

Our Members' Settler Stories



Figure 1: Rosemary, the European herb Salvia Rosmarinus is for remembrance. Its South African counterpart



Figure 2: Erioccephalus africanus L (or Kapok bos,)– is common in the Cape and described as 'hardy and evergreen.' We thank the following 14 LAHS members - especially those who kept to the word limit! - for sharing evergreen stories of their hardy Settler

Avonne Pickering traces two lines of 1820 Settlers in her lineage; Margaret Fordyce boasts five. On HMS Troop Ship The Weymouth, did the forefathers of Delia Bava, Pat Bailes and Robin Collett take their meagre meals together? Did Avonne Pickering and Juan Southey's ancestors become acquainted – or even friends - on the Kennersley Castle? Connecting to another three LAHS members, perhaps on the Sir George Osborn, last to arrive in Algoa Bay, Butler and Dickason commiserated about their unhappy experiences in Clanwilliam and related their stories to Settler Edward Gardner?

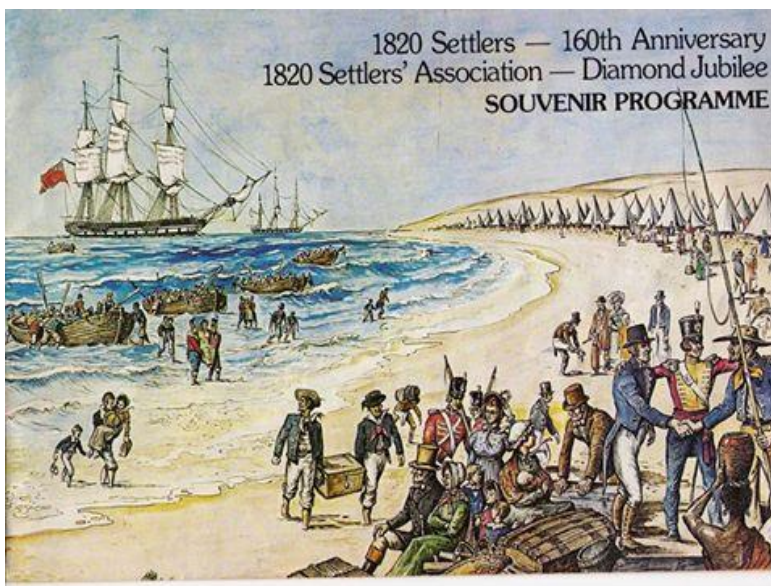


Figure 3: 1820 Settlers - 160th Anniversary Souvenir Programme

Figure 4: The Ox-Wagon Routes (---) the Settlers Followed from Algoa Bay.

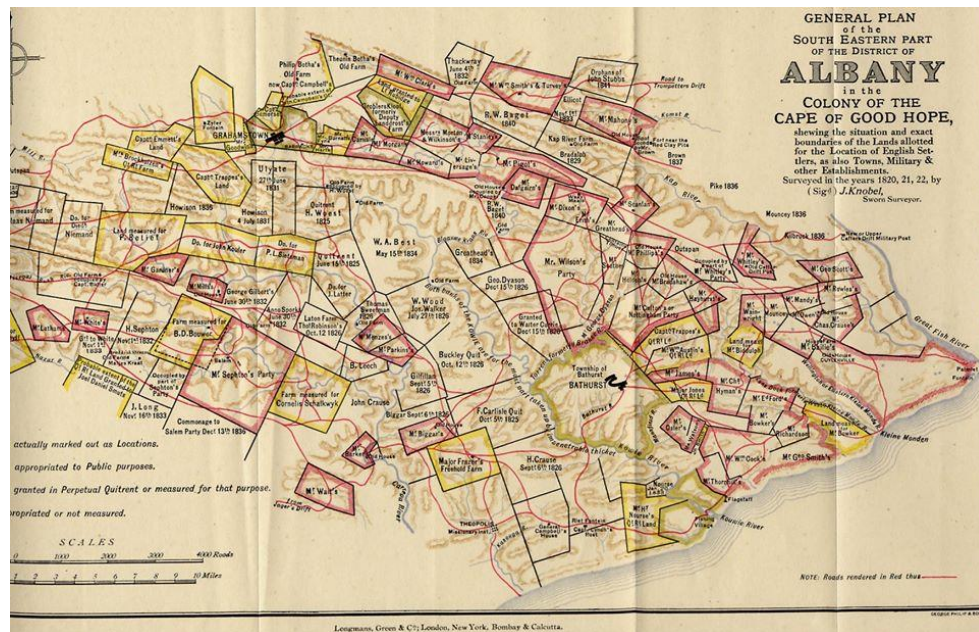
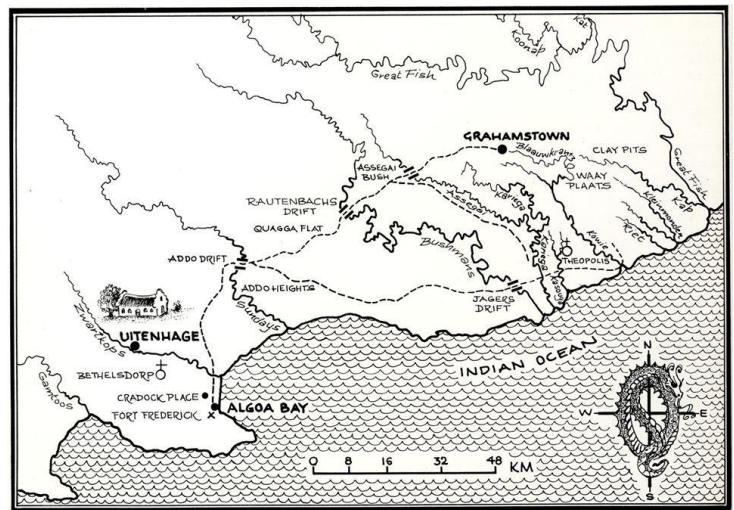


