Entomologist until 1977. He was succeeded as Director by V. Wilson, M.I.Biol., formerly Curator of Mammalogy. When he resigned from the Museum's service in 1975, the Curator of Ornithology, M.P.S. Irwin, was promoted to Director. In 1981 Irwin resigned as Director, being succeeded by Cooke, and then continued as Associate Ornithologist until early 1984.

During 1981 the first Workers' Committee and Works Council were formed at the National Museum. At this time also a new national policy of centralisation of research disciplines was introduced to all museums in Zimbabwe, the National Museum in Bulawayo becoming the Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe. As a result, the Curators and Collections of Ichthyology and Palaeontology, and those of Herpetology, were transferred to Bulawayo from Harare and Mutare respectively, while Stone Age Archaeology moved from Bulawayo to Harare. This was accomplished by 1982 and subsequently the Mining Antiquaria Collection was moved from Bulawayo to the new Gold Mining Museum in Kwekwe.

H.D. Jackson, M.Sc., took over Regional Director in November, 1982, having stepped down from the position of Executive Director of National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe, and he continues in office at present. The staff of the Region now totals over 60, including a Deputy Regional Director, Dr O.D. Simela, Ph.D., appointed in November, 1984. Over 50 of the staff are based in the Natural History Museum, serving in 15 different departments.

### **The Displays**

Although the research activities of the Museum are centred on the natural sciences, the displays and the Education Service deal with the human sciences as well. In a short history such as this it is not possible to detail all the exhibits, so only some of the more important ones will be mentioned.

The main zoological exhibit consists of a game trail through the wilderness of the south-eastern lowveld. It includes the second largest elephant ever mounted and many other animals found in this part of Zimbabwe. A running stream and a background tape of animal sounds adds to the realism of this diorama.

In the Mammal Gallery three large habitat cases and a number of smaller dioramas (see illustration) show how various animals have particular habitat preferences. Also on



Habitat display of Lichtenstein's Hartebeest in the Mammal Gallery  
of the National History Museum

*Photo: Natural History Museum*

display is a selection of hunting trophies, some of which were Rowland Ward world records at the time of collection. The adjoining Smithers Gallery shows a systematic display of the birds of Zimbabwe.

The F.P. Menell Geology Gallery consists of a large display of minerals from the whole world and even moon rocks. Precious stones, gold and other valuable ores form an important part. The palaeontology section includes an exhibit of the small dinosaur *Syntarsus rhodesiensis* in a desert habitat. Many other fossils are also shown. Leading from this gallery is a full sized model of part of the underground workings of the Dawn Mine. Visitors can walk through the drive and see various display cases depicting the many uses of the main economic minerals mined in Zimbabwe.

On the upper floor prehistory and history are dealt with from the earliest days until the present. A scale model of Great Zimbabwe is an important feature as are the relics from this important site and from other ruined structures.

The Codrington Collection of ethnological material on display in the Hall of Chiefs is perhaps one of the most important of all the collections owned by the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe.

On the same floor the Entomology Gallery is of outstanding interest, having habitat groups, as well as taxonomic collections, and of special interest to farmers and gardeners an exhibit of insects which are destructive to crops or are of other economic significance.

The lower ground floor is used for Special Displays and also contains an Auditorium and a Cafeteria for the convenience of visitors.

### Acknowledgements

My thanks are due to Mr H.D. Jackson, the Regional Director, for giving me access to the archival material and for his encouragement, suggestions and criticism of the drafts. Mr B. Hadebe, the Senior Librarian, helped considerably in locating old reports and references.

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# Railways at War

by J. Batwell

The World War of 1939–45 is receding in the memories of those who took no more than a small part in it, particularly if that part was one of a civilian; a new generation has grown up to whom the war is a matter of history. Whilst many a publication has documented the military operations of the warring parties, one of the less documented aspects and one that perhaps is all too often overlooked is the transport organisation of those years, specifically in this context, railways.

With far less than normal replacement of obsolescent rolling stock and fixed equipment, with between twenty and thirty per cent of their workshop capacity diverted to armament production, and some 15 per cent of their staff released for National Service and, above all, with hazards of operating constantly in the black-out, and under enemy air attack, the railways in Britain actually succeeded in stepping up their output, in the vital matter of net ton-miles of freight haulage from 16 669 million in pre-war years to 24 357 million in 1943 — a phenomenal increase of forty-six per cent. Against all the difficulties they were experiencing such an achievement seems incredible. But it was done, thanks to the superb state of maintenance in which rolling stock and fixed equipment was in 1939.

Zimbabwe's railway had a close association with British locomotive and rolling stock manufacturing industries which were caught up in the war effort and so ripple effects were felt in this country's railway system. The details of this are expounded later in this article. The effect of the war on the major locomotive builders to the world, like Beyer, Peacock & Co. Ltd. is interesting since it affected motive power supply to the Empire including Zimbabwe. With the nation once more at war, Gorton Foundry of Beyer, Peacock at Manchester came under Government direction for the second time in its history. The need for locomotives was so great that they continued to be built throughout the war. Government, in fact, realised the strategic significance of the "iron horse" in the war effort to justify continued manufacture of locomotives on top of other necessities. Locomotives moved heavy loads of essential goods.

"We must regard the locomotive just as much a munition of war as the gun, tank or shell."

Such was an extract from a letter written by the Controller-General of Munitions Production, stressing the imperative necessity of locomotive production for war purposes. In contrast with the previous holocaust, Beyer, Peacock continued to make engines throughout the whole of the Second World War, to meet the unparalleled demands for transport that arose in many countries, not least this country. Nineteen different designs were delivered, the countries embracing Brazil, the Burma Front, Ceylon, France, French Equatorial Africa, the Gold Coast, India, Iran, Kenya, the Near East, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and South Africa. When war broke out in 1939, orders had already been received from Rhodesia, East Africa, Brazil, Turkey and Iran. Locomotive demand existed equally in other famous railway shops of Britain such as Swindon and Horwich. Swindon, for example, was engaged in converting locomotives designed by the late Sir William Stainer to oil firing units for service in the Middle East. Beyer, Peacock undertook a wide

variety of other productions such as tanks, shells, bombs, guns — the works contained a series of little “empires”, each with its special stores and offices for inspectors of the various departments of the armed services involved.

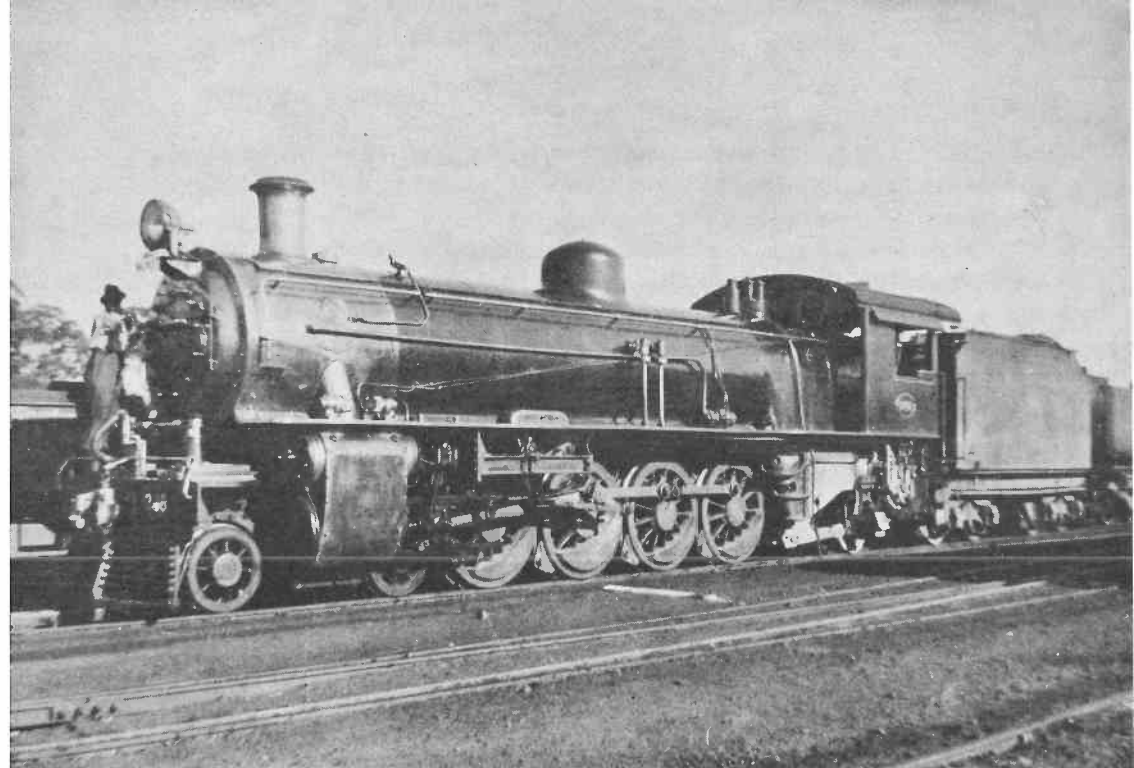
The demand for guns of every type was enormous. Beyer, Peacock had been approached in 1937 for it was clear that locomotive builders had the equipment and could rapidly acquire the technique for constructing gun carriages and mountings. This work was soon subcontracted to various manufacturers, each one specialising in a particular part, and Gorton became responsible for the steel castings and assembly of the carriage. The construction of the carriage necessitated the employment of highly skilled boilermakers and also required machining and fittings with a degree of precision quite beyond anything normally carried out or called for in locomotive production. This in turn demanded a number of accurate jigs, and a considerable amount of measuring equipment for use by the inspection department. Most of this work was concentrated on production of 4.5in anti-aircraft gun cradles, but a number were supplied for 9.2in. howitzers. The locomotive builders made use of many female trainees.

