

RHODESIANA

PUBLICATION No. 36

MARCH, 1977



RHODESIANA

Publication No. 36 —March, 1977

THE RHODESIANA SOCIETY
Salisbury
Rhodesia

CONTENTS

March 1977

	<i>Page</i>
SIR HERBERT JOHN TAYLOR. K T: First CHIEF NATIVE COMMISSIONER, BY ROGER HOWMAN	1
MOODIE'S DRIFT, BY C. K Cooke	16
THE COLOURS OF THE SOUTHERN RHODESIA VOLUNTEERS (WESTERN DIVISION) by Col. J. de Lisle Thompson.23	
THE HISTORY OF GWELO, PART 3, BY PAT DAVIS.....	26
Harold Basil Christian: An Early Rhodesian Botanist, by Michael J. Kimberley.....	37
ALICE MARGARET ALLEN: RHODESIA'S FIRST HEAD-MISTRESS, BY R. R. Langham Carter	47
William HENRY SITWELL (1860-1952), BY OTTO REITZ	53
Short ARTICLES: Earlier Days in Salisbury, by the late L. S. Maclean: Umtali Incident, by Mrs. Hylda Richards: Bindura in the Twenties, by Mrs. R.M.. Morris: Major F. R. Burnham. D.S.O., by J. P. Lott ..	62
Society Activities.	71
Notes	75
Correspondence.	78
<i>Rhodesia Served the Queen, Volume Two. A REVIEW ARTICLE BY J. F. MIDGLEY.</i>	82
REVIEWS.	85

The cover picture is of the Ndebele Great Dance. It is from an engraving in "The Illustrated London News", 1872, after a sketch by Thomas Baines.

The Rhodesiana Society

Founded 1953

The Society exists to promote Rhodesian historical studies and to encourage research, it also aims to unite all who wish to foster a wider appreciation and knowledge of the history of Rhodesia.

There is no entrance fee; with effect from January, 1977 the subscription is \$5.00 Rhodesian currency (\$8.90 U.S.A. or R7,00) a year, and this entitles paid-up members to those numbers of *Rhodesiana* issued during the year. There are two issues in each year, dated March and September.

For further information and particulars concerning membership please write to:

The Honorary National Secretary, Rhodesiana Society,
P.O. Box 8268, Causeway, Salisbury, Rhodesia.

For information about Branch activities please write to:

Matabeleland Branch, P.O. Box 1614, Bulawayo.
Manicaland Branch, 12, Vumba Avenue, Umtali.
Mashonaland Branch, P.O. Box 3946, Salisbury,

Manuscripts will be welcomed by the Editor. They should preferably be typed in double spacing and be complete with any illustrations. Copies of published works for review will also be welcomed.

National Executive Committee Members

R. W. S. Turner, M.S.M., *National Chairman*
M. J. Kimberley, *Deputy National Chairman*
J. G. Storry, *Honorary National Secretary*
W. V. Brelsford, *Editor*
E. E. Burke, M.L.M.
J. M. J. Leach
B. Lovemore, O.L.M.
B. W. Lloyd
Ald. G. H. Tanser
R. D. Franks, *Mashonaland Branch Representative*
H. J. Vickery, *Matabeleland Branch Representative*
H. T. F. Went, *Manicaland Branch Representative*

Matabeleland
Branch
Committee
Members

Chairman
H. J. Vickery

Honorary Secretary
Mrs. Paddy Vickery

G. Green
C. O. Liebold
W. Parry
Cllr. Mrs. J. Sharland
H. A. B. Simons

Manicaland
Branch
Committee
Members

Chairman
H. T. F. Went

Honorary Secretary
W.

R. Y. Armstrong
R. A. R. Bent, O.B.E.
Miss A. Cripps
K. M. Fleming
E. H. Howman
P. M. Hutchinson
J. E. Mazorati

Mashonaland
Branch
Committee
Members

Chairman
M. J. Kimberley

Vice-Chairman
D. Gale, M.B.E.

Honorary Secretary
R. D. Franks

Honorary Treasurer
J. M. J. Leach

Mrs. R. M. T. Barker
J. H. G. Robertson, M.L.M.
A. M. Rosettenstein
J. G. Storry
T. F. M. Tanser
R. H. Wood

THE RHODESIANA SOCIETY'S GOLD MEDAL

The Society periodically awards a gold medal to individuals who have made either an outstanding contribution towards furthering the aims and objects of the Rhodesiana Society or a major contribution to Rhodesian history. The following have been the recipients:

- 1970 H. A. Cripwell.
Colonel A. S. Hickman, M.B.E.
The Rt. Hon. the Viscount Malvem, p.c., C.H., K.C.M.G., LL.D
(Posthumously).
- 1972 Dr. O. N. Ransford
G. H. Tanser.
- 1975 M. J. Kimberley.
H. A. B. Simons.

Any member may nominate, to the Honorary Secretary, a candidate for consideration for the award of a Gold Medal. Awards may be made at any time, but not necessarily annually.



Sir Herbert John Taylor, Chief Native Commissioner, Matabeleland, 1895-1913: Chief Native Commissioner, S. Rhodesia, 1913-1928.

Photo: National Archives

Sir Herbert John Taylor, Kt., First Chief Native Commissioner

The Man who would not Quit

by Roger Howman

To be convicted of the unbelievable crime of LAESAE MAJESTATIS¹ in the Manica wilds of 1894 was a freakish prelude to a career of service to the state, with a knighthood in recognition. Yet the man who was to be Chief Native Commissioner for thirty-three years and to wield unique power over African affairs left not a word about his extraordinary pioneer life.²

The web of politics and power entangled him in 1890. A lesser man would have given up the hardships of those times when mingled with the weight of the web around him, but he would not quit. His story, the background to the stern, reserved and highly respected official, reveals an intriguing aspect of Rhodesian history.

To the village of Greytown in Natal there came in the early 1860s the Rev. Thomas Taylor. The padre had been sent by the Anglican Church to Canada, where his first son Frederick³ was born in 1856, and was then assigned to South Africa as the first incumbent Vicar of Greytown. There his other nine children⁴ were born, his third son being William born 1863⁵ and his fourth son Herbert John (HJT) on the 3rd January 1865.

After his education at Hilton College, Natal, and a stay in England, HJT's activities are unknown until in 1890, when his two older brothers joined the B.S.A. Co. Police of the Pioneer Column to occupy Mashonaland, he became associated with the well-known hunter and trader in Gazaland, Reuben Beningfield.⁶

Beningfield had over nearly twenty-five years explored Portuguese territory. He had often visited the Shangaan Chief Umzila near the present Mount Selinda and he claimed to be a personal friend of Mutassa, the chief of Manica. In 1889 he formed the African Portuguese Syndicate to acquire a mining concession granted by Chief Mutassa of Manica in 1888 to George Wise of the Johannesburg Syndicate. This concession, acquired before the Portuguese began to take an economic interest in the area, leased to Wise the mineral rights over a tract of country defined as four miles on each side of the Mutare river down to its junction with the Odzi river for "99 years viz. from 3.11.1888 to 3.11.1987", in exchange for an annual tribute of 200 blankets.⁷

In November 1890 Beningfield engaged HJT with a companion named Edward Torgius "to repair to . . . and pay King Umtassa" the annual rental of 200 blankets due under the concession. They left Durban on the 11th November aboard the "S.S. Lady Wood", landed at Chiloane⁸ and with some 42 carriers

made their way up the Pungwe river to Neves Ferreira camp to arrive at Mutassa's stronghold near the Mutare river on the 17th December. There the chief expressed his satisfaction, put his mark to a formal receipt of the blankets and insisted on his son Zimbayo being at his side when he presented an elephant tusk to HJT to give to Beningfield as a token binding himself and, on his death his son, to the contract.