Figure 5: J Knobel's Survey Map of 1824, Showing the Various Settler Locations

LAHS Member: Patricia Bailes

1820 Settler: Rebecca AMOS, daughter of Elizabeth and Edward Amos,



Rebecca AMOS was born at River, near Dover, England, was one of seven Amos children. After her father's death her mother married Richard Bowles. Rebecca was nine years old when the Bowles/Amos family sailed aboard *The Weymouth* with Menezes' Party.

Marriage: Rebecca married John Stow at St George's Church, Grahamstown in 1830. John, from Middlesex, had served a 7-year apprenticeship as a collar maker. The couple lived in Uitenhage and raised a family of 10 children.

Howieson's Poort. Pat Bailes' Grandfather, William Stow, was the son of Rebecca's eldest son, John Henry Stow. William (Bill) married Ellen Emma Fish. They had three daughters, and Sidney Alfred, my father. He was in business as a waggoner. The advent of the railways forced him to close and he and Ellen bought the hotel at Howieson's Poort outside Grahamstown.

Figure 6: Rebecca Amos

Port Alfred In 1896 Bill and Ellen bought Styles Hotel in Port Alfred, renovated it and changed the name to The Grand Hotel. They ran a very successful business with many illustrious visitors and finally retired around 1913.

The Anglo Boer War Holidaymakers to Port Alfred arrived by train and Bill collected them at the station by horse carriage. During the war the army commandeered all horses; it was necessary to obtain permits to retain horses for business, but the hotel had two permits. These are now in the Kowie Museum.

The Port Alfred Golf Club. Walter Vroom, Bill's cousin, became a man of stature in the history of Port Alfred. The following is an extract from his memoirs: "...the Doctor (*C E Jones-Phillipson*) arranged for a meeting to be held in his house. Those present were Dr C E Jones-Phillipson, Dr W H Atherstone and Messrs W Stow, G H Holloway and W H Vroom. After some discussion it was agreed that each would contribute £ 20 pounds to make a 9-hole course and then form a club. Bill Stow of the Grand Hotel



Figure 7: William and Nellie Stow

willingly gave his £ 20 pounds although he said that he had never heard of anyone making money out of sport!"

Sidney Stow, Pat's father, was a very good golfer who won the Grahamstown Cup in 1925 and played with the Prince of Wales during his visit to Port Alfred.

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LAHS Member: Lyn Bosch

1820 Settler: William ANDREWS, the son of William Andrews and Elizabeth Chipperfield was born on 27 November 1802 in Norfolk, England. A sawyer and carpenter, he arrived in Algoa Bay on 30 April 1820 with William Smith's Party on The *Northampton*. His name is not on any official settler party list, but he is mentioned elsewhere in colonial records. The party settled at Stoney Vale between Grahamstown and Trompetter's Drift.

Figure 8: Lyn Bosch's husband, Kenny Bosch, with his sister, Andy Swart, and brother, Peter Bosch. They are direct descendants of William Andrews. He was their great-great grandfather. Their grandmother, Violet Virginia Bezuidenhout (nee Andrews) was his granddaughter.



By 1831 William owned the farm Endwell between Adelaide and Fort Beaufort. He married Anna Maria Lottering and they had six children, five born on Endwell. Many of their grandchildren and extended family were also born there.

The Cape Frontier Times refers to William Andrews: "Fort Beaufort, 12th Jan 1851 Poor ANDREWS had built a new house, his being burnt down last war. It was just finished, but had not been inhabited, and is now reduced to ashes...."

William was illiterate but according to a great-great grandson he hired a tutor for his son William Jnr. The Voters Roll of Eastern Cape records both father and son were still living on Endwell in 1878. William Andrews died on 29 November 1881 and is buried at Endwell, together with his wife and daughter-in-law who both died in 1876, (not 1877). Records show that many other family members were buried there but sadly there are no gravestones for them. An obituary notice in The Fort Beaufort Advocate and General Advertiser of 9 December 1881 reported: "Died at Endwell on the 29th day of November 1881, William Andrews, aged 80 years and 2 days, after a long and painful illness which he bore with Christian fortitude. Deceased was one of the British Settlers of 1820."



Figure 9: William Andrews
(Albany Museum)

Figure 10: Gravestone on
Endwell (thanks to Derek
Painter)



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LAHS member : Avonne Pickering

1820 Settlers: Thomas and Grace BRENT, Samuel HAYES

Thomas (1761-1836) and Grace (nee Elliot 1790-1880) from Barnwood, Gloucestershire were in Bradshaw's party which sailed on The *Kennersley Castle*. Thomas was a weaver and a Royal Marine Pensioner who in fact had been to the Cape in his naval service and stated in his application for emigration that he *"should be glad of the opportunity of emigrating to the place where I have already been and I like the country extremely well"*. Theirs was a parish party which means that Thomas was one of the many unemployed people leaving England. Their location was named New Gloucester. They had nine children, five of whom accompanied them from England. Their eldest son, Thomas, was the great grandfather of Avonne's mother, Doreen Brent.