As stated, locomotive manufacture itself continued owing to its strategic importance in moving essential war-oriented commodities. Whilst some railways had to wait for engine orders, the Zimbabwe Railways (RR at the time) were lucky and in 1940 took delivery of four engines of Garratt (articulated) design. They were intended principally to operate the passenger service between Bulawayo and Mafikeng, a distance of 484 miles, which called for a type of locomotive that could withstand sustained performance, was very reliable and required the minimum of servicing on the long round journey. Beyer, Peacock provided a reliable locomotive with innovations for the time but these four Garratt types never actually went into service on the Mafikeng line until twenty-three years later!

When World War II broke out in September 1939 the Rhodesians were fortunate that the railways were geared to cope with heavy traffic and that there was a backbone of well experienced staff. The threat of war had created a great demand for base metals such as copper, chrome, lead, zinc and asbestos on world markets and the pressure was felt by the railways but fortunately with heavier locomotives, improved track and the sterling efforts of the staff new records were achieved in the operating results, and revenue mounted. With war in Europe a fact, compulsory military service on a part-time basis in this country meant a large number of younger railway employees was soon lost when their units were mobilised. A company including many railwaymen was at once rushed to Victoria Falls to protect the famous bridge, the safety of which was so vital for communications to the north. Manpower control regulations were soon enforced in the country to ensure the retention of staff in essential services and this had a braking effect on many who wished to join the forces but had to be reserved for railway work. Within a year 373 men were released for war service, a total which finally reached five hundred and sixty, of whom fifty-eight were killed in action or died. The war years meant long hours of overtime and the postponement of leave for the remaining staff, while to replace men on service, pensioners and others over normal age were taken on. Many women were recruited for clerical work and some acted as stewardesses on dining-cars.

In the railways workshop military requirements were manufactured and with the Chief Mechanical Engineer as a member of the Government War Supplies Committee an ordnance factory, known as ‘Rofac’ was built close to the Bulawayo Workshop and run by



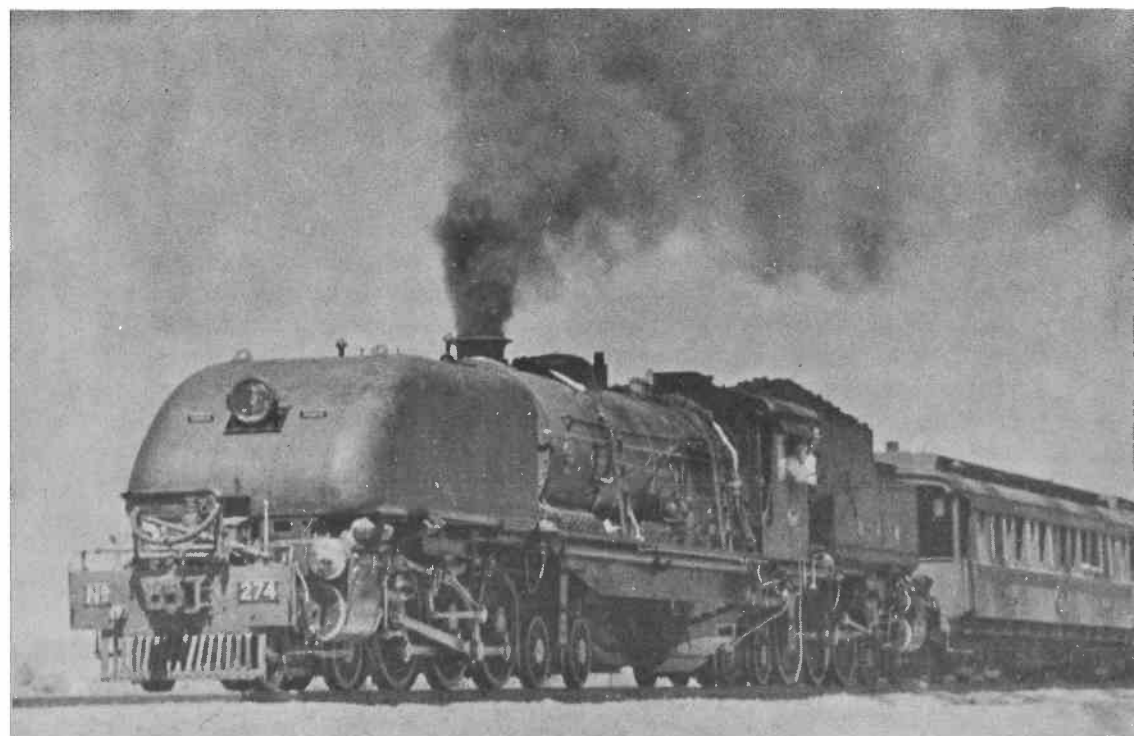


**No. 248, a Class 12 locomotive made in the United Kingdom during World War II. This type proved a true work-horse in what is now Zimbabwe**

*Photo: National Railways of Zimbabwe Archives*

**No. 274, one of the war-time Beyer Garratts at work on what is now the National Railways of Zimbabwe**

*Photo: J.M. Batwell*



seconded RR artisans with some eighty women operatives. This factory produced bomb pistols, striker heads, practice bombs and similar equipment for military and training purposes.

The offer by Southern Rhodesia to provide facilities for an RAF training group as part of an Empire scheme was gladly accepted by the British Government and this had an impact on rail services. Nine flying schools were established around Bulawayo, Gweru and Harare and all meant extensive work on the construction of runways, hangars and housing, calling for the movement of many thousands of tons of material and equipment, which were followed by crated aircraft to be assembled at air stations. At several aerodromes private sidings were constructed by the railways to facilitate the delivery of aviation spirit, and as the flying increased so the volume of fuel supplies from Beira and Durban.

The thousands of air force personnel, both flying and ground staff, brought very heavy pressure on passenger trains as, apart from men on duty, many sporting teams and men on leave travelled between the larger centres. For these reasons as well as petrol rationing, passenger traffic rose dramatically and the civilian population often had difficulty in obtaining train bookings as well as losing excursion fare benefits which were cancelled. With overseas holidays no longer possible South Africa became the magnet for holidays for local citizens and folk from the former Belgian Congo and modern-day Malawi (Nyasaland). This further swelled passenger travel. Dining-car services were taxed to the limit. The heavy demand for coaching stock resulted in the interiors deteriorating under the heavy wear, coupled with some vandalism and pilfering of fittings. By the end of the war, coaches had become very shabby. No new coaches had, of course, been obtained, remembering that the suppliers were British.

At very short notice, late in 1940, due to military operations in East Africa against the Italians, who had just entered the war, the railways was called upon, in co-ordination with the South African Railways, to move to the north many trainloads of South African troops and equipment. These trains were worked to special schedules allowing the northbound troops a short break at Bulawayo, while the empty stock trains were speedily returned south from present-day Kabwe in Zambia where an army depot had been set up. The entry of Italy into the war led to the internment of a number of Italian permanent way staff on the RR — men with many years experience and service so adding to the shortage of trained men. Some gangers' cottages were closed and adjoining gangs covered longer lengths.

With the shortage of staff, and to some extent material, new facilities on the railways had to be curtailed apart from the relaying of track and the completion of various deviations for which rail was available. The war brought extreme pressure on all resources of RR, which was constantly overtaxed by the demand for important minerals for the allied war effort. Copper, chrome and asbestos to the ports rose to new records, while coal and coke railings leapt up to 1 203 000 tons in 1943, including 78 000 tons to Beira for bunkers and export. For five long years the operating staff — enginemen, guards and shunters especially — willingly worked long hours with very little leave so that the maximum movement of traffic was achieved. The slogan "Trucks-Trucks-Trucks" to speed the release and prompt movement of empty wagons for reloading of bulk minerals became a fetish with the operating staff.

It was testimony to the efficient manner in which the system was worked that record

operating results and tonnages were achieved each year and a comparison between the years of 1939 and 1944 illustrates the remarkable volume of traffic:

	1939	1944	Increase
Tons carried	3,118,782	4,658,222	49.4%
Passengers carried	1,021,758	2,486,315	143.3%
Train miles	6,612,705	9,110,307	37.8%
Net ton miles (000s)	1,498,880	2,192,313	46.3%
Total earnings	£5,496,621	7,505,631	38.4%

The locomotive stud and all coaching and goods stock were flogged to the utmost and only the good work of the maintenance staff kept them going. It was therefore welcome relief when nine heavy Garratt locomotives and one hundred open bogie wagons were delivered during 1943–44 through the auspices of the British Government, to assist in moving strategic minerals. Under wartime conditions it was not easy to meet the individual requirements of railways and at the request of the British War Department, Beyer Peacock built a design calculated to meet the differing needs of the 3ft. 6in.–gauge 60lb. rail systems in Africa. An existing basic design was employed as speed of production was vital and this country's chrome and copper were necessary urgently for war supplies. Though not built to the country's specific standards, the nine engines were a welcome addition at the time, being used on the Wankie–Dett hill section and hauling coal trains of 1 100 tonnes, if slowly. These War Department Garratts, suitable for use on many railways abroad, bore the condenames "SHEG" (Standard Heavy Garratt) and "STALIG" (Standard Light Garratt). Zimbabwe's nine locomotives were of the SHEG type. Eighteen of the SHEGS were delivered to African systems in 1943–44, allocated by the Ministry of Supply to the Gold Coast, the Congo–Ocean (Pointe Noir to Brazzaville) and Zimbabwe Railways. Six went to the Gold Coast, three to Congo Ocean and the remainder came out here. The three for the Congo Ocean Railway and nine to this country survived post-war going eventually to the Mocambique Railway, where they were still operating in 1976. Seven more SHEGS were built in 1944 with considerable modifications and sent out to the Kenya & Uganda Railway which is metre gauge but the locomotives were convertible to 3ft. 6in. gauge. Beyer, Peacock's Standard Light Garratts of the war period went to countries like Burma, Bengal Assam Railway and the Kenya & Uganda Railway.