Arrested by B.S.A.C.P.

Next day HJT returned to his camp where he had left Torgius down with fever and both were arrested by the newly-arrived B.S.A. Company's Police. Torgius being too ill to move, HJT was brought before the court of Dennis Doyle on a charge of "attempting to bribe Umtassa with presents in order to cancel his treaty with the B.S.A. Company". On demanding to know since when Manica had been proclaimed British territory, the prisoner was told "the 14th September 1890", the date of the B.S.A. Company's concession, and that the blankets would have to be returned. HJT said he would refuse to accept them. He was kept in some kind of custody until Jameson happened to arrive at Fort Umtali, on the 3rd January 1891, on his way to negotiate the Gazaland Concession of March 1891 with Chief Gungunyana. and ordered his release.

This bizarre and inconceivable episode of arrest amidst Africa's wild tribulations was precipitated by far-distant intrigues.

Within a month of the occupation of Mashonaland by the Pioneer Column, the African Portuguese Syndicate's lawyers? in Kimberley sought permission from the B.S.A. Company in the same town to send 200 blankets through Mashonaland to the Manica country in terms of a concession it had there. Rhodes was away so prevarication was the response . . . "no official knowledge of the alleged concession". Beningfield thereupon dispatched HJT with the blankets up the coast in November.

Rhodes, however, cast farther than Mashonaland. He had given orders to obtain a treaty and occupy Manicaland. A. R. Colquhoun and Selous left the Pioneer Column to secure a concession from Chief Mutassa, which they did over the whole territory of the Manica on the 14th September 1890, and a Trooper R. Trevor of the B.S.A. Company's Police was left in charge on the Mutare river. This trooper, quite heedless of British law or international reactions, issued a circular letter on the 9th October as "British Resident" proclaiming that all the Nyika country for a considerable distance East of Masekesi had been brought under British influence.

In far away places, where it took some 4/5 weeks for reports to reach, Lord Salisbury, the British Prime Minister, at first doubted the accuracy of Portugal's allegations of invasion of her territory and then had to struggle with the international repercussions of Rhodes's actions, not knowing where Mutassa's country was, nor his status as an independent chief or vassal, and whether there was in fact "effective occupation" by the Portuguese.¹⁰ To aggravate his problems he had recently, in August while the B.S.A. Company's

occupation force was on its way, signed a convention with a Portuguese Envoy in order to avoid friction whereby the area East of rivers called the Macheke and Sabi was to be Portuguese territory and Portugal was to build a railway to give Mashonaland access to the sea.¹¹

Occupation of Manicaland

News of the occupation of Manicaland provoked reactions in Kimberley. The African Portuguese Syndicate formerly notified the B.S.A. Company on the 11th January 1891 of its 1888 Concession over 240 square miles from Chief Mutassa. Ten days later the Mining Commissioner at Fort Umtali reported on his interview with the chief that Mutassa considered that his concession to Beningfield had lapsed because the limit of time for payment had lapsed, that the blankets had only been accepted from HJT as a mark of friendship and that he was willing to help the B.S.A. Company in any way. The chief concluded his written statement with the words. "I am not a man of two mouths" . . . for the next three years his skill in doing so was to enrich the arguments of high contestants.¹²

In the land of Manica there was consternation in Portuguese circles. Earlier, alarmed by the threat posed to her historical claims across Africa by Rhodes's Rudd Concession of October 1888, Portugal had moved more decisively to demonstrate "effective occupation". In December 1888 the Lisbon Government granted a charter to the Mocambique Company under Major d'Andrada who encouraged, under its legal umbrella, a variety of subsidiary companies and prospectors (mostly British like Harrison, Jeffreys and G. B. D. Moodie) to try their luck in Manica. Macequece was denoted as the administrative centre under Baron Rezende.

These prospectors had moved into the Mutare river valley in 1889/90 and when confronted with the B.S.A. Company's intrusion from the west in September 1890, Rezende and d'Andrada decided to assert Portuguese authority by going to Chief Mutassa on the 15th November where they addressed the assembled prospectors and the chief happily flew the Portuguese flag. There d'Andrada and de Sousa (Gueveya), who had accompanied him with an escort, were arrested by Major Forbes and his B.S.A. Company's Police detachment. Both were packed off to Salisbury.

Into this complex and incredible situation, about which the B.S.A. Company's authority in the Mutare valley was naturally highly sensitive, walked an ingenuous HJT secure, within himself, in the legal protection of a concession no one from the intruding west had ever heard of, which had been obtained by Wise quite independently of the Portuguese, and when arrested this was the first intimation he had of the B.S.A. Company's recently acquired concession.

Jameson appears to have regarded HJT and Torgius as just other prospectors. He advised them to prospect under the B.S.A. Company's laws and promised them "Pioneer rights" before he left for Gaza. After their release they were left stranded. Their carriers and food supplies had vanished. The rains had

filled the rivers. Malaria had struck. A Police wagon gave them a lift to Salisbury where their complaint of illegal arrest and detention for eighteen days, and a demand for £500 compensation, aroused some sympathy from Colquhoun, the Chief Magistrate, who issued them with rations and £75 to defray travelling expenses via Tuli to Kimberley where Rhodes would settle their claims.

Imperious Jameson was indignant over this action. He wired on 23rd May that the blankets were "a present from Beningfield and nothing to do with a concession long elapsed . . . Colquhoun knows nothing about the case and his premature opinion re compensation should not be considered". Monetary compensation was refused but if they returned to Mashonaland they would be given Pioneer rights. They did not, they returned to Durban.

In July Beningfield's lawyers formally lodged with the B.S.A. Company a demand for compensation of £200 for each of them, for injuries sustained by illegal arrest. The records do not reveal what happened.

When the annual tribute of blankets for 1891 was due, HJT again made the deadly journey through the swamps, the fever, and the "fly" from Beira to Mutassa.¹³ The rent of blankets was duly handed over to Mutassa on the 3rd September 1891 and HJT settled down to guard the interests of his Syndicate. The "Civil Representative" (P. McGlashan) at Fort Umtali reported the blankets in November and on contacting Mutassa, to find out why he had disobeyed orders, the chief stoutly denied that any white man, or blankets, had come to his kraal. At B.S.A. Company headquarters a memorandum considered that, "this renewed attempt by Taylor TO convey presents to Umtassa while their principals are laying their ease before Home Government will surely justify strong measures . . .".