Samuel (1812-1875) accompanied his father **Samuel Hayes (1774-1835)** in Carlisle's party from Ipstones, Staffordshire which sailed on The *Chapman*. Samuel Snr was a woodcutter in the employ of John Carlisle and emigrated as an indentured labourer. He died in 1835. Samuel Jnr married Sarah Gordon Emslie and they had twelve children. He was the blacksmith in Bathurst after Thomas Hartley. Their son John Henry married Eliza Jane Talbot and by 1873 they owned Grove Hill farm. The portion that had the railway built on it had a stop named Hayes Siding. John Henry "Jack" and Eliza were my mother's grandparents.



My mother was the first of her family to leave Lower Albany in the mid-30s to live with the Hobbs family in the Eastern Free State in the hopes of improving her health. The Hobbs' were cousins and also of direct 1820 stock.

Descendants and Reunions: The Brent family is extensive and many of the descendants still live in the Lower Albany and in the era of social networking Avonne has encountered a number of third cousins. Two of John Henry's brothers lived in the Queenstown district and their descendants are still in the area.

A breakfast had been arranged in PE (for April 2020) for the descendants of the Settlers who sailed on *The Chapman*, the first of the ships to arrive in Algoa Bay.

Figure 11: Left, on a Port Alfred beach, 1940s: Doreen and Annie-May (nee Hayes) Brent, Avonne Pickering's grandmother and mother, respectively.

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LAHS Member: Neville Gordon

1820 Irish Settler: Capt Thomas BUTLER of the Dublin Militia, head of a party of 32.

Home town: Baltinglass, Co Wicklow, Ireland.

Sailed with his wife Elizabeth, sons Joseph and James and daughter Matilda in *The Fanny* from Passage West, Cork early January 1820. Arrived at Simon's Town 2 May 1820, then were redirected to Saldanha Bay where they with other Irish parties (Synnot's and Ingram's) arrived around 17 May 1820.

John Butler, supposedly the eldest son (19) - possibly from an earlier marriage - appears not to have sailed on *The Fanny* but is recorded as having joined the party at their second allotment at Assegai Bush River. There are very few records of him so it is possible he returned to Ireland after just a short stay.

Butler's Settlement was first at Clanwilliam from mid-late May 1820, where there was disarray and dissension about land allocations. Some of the Irish parties therefore relocated, via *The Sir George Osborn* to Algoa Bay, and then on to Assegai Bush, near Seven Fountains, south of Grahamstown. Butler arrived at his allotment (named *Mellville Park*, later *Yarrow*) in September 1820. His was a proprietary party, which meant that he was to

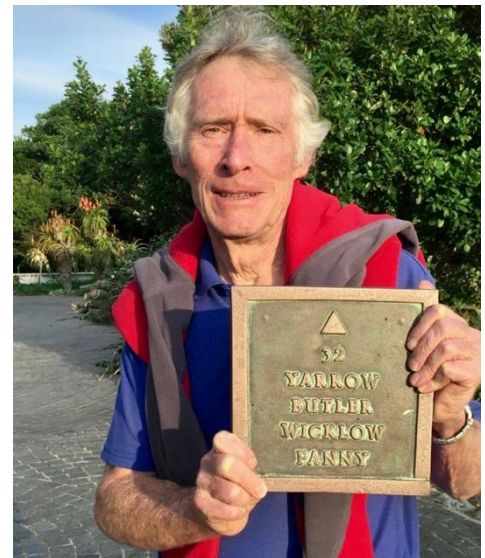


Figure 12: Neville Gordon pictured with original bronze plaque from Toposcope Monument)

supply each family with land in return for 200 days' work annually for four years. By 1822, given the adverse agricultural conditions and ruined harvests, Butler's small party had dwindled: some members had absconded, leaving him deeply in debt and eventually destitute.

Following a brain injury to their son James and the death from snake-bite of their daughter, Butler's wife Elizabeth returned to Ireland. Capt Butler appears to have sold the farm in 1826. He then worked for Robert Hart at Somerset Farm (now Somerset East) for a while, after which we sadly have no trace of his movements, whether he found his way back to Ireland, when he died or where he was buried.



This was the bridge mentioned in John Montgomery's *Reminiscences*, where he made his decision to go to Africa with Butler's party. (John Montgomery, 16 years old and related to Mrs Butler, sailed unofficially with the Irish Settlers and in due course left his mark as a successful trader, by founding Burgersdorp and in writing his lively and informative *Reminiscences*.)

Figure 13: Neville Gordon on the bridge over the River Slaney, Baltinglass, Co Wicklow, Ireland

Succession: As far as we know, South African descendants of this lineage come from Thomas Butler's son, Joseph Lapham Butler, who settled and farmed in the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage district. We do not know what became of the other sons, including a son George Butler born in 1824 (who may have left SA with his mother Elizabeth).

Descendants: Neville has contact with distant cousins Wayne Butler, Uitenhage; David Butler of KZN and Hilda Krogmann of New Zealand.

No plans for a family reunion in 2020

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LAHS Member: Robin Collett

1820 Settler: James Lydford COLLETT, of Stroudwater, Gloucestershire, England.



James Lydford Collett came from a wool farming family that had a weaving mill. His parents were Henry Collett, a staunch Wesleyan who became Lord Mayor of London, and his wife Martha Collett. James, one of five children, all educated, was known as a small spare man with a quick temper.