On the home front, difficulty in obtaining goods from overseas led to the emergence of local manufacturers and many secondary industries started. This led to internal short-haul traffics demanding an increased share in the truckage but much still came up from South Africa. The growth of northbound tonnage over the Mafikeng–Bulawayo line exceeded the capacity of local motive power and so engines were hired from SAR to help move rising trade. The four new locomotives of 1940 delivery from Beyer, Peacock were so useful with their grease lubrication in place of oil proving more reliable than oil under conditions of indiscriminate pooling of engines which was so necessary to secure maximum usage. Previously enginemmen had their own locomotive assigned to them and which they took a personal pride in but war-time pressures prevented this arrangement. The new locomo-

tives were free of overheated axle-boxes, side-rod bushes and crank pins. All the same, as the war dragged on with engines running excessive mileages and longer periods between general repairs, failures in service became more numerous and by 1945 the locos were beginning to show the strain.

High pressure on movement continued to the end of the war in 1945 by which time excessive overtime and lack of leave were causing sickness and fatigue particularly among the running staff. By mid-1945 the air training was discontinued and the repatriation of RAF personnel, in many cases with wives and families, temporarily imposed a heavy burden on passenger services. The return of Zimbabwean servicemen from Europe added to this heavy passenger traffic.

The end of the war left the railways in a position of being unable to move all the traffic offering as engines and rolling stock, track and other facilities required extensive overhauling and maintenance before there could be a return to previous high standards. Many railwaymen returning from active service were disenchanted with their old jobs and were unsettled, while many resigned as the boom in industry and commerce led to more attractive employment offers. New staff had to be sought from overseas among the many ex-servicemen who desired a new life in a sunny developing country of which so many had had a taste.

It would be impracticable to detail all the schemes that were carried out throughout the system to bring it from almost derelict conditions immediately after the War to the up-to-date, efficient organisation functioning by the mid-1950's. Extensive remodelling of traffic yards, new goods depots, new and additional loco sheds, mechanical coal handling for engines, workshop expansion for the extra rolling stock, relaying of track, new stations, hundreds of new houses for staff and innumerable other smaller improvements were made over the following decade. An influx of new settlers attracted by good prospects, delightful climate and an atmosphere of relaxed living conditions free from the crowded life of Europe were instrumental in giving the railways the manpower to undertake the rehabilitation of the network in all its facets.

Meanwhile in locomotive manufacturing factories in the United Kingdom, the frenzy continued in terms of fulfilling worldwide orders for steam traction that had been delayed by the war. The transition to peace-time conditions in 1946 was however easier than it had been in 1919 since locomotive production had not come to an halt in the second holocaust. The first necessity was to complete outstanding orders and Gorton Foundry was filled to capacity. The post-war outlook for the locomotive building industry was good through the need to rehabilitate railways ravaged during the hostilities, through supplying overdue replacements and through proposed railway extensions in underdeveloped nations. Beyer, Peacock sent personnel out on worldwide trips looking for new business and Zimbabwe was one such Southern African country. Demand was such that the locomotive builders were in the comfortable position of so much work that subcontracting to other builders became the order of the day. In these halcyon days of steam engine manufacture, the Zimbabwe Railways ordered a further ten Garratt types in the light of the success of the four delivered at the beginning of the War.

The Zimbabwe railway was going ahead to better times and development after having met the demands in the war of this country and neighbouring states besides its material contribution towards the allied cause. The late forties also witnessed the move from private ownership to nationalisation of the local system. Concurrent with this was the relinquishment of companies in Mocambique.

# Our Cotton Heritage : Past and Present

by A.N. Prentice

## The Beginning

The wild cotton of our own Sabi Valley is the ancestor of *all* the cottons of the world. Tall claim? — but the evolutionary evidence is good. The cotton of this part of Africa goes back to the very start of the global story. That story is luckily well documented and I have no excuse for being other than objective and impersonal about it, but when it comes to Africa south of the Sahara and the people who have had a hand in influencing recent cotton developments hereabouts, I may become discursive and reminiscent.

In prehistoric times the cotton we call Sabi Wild was present, and still is, in the Sabi Valley area, in parts of Botswana, and in parts of N. Transvaal, i.e. along the tropic of Capricorn, but not elsewhere. The cotton genus is *Gossypium*, and is world-wide, but in those remote times the only *Gossypium* species which carried lint (i.e. the spinnable hairs borne on the seeds, the cotton of the market place) was our Sabi Wild, or *G. africanum*. So far as I know this cotton has never been gathered and used locally in recent centuries, but it must have interested travelling or trading man of long ago and induced him to take it to Asia. There, emergent agricultural civilizations began to exploit it as a crop, and it branched into several distinct and agriculturally useful varieties. The earliest record of cotton cloth that I know is from the Indus Civilization of c. 3000 BC, but *G. africanum* may well have reached Asia many millenia earlier. The new cotton spread widely over Asia, and back to Africa. The Murui Civilization along the Nile (c. 400 BC?) grew cotton, which again was a descendent of — *G. africanum*. The Asiatics, or Old World cottons as they are often called, have the same genetic make-up as their ancestor *G. africanum* and plant-breeders have no difficulty in crossing the two; both are 13 chromosome types.

## Early Spread

A major jump in the evolution of cotton took place after an Old World cotton reached the New World, long before the time of Columbus. There, the descendent of Sabi Wild crossed with a *lintless* wild American cotton of the same chromosome number; the resulting cross then doubled its chromosome number to 26 (a rare but important occurrence in evolution) and the new plant, linted, was the prototype of all the many New World cottons that evolved. This may sound far-fetched but, convincingly, the geneticists can, with a little legitimate juggling, use the same ingredients and regain the prototype plant. This story was unravelled by J.B. Hutchinson (with colleagues Silow and Stephens) in a piece of scientific sleuthing which gained him the Fellowship of the Royal Society, and the F.R.S. is not awarded lightly. (More about Hutchinson, a benefactor of this country, later). This New World linted cotton was first recorded in the Americas from one of the older Peruvian civilizations, and the new species or its derived sub-species were widespread in America by the time of Columbus, in 1492.

## Post-Columbus

The historical record of cotton now becomes clearer. The Portuguese Navigators

were slowly rounding Africa, introducing new crop-plants from America as they went — not only the new cotton, but maize, tobacco, groundnuts and other crops destined to make a big impression on the Old World. The new cottons of this first wave were all markedly perennial. They fairly quickly ousted the Old World or Asiatic cottons still then being grown in parts of Africa; and they penetrated to places well inland, possibly through the agency of the Arabs who were notable introducers of plants along the slave routes. These perennials are still to be found along the Zambesi, some right up near the Angolan border (personal observation, A.N.P.) where they could have arrived from the west coast to overlap others which had probably come upstream from the Mocambique coast. In Tanzania the new cottons reached at least as far west as the Ufipa Plateau, but did not reach the country of war-like tribes such as the Masai, avoided by the slavers (note from W.V. Harris, an entomological colleague in Tanzania.) Abyssinia probably received its share of the New World perennials, but the chief recipients were the countries around the Gulf of Guinea and there a comparatively large domestic spinning and weaving industry persisted into the 20th century. This first wave of perennial cottons from America had apparently no major impact at this time on cotton-growing in Asia, which still grew mainly its Old World cottons in millions of acres into this century.

### Central Africa

In our central African area cotton was gathered or even cultivated for the making of a simple cloth, possibly over several centuries. Members of our Society may recall that our October 1985 trip to the Matopos we were given at Bulawayo a brochure “Around Zimbabwe No. 6”; and there it is stated that “Khami’s creators — also cultivated cotton from which they made a simple cloth”. C.K. Cooke, the curator of the Natural History Museum, kindly provided me with more local information; cloth after Portuguese times could have been imported, but “from the presence of spindle whorls found in the Khami deposits it is evident that spinning was carried out there — and cloth woven, on simple looms”. Cooke drew my attention to a copy of *Arnoldia* 5 (14), a 1971 paper by T.N. Hoffman entitled “Cloth from the Iron Age in Rhodesia” and from that again it seems likely that at least some of the cloths known to the investigators were locally woven. The cotton used would have been locally gathered, or cultivated, and may have come from a New World perennial, from an Asiatic, or even — rare thought — from our own Sabi Wild which could exist, as I would guess, in a Bulawayo climate. The lint of Sabi Wild, incidentally, is very short as cottons go, and very coarse, but is the real thing. In Zambesia as a whole it seems likely that cotton weaving has been practised to some degree over the centuries.

The perennial New World cottons are still present, in dwindling numbers, in this part of the world; they can harbour pests, specific to cotton, to carry these over what should be a dead season for pests, and because of this the perennials, including Sabi Wild, are subject to eradication by the guardians of our modern annual crops. Even in the uncultivated parts of the Sabi Valley, *G.africanum* may be harder to find than of yore — the Society’s Dr John Wilson who escorted us through some of that “bush” on our July 1984 outing and knows *G. africanum* and its habitat well, would be the best agriculturist to comment there.