No measures were taken and in early January 1892 HJT was called by Mutassa to see that six of his people had been burnt and two of his people had bullet wounds . . . would Beningfield help him against the B.S.A. Company who was responsible, what did he advise? HJT wrote a letter to Beningfield to be taken to Durban by two of Mutassa's "indunas" and apparently Beningfield complained to the High Commissioner in Cape Town, for on the 4th May Rhodes's secretary rejected reports of maltreatment and asked that Beningfield be told of Lord Knutsford's approval of the B.S.A. Company's Mutassa Concession on the 12th March 1892, and that Gungunyana as over-lord of Mutassa had given mineral rights. Thereupon Beningfield's lawyers drew up a formal complaint to the High Commissioner supported by an affidavit from the indunas which elicited from the B.S.A. Company a comment about "bogus indunas taken out of Manica by Taylor". This was supported by another affidavit dated 12th September to the Resident Magistrate (Graham), Umtali, by Matika, "head induna" of Mutassa, who said the two indunas were of no importance, just men who had gone to work for Taylor.

While these legal acrobatics before the High Commissioner were going on the B.S.A. Company had consolidated its position on the Manica plateau, indeed it had even occupied Macequece in the lowlands as a thrust to the coast until Lord Salisbury, having no doubts about Portugal's international rights



Harry (seated) and
Herbert Taylor.

Photo: National Archives

there, and beset by probable German and Transvaal counter-claims if the coastal area became a free-for-all, and an insecure Portuguese Monarchy whose claims to territory linking Angola to Mocambique were supported by Germany and France,¹⁴ ordered Rhodes back to the plateau. However, Salisbury decided that the B.S.A. Company's Mutassa Concession should stand¹⁵ because only a strong administration could maintain order among the many prospectors flooding into the area. In February 1891 he had announced that "private rights endure whatever sovereignty may be . . . nothing will interfere with private rights duly acquired by either individuals or companies".¹⁶

In June 1891 the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty had been signed. This allocated the Manica plateau and "crest of the slope" as far as the Sabi-Lundi confluence to British influence, while Portugal was confirmed in the low-lying coastal area and gained the wedge of land on either side of the Zambesi as far as Zumbo. Regardless of where the boundary line might run, Umtassa was to be in British territory, Macequece in Portugal's.¹⁷ Rhodes's plan of access to the sea at Beira was nullified and the territory of the Manica "nation" split in two.

Rivalry with the Portuguese and the legality of mining and administrative action having been settled, the B.S.A. Company made plans for a township called Umtali (a mispronunciation of the Mutare river) and a Magistrate and Mining Commissioner had taken up residence. A hospital had been started.¹⁸

The Rezende and Penhalonga mines were producing gold, and Rhodes himself had visited the area in October 1891.

Arrested Again

The disturbing element in this peace was HJT. Early in 1892 he was joined by his brother. William, who had left the B.S.A. Company's Police on the 31st January and together they settled down with Chief Mutassa ready to defend the Beningfield concession right.

When the sale by public auction of stands in the new township of Umtali was advertised in the Kimberley newspaper of 9th April 1892 the lawyers protested against sale of any stands in the tract of land over which the Syndicate held a concession. In Umtali, the forbearance of the local Magistrate (Graham) came to an end when HJT beacons off the concession area and called upon him "to vacate and forego any claims illegally held in this part of the country". Graham ordered him to remove the pegs or face prosecution for trespass and then arrested him.

Very diplomatically the magistrate released him on bail and hurriedly asked Jameson, in Salisbury, what to do. This elicited a rather unique legal opinion . . . "I should not search for pegs to justify your action. Charge him with trespass and since you have no proof, and I do not want you to have any, you can discharge him for want of evidence". To this was added another Jamesonian touch, "it was a mistake to raise any question of a rival concession and the idiotic demands made by Taylor ought to have been ignored".

After ten days under arrest HJT appeared in court on the 13th May. The Court Register (D4/3/I) records, "Trespass. Case dismissed — prosecutor not appearing in court". HJT commented that he was released with the usual caution.

In South Africa, Beningfield had notices printed and these HJT served, in June, on all residents of the township in his concession area warning them that they were trespassing. This provoked redoubtable reaction in the person of Jameson hastening by wagon, from Salisbury, to hold a public meeting of residents. HJT attended and recorded Jameson's reply to a question on security of tenure . . . "Beningfield's concession had lapsed but they all knew the way Mr. Rhodes had of smoothing the fellows off with a few shares".

Local anxieties having been dissipated by Jameson, HJT passed his watch-dog duties over to his brother and returned to Natal for a holiday. Officially he was reported as having "fled from Manica" in July taking with him Zimbazo, the son of Chief Mutassa, who says that "this had been done entirely against his will".

During 1893 activity seems to have shifted to the highest circles. Fragmentary letters indicate that some Syndicate members considered the possibility of arranging an amicable settlement by allocating land and mining claims, instead of fighting the B.S.A. Company, but others felt their case was strong. For once Rhodes was not in favour of doing a deal. On the 7th March

1893 the Syndicate asked for a definite offer from Rhodes. His response was a firm "no offer and no negotiations, but as some of the shareholders in the Syndicate were friends of his and had spent money on the expedition, he was willing to allow them to mark out claims or farms, provided this had nothing to do with alleged rights or wrongs of the Syndicate".

Any progress having been blocked in South Africa, the top Syndicate directors moved their attack to London, The only record of this is a telegram from Alfred Beit advising financial arrangements. . . "shall we open negotiations probably prepared to purchase for 15 000 B.S.A. Co. debentures". The telegram bears an endorsement which brought the correspondence to an end in November 1893 — "Mr. R. says No."

Returns from South Africa

Back in Manicaland, HJT rejoined his brother about March 1893 and the only clue to their activities lies in occasional official references such as. "No doubt Taylor holds great influence over Mutassa and his people and is rapidly undermining the Company's authority". In a September letter to the High Commissioner at Cape Town, HJT claimed British protection against the treatment by the B.S.A. Company. This the Company dismissed as, "imaginary and exaggerated. Mutassa frequently complains of the baneful effect which Mr. Taylor's presence has in the country" and warned that he might be removed from the country.

Whatever accommodation of interests was preserved, the situation erupted in October 1893 when Seymour Fort,¹⁹ the acting Resident Magistrate at Umtali, paid a visit to Chief Mutassa to hand over the annual sum of £100 due by the B.S.A. Co. under its concession. The chief denied him an interview, refused to accept the money and said, "I do not want the English of Colquhoun's people who have cheated me". He told Fort to communicate through his adviser "Umlungu George", that is, W. M. Taylor.²⁰

HJT was away in Natal at this time, indeed he seems to have relied on his brother — living in a tent in Mutassa's kraal and buying alluvial gold — to continue relations with the chief, but as the fourth blanket tribute became due the irrepensible HJT arrived back with carriers from Beira in early November, this time armed with a legally prepared Petition for the Secretary' of State for the Colonies.

This Petition²¹ setting out the history of the Syndicate's rights was signed (his mark) by Chief Umtassa of the Manica Nation on the 2nd November 1893, duly witnessed and interpreted by W. M. Taylor. Unfortunately for HJT, because it provided a ground for later rejection, the chief alleged that he had never given the B.S.A. Company any rights and that Lobengula and Gungunyana never had a right over his territory. The chief asserted that in spite of this, the B.S.A. Company had (1) taken possession of a large tract of his country and established a township, a Magistrate, and Police against his will, and (2) obstructed the agents of the African Portuguese Syndicate.