He sailed as a single man aged 20 to avoid being articleed against his will to a lawyer. He joined the party of Maj-Gen Campbell, who funded 100 men and their families. With others, totalling 451 (inter alia the Bowker, Cock, Osler and Trollip parties), they sailed on *The Weymouth* landing at Algoa Bay mid-May 1820. On the voyage about 20 children and four adults died of measles and nine babies were born.

James worked and stayed at Maj-General Campbell's Barville Farm [see earlier article] under William Trollip, building a house on Rietfontein.

He did not receive 100 acres of land like other men but stayed with the Campbells until they could no longer accommodate him, and then went to Grahamstown. He therefore did not suffer as other farmers had. He married 17-year-old Rhoda Trollip (1806-1895) at the Wesleyan church Grahamstown in 1824 (they had met on *The Weymouth*). They lived with the Trollip family on Banksia Farm and then Camphors Kraal, where his first child was born.

James became a wagon trader, opening shops and trading as far as the Fish River. He bought Grove Hill in 1832, then three other farms on which he planted orchards and vegetables, before moving to Fort Beaufort in 1836, to continue trading and opening shops.

During the Sixth Frontier War he moved to Beaufort Street, Grahamstown. His son John served in The War of the Axe. All James' wagons and goods were stolen or burnt, but his family survived.

He then moved to Daggaboer Farm south of Cradock, owned by William Trollip, his wife's brother. In 1841 he bought Groenfontein north west of Cradock, planting wheat, barley and corn and farming merino sheep and cattle while continuing his trade southwards.

By the time James died of coronary thrombosis at the age of 75, he had 20 grandchildren and was able to buy each of his nine children a farm. He is buried at Grassridge Farm and his wife lived with each of her children in turn until she died in 1895.



Figure 14: James Lydford Collett (1800 – 1875)

Descendants: A Collett Family Reunion of many families was planned for the Easter weekend of 2020. This was to have taken place at Fish River Hall and Church (a stone building built by the Collett family) and a tour was to follow over two-and-a-half days of all the Collett family farms, with stayovers, ending with communion in the church. About 150 people were expected to attend; a new updated book of the Collett family history had been printed and was to be handed out to all families represented.



Figure 15: Left: the second and third Collett generations: Son of James L Collett, John, with wife Mary and their 12 children, 1904.

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LAHS Member: **Graham Dickason** (article by Sue Gordon)



1820 Settler: Robert DICKASON (1766-1844), a cabinet-maker of Necton, Norfolk, England, married Emily Claybrook who bore him four children, Amelia, Frederick, Alfred and Henry. She died in 1818, so Robert saw the emigration scheme as an opportunity for a new start for himself and his children. He had been selected by Robert Woodcock to join his party, and Woodcock in turn agreed to augment the party of Irishman William Parker, which sailed on The *East Indian*.

Locations: They were initially sent to Saldanha Bay for settlement at Clanwilliam, but after disagreements over land Dickason and other Settlers, now under the leadership of Joseph Latham, relocated in The *Sir George Osborn* via Algoa Bay to an abandoned farm in Albany. This second location was renamed Seven Fountains.

Here Robert Dickason set to work felling trees, making bricks, roof tiles and constructing a Georgian-style double storey house that became known as The Red House. Dickason crafted all the furniture in it and also plied his trade successfully in the early years when other Settlers were rendered destitute by farming calamities. The Red House was occupied for over 110 years but demolished in the 1930s, although most of the materials were reused in a new dwelling built nearby.

Robert Dickason's daughter Amelia (1806-1875) married a wheelwright, Jonathan Shelver, in 1833. On the occasion of her brother Frederick's marriage in Grahamstown in 1836 Robert Dickason stayed behind and witnessed cattle being stolen from the farm. Robert died in 1844 and was buried in a plot a little way from their home. His grave is a raised inscribed stone bier. Of the total of 18 graves on this site, eleven appear to be those of family members.

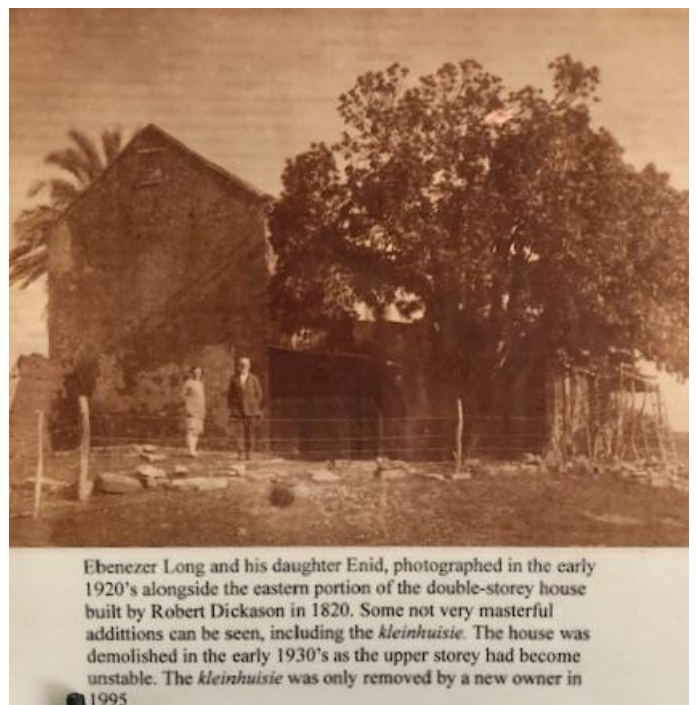
Both Amelia and her husband, and Frederick who married Aletta Bouwer, as well as Alfred who married Aletta's sister Hester, had several children between them and either lived out their lives at Seven Fountains (Amelia and Alfred), or later moved away. Frederick and Henry and their families settled in the East London area after Robert's death.