### Industrial Revolution

The American perennials were in turn ousted from Africa by the American annual cottons, and thereby hangs the tale of the Industrial Revolution in England starting in the

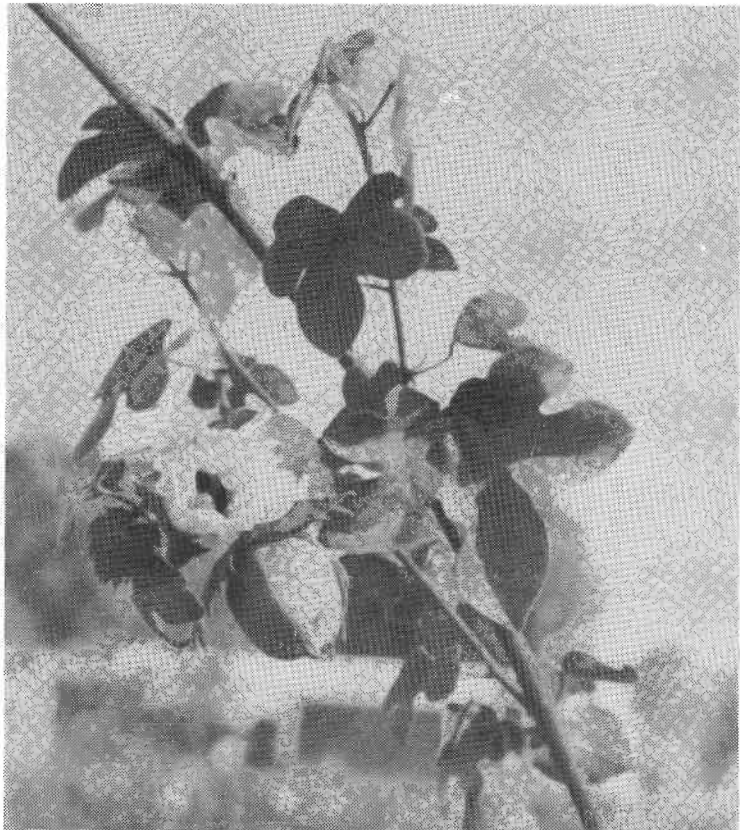


**Bush of "Sabi Wild" cotton (*Gossypium africanum*) in habitat on the Save low veld.  
This species is the ancestor of all cottons**

*Photo: Dr Brettall*

**Branch of "Sabi Wild" cotton  
(*Gossypium africanum*)**

*Photo: Dr Brettall*



late 1700s, and its profound influence on the world in general and its cotton industry in particular. Cotton was the mainstay of this metamorphosis in the fortunes of the world. "The dark satanic mills" of the poet Blake were indeed the cotton mills of Lancashire. The demand for raw cotton (lint) was insatiable and the young U.S.A. was only too happy to put the plantations of its deep south under cotton and to enhance the yield by developing high-yielding "annual" cotton varieties known to the world as American Uplands. These, and the invention of the saw gin by Eli Whitney in 1793, put the U.S.A. into the lead as the biggest supplier of cotton to the world until well in to the 20th century, a lead broken only by a deep-seated hiccup at the time of the Civil War in 1860–64. The drop then in the U.S.A. supply nearly spelt ruin to the vast cotton industry of Britain, which was then still far and away the biggest in the world; the threat passed in about four years, thanks to the extraordinary resilience of the American economy, but Lancashire had learnt a lesson and the search for new fields of cotton was on. Egypt had done its best with its high-quality cotton to fill the gap, but the supply was limited; and the low-quality crop of India helped but was unpopular with the mill hands who were reputed to pray for more cotton but oh Lord let it not be "Asiatics".

### **Interest in Southern Africa**

Lancashire made serious attempts to encourage cotton-growing in places as far apart as S. Africa and Australia, and here are the first glimpses of cotton development in our own area. Dr Livingstone at this time had apparently been retained by Lancashire to give his opinion on the outlook for cotton production in the area and he sent some glowing reports of "fields rivalling America's best". (Livingstone may have seen an American crop, then?) Another Scottish missionary of the time, James Stewart, had no hesitation in condemning these same fields as poor and miserable. The cotton varieties then extant (in Zambesia) could scarcely have been American Uplands and were in all probability the American perennials: these latter were often miscalled "African" cotton, understandably enough after some centuries of local use but were not the one true African cotton, our indigenous Sabi Wild. (Later, in what was then N. Rhodesia I had asked Agricultural Officers and District Commissioners to send me samples of reputed "African" cotton, and those I received were invariably New World perennials.) It seems very unlikely that Mzilikazi brought in American Upland cotton from the south when he occupied what was to become Matabeleland, c.1840. Cecil Rhodes came to Natal in the 1870s to join a brother in a cotton-growing venture which does not seem to have been a success, but the variety planted there could well have been an American Upland; and after Rhodes occupied this country in 1890 a few tentative probings were made into cotton production when the varieties tried would be annual Uplands. By the end of the 19th century it is safe to say that virtually all commercial cotton crops grown in Africa south of the Sahara were American Uplands.

### **Local Development**

The cotton history of Zimbabwe in the first half of this century was one of booms and slumps. Pre-World-War I, production was insignificant but the post-war demand for cotton in the 1920s led to extensive planting by farmers, and the building of ginneries at Kadoma, Bindura and Chinhoyi to service the crop. High prices ruled on the Liverpool Cotton Exchange. And then collapse. The price dropped, the depression of the early 30s exacerbated the difficulties of the farmers, and worst of all the yield per acre of the crop



dropped, often to the point of failure. An insidious insect pest, jassid, an insect about the size of an aphid but very active ruined many a crop by injecting a toxin into the leaves; F.R. Parnell, a cotton scientist at Barberton in S. Africa, provided the remedy by breeding a cotton with hairy leaves instead of the usual smooth leaves: the hairs tickled the ovipositor of the female jassid so that she shied away from egg-laying on the leaf-veins, and the result was jassid resistance. This was a good example of a built-in protection or armature against a pest, — the ideal of the plant-breeder, but unfortunately rarely obtained as quickly or easily as control by insecticides which in themselves often raise further problems.

Jassid-resistance was not enough of itself to give cotton the all-clear as several other pests such as bollworms (*not* boll weevil) and stainers could and usually did ruin promising crops. Cotton only just maintained headway until the advent of the powerful post-World-War II insecticides — congeners of what is now regarded as the dastardly D.D.T. — in the late 1940s. The research men at the Kadoma Cotton Research station were quick to test and exploit the newcomers and the breakthrough in insect control became a fact of life. The Engledow report (c.1950) stressed afresh that pest control would allow cotton to forge ahead — as it did. Sir Frank Engledow, another of the scientists who was a friend of Rhodesia, was a great agriculturist not afraid to tramp the fields, and he had much influence on cotton research.

### **Big Leap in Production**

Cotton-growing forged ahead all right in the '60s and '70s to reach a production approaching half a million bales, of lint, in the '80s, putting Zimbabwe as it had then become in third place in all Africa, behind only Egypt, an easy leader, and the Sudan. By world standards however — to curb any parish complacency — it should be remembered that all Africa produces around 10% of the world's cotton, and Egypt produces half of that. (Zimbabwe's tobacco crop, as is well known, leads all other crops of the country in value, but that is not now an unassailable lead). That phenomenal increase in cotton production in a few decades is due to the expertise of the "cotton family" as it likes to call itself — basically the farmers, plus scientists, ginners, merchants, industrialists and others. These men are part of our cotton heritage and deserve a mention, grossly incomplete though any list must be. At the time of the boom in the '20s the local farmers set up gin-factories in Kadoma, Bindura and Chinhoyi and names like R. Thornton and G.H. Catherly come to mind. The scientists now came on the scene; and Africa in general has been well served by cotton research in the 20th century. The Empire Cotton Growing Corporation E.C.G.C. (later the Cotton Research Corporation) deserves special mention. The E.C.G.C., based in London, was a non-profit making research group incorporated by royal charter in the early 1920s again with the idea of fostering cotton-growing in the Empire or elsewhere, to spread the sources of supply after the U.S.A. shipments to Lancashire had suffered badly from the U-boats in World War I. The first director of the E.C.G.C. was Sir James Currie, a notable administrator, who knew and admired Rhodesia. He encouraged his men to look at cotton in the round, as part of a country's agriculture and to pick up ideas from anywhere, tobacco industry included — tobacco in the 30s was already a giant in the land. Sir James it was who said that Rhodesia had the most intelligent farming community in the world; and I have to admit — as a cotton man — that he was thinking mainly of the tobacco planters. I have not met a tobacco man who would dispute the assertion, but many farmers now grow both tobacco and cotton. Both great industries have a high regard for the value of research and their respective commodity



Major G.S. Cameron, the local leader of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation. He had a profound influence on the development of cotton growing in Zimbabwe

*Photo: A.N. Prentice*



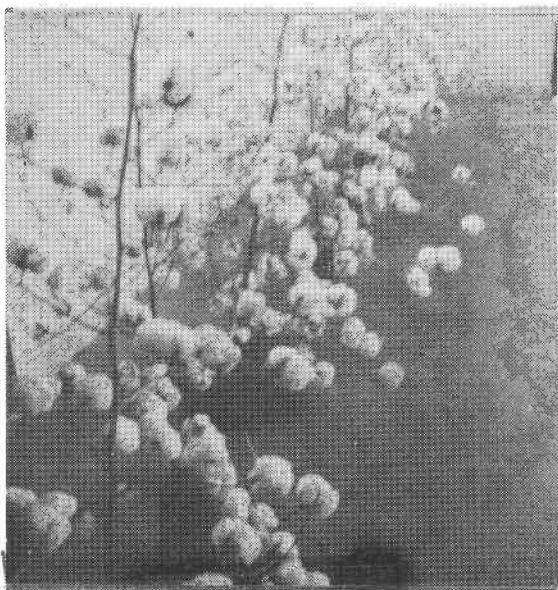
*John  
"Tie a la sans gang ding"  
G.S.C.*

A drawing of Major G.S. Cameron who was also Chief of the Federated Caledonian Societies of Southern Africa

*Property of A.N. Prentice*

"American Upland" a modern cotton on display at the Chinhoyi Show

*Photo A.N. Prentice*



research stations are of world class. The quality of the grower is reflected in the crop yields: tobacco has a yield per acre among the highest in the world and the same can be said for cotton. But Sir James (who died in the '30s) would not let us forget that "food comes first" in Africa; he once told a man in a very high position in Africa that if he were not careful "his people would starve in the midst of political perfection". The very high man was not amused. Sir James's words carried weight with the ruling few and he had much influence in creating the right atmosphere for tropical research — and not only for cotton — in the tropics, which had not been a glimpse of the obvious in his time, and led to tropical training schemes, with the E.C.G.C. in the vanguard.