Mutassa's rejection of the B.S.A. Company's tribute and Fort's report of 20th November 1893 to Salisbury triggered off a recommendation from the Legal Adviser, A. Caldecott,²² that W. M. Taylor (known as Umlungu George) and Herbert Taylor should be removed from the country as their presence "is dangerous to the peace" and they claim that "the Company has no right to govern them (Mutassa's people)". This led to a telegram to the High Commissioner (Loch) seeking his authority for a warrant of arrest of the Taylors. There is no record of a reply but, from subsequent events, it is safe to conclude that no authority was issued.

Fort's report also brought the Legal Adviser to Umtali. He and Fort went together to the chief and were met with the same rejection and "utmost discourtesy". Caldecott, in his report of the 9th December to the acting Chief Magistrate (Duncan), found that. "George and Herbert Taylor have constituted themselves advisers to Umtassa and acting under their advice the chief refuses to take any notice of any Government official or to accept money payable to him by the Company . . . the presence of the Taylors is dangerous to the peace and good government of the Manica District and their removal under H.C. Proclamation of the 30th June. 1891 is absolutely in the interests of the country."

The High Commissioner, no doubt preoccupied with the repercussions of the war in Matabeleland and harassed by the receipt of Chief Mutassa's Petition to the Secretary of State, made no reply to the further telegrams asking for warrants against the Taylors.

An Ugly Turn

In January 1894 the legal sparring took an ugly turn.

As if to exasperate the drama Fort sent a messenger to "Queen Chikanga",²³ one of Mutassa's kraals within the Syndicate's concession area, asking for six labourers. Refusal, couched in the reply "I know only one *nkosi* or chief who is Umlungu George", so incensed Fort that on the 9th January he rode out himself with an armed Sergeant Palmer²⁴ and Constable Hendrick. At the foot of the kopje they dismounted, leaving Hendrick in charge of the horses and with an irrelevant but explosive order, to hold for examination some cattle which happened to be grazing there in case they were stock reported stolen by Lionel Cripps.

In the kraal, Fort reported, "Mfundesa in a very impudent manner refused to take me to the Queen's hut so I told Palmer to seize him but he escaped and returned minutes later with a M.H. rifle . . . and some 25/35 boys mostly armed". Fort retreated and on the way down saw Mfundesa and others outpace them to the cattle, surround Hendrick, stabbing him in the hand and removing his revolver, while driving off the cattle. Fort and Palmer galloped after the cattle and when one of those pursued turned in an attempt to fire at them Fort fired, missed and ordered Palmer to fire. The result — one dead man who was Mfundesa; eight head of cattle taken to Umtali; and a warrant for the arrest of W. M. Taylor as he "was directly responsible for the attitude of Chikanga and Mfundesa".

HJT, who was about to leave for Natal, put off his trip and wrote Beningfield on the 12th January that his brother had been arrested "as a scapegoat by Mr. Fort who was wrong in killing a native and robbing cattle". He added, "my brother has great influence with the natives here and is far better known among them than myself as I have been laid up the greater part of the time since I returned and he has been assisting me in Syndicate matters. I should not be surprised to find myself arrested at any moment".

On the 10th January Fort presided over a court whose record shows that W. M. Taylor was committed for trial, with bail of £200, for the crime of interfering with the administration of the Government, inciting the Natives to resist the Government and being a person dangerous to the peace of Manica District. The case was mentioned in the newspaper — "Taylor Charged With Inciting Natives To Revolt" — and a copy was sent to the Syndicate's lawyers in Kimberley providing material for their legal attack on Fort, but from the official papers it is clear that the so-called trial was a preliminary enquiry.

Four days after the "trial" Caldecott issued legal advice to Fort about his shooting of Umfundesa "after his armed resistance to arrest by you for robbery of Hendrick" and ordered that Taylor be not allowed out on bail till you have evidence for prosecution. Two weeks later, Caldecott considered that evidence acquired by Fort was hearsay and asked for a warrant for the removal of "George Taylor". The High Commissioner's reply of 8.2.1894 was to the effect that he could not issue a warrant unless Taylor broke some law and he suggested prosecution for the gift of any firearms to Mutassa.

This legal suggestion must have been balm to the perplexities of the local authorities who promptly summonsed both W. M. and H. J. Taylor on charges of gun-running, to which was added the grandiose crime of *Laesae Majestatis*. On the 28th February the brothers appeared before Fort's Magistrate's Court (Case No. 62 with Caldecott prosecuting) on three counts:

- (1) did bring in one pistol on or about the 1st November 1893;
- (2) did supply one pistol to a native;
- (3) *Laesae Magistratis*, did bring Government into hatred and contempt between the 1.8.1893 and 1.1.1894 and excite discontent and disaffection²⁸

Both accused pleaded not guilty.

Curiously enough Fort found them "not guilty for lack of evidence" on counts 1 and 2, concerned with tangibles, but guilty of *Laesae Magistratis* under Count 3 where, in a lengthy analysis of the evidence, he referred to "the natives as being unsettled as to the paramount authority . . . whether the Taylors or the Magistrate". His judgement ordered that each prisoner was to find two sureties for £100 and neither was to approach within one mile radius of Mutassa's kraal nor hold any communication whatsoever with the chief and others for twelve months as from the 1st March 1894,

The Taylors appealed to the Chief Magistrate's Court and on the 2nd April, their appeal was upheld by Duncan who reversed the decision (Case No. 12 of 31.3.1894).

Away in South Africa the Syndicate's lawyers entered the lists. Confusing accounts dominated the long and laborious lines of communication. On the basis of the initial examination in January the lawyers were able to make some telling repugnancy points — that the presiding Magistrate (Fort) should have been the principal witness for the prosecution, not the judge, and that HJT had been convicted of the same charge as his brother although he had never been before the court, nor called upon to plead in the usual way. (later they corrected the latter allegation). The High Commissioner's sharp comment to the B.S.A. Company was: "The statements about Mr. Fort's actions are so extraordinary as if true to require his immediate supersession . . . if no satisfactory explanation . . . arrangements to be made for another officer."

Rhodes stepped in, in March, to tell the Imperial Secretary that the Syndicate had been trying to get the B.S.A. Company to purchase their concession and failing had kept up a "constant system of annoyance and resistance" by Representatives in Manica. He referred to "the surreptitious manner in which Messrs. Taylor have for a long time persistently acted against the good and orderly Government of Manica". This was naturally refuted by the lawyers who pointed out that the Syndicate had been in lawful occupation since 1888 and had resisted not covertly but in the most open manner endeavours by the B.S.A. Company to oust them from possession. So a historical political battle of words was tagged on to the legal issues.

Still further away in England, questions were asked in the House in March about the arrest of HJT to which the reply was "that a W. N. Taylor, not HJT, was arrested and charged in January."

Presumably after the confusion of persons and trials had been only partially clarified the legal struggle was renewed in June 1894 when the Syndicate's lawyers wrote to the High Commissioner claiming that:

- (1) W. M. Taylor had been convicted of a crime unknown to English Law;
- (2) that his brother HJT had also been convicted without appearance in court;
- (3) that they had been forbidden access to Mutassa, so preventing the Syndicate from paying tribute at the end of the present year which is what the B.S.A. Company hitherto unsuccessfully aimed at.