Alfred, **Graham Dickason's** antecedent, became a trader and is remembered in '*A Victorian Lady at the Cape*' by Alan F Hattersley for transporting the party and ample luggage of Rev Gray, his wife and sister Lucy Gray who were making their way from Algoa Bay, via Sidbury, Seven Fountains, Bishop Merriman's home in Grahamstown, and on to Cradock.

Alfred died in 1889, his wife Hester a year later, whereupon the farm was sold to Ebenezer Long (see above).

Descendants' Commemoration Plans:

A Memorial Service is still planned to take place at Seven Fountains on 27 September 2020 at 10:00. Those invited represent Settlers from the three parties which settled in the same area: the **Butlers** of Melville Park, the Latham Party of Seven Fountains, and the Francis Party of Birchwood and the Emslie family.



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LAHS MEMBER: Gift Gardner

1820 Settler: Edward GARDNER (right) was a plater and head of the Gardner party that left from Deptford England in March 1820 on the ship *Sir George Osborn*. The last of the Settler ships, it arrived in Algoa Bay in July 1820.

Edward (b 1787) was from a small village, New Birmingham (Gleann An Ghuail) in Ireland, where he worked in a silver mine and became a silver plater. He came to South Africa aged 33 with his wife Mary (Brougham), his son Hezekiah 8, twins James and Elizabeth 5 (Elizabeth died on the ship), a daughter Mary Ann 2, and baby John, who was born on the ship as it entered Algoa Bay.

Their allotment in the Kariega valley was named "Birmingham New" (now Mosslands), because the party of Settlers with them were from Birmingham, England, and Edward was from New Birmingham, Tipperary. Edward and Mary had two more children – Dinah, in 1824, who died at the age of 14 - and Sarah, in 1826.

Their first dwelling of wattle and daub was burnt down on Christmas day in 1834 at the start of the Sixth Frontier War. Edward & Hezekiah then built their home on the present site at Mosslands where an enormous 190-year-old oak tree planted by Hezekiah still stands. Like other Settlers they suffered terrible hardships in the first years: raids, cattle theft and farming disasters. Edward sold the farm and another, Mount Pleasant, in 1850 to his youngest son and then lived in Cradock with his second son, James, until his death in Sept 1864 (Mary had died in 1859.)

At 16 years Hezekiah was granted 3000 morgen on the Bushmans River and named the farm Harvest Vale. After marrying Maria Behrens in 1834 he sold Harvest Vale and bought Markwood on the Fish River Rand overlooking the Winterberg. Maria died in 1850, having borne nine children. Hezekiah married twice more, accumulating 14 children altogether and died at Markwood in 1892 aged 81.



Figure 17: Hezekiah's House at Birmingham New

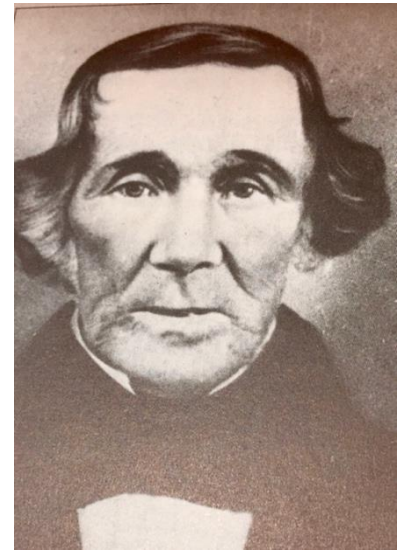


Figure 16: Edward Gardner

Edward's second son James spent most of his life in Cradock and his younger brother John (born as they arrived in Algoa Bay) became an elephant hunter who later bought both Birmingham New and Mount Pleasant from his father. John also served with the British Force in Port Natal, his claim to fame being that he selected the two horses for Dick King's famous ride to Grahamstown.

John, who married in 1845, bought Harvest Vale in 1857- so except for three years, this farm had been in the Gardner family from 1827. Eighty years on, in 2007, it was sold and is now part of Kariega Game Park (see sign for Settler's Drift on the R72).

John fathered nine children and died in 1892 after a leg amputation and wagon accident. His eldest son, another Edward, married Susan Britten, but tragically in 1888 they lost five children in one week from diphtheria. Their eldest daughter, Edna May survived.

John's fifth child and second son Charles (b 1859) married and lived at Harvest Vale, becoming a successful ostrich farmer. As a member of the first executive of the E Cape Farmers Agricultural Association he initiated dipping tanks to save cattle from tick-borne diseases.

Charles was able to leave his five children each a large undivided farm between Bushman's River and Alexandria: Harvest Vale (Basil), Spadona (Vernon), Jager's Drift (Victor) and Hunter's Lodge (Lyndon) were all entailed for three generations; daughter Dulcie received Mount Pleasant, not entailed. Charles suffered a stroke in his 82nd year and died at Harvest Vale.

Lyndon's grandson, Errol Nightingale, bought Jager's Drift in 1995 from his cousin Andrew Mark Gardner, so there is still one farm in the Gardner lineage!

Descendants and Reunions: There is contact with closer cousins, but no big 2020 Gardner family reunion was planned. However, our interest in the possibility was piqued and we made contact with another descendant on the 1820 Settler Facebook page: Vivienne Lewis Leverington of the UK. She had planned to come out for the 200 year celebrations, and shared her family tree with us. The mother of the Hon. Justice Jan Eksteen was another Gardner, who also contributed much information.