### **The E.C.G.G.**

The E.C.G.G. trained and supplied research men or experienced agriculturists, usually to the agricultural departments of countries which asked for them on secondment, in Africa and elsewhere. Rhodesia as it then was gained the services of the redoubtable Major G.S. Cameron, liked by the farmers and the rest of society. He was a splendid buffer between the bureaucrats of Salisbury and his precious plant-breeders and entomologists and others working in the '20s on the new Experiment Station at Kadoma under J.E. Peat, directing other young men such as A.H. McKinstry, A.N. Prentice and A.G.H. Rattray. These men stayed in contract with their colleagues in S. Africa, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda etc. — and also in francophone Africa — and the freedom of association was of immense benefit to all: as an example, mentioned above, F.R. Parnell, then of Barberton bred the Jassid-resistant U4 cotton known over all southern Africa. The stations were already feeling their way towards still better insect control when World War II interrupted most of the work. In Rhodesia, Cameron kept a young spinning industry alive — a state concern at that time, and a good one — until the stations proper got going again with their research, after the war. Parnell, after developing Barberton, started the elite station of Namulonge in Uganda in 1949 — alas, deleted now by Field Marshal Idi Amin. The mantle of those two famous cotton research stations, Baberton and Namulonge, has fallen on the Cotton Research Institute of the Agricultural Department at Kadoma, now the best such station in Africa south of the Sahara. Before coming back to Kadoma one striking advance initiated by Namulonge needs mention: one of the few bacterial diseases affecting cotton is Bacterial Blight or Blackarm (*Xanthomonas*) but Namulonge, by then under J. B. Hutchinson, produced a famous cotton, Albar, resistant to the disease. Hutchinson prophesied that a few natural resistants might be found in a cotton long grown in Nigeria, an Old American Upland of good quality called Allen. A bacterial inoculum was evolved by G.M. Wickens (another Zimbabwean) and 10,000 seedlings of Allen grown at Namulonge were each given a jab of this — a bending job, and the staff had stiff backs for a day or two — and any plants not showing the symptoms must have been true resistants and not chance escapes. Some 30 or 40 plants passed the test, and these formed the core of Allen Blackarm Resistant, or Albar, which has swept over much of Africa, and became our stock variety here.

The Kadoma entomologists, notably J. Tunstall and G. Matthews but including a succession of dedicated scientists evolved largely under the aegis of E.O. Pearson — one who knew Barberton and Kadoma and Namulonge well, and eventually became director of the Imperial Institute of Entomology — set up a wisely-planned approach to the problems of pests and insecticides and their interaction, which in its restraint is a model for the

world. "Overdone" insecticides, an all too common jack-boot approach, can put a country's cotton in a mess and this has indeed put cotton out of court in parts of Australia and Mexico and other countries. Our entomologists still have headaches in holding impetuous growers from bending some of the irksome rules of crop hygiene but on the whole moderation rules, a happy asset in this country — the Greeks had a word for it. This outlook informs also the growers' own body, the Cotton Growers' Association, with its powerful say in the affairs of the industry. Here again the country has been well served with a succession of leaders such as C.G. Tracey and M. Butler and other equally public-spirited growers — the farmers have the happy knack of producing the man to match the needs of the times.

The problem of the build-up of resistance to insecticides is not the only worry for the guardians of the cotton crop. The menace of killing competition from the man-made fibre industry may yet recur; with all the research available through its few immense international industrial firms, the man-made fibre trade is indeed powerful, whereas the individual cotton growers, mostly peasants in their millions, must look to some quasi-philanthropic grouping for a lead in a continuing battle. The E.C.G.C. would have joined the fray but that very worthwhile institution fell by the wayside, killed by inflation c 1975; but cotton, internationally, has certainly grouped itself into alert bodies which hold out real hope of maintaining the place of cotton in the world. The remarkable advent and advance of the man-made or synthetic fibres was threatening the world-wide cotton industry from the 1930s onwards. The Lancashire cotton industry shrank dramatically from being a world leader, man-made fibres largely taking over from cotton — the imports of raw cotton into Britain had dropped steadily to their lowest in 150 years by the mid-1960s. But the world-wide expansion of the synthetics met its own nemesis: oil is the base material for most of them and the sudden huge increase in oil prices in 1972-3 was near-calamity for the synthetics but gave cotton a breathing space. This, and a simultaneous major advance in cotton-spinning and other textile techniques gave cotton a new or more secure foothold in the world's fibre market. But the synthetics are there for keeps. Competition from other fibres can be tolerated; wool for instance had only about a tenth of the world's fibre market and it too of course is up against competition from the synthetics.

### **Indebtedness**

Zimbabwe has much for which to thank the cotton men in other parts of the world. The U.S.A. — one of the Big Four of the world's cotton producers: China, India, Russia and the U.S.A. itself — has long been outstanding in research and development, and also, with natural generosity, in throwing all its scientific findings open to the world. Our men in the tradition of the E.C.G.C. are able to follow the scientific leads and even on occasion to show the way: when J.B. Hutchinson talks cotton genetics his fellows in America, and India, touch their caps and say "Aye, aye sir." (Hutchinson is now a retired don in Cambridge.)

Whether it acknowledges it or not the cotton industry of Africa south of the Sahara owes a vast debt to imperial organizations like the old E.C.G.C. and its men, rarely in the public eye, such as Hutchinson, Cameron and Parnell. One is tempted to misquote Swift and say that whoever can show the peasant how to make two bolls of cotton grow where one grew before deserves better of mankind than all the politicians of the continent put together.

## Future

The future? Not an apt subject for a History Society, and prophecy is dangerous, but if it is of interest I give my views for what they are worth. If the future is to be derived from the recent past the outlook for the near future is good, allowing for climatic fluctuations. The tradition is here of a worth-while industry, now more broadly based than ever in the sense that the African grower is taking an ever greater share in growing the crop. G.S. Cameron in the old days used to load a lorry with silver coin and go into the reserves as they were called and pay for the cotton on the nail, whether sparking an interest among the Africans in expansion, or not, is anybody's guess; but the African nowadays is producing half the country's cotton. His yield per acre is high by African standards, probably the highest in the continent in the rainfed (i.e. not irrigated) belts, to the somewhat envious wonder of some outsiders. He has benefited from the services of the best research in Africa south of the Sahara, from an associated commercial service, from an appropriate extension service, from the chance to look over the fence and see what his large-scale counterpart is doing, and almost certainly from the chance to work on those pioneering cotton farms. If such benefits or associations continue along with the growing competence of the emerging yeoman farmer, man or woman, Zimbabwe could maintain its good yields.

Some expansion of the crop into new areas is possible. Cotton first spread into the country around Kadoma and Lomagundi and Mazowe but a great expansion took place when the Lowveld was opened for agriculture by irrigation, primarily for sugar-cane but also for cotton — cotton back to the home of its ancestor *G. africanum*! The Zambezi valley and its surroundings has some potential for expansion. Another opening for cotton, if perhaps limited, could arise at the other end of the altitude scale by breeding a variety suitable for growing at heights above the rather arbitrary ceiling of 4 000 feet generally accepted for the crop; left alone, cotton tried at high altitudes would in time adjust itself by natural selection into types quicker-maturing or more cold tolerant than the matrix. But the plant-breeder can give nature a kick in the pants and put on selection pressure at the right altitude towards the desired types — a short-cut, now under test locally, and with some prospect of success.

New techniques in pest control and genetic engineering are on the cards and are powerful tools, but can be safely left to the present generation of entomologists and plant-breeders and others if (in my opinion) they are left untrammelled. The plant-breeders are maintaining a tested flow of new varieties, basically varieties of Albar, and Zimbabwe lint is maintaining a good name for itself on the world's markets. The varieties are right, the ginning and baling are right and the marketing through the Cotton Marketing Board and the Zimbabwe Cotton Corporation is exemplary — superlatives indeed but standards are high and if maintained Harare could become the cotton centre of southern Africa.

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# The Queens Hotel

by Arthur Chatwin

being a talk given on Sunday 23 February 1986

I owe my early knowledge of the Queens Hotel to the late Mr Le Roux, who was the Town Valuator and Architect. He was present at the opening and he attended many functions during the ensuing years.

It was built for Mr Pike, who I think was a bachelor, and Mr and Mrs Farthing. It was undoubtedly the finest double-storey building in the Colony and was opened on January 1st, 1901, the first day of the Twentieth Century; and was patronised by Salisbury society, many overseas visitors, miners and farmers from the surrounding areas. After some years, Mr Pike died, so Mr and Mrs Farthing carried on; then Mr Farthing died and Mrs Farthing continued to manage the Hotel by herself.

In 1913 the Municipality installed an engine and generator in the Public Gardens near the Swimming Pool and the Queens Hotel was one of the first buildings to be wired for electricity. I believe the night the lights were turned on was indeed a joyous occasion. Later, Mrs Farthing married Mr Bradley and together they carried on and, when Mr Bradley died, she continued to manage the Hotel alone.

This was the state of affairs when I arrived in this town in January 1920 to join Derry Brothers, Chartered Accountants. Some of us young chaps would take rickshas to the Queens and spend the evening there and I got to know Mrs Bradley rather well. She was a delightful character, but she made some strict rules such as carrying on the tradition of all the guests and diners wearing evening clothes for dinner. Anyone not complying were served dinner in their rooms; and, on the other hand, we saw her do a south-sea island dance on the bar counter during which she displayed much of the underwear worn by ladies at that time. When Mrs Bradley died in the late 1920s the Hotel was put up for sale and was bought by Sir Harry Waechter, (who was a baronet), who put in a man to manage the Hotel. He proved to be most unpopular, with the result that many of the patrons drifted away to surrounding bars and hotels. A lady of quality, named Mrs Howarth, who had a charming personality and was an accomplished hotelier, approached Sir Harry and asked if he would lease her the Hotel to which he agreed, discharging his manager; so she took over. She succeeded in bringing back most of the patrons and some of the guests but the hotel never quite regained its former glory as under Mrs Bradley.