The High Commissioner considered that these "serious allegations against the B.S.A. Company" required him to afford the Company an opportunity to reply before he forwarded the papers up to the Secretary of State.

The B.S.A. Company was able to refute the legal points (the case had been thrown out on appeal) and considered that "the representatives of the Syndicate have been maintained in the country solely to embarrass and impede the Chartered Company . . . a system of annoyance kept up in Manica . . . and until the concession is held to be invalid by proper authority they intend to resist".

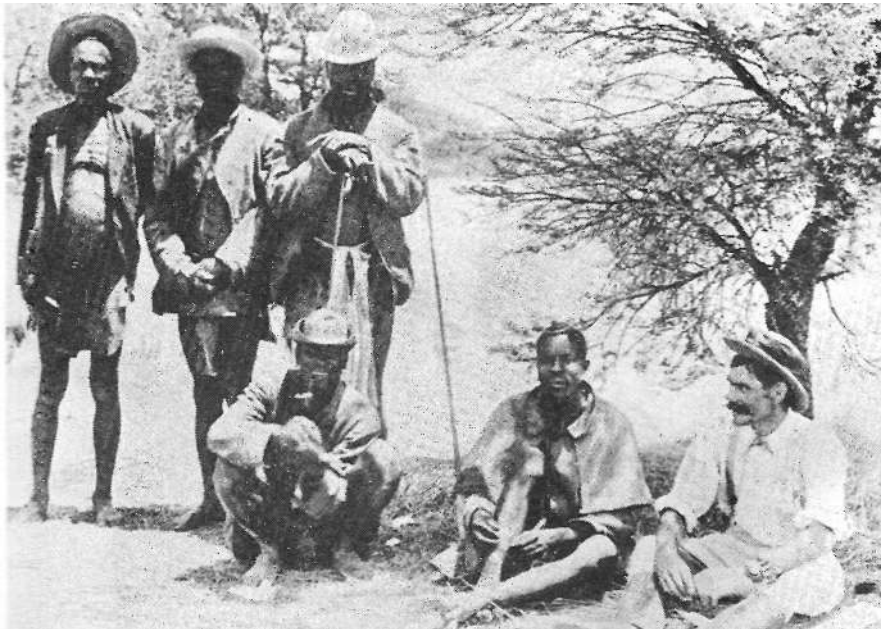
The final resolution of this intriguing clash of interests is a reference to the Secretary of State (Ripon) having reserved his opinion and that Duncan had reversed the Magistrate's judgement.²⁶

During these months of defence of his brother HJT appears to have returned to Natal and Beningfield was confronted with the irresistible fact that the Secretary of State had, in rejecting Chief Mutassa's Petition, ruled in favour of the B.S.A. Company's concession as against the African Portuguese concession. Beningfield, who had many other interests in Natal, must have decided to give up the unequal contest with the powerful B.S.A. Company.

Becomes a Native Commissioner

After the Matabele War Rhodes was looking for Native Commissioners to take care of the disrupted people of Matabeleland. It is probable that he had been impressed by the doughty challenge to his plans put up by HJT in Manicaland. The man who would not quit and who had so adequately proved his capacity to influence and stand up for Africans while doing his adventurous job for Beningfield. This is speculation, but it was characteristic of Rhodes that after the contention was over he should pick out "courage and pertinacity"²⁷ and invite HJT to join in his plans. The result was that HJT left Natal and assumed duty as Native Commissioner²⁸ with Johan Colenbrander in Bulawayo on the 1st October 1894.

On the 1st May, 1895, at the age of 30, he was appointed the first official Chief Native Commissioner for Matabeleland. Within a year the Matabele Rebellion broke out and HJT became Chief Intelligence Officer as well as Captain M Troop, commanding what were called "the friendlies", in the Bulawayo Field Force (he was mentioned in despatches²⁹).



Native Commissioner Herbert Taylor and African chiefs.

Photo: National Archives

After Rhodes's initiative of the first Indaba in August 1896 opened the way to communication with the Matabele chiefs HJT was called in his official capacity to participate actively in the remaining Indabas and to contribute towards the settlement of the shameful desecration of Mzilikazi's grave.³⁰ It was Colenbrander who played the major part in assisting Rhodes but it was to HJT that Rhodes referred when the Matabele chiefs replied. "We can only have one head, and we thank you".

Official records note that he served under Plumer in the relief of Mafeking during the Boer War until recalled by Milton, the Administrator. In December 1901 he married Gertrude, daughter of German Professor P. A. Hahn of the University of Cape Town.³¹

As C.N.C. he founded the new system of Native Administration in Matabeleland on the basis of a restoration, as far as possible, to the chiefs of the authority they had in Lobengula's time,³² He paid tribute to the immense value of the assistance of the chiefs until 1909 when he detected a gradual breaking away from the tribal system, the emergence of a "transitional state", and urged that "it would be mistaken policy to attempt to arrest this individualistic tendency" but "it would be unwise at the present stage of development to abolish this system (of tribal control) as a means of government".

In 1902 he stressed the Department's duty as "guardian and protector of the Native" but three years later the concept of Development began to appear — "development of Stock farming and Agriculture will lead to gradual assimilation of civilisation in other phases" — followed by more precise ideas such as the provision of dispensaries "will do more to lessen the evils of witchcraft than any measure of legislation"³³; "it is the duty of Government to foster this desire for education that he may take his place as a useful citizen"; and by 1911, "developing the native reserves is a matter which should receive the earnest consideration of the Government . . . present methods adopted by natives are very wasteful, and the land soon gets worked out . . . also sanitation should be taught".

Such thinking, so far ahead of the times and so perceptive of small beginnings, came to a focus in 1912 when HJT put his stamp on "land tenure — the root of the native problem" and proposed a scheme of gradual individual tenure because "in a few years it is doubtful if the Reserves will be able to cope with the rapid increase of stock".

In 1903 he accompanied Sir William Milton, as adviser on Native Affairs, to the South African Conference called by Milner, in an effort to bring about some kind of common Native policy among the then four Colonies.

Becomes First Chief Native Commissioner for Country

The two C.N.C.'ships of Mashonaland and Matabeleland were amalgamated on the 1st November, 1913. HJT became C.N.C. for the whole of Rhodesia and moved from Bulawayo to Salisbury where his "native name" of *Msitela* or *Musitera* (Mister Taylor) became the synonym for "Head Office".

His annual reports continued to stress the root issue of land tenure, the conversion of communal to individual tenure as the true basis of progress, and

the offer of "avenues of emancipation from tribal rule to those who have raised themselves to a status of individualism". The first step in this direction came some twelve years later in response to his 1919 '20 Reports when Parliament in 1921 initiated moves towards the appointment by Britain of the Morris Carter Land Commission. He was made a member, no doubt the most influential member, of this Commission and following its report in 1925 Parliament, acting on its advice, eventually passed the Land Apportionment Act, 1931, which set the legal pattern of possessory segregation and created Native Purchase Areas, Taylor's object for almost twenty years.

Among his innovations in administrative thinking were the appointment in 1920 of the first Director of Native Development (H. S. Keigwin) and the establishment of a Government Industrial and Farm School at Domboshawa, followed by a second at Tjolutjo in Matabeleland.³⁴ In April 1927, he appointed an Agriculturist for the Instruction of Natives (E. D. Alvord) to his staff, the beginnings of what became a world problem — the development of the "under-developed" countries.