Figure 18: Mosslands today: Note Hezekiah's 190-year-old oak tree

(Article from a talk given by Frank Gardner at Mosslands in 2008)

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LAHS Member: Ted Gilfillan

1820 Scottish Settler: William Frederick Anderson GILFILLAN



When he was 16 in 1812, William Gilfillan came out to South Africa as an ensign in the 60th Rifles Regiment. During the Napoleonic wars, when France overran the Netherlands, the British occupied the Cape from 1806 to prevent it falling into French hands, and sent out regiments to garrison the Cape. It is recorded that on 30th October 1817 Lieutenant Gilfillan garrisoned the Kaffir Drift Post on the Fish River.

After the Napoleonic Wars William Gilfillan returned to England with his regiment in 1818. He applied to return to South Africa as an independent officer on half pay, as part of the Settlement Scheme and persuaded his younger brother Adam to accompany him. They both joined the Thornhill party, William as an independent and Adam as a Settler, and sailed on The *Zoroaster* which arrived in Simon's Bay on 20th April 1820. They were transferred to the ship *Albany* which took three weeks to reach Algoa Bay. [From Nash, M D.

The Settler Handbook, however, we have: '*William Gilfillan did not, as is popularly supposed, emigrate with Thornhill's party; he landed in Cape Town from the importer Brig in March 1820 and applied for a land grant by virtue of his seven years' army service at the Cape.*']

On the long voyage out, so the story goes, both brothers fell in love with Anna Margaret Thornhill, who returned William's affections. They were married in Bathurst in May 1821 and settled initially on the Thornhill allotment between the Kowie and the Rufane Rivers.

They moved in 1828 to the farm Glenfillan (later Glenfillan Park) near the Kariega River, where William built a stone house. When the Sixth Frontier War broke out, on Christmas day 1834, Glenfillan was burnt to the ground. William was commanding a company in the First Battalion at the time. In early 1837 William accepted an offer from Captain Stockenstrom to become Civil Commissioner and first Resident Magistrate of Cradock, a position he held until his death in 1855. He and Anna had 14 children.

Descendants and Reunions: There is a considerable family tree of related descendants, many in Johannesburg. Ted Gilfillan's two sons and daughter no longer live in South Africa.

No family commemorations were planned for 2020.



Figure 19: William Gilfillan and his wife Anna Margaret (nee Thornhill)

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LAHS Member: Pearl Scotney

1820 Settlers: James and Ellen KENT, who came out with their 6 month-old son, who died shortly after arrival. They came from Lancashire in Hayhurst's party, so each paid their own way, sailing from Liverpool on the ship *John*.

Locations: Their allotment was at Trappes Valley, where they stayed for 13 years and had four children. They experienced the adversities of most Settlers, including crop failures and floods. To make ends meet Ellen taught the children in the vicinity and James worked as a shoemaker. In 1833 when it became lawful to trade between the Fish and Keiskamma Rivers James went trading for a Mr Driver.



Figure 20: Five Kent sisters today, directly descended from Settler James Kent. Standing: Dilys and Edna; seated, from left: Gift Wallace (nee Kent) who married Frank Gardner, another 1820 descendant (see earlier article). Next to Gift is Pearl Scotney, her twin (now

While waiting at Wiggills Mill in Grahamstown Ellen was bitten by a spider and died from blood poisoning, so James then took his four children to his trading store in the Amatolas, near DebeNek.

At the start of the Sixth Frontier War, on Christmas Eve 1834, James and several other traders were murdered as the Xhosas entered the Colony.

A Xhosa maid dressed the two boys as girls and took all four children to the nearest Mission Station, Mr Ross's at Pirie. From there, together with others in a similar plight, they were escorted by soldiers to Grahamstown. These little orphans were 13, 10, seven and four years old; I imagine the eldest girl acted as mother to them all. Lots were cast for them and each went to a different family. The one boy later wrote his life story and said how sad they had been at being parted from one another.

Descendants: It is an interesting story of how each made their way in life. Today there are many descendants, having had varying degrees of success in life.

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LAHS Member: Marianne Sutherland.

1820 Settlers: George Augustus KOLBE and Margaret Downing.

The Progenitor of the Kolbé family in South Africa, the Rev Dr George Augustus Kolbé [listed pre-embarkation as a chemist in Nash, M D, 1987], was born in London in December 1802. He was a descendant of the Kolbés who arrived from Germany with George I when he became King of England in 1714. Dr Kolbé's wife, Lady Margaret Downing, was a daughter of Lord Downing, the peer who presented the site of the present No 10 Downing Street to the British Government.

They were married in Middlesex on 20 January 1819 and came to SA in Owen's party in the ship *The Nautilus*.

Kolbe worked as a medical missionary for the London Missionary Society in the Bethulie, Philippolis and Burgersdorp areas and later settled on his farm "Wurttenburg," in the division of Albert (Burgersdorp), where he died on 1 December 1844.

Margaret was born in London in February 1803 and died at Burgersdorp on the 25th November 1867. Both Margaret and George are buried at Burgersdorp. They had six children, the youngest of whom was Johan Casimer, born in Burgersdorp and educated at the South African College in Cape Town. He married Elizabeth Gertruida Pienaar of The Hantam, part of the present district of Colesburg.

After their marriage, Johan started farming at "Ruigtevlei" near Priors Station in the Orange Free State and became one of the most progressive farmers in the Bethulie district. He served his country as commandant, Member of the Volksraad and Justice of the Peace - he was highly esteemed by everyone who knew him. He was killed when he was kicked by a horse while judging at the Smithfield Show on 11 March 1906.