One day a Mr S.I. Rossen, an ex-hotelier from Bloemfontein arrived at our offices, enquiring after a farm but we had nothing we could offer him. He said he would consider buying a hotel as his son wanted to farm in this country, so we suggested the Queen's Hotel, which was then enjoying the same patronage as Meikles Hotel. I saw Sir Harry's Accountants and offered to split the commission if we could pull the deal off. So they asked him if he would consider selling the Hotel, as he was not getting much of a return on his investment. So he offered to sell the Hotel for £25 000. This information was conveyed to me and I saw Mr Rossen and suggested he should spend a week at the hotel as a guest and study the proposition and come back to me with his decision. He agreed to buy. Mrs Howarth moved out and took over the Windsor Hotel.



The Queens Hotel about 1910

*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*

Mr Rossen asked me if I would spend one morning a month doing his books.

Some years later, a magnificent farming estate at Marandellas came on our books and the owner, who lived in London, asked us to submit offers. I remembered Mr Rossen originally wanting a farm and mentioned this to him on my next visit. We discussed the details and he asked me to send a cable reading, "Offer you ... pounds for Lendy Estate Rossen". I do not wish to state the figure but it was a very low amount indeed, and to our astonishment a reply came back a week later saying "Accept Rossen's offer". His son came from South Africa and took over the Estate. Father and son spent much time on the Estate. When I visited the Queens, Mr Rossen stopped me in my tracks and said "Why don't you buy the Hotel?" I assured him that I did not have that kind of money. He suggested I should raise a first bond for as much as possible which would be paid to him, and he would give me a second bond for the balance which I could pay off as and when I could.

"Yes, but how much are you going to charge me for the Hotel?" He waggled his finger at me saying, "You have done me a wonderful favour in helping me to purchase Lendy Estate for such a low figure so, to you, the price is £12 500, lock, stock and barrel: I walk out, you walk in." I forgot to mention that shortly after Rossen bought the Hotel, the Municipality condemned the wooden balconies on the upper storey, and he had to replace them with concrete balconies, costing £8 000. So it was, Ladies and Gentlemen, that I stood before this beautiful building one summer's day, 51 years ago, in 1935, the proud owner!



The Hotel is built on five stands along Pioneer Street, from Manica Road, which carries on for some distance from the main block, forming a nice garden with benches, and, at the rear was a row of rooms occupied by the white staff and storage; then there was the sanitary lane, which had been purchased from the Municipality many years before, enclosed at each end by high gates. Coming down Manica Road to the corner of Salisbury Street there were four more stands facing Salisbury Street. The first two were occupied by Queens Service Station and a substantial building was built on the corner with a petrol pump on the curb, which sold the second largest amount of petrol in town. The other two stands had ten lock up garages built on them with easy access to the Hotel across the sanitary lane. Shortly after I took over I bought a Steinway Grand Piano, which I installed in the corner on a dais on the dining room. A few days later a young man with a northern accent asked if he could play a tune on it. He played beautifully, and as he played, he said some of the boys would like to form an Orchestra and could he bring them along for me to listen to. So was formed the Queens Hotel Orchestra. They played from 5.00 to 6.00 every evening. I opened the dining room to accommodate the ever-increasing crowd who came to listen. A week later, two men came to listen to them, and when they had finished asked if they could speak to me in my office. They were from the Post Office and said that a Broadcasting Service was to start on the first of the following month and they would like to broadcast our music live from the Hotel each evening. Was I agreeable? I said, "Yes". And so we were the first to broadcast over the air. I would like to mention that our signature tune was "Sarie Marais" but for some unknown reason they refused to broadcast it so we had to substitute another tune. It was a great success until they changed to broadcasting records, but our Orchestra continued for a long time.

I was married when I was at the Hotel, and my wife, Ann, with my consent, re-arranged all the menus to include many new varieties of delicious dishes. All this for £10 a month! At one stage we increased the monthly amount to £11 but the Government, under one of their stupid laws, made us revert to the lower figure again. And we had to maintain a high standard because of our casual guests.

On the recommendation of Mr Lovatt the Town Clerk, the Mayor held a Civic banquet with the Town councillors and heads of departments. After the banquet was over he said: "Gentlemen, I usually find these occasions rather tedious with indifferent food, but I must say that I have really enjoyed every course served to me tonight and I propose to ask Mrs Chatwin to stand by my side when I shall compliment her on the excellence of her menu, and shall ask you to join me in a toast to her."

I came forward and said: "I am sorry but my wife is not available just now as she has been taken to the Lady Chancellor Home a short time ago to have our firstborn child." So they drank a toast to her anyway.

During the war, Lucas Guest, the responsible Minister, issued an order placing four Hotels, the Langham, Castle, Masonic and Queens, out of bounds to the Air Force and other troops. I was the Vice President of the Hotel-Keepers' Association and I went to see him to ask him why. He replied that the four Hotels were in an area which he wished to keep his troops out of; and I said: "Sir Ernest, I assure you that the ladies of Shady Lane frequent the precincts of Meikles and the Grand far more than any of our Hotels."

He checked my statement and found it to be true and so lifted the restriction. Myer Sklar of the Langham called on me and thanked me on behalf of the other three Hotels. The ban had seriously affected all our bar takings.

A Mr Norris Dent came from Cape Town and made us an excellent offer for the Hotel which we accepted. The same day he also bought the Masonic. Mr Dent installed a Manager, a Mr Carter, who carried on for many years.

My wife and I left the Hotel in March 1943 and went farming in the Umvukwes. Both Mr and Mrs Dent died shortly after and I am not sure what happened to the Hotel after that.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

# Hunyani Poort Dam

by I. Shand

being a talk given to the Society on Sunday 18 May 1986

The Hunyani Poort was known as a probable site for a large dam right from the beginning — in fact it was so good that the American expert who was brought out to give advice on soil mechanics said “I wish we had five hundred sites like this one!”

So when it was obvious that Cleveland and Prince Edward dams would become inadequate for the water supply to Salisbury, as it was then called, investigations proceeded into the possibilities of using Hunyani Poort. The original design was for a gravity concrete dam with overflow spilling and incorporating the road bridge across the top, as the existing road bridge was up-stream of the dam and would therefore be flooded. The dam was to be founded on a dolomite cill that traversed the site. However, on more detailed investigation, it was found that the cill was not wide enough and too fractured. It was therefore proposed to construct an earth dam on the same site with the core trench covering the dolomite cill which would be grouted.

The main user was to be the Harare Municipality, which was being asked to pay half the cost and therefore had to agree to the form of construction.

One of the councillors at that time was dear old Charles Olley — an Irishman who held up his hands in horror and said the Municipality could not possibly agree to the construction of a “mud dam” for Harare’s water supply. Having convinced the rest of the councillors of his argument, in typical Irish fashion, he turned round and said “What we want is an earth dam.”

We in the old Irrigation Department had very little experience of large earth dams and so called in the advice of an American expert on soil mechanics. What astounded us was that was all he knew — soil mechanics — and he in turn could not believe that one department like our Irrigation Department did the whole design, supervision of construction as well as the legal and other aspects of construction. In America they have separate departments for 1) Soil Mechanics, 2) Facing, 3) Legal, 4) Outlets and Pipework, 5) Contracts, 6) Supervision of contract and 7) even a different one for mass concrete as against reinforced concrete!

You might be interested in the names of those involved in the construction: P H (Phil) Havilend was Director of Irrigation with R H (Ray) Roberts as his deputy. R S (Sandy) Duncan was Chief Designs Engineer with Buster Wynn as his deputy. The resident engineer was a Mr Begeridge and Tom Coffin was his assistant. This was the first time an engineer of the Department was permitted to take on resident engineer work after years of battling for this. Clifford Harris was the main contractor with Cementation carrying out the drilling and grouting. Stewart, Sviridov and Oliver were the consultants for the Municipality.

The cost of the dam was £1.29 million (probably would be at least ten times that today!), cementation charges for drilling and grouting were £103 800, Land acquisition was £74 500 and re-routing of the railway line cost £244 660.

The dam wall is 90’ high (27,43m) storing fifty five thousand million gallons (247 million cubic metres). The surface area is 6 500 acres (2 530 hectares).

As mentioned, both the road and railway had to be re-routed, downstream of the dam and the whole range of hills, necessitating two high level bridges.

And so to the biggest problem that arose during construction — the very fast filling of the dam which overtopped the spillway before construction was complete. Bill Wallis was the Chief Hydrological Engineer at that time. He told the contractor that the dam should fill in an average rainy season but that under the worst conditions it would take three years to fill. The contractor misunderstood this and thought he had plenty of time so was well behind with the work on the trough spillway at the end of the first year. The lake water started to rise rapidly with abnormal rains and at the last moment everyone was called in to help, including National Housing and Construction and, working through the clock, a 30' concrete wall was put in against the dam to divert the water over the far end of the spillway. Here a 5' wall 170' long was completed in time which, with a timber shute to carry the water clear of the toe succeeded in withstanding the flood which occurred. Later, by sandbagging unstream of the spillway the concrete work was completed.

In the meantime, the new road bridge below the dam, 210' long with a 24' double carriageway, the largest at that time and the country's longest concrete bridge, was also in trouble as the whole scaffolding for the beams decking would have been in danger from a flood. By carrying out continuous concreting for 22 hours the work was completed on the Friday and the dam spilled on the following Sunday.

After two years under construction, the dam was officially opened on 29th September, 1952, by the then Governor Major General Sir John Kennedy, who arrived at the opening by water with the Rhodesian Blue Ensign flying! He said he had the Blue Ensign in his office and thought it a good idea to use it for the first time before it got eaten by moths! He named the lake formed by the dam "Lake McIlwaine" after Sir Robert McIlwaine, a retired judge and judge of the Water Court who had pioneered campaigning to safeguard the Natural Resources of the country.