His control for almost thirty years over Native Administration and untiring efforts to promote action in the fields of Health, Education, Agriculture and Land Tenure were recognised when he received a Knighthood from the King in 1923 (New Year Honours of 1924), the same year in which the B.S.A. Company he had first so stoutly opposed and then served so well relinquished power to an elected Responsible Government.

The closing years of his career were extended by three years beyond the age of retirement to enable him to bring to some conclusion a matter introduced by the new Constitution, namely the problem of Native Councils.³⁵ He had been concerned with the subject and had consulted both South Africa's and Kenya's experience. Sir Herbert strongly supported the principle of local government taxation (much later his successor in office did not) but considered that councils should be introduced gradually on a voluntary basis. He argued that although the time was not yet ready for councils it was time to prepare the groundwork, "the attempt to graft anything in the nature of local self-government before they are ready and willing to accept it is bound to fail". The matter had been discussed in the new Parliament which after much debate accepted the principle of native councils in June 1927.

As his career drew to a close the first Conference of all Native Commissioners was held in Salisbury in December 1927.³⁶ Addressing them prior to an unobtrusive farewell presentation Sir Herbert referred to "the essentials of native administration", stressed the personal factor for commanding confidence (a ghost from the past when he and Chief Mutassa were aligned!) and, as if as a warning against exaltation of the tribal system, added what he called, "the indiscriminating sympathies associated with a broad grasp of the requirements of advancing civilization".

He retired on the 31st March 1928, and went to live in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he died on the 18th August 1943 at the age of 78.

One may wonder what youthful drive kept him going in that strange amalgam of pioneer perils and Company hostility; what value Beningfield placed upon his services: but of his worth as an administrator whose deep insight and wide vision directed the original Native Department and of his worth as a great Rhodesian who justified Rhodes's choice, there can be no doubt.

REFERENCES

1. In Roman Law an offence against the dignity, authority and power of the State. High Treason and Sedition evolved as branches.
2. Constitutionally since 1898 he was above politics and responsible to a Secretary of State in the United Kingdom who alone could remove a C.N.C. from office and who exercised remote control over "Native Affairs".
3. Frederick Thomas Taylor, born 1856, No. 466 of D Troop, Pioneer B.S.A. Co. Police until 31.10.1891. Served in Umtali Burghers of 1896 Rebellion. Prospecting. Accidentally killed in Durban when he fell off a tram in 1902.
4. One daughter, Mary, married Vere Campbell, N.C. Sebungwe, who died of blackwater at Kariyangwe 1910 (see *Log of a Native Commissioner* by H. N. Hemans, 1935, and NADA 1969, p. 52). Another daughter, Eliza, married W. V. D. Dorehill, brother of Selous' 1870 hunting companion (see *A Hunters Wanderings in Africa*, F. C. Selous, 1893), whose son W. J. Dorehill was N.C. (1913-1948), the oldest survivor of the Native Department who provides the family details of this article.
5. William Moorcroft Taylor, born : 1863, No. 471 of D Troop, Pioneer B.S.A. Co. Police until 13.1.1892. Joined his brother HJT in Manica. Appointed N.C. Charter June 1895 (one record said December 1894). Left 1901. Died Bulawayo 1923.
6. Reuben Widdows Beaingield (1844-1912) s/o Samuel, one of the founders of Durban, who hunted more than any other man in Mozambique from 1866. See article to be published in the *Dictionary of South African Biography*, Pretoria, Human Sciences Research Council, by E. E. Burke: also *Pioneers & Sportsmen of South Africa* by Servaas Le Rous, 1939.
7. Copy of Concession in CT 1/2/3, Rhodesia Archives. It was not dated.
8. Chiloane Island: this now obscure place dates back to the 1500s when its harbour (with a fortress) at the mouth of the Dura river was second only to Sofala. After Sofala was abandoned because of Gaza raids the Portuguese moved Administration to Chiloane about 1870. Beira was only started by D'Andrade in 1891 as a base of operations in Manica so HJT had to walk some 80 miles of coast and swamp north to the Pungwe river.
9. Messrs. Graham, Vigne & Mallett of Kimberley.
10. For over 100 years Britain had laid stress on the doctrine of "effective occupation" as the basis of Treaties defining spheres of influence. Queen Victoria was sensitive to the 1661 Treaty whereby the King of Great Britain undertook to defend and protect all Colonies belonging to the Crown of Portugal (see Warhurst).
11. The Convention was not ratified by Portugal's Parliament (Cortes) because of popular indignation, so Lord Salisbury relaxed his resistance to Rhodes who had ignored the Convention even before it failed to be approved.
12. All through these events African etiquette of concurrence is apparent — combined with fear and cupidity, and unawareness of the importance attached by an alien culture to signed contracts and affidavits: a clash of cultures.
13. A. A. Campbell, later an N.C., related how he first met his future C.N.C. in December 1891 and took over his carriers for their return trip to Beira: Diary in Archives.
14. *World Survey* No. 54, June 1973.
15. Rhodes's Mutasa Concession was approved in March 1892 by the British Government.
16. See Warhurst, p. 43.
17. The boundary was surveyed in 1898 with the appropriate bulges. The constitutional area of the B.S.A. Co. was defined in the Matabeleland Order in Council of July 1894.
18. See *Adventures in Mashonaland*: Blennerhassett & Sleeman, 1893.
19. G. Seymour Fort (1858-1951), private secretary to Lord Loch, was in Rhodesia at this time on mining affairs. No doubt he was one of those magistrates "adopted from the material ready to hand" as Marshall Hole described them. Blennerhassett dedicated her book to him. He wrote a life of Alfred Beit, *Who Was Who*, 1951-1960.
20. See also note 5. W.M.T. was known as *Jojo* or "George". The only name of George occurring in early times was that of George Wise who obtained the first concession so it is possible that the "native name" passed down to others. Beningfield was known by his

Shangaan name of *Umdigindwana*, changed by local usage to *Dingindana* or *Dindwan*. Both these names were commemorated in Manyika history with confusing consequences — see R. E. Reid's history in NADA 1976. Attention is drawn to Newitt's account of a Taylor (p. 335). The account he published of an American (English in one account) named George Taylor, an employee of the Beningfeld (*sic*) syndicate who married a daughter of one of Chief Mutasa's headmen called *M'Jojo* — hence his name — is so irreconcilable with recorded dates that one may ask why a professional historian selected such unreliable information to instance the "exploitation of white adventurers". According to Newitt, George Taylor was exiled by the B.S.A. Co. in 1890 so he joined the neighbouring Barue tribe of Chief Maconde in Portuguese territory, organised the overthrow of the discredited Gouveya in 1892, dominated the Barue tribe during 1892-4 and was appointed, "with fox-like cunning", as the Portuguese representative there. As if this gossip was not enough Newitt went on to allege that Taylor began to be absent from Barue in Rhodesia for long periods, so he may well have been used as an instrument for Rhodes's policy "to bully and bluff a way to the sea" (after 1891! and an exile!) and that the Portuguese believed he was paying the taxes he collected in Barue to the B.S.A. Co. (the Co. did not levy taxes on Natives in those days). This Taylor disappeared. Who then was *Jojo*?