Figure 21: A daughter and four grandchildren at the graves of Andreas and 'Ouma' Anna Sophia (nee Kolbe) Kolver, on the family farm 'Bokpost.' Trudi Strack van Schyndel (nee Kolver), second from left, was their daughter. All are direct descendants of the eminent 1820 Settler Kolbe and Lady Downing.

LAHS member Marianne Sutherland is second from right.

From the marriage of Johan and Elizabeth Kolbé, eleven children were born. The ninth, Anna Sophia, Marianne Sutherland's grandmother (Ouma), married Andreas Tobias Kolver, who died in the 1918/1919 flu epidemic. Three children were born from this marriage on the family farm 'Bokpost,' between Philippolis and Donkerpoort. They were Kolbe, Betty, and Trudi (Getruida Elizabeth), Marianne's mother.

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LAHS Members: Juan and Peggy Southey

1820 Settler: George SOUTHEY (1776-1831) married Joan Baker (1782-1835) in Culstock, Devon. When the British Government encouraged emigration to the Cape of Good Hope in 1819, George, in the textile industry, formed a party of 49, seven of whom were his own children: Sophia (16), William (13), Richard (11), George (9), Elizabeth (7), Henry (4) and baby Cannon who died on the voyage. The party sailed aboard *The Kennersley Castle* from Bristol on 10 January 1820, arriving at Table Bay on 27 March. Because of measles on board they were quarantined for three weeks and landed in Algoa Bay only on 29 April 1820.

Locations: The Southey's settled at Round Hill on 700 morgen on the Bush River (a branch of the Kowie) between Bathurst and Martindale, where they arrived on 12 May 1820. They then moved to Southey's Hoek, near Trompeter's Drift on the Fish River. George Southey died in Grahamstown in 1831.

His son Richard married Isabella Shaw and he and his brothers bought land on the Kap River and lived there until the Sixth Frontier War, during which they were attacked and lost everything. They then moved to Graaff Reinet where at the end of 1835 Richard's younger brother George (Jnr) married Eleanor Rubidge and, with his brothers-in-law Charles Rubidge and Charles Powell, purchased 28000 morgen of land which had become available after the Boers went on the Great Trek.



Figure 22: Richard Southey

Meantime Richard farmed in partnership with his brother-in-law William Shaw. Sophia Southey, the eldest Southey sister, married Joseph Stirk, a trader in Peddie.

Richard Southey (Figure 22), Juan Southey's great-great grandfather, was destined to become one of the most distinguished 1820 Settlers, in a long and busy life. Some of his accomplishments include: Capt of the Corps of Guides and Secretary to Harry Smith (1835-1836); Special Commissioner to the Sovereignty (1837); farming and other mercantile pursuits at Graaff Reinet (1837-1846); Secretary to Governor Sir Harry Smith (1847); Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate of Swellendam (1849->); Secretary to Government (1852->); Colonial Secretary (1864-1872); in 1868 the first diamond discovered was placed by Southey on the table in the House of Assembly; Lieutenant Governor of Griqualand West (in the time of the diamond rush 1872-1875); MP for Grahamstown (1876-1878).

There is a charming story about the name Juan. Harry Smith, who saved and then married Juana Maria de los Delores de Leon during the Peninsula War of 1812, worked closely with Richard Southey and they became close friends. Richard was always enamoured with Juana and named his first son Juan. This has become a family name ever since.

Richard's first wife died in 1869 and in 1872 he married Elizabeth Krynauw, who died in 1894. He was knighted in 1901, but he died in the same year, aged 91.

His sons Charles and William were successful and progressive farmers in the Middelburg (Cape) district and their progeny still farm in the area. George Southey Jnr's family moved to Rhodesia.

The Southeys had a well-attended Reunion in 2004 but had no official commemoration plans this year.



Figure 23: George Southey Jnr who infamously killed Paramount Chief Hintsa and mutilated his body

References:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Southey_\(colonial_administrator\)#/media/File:George_Southey_-_Lieutenant_in_Xhosa_wars.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Southey_(colonial_administrator)#/media/File:George_Southey_-_Lieutenant_in_Xhosa_wars.jpg)

LAHS Member: Margaret Fordyce

1820 Settlers: WEBB, SLATER, TALBOT, ROBINSON (Sephton Party); and WHEELER, CALVERLEY and RANDALL



Margaret writes: On my father's side there were

Christopher WEBB, a shoemaker from London who sailed with his wife Mary and son Christopher on The *Brilliant* as part of Sephton's party, Gush division. My great-great grandfather Joseph was born at sea and arrived in Algoa Bay as a baby. They settled at Salem.

John TALBOT and his wife Priscilla and five children also came out in Sephton's party. John was a master mariner aboard the *Brilliant* and his wife and children sailed in The *Aurora*. They were settled at Salem. His daughter Sophia (left, below) was my great-great grandmother and married Charles Robinson.



Thomas SLATER, a cotton dealer and his wife and children sailed on the *Aurora* in Sephton's party. They were also settled at Salem. His daughter Elizabeth was my great-great-great grandmother and her daughter Louisa Neale (Neil?) married Joseph Webb.

Thomas ROBINSON, an umbrella maker and his wife Mary Ann and five children sailed in The *Aurora* in Sephton's party. They were settled at Salem. His son Charles was my great-great grandfather who married Sophia Talbot.