Considerable development took place around the lake:

- 1) A game park was established by National Parks on the South bank, and was opened in 1960 with eighty head of various species of game.
- 2) A tarred toll road was constructed from the main road over a neck in the hills to give access to the lake. When it paid for itself the Treasury insisted that it cease to be a toll road. This was a great pity, because, had it remained a toll road, the income could have been used to finance the tarring of all the roads in the Park instead of having the dreadful earth roads we now have to put up with.
- 3) The Spillway Tearoom and Aquarium was constructed by a Mr and Mrs Thomson, and opened in December 1957.
- 4) The Hunyani Hills Hotel was put up by a Mrs Doris Dean from Germiston.
- 5) Pax Park, the Girl Guides Training Centre, was established on the South bank and opened on the 5th September 1960 by Miss Anistice Gibbs, Commonwealth Chief of the Girl Guides Association.
- 6) An island off the South bank was made over to a league of ex-servicemen who developed it as a shrine and called it Moth Island.
- 7) Many clubs and public amenities were established along the North bank under leases from the state. Not very long ago, most of those were made freehold.

An interesting snippet of history in these early days was the arrival of the 44-foot "White Heather" at the Ancient Mariner. An owner, Lionel Welensky, used her for tours

round the lake. This ship had taken part in the evacuation of Dunkirk and for four days had plied unscathed to and fro across the English Channel, bringing back troops.

Here I would like to mention the conflict which inevitably occurs between amenity usage and the purpose for which the dam was built. McIlwaine was built to provide water for Salisbury (now Harare) and for irrigation downstream. Its economic use results in the lowering of the dam each year and even more so in a series of drought years. People enjoying the amenities must accept this and not complain about the lowering of the water at such times.

Dealing with more modern history the weed problem in the lake must be mentioned. This first occurred with a very heavy infestation of water hyacinth, *Icornia crassipes*, in 1971 covering approximately a quarter of the lake. After much acrimonious discussion most of the weed was killed by spraying with 2-4D and the rest physically removed out of Tiger Bay and dumped on the shore. Thereafter a gang spent the whole of every year going round the perimeter of the lake removing the weed as it regenerated.

The present infestation is mainly water cabbage/lettuce, *Pistia stratiotis*, and NOT water hyacinth. The latter from my observation forms less than 10% of the total infestation. It is largely due to pure procrastination on the part of the authorities and private owners upstream. All the rivers and dams upstream have heavy infestations of both weeds and the floods merely moved them downstream into the lake. Now the panic is on, having been left from more or less December until very recently to increase enormously in the nutrient-rich lake. What is a constant sword of Damocles over the heads of the authorities is the possibility — nay-probability of the introduction of Kariba Weed by boats from Kariba. If this occurred and was allowed to develop, the *whole* lake would be covered by it as there are no self destructive forces like the big waves and large changes in water level which occur at Kariba. Also the high nutrient value of Lake McIlwaine would suit *Salvinia auriculata* admirably.

Another problem that arose was a surge in the pumping main from the dam. This occurred when the pumps were stopped by a power cut, then water hammer was set up in the pipeline of three times normal pressure, which put the pipeline at risk.

Also on the draw-off side, it was found that the original draw-off tower was in a bad position as algae tended to collect in that corner of the lake.

Also, as Harare's needs increased and the anticipated irrigation was not developed, an increased draw-off was required from the dam to the Morton Jaffray Purification Works. The new tower was built within the dam in 1971 with a tunnel through the hills, together with a new pipeline delivering to Warren Hills storage tanks. The M J Works are again being enlarged to take the additional water from Lake Robertson via the tunnel you will all have to read about in the papers. Incidentally, at my suggestion, the new lake was called Lake Robertson — the first time any storage works in the country was named after anyone that had anything to do with their design and construction.

Another little snippet of history I picked up was that during the 1968 drought when Parks took the opportunity of removing many of the stumps and other underwater hazards, they came across an old farmhouse which belonged to Oliver Payne and which had had to be evacuated at very short notice — when the lake first filled so fast. There is also a complete railway siding at the bottom of the lake!

In closing, if any of you ever find a train-load of cement, please let me know because one "disappeared" during construction!

# Train Trip to Glendale

by C.W.H. Loades

In March 1985 members of the Mashonaland Branch together with numerous friends undertook a trip from Harare to Glendale and back in a chartered train.

The story — which it has not been possible to confirm — that stimulated this venture was that in this country's early days, through some freak of bureaucracy, goods ordered from England for Meikles Store at Shamva arrived before similar consignments for the Salisbury Store. The ladies of fashion used to catch a train to Shamva, plunder the Shamva Store and then return to the capital and shame their less prudent sisters by appearing in the latest elegance from overseas. An attempt to repeat such a journey was found to be impractical — the journey by train to Shamva would have taken 10 hours. However it was decided not to waste the research that had been undertaken and to organize a train trip on the Shamva line which could be comfortably fitted into a day excursion. As in the 1972 train trip, Glendale was determined as the turn-round point.

When planning was undertaken 300 passengers had been anticipated — in fact the number was exceeded and it was fortunate that the Railways had made available an extra coach. In soliciting participation members had been advised that the wearing of appropriate (1920) dress was optional — it added to the enjoyment of the occasion that many persons decided that the occasion merited appearing in appropriate sartorial splendour.

The train pulled out on time and stopped at Jumbo, where the company dismounted, to be enlightened by Richard Franks on the history of the mine and circus elephants and by Peter Garlake as to the area's role in the days of the Portuguese exploration of Africa. It was learned that the nearby Daramombe was the headquarters of Portuguese domination of the Monomotapa Empire. On to Glendale, where the local Lions and Sports Clubs had arranged transport to the Club premises where the party relaxed, enjoyed a picnic lunch, and heard of the early days and the development of the Glendale area.

Suitably rested and refreshed, the return journey was commenced. Concession was the next stop, where tea and cakes were provided on the verandas of the old Meikles Hotel. Those who could be detached from the goodies had an opportunity to admire the old dining room with its pressed steel ceiling, sprung dance floor and solid brass screen door. Again the party heard the history of the area from Richard Wood and learned that the name, Concession, arose from a grant of land in the area to Moore — an American, the holder of a concession from Lobengula of doubtful validity-which Rhodes had brought up.

Then back to Harare, after an enjoyable, entertaining and enlightening day.

# Correspondence

Mrs Carol McEwan of Knysna, referring to "Notes on Some Zimbabwean Mines" by R. Cherer Smith in *Heritage* No. 4, has asked that the following be published:

**"Edward H. Bulman**

Mr H.L. Rosettenstein of Harare writes:

May I draw attention to an error which occurs in Publication No. 5 of

In July 1918 my father, Edward H. Bulman, late manager of Kleinfontein Estates on the Rand, was appointed Manager of the Cam and Motor Mine at Gatooma. He was appointed by the Bailey Group when Lonrho was formed. He resurrected Cam and Motor, Eileen Allannah and several small workings. He was instrumental in getting an expert from Canada who installed the Oil Flotation Plant which helped to separate the arsenic from the antimony. He eventually found the fabulously rich reef which "made" the mine.

His managerial duties within the Group were interchangeable with those of Mr Rome; he was transferred twice to take over mines managed by Mr Rome.

Mr Bulman died at the Cam and Motor in 1929."

**Mr H.L. Rosettenstein of Harare writes:**

"May I draw attention to an error which occurs in Publication No. 5 of *Heritage* in the article entitled "The Shamva Story" by E.A. Logan. Beginning at the bottom of page 19 and going on to page 20 there appears the following quotation "Mr Rijno de Beer relates 'The journey to Salisbury involved three to four days travelling...' referring to the railway journey from Shamva to Salisbury. Mr de Beer must have been thinking of the time the journey used to take by ox waggon, provided the drifts along the road were passable, before the advent of the railway.

"In fact when the railway was extended to Shamva in 1913 the journey from Salisbury to Shamva took eight hours, and by 1922 this was reduced to six and a half hours. In the 1930 decade the time of the journey was further reduced to three and a half hours."

# Notes on Some New Contributors

## **Mrs Shielagh Bamber**

Mrs Bamber graduated from Natal University in 1973. She came to Zimbabwe in 1974, did some teaching, and then worked at the National Archives of Zimbabwe until her first daughter was born a year later. Since then she has been a full time mother and farmer's wife.

## **John Batwell**

Mr Batwell was born into a railway family in Zambia. His childhood interest in railways developed into a concerted freelance railway journalism and photography. His articles have appeared in many journals in southern Africa and overseas; his photographs have likewise been published widely. He is presently teaching besides maintaining his freelance work in railway subjects.

## **Cranmer Kenrick Cooke**

Mr Cooke is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, Fellow of the Explorers Club and a Foundation Member of the Southern Africa Association of Archaeologists. He retired from the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe in 1983 having served as Director of National Monuments, Director of Southern Region and Western Region of the National Museum and Monuments. He is presently Honorary Curator of the National Museum in Bulawayo. He is the author of several books and has published over 300 papers in scientific journals.

## **R.S.S. Douglas**

Mr Douglas spent his boyhood on a farm in the Centenary district. From this background stems his abiding interest in the history of the area. He is presently Editor on the staff of the National Archives of Zimbabwe.

## **Peter G. Locke**

Mr Locke was born, bred and schooled in Bulawayo. He attended University in Harare and Stellenbosch. He has worked for the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe since 1972, first as Curator of Geology at the National Museum and currently as Director, Mutare Museum.

## **A.N. Prentice**

Mr Prentice joined the staff of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation in 1927 and was appointed plant breeder at Kadoma in 1929. He served the Corporation in Tanzania and Uganda from 1935-1955. In 1956 he transferred to the Colonial Service in what is now Zambia where he was Chief Agricultural Research Officer. He went farming on his own account at Mazowe in 1963.



# National Chairman's Report to the History Society of Zimbabwe Friday 14 March 1986

## Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to present my report for the year 1985 to 1986.

During the past year the National Committee and the Society at large suffered a great loss with the sudden death of Mr Robert Smith who was the current editor of our journal, *The Heritage of Zimbabwe*. Mr Smith was not only well known to members as a result of his books on our country and his profound knowledge of many aspects of our history, but he was also a person with an invigorating and easygoing way about him. He was much loved by us all. In particular with regard to the Society, Mr Smith had put in an enormous amount of effort in making "*Heritage 5*" a bumper edition of our journal. Just prior to his going on holiday he had wrapped up the last few loose ends and was himself delighted with the relevant issue which brought great pleasure to all of us. We mourn his passing and we offer our deepest sympathy to his widow and children.