21. Copy in CT 1/2/3. Archives.
22. According to Hole, Alfred Caldecott was discretely imported as a clever young lawyer by Jameson to be mentor for himself and the amateur pioneer magistrates.
23. There were several such "queens". Blennerhassett gives a description of two of them. See also Bazeley's article in NADA, 1940. R. E. Reid, an authority on the Mutasa dynasty, advises that those queens, known as *Muzwari* were and still are highly important person-ages referred to collectively as *Washe Chikanga*.
24. J. A. Palmer. For his account see Hickman, p. 269.
25. Note how *Majestatis* was altered to *Magistratis*, an appropriate error since the case had to do with the magistracy!
26. Letter to Secretary, Cape Town, dated 4.8.1894, in CT 1/2/2, Archives.
27. See *Dan to Beersheba*, A. R. Colquhoun, 1908, p. 251.
28. Official title was Assistant Native Commissioner. His first assignment was to Bulalima District where he assumed duty on 1.10.1894 (U 2/1/1 Archives).
29. B.S.A. Co. *Reports on Native Disturbances*, 1896/7, p. 148.
30. See *With Plumer in Matabeleland*, F. W. Sykes, 1897, p. 230, which has the earliest photographs of HJT with some Chiefs: also *Rhodes, A Life* by J. G. McDonald, 1927, p. 262.
31. They had two daughters, Marie and Victoria.
32. A promise made by Rhodes at the Indabas and inherent in the 1894 and 1898 Orders in Council.
33. 1907 Report. In a 1909 Conference HJT moved that contributions for medical and educational work be made. Prof. M. Gelfand in *Tropical Victory*, 1953, wrote that, "the earliest references to ill health in the Natives came from the Native Department, not from the Medical profession . . . these astute observers would not allow the matter to be ignored" and it was "to result finally in the provision of an organised medical service in the Reserves", the beginnings of which date back to 1912/13.
34. See NADA, 1962, *History of Domboshawa School*, B. W. Lloyd.
35. S. Rhodesia Constitution Letters Patent, Sept. 1923, Section 47.
36. Verbatim Report of Conference, 1928, No. 1013-500.28.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Anglo Portuguese Relations In South-Central Africa* — P. R. Warhurst, 1962.
Battle of Massi Kessi — J. C. Barnes in *Rhodesiana*, March 1975.
 Chief Native Commissioner Annual Reports.
History of Southern Rhodesia — L. H. Gann, 1965.
Men Who Made Rhodesia — A. S. Hickman, 1960.
Old Rhodesian Days — H. Marshall Hole, 1928.
Portuguese Settlement on the Zambesi — M. D. D. Newitt, 1973.
Rezende Mine — R. Cherer Smith in *Rhodesiana*, March 1976.
To the Banks of the Zambesi — T. V. Bulpin, 1965.
 and Files CT 1/2/1, 2, 3, 4 and D 4/3/1 in Rhodesia National Archives.

Moodie's Drift

by C. K. Cooke

Introduction

My interest in the Moodie's Drift, on the Sabi river, was engendered by the finding of a photograph (illustrated) taken by my father-in-law Bertram Woods during 1929. This illustrates the method used for getting from one bank of the river to the other.

The value to the Eastern districts of the drift first located by the Moodie Trek on 16th November 1892 and later crossed by it on 9th December of the same year cannot be over emphasised. The pioneer crossing made way for the opening up of land on the east bank of the Sabi river and enabled people to reach Umtali from Fort Victoria by a route 288 km shorter than via Salisbury.

The development of a road from Amen 56 miles (88 km) from Fort Victoria to the Eastern districts was a direct result of the Moodie's pioneering efforts. The route and mileage is shown on the map published in this account (Figs. 1-3).

The First Crossing

In Burrows¹ the following appears: "Here he (Thomas Moodie) plunged his horse into the crocodile infested waters and crossed to the opposite bank — the first Moodie to reach the new Melsetter".

The crossing of the main party has been graphically described in a number of books^{1, 2, 3} and there is little need to elaborate further here on this historic event.

Several authors^{1, 2, 3} make contradictory statements as to what actually happened after the 90 m wide river had been crossed by the whole trek, a feat which took from dawn to 6.00 p.m. on 9th December 1892.

Burrows,¹ states "when all were across, Tom Moodie ordered Henry Ashpute to fire a salute of fourteen charges of dynamite (one for each 'Trojan' to celebrate 'Occupation Day')". National Archives documents⁴ record "A twenty-one gun salute, but only 19 charges exploded. One dog ran up to investigate the one on which the fuse was still smouldering, the other dogs also ran inquisitively towards it, fortunately the fears of losing the dogs was soon dispelled when the fuse fizzled out".

The Trek Memorial at Melsetter records 21 names, Ashpute H, Baden E., dy Plessis E., Hulley R. A., Knox ?, Markham F., Moodie Thomas, and his wife, their sons James (Boyce), Thomas, Charles, Malcolm, Benjamin, George and Duncan, their daughters Harriet and Elizabeth, Dunbar Moodie and his wife, Oberholster J., and Stiebel G., twenty-one in all.

As there were this number of people young and old excluding the African servants, a twenty-one gun salute would seem to have been appropriate.



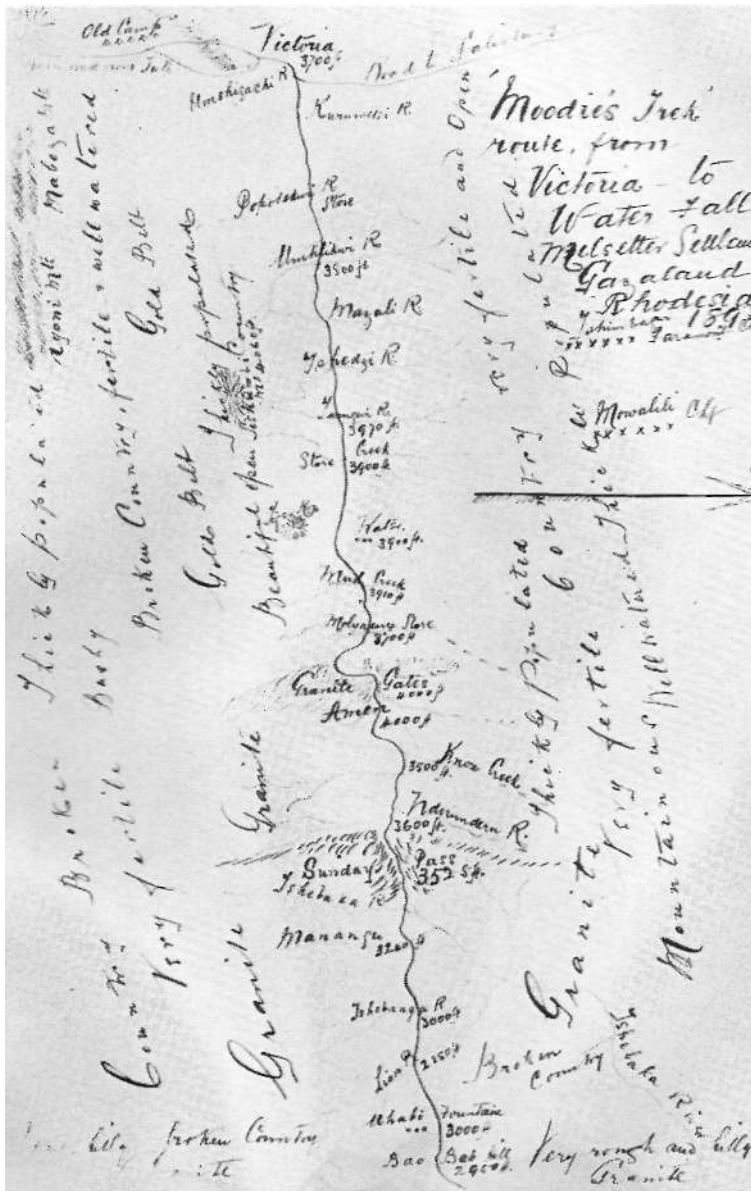
Crossing the Sabi river at Moodie's Drift in 1929.