On my mother's side were:

James WHEELER, a farmer, and his wife Harriet and four children who sailed on *La Belle Alliance* in Willson's party. They were settled on the Bush River, a tributary of the Torrens. His daughter Harriet was my great-great grandmother.

William CALVERLEY, a labourer, and his wife Jane and four children sailed on The *John* in Stanley's party. They were settled in Albany on the Blaauwkrantz River. His son Richard was my great great grandfather, who married Harriet Wheeler.

My great grandmother was **Isabella RANDALL** who was of settler stock but I am not sure which Randall. She married Thomas Torr whose father Robert had come to The Cape as part of the British forces that took part in the Battle of Blaauwberg Strand in the Second Occupation of the Cape

No plans for any reunions that I am aware of.

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LAHS Member: Delia (Weeks) Bava

1820 Settler Forebears: James and Grace WEEKS



Baker and confectioner James Weeks and his wife Grace sailed on HM Store Ship *Weymouth* and during this voyage their two-year-old daughter Elizabeth died. The Osler party which they were part of settled on the left bank of the Mansfield River, which flows into the Kowie. They named their location Pendennis (after landmarks in Cornwall).

James knew little of farming in harsh African conditions, so once they were released from their land grants he began trading further north. Their son William had a son, Jabez, who was wounded in the 8th Frontier War and lost his sight, although he miraculously regained it much later.

Jabez purchased a farm Tygersfontein (Tiger Spring) in 1898 which became Reed Valley Farm and is now part of Amakhala Game Reserve between PE and Grahamstown. Jabez's son Walter, the epitome of white colonialism, dressed in a white safari suit and pith helmet and ran Merino sheep very successfully.



He was also the commanding officer of the Alexandria Town Guard during the Boer War and became famous for his role in this story:

While Jan Smuts, later prime minister of South Africa, was travelling on horseback from the north rounding up willing Afrikaners to join his commando, it was 'Nagmaal' (the NGK's monthly communion service) in the village of Paterson. Afrikaans farmers had also converged on the town for their monthly supplies.

"Capt Walter Weeks waited for all the Afrikaners to enter the church before he and his men rushed from hiding places and bolted the heavy church doors shut. They kept them there for three days until Jan Smuts's Commando was no longer a threat and thereby thwarted another confrontation."



Walter's son Jack took over the farm on his return from World War 1. His Reed Valley Jersey cow herd dating from 1925 was considered the third oldest Jersey herd in South Africa. He also farmed Merino sheep, and ostriches during the feather boom. His English wife, following her Red Cross experiences in WWI, became much loved as 'Granny Eileen' who established the Paterson health clinic. Jack's youngest son John inherited Reed Valley after World War II. He continued with milk and wool production and also planted one million pineapples. John and his wife Dianna were also very involved with the local community and set up Reed Valley School.

Figure 24: Jack and Eileen with Eric, Pat and Baby John Weeks

John's sons Rod and Mike presently own Reed Valley. Both served in the SANDF in South West Africa, making them the fifth Weeks generation to fight in a major war. Rod and his wife own and run Reed Valley Inn and Bush Lodge. Mike and his wife designed and ran The Safari Lodge, established in 2002. They became involved in conservation through Amakhala Game Reserve and with their sons intend to return the land they inherited to the natural environment that existed when James Weeks first arrived on African soil.

References: Weeks, Michael. Article The Weeks Family and The Farm Reed Valley

ooOoo

LAHS Member: Brian (Bugs) Wilmot

(compiled by Sue Gordon)



1820 Settler: Joseph Edward WILMOT came from a family in Nottinghamshire that moved to Derby, then London. The Wilmots were landed gentry (Joseph's father also became a Freeman of the City of London) and were active in the leather trade. Before 1820 Joseph was apprenticed to a piano maker, then became a glass cutter. His wife was Ann Routledge, but there is uncertainty about her identity and when she died, because Joseph Edward was also married to Susannah Richmond.

Four male Wilmot Settlers sailed in two different ships: Joseph and Ann, as well as George (Joseph's younger brother) who sailed with Sephton's Party on The *Brilliant*; and James and Ann, as well as Benjamin, in Willson's Party, on The *Belle Alliance*.

Settlement: Salem, with the Sephton party, then Joseph purchased Springvale Farm in 1839. (Apparently Susannah went into the bedroom and brought out a stocking filled with money and said "Go and buy it." When questioned about the stocking she said: "Do you think I would have come to a strange country with a strange man if I didn't have the wherewithal to get home again?")

Regarding the other Wilmot Settlers, Benjamin had a spat with Lord Charles Somerset regarding the plight of the Settlers and later returned to England to fight the Settlers' cause. James became a teacher at Bathurst and at Fort Beaufort.

Figure 25: An old 1820s Settler

Succession

Joseph Edward and Susannah had three sons and a daughter: John, Edward, Samuel and Mary, who died very young. From John Wilmot's notes it is not clear whether our LAHS Wilmot descends from Joseph Edward's sons, or from George.

Another Wilmot from this line who was in Lower Albany was the aristocrat Major Henry Eardley Wilmot, killed at the age of 25 by Xhosa on 1 January 1852 while patrolling the Fish River bush during the 8th Frontier War. He is buried at Peddie in the Eastern Cape.

Descendants

Today there are many South African Wilmot families who have moved to America, Australia, Botswana, Canada, England, Germany, New Zealand, St Helena, Wales and Zimbabwe.

No 2020 commemoration plans.

References:

Wilmot, John. Article *The Wilmots in South Africa* 2019