Following Mr Smith's death, we had to consider who else in the Society might be able to edit the journal and to maintain the fine standard which previous editors have set. I should like here to express my deep gratitude to Mr Robert Turner and to Mr Colin Loades who have valiantly agreed to edit the publication of *The Heritage of Zimbabwe* and who are even now preparing for its publication.

With regard to the publication of the journal, it is obvious that without contributions from members or others with stories relating to our history, the journal cannot flourish. I should like to urge all of you here to consider whether there are any aspects of your own lives in this country or of lives of others or incidents of note which would be of interest to our membership. If so, please will those members prepare papers and submit them to one of the two editors or to myself.

As a result primarily of the initiative and energy of the Mashonaland Branch Committee under the very able leadership of Mr Richard Wood, the Society's outings were very well attended and have caused our membership to increase by approximately 50 persons during the year.

At this point I should like to express my own personal gratitude to so many of our members who support all of our outings in such a wholehearted and enthusiastic manner. The sight of some of our more mature members scrabbling over slippery rocks, being hauled up stepladders into dark and dank caves and listening to talks while mopani flies busily explore every facial aperture will forever remain with me. The facility of our members to accept certain technical hitches in the organisation and to keep a sense of humour in such circumstances is worthy of inclusion in Rudyard Kipling's poem "If".

Whilst all our outings during the year were organised and arranged by the

Mashonaland Branch Committee, the National Committee did play a part in combining with the Mashonaland Branch Committee in our most successful and enjoyable trip to Bulawayo and the Matopos.

Over the years it has been our very sincere wish that the Matabele Branch of the Society should be re-established. Accordingly, Mr Richard Wood and I had discussions with persons in Bulawayo who had been members of the Matabeleland Branch and who are still members of the Society. It was agreed that a letter be sent by myself to all Matabele members encouraging them to join the Mashona members out at Matopos, and inviting them to join us for luncheon in Bulawayo.

We were delighted therefore when 30 plus members from Matabeleland did accept our invitation and joined us for lunch at the Selbourne Hotel in Bulawayo and that a similar number came out to Matopos for talks held on the Sunday of the outing.

Since this outing, we have maintained close communications with certain members of the Society in Bulawayo. Whilst it cannot be said that the Matabele Branch has been re-established, there are certainly grounds for optimism that this will occur. One of the main difficulties at present is that of electing office bearers who have the necessary secretarial facilities available to enable the branch to run successfully.

The National Committee made available the sum of \$500,00 to the Matabeleland Branch, part of which was utilised for the luncheon to which the Matabeleland members were invited, and the remainder of which is to be made available for expenses in establishing the branch.

It is my sincere hope that the incoming Committee will maintain close communications with Matabele members in order that interest in the exceptional wealth of history in and around Bulawayo will not be lost and that the branch will become the active and energetic body it always was.

During the year we have also maintained communication with the Manicaland Branch. In this regard we are particularly indebted to Mr Harry Went for his continuing interest in and enthusiasm for matters historical around the Eastern districts.

It is as a result of a request from the Manicaland Branch that we are experimenting by arranging the Annual General Meeting and our Annual Dinner on the same day in order that as many members from out of Harare as possible might attend both functions.

Moving closer to home the National Committee has participated in a potentially very exciting venture in that a booklet on the historic buildings of Harare is shortly to be produced.

Members may recall that in 1981 the History Society of Zimbabwe was formed and absorbed both the Rhodesiana Society and the Heritage of the Nation. The Heritage of the Nation was an organisation which was brought into being specifically to encourage the protection for and restoration of historic buildings in the country. Upon the amalgamation of societies, a sum of money which had been held to the credit of the Heritage of the Nation was transferred to the History Society of Zimbabwe, but was held in a separate account to be utilised when a project was identified which matched the ideals and objects of the Heritage of the Nation. Accordingly, it was agreed that the sum of \$4 000,00 be made available from our Society to assist in the publication of the historic buildings booklet. Whilst the final details are still to be concluded, it is anticipated that as a result of our investment in this project, the retail cost of the booklet will be reduced.

The first draft of the book is now with publishers and whilst no purpose will be served

by giving too detailed a background to the booklet. I would like to make certain points apparent.

Initially it was envisaged that the booklet would be prepared under the auspices of the historic buildings advisory committee which is a sub-committee set up by the National Museums and Monuments. For various reasons, whilst the booklet was being prepared it was decided that publication could not proceed under the aegis of the Committee. A decision was then taken by the individuals who were assisting in research for the booklet that production of the booklet should nevertheless proceed, but that it would now be published by that particular group of individuals amongst whom are members of the society. Particular gratitude must here be expressed to Mr Peter Jackson. Mr Jackson is an architect who came to our country only in 1980. In the intervening years he has learned to a great deal about the country and has contributed significantly to making the Harare City Council aware of the need to preserve many of our historic buildings. It is largely as a result of his great enthusiasm and hard work that have enabled the booklet to reach its advanced stage.

The booklet will reflect a combination of historical and architectural information about the buildings portrayed therein. Apart from the descriptions of the buildings, many fine photographs and drawings will transform the booklet into what I am sure will be a most worthwhile acquisition.

Although the final details have, not been finalised, it is our intention that a certain proportion of the royalties will revert to the Society whereby the building fund would become a self-perpetuating fund as it is the future intention of the group of persons who have assisted in the preparation of the booklet that similar booklets be prepared in due course for other centres in Zimbabwe.

The one function undertaken each year by the National Committee is that of the annual dinner. This year we had a bumper crop of responses to our invitation to the dinner, so much so that a number of people had their cheques returned to them as the Royal Harare Golf Club could not accommodate any greater number.

This reflects the strong membership that we have at present and my only regret was that we could not accommodate all who wished to attend.

I should like to give my most grateful thanks to the Committee for their support during the year. In particular I should like to thank Mr Duncan Whaley for his services as secretary, and to Mr Lex Ogilvie for his kind attendance to our finances as treasurer of the National Committee.

I should also like to give a word of thanks to Mrs Rose Kimberley. Mrs Kimberley's name never appears as an office bearer in the association yet she is one of the most vital cogs in the organisation of the association.

She is the keeper of the scrolls in that she retains an up to date list of members together with an address plate machine from which we run off envelopes when we require to send circulars to all members. She accepts all payments be they in respect of a particular function or subscriptions. In all she is a most valuable person to have in the association and I am very much indebted to her.

I should like to conclude by again thanking you, our members for their strong support over the last year, and to urge you not to miss any opportunity to enrol new members.

T F M Tanser  
14 March 1986

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The following company has contributed towards  
the cost of producing *Heritage of Zimbabwe No.6*.

**Johnson & Fletcher**

The Society gratefully acknowledges this contribution.

# Office Bearers in The Rhodesiana Society/The History Society of Zimbabwe 1953 to 1986

## National Chairmen

1953-1970	H.A. Cripwell	1979	G.H. Tanser
1970-1973	A.S. Hickman	1979-1981	M.J. Kimberley
1973-1975	G.H. Tanser	1981-1983	R.C. Smith
1975-1977	R.W.S. Turner	1983	M. Spencer Cook
1977-1979	M.J. Kimberley	1983-1985	A.M. Rosettenstein
		1985-	T.F.M. Tanser

## National Deputy Chairman

1969-1970	A.S. Hickman	1979	M.J. Kimberley
1970-1973	G.H. Tanser	1980-1981	M. Spencer Cook
1975-1977	M.J. Kimberley	1984-1985	T.F.M. Tanser
		1985-	R.H. Wood

## National Honorary Secretaries

1953-1955	B.W. Lloyd	1962-1972	M.J. Kimberley
155-1956	J.M. van Heerden	1972-1976	C.W.H. Loades
1957-1958	G.B. da Graca	1976-1979	J.G. Storry
1959-1960	H.J. Mason	1979-1981	Miss P.I. Burton
1960	J.L.P. Garrett	1982-1985	D.H. Whaley
1961-1962	Mrs. P. Haddon	1986-	C.J. Ford

## National Honorary Treasurers

1953-1955	B.W. Lloyd	1968-1969	F.A. Staunton
1955-1956	J.M. van Heerden		Miss C. von Memerty
1957-1958	G.B. da Graca		M.J. Kimberley
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1962-1967	M.J. Kimberley	1979-	J.A. Ogilvie

## Editors of Rhodesiana (1956 to 1979)

No. 1	J.M. van Heerden	No. 6	W.F. Rea
No. 2	G.H. Tanser	No. 7	H.A. Cripwell
No. 3	G.H. Tanser	No. 8	J. Drew
No. 4	B.W. Lloyd	Nos. 9 to 17	E.E. Burke
No. 5	H.A. Cripwell	Nos. 18 to 40	W.V. Brelsford

## Editors of Heritage of Zimbabwe

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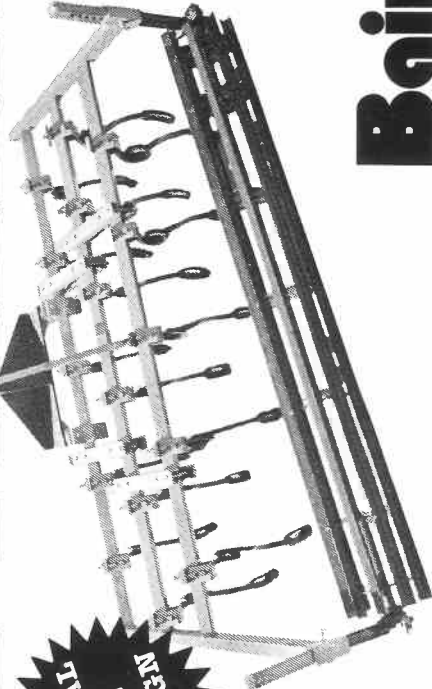
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