Photo: Bertram Ward

On a rather different subject Boggie³ states, quoting Mrs. Acutt (E. Moodie, daughter of Tom Moodie, aged 15 years old at the time of the trek) "Then all gathered below a big tree, and our last bottle of French brandy was opened to celebrate Occupation Day'." An account by Burrows¹ states "to celebrate 'Occupation Day' the entire party gathered under a giant baobab on the bank beside 'Moodie's Drift' to open Ashpute's last bottle of French brandy. Each adult male there solemnly drank a toast to Gazaland, the new Melsetter, and — according to Ernest du Plessis—the bottle was put away for medicinal purposes". But Dunbar remarked with customary naivete in his diary: "Got squiffy — all of us..."

National Archives⁶ also record "Our stricken folk and broken wagons with tattered tents presented a pitiful spectacle. The enthusiasm of the men under these circumstances brought tears to the eyes of the owner of the demijohn of brandy (Mrs. Dunbar Moodie). The demijohn was brought to the light of day and added considerable zest to the celebrations".

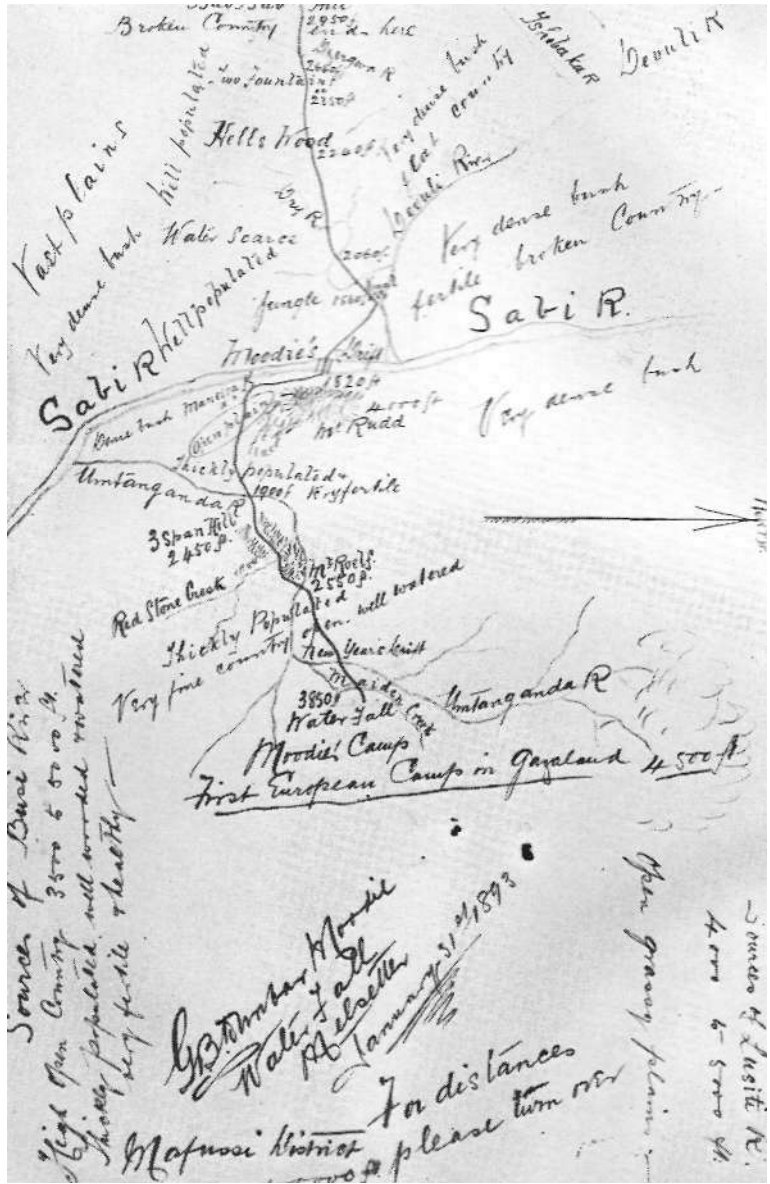
The three accounts differ somewhat, perhaps both the demijohn and the single bottle were consumed by the "Texans" as it is very doubtful if they would have become even slightly inebriated on a tot each of French brandy!



Moodie's Trek route from Victoria to Waterfall Melsetter Settlement. Page 1.

The Trek

The route of the Moodie Trek from Fort Victoria to the Sabi river and thence to Waterfall Camp has been described many times. However, the very accurate route map⁶ prepared by Dunbar Moodie at Waterfalls from his notes on 31st January 1893 is of very great interest, and is published here for the first time in a Rhodesian journal.



Moodie's Trek route from Victoria to Waterfall Melsetter Settlement. Page 2.

The map consists of two sections the first from Victoria to Baobab Hill, the second from there to Moodie's camp at Waterfalls; a third sheet, which was written on the back of the second gives the distances from point to point on the journey.

Many of the names of places and rivers are the same as those in use today, but the pass marked "Moodie's Pass" by a notice on the Birchenough Bridge to Fort Victoria Road was named "Sunday's Pass" by the trekkers.

New Years Drift has been changed to New Years Gift for the name of the nearby tea estate.

The Drift

The drift remained in use until the Birchenough Bridge about 1,2 km upstream was opened for traffic during December 1935. This seems an appropriate place to give Capt. C. D. Priest's⁷ description of his crossing of the drift during 1933 whilst on one of his many ornithological journeys in Rhodesia. "On 23rd May 1933, we found ourselves at the Sabi Drift, or perhaps better known as 'Moodie's Drift', not far short of 80 miles from Umtali. We had often heard of this well-known drift, and how one is towed over by oxen for the sum of £1 (one pound), but had never experienced the crossing. It was early in the year for any car to cross, but owing to the short fall of rain that year we crossed as the sixth car of the season. To Rhodesians who have never experienced this passage over, or rather through, the Sabi, I will relate what happened. On arriving at the Chipinga side of the river, after 5 miles of newly cut road, one sounds the electric hooter of the car. Soon three natives appear with a span of oxen. The driver, who knows his job well, fixes a wire hauser round the front axle, keeping it in place by passing it behind the front springs.

"A crack of the whip and we slowly glide over very deep and loose sand for about 300 yards: it is very heavy going indeed, and we felt that twenty oxen would have done the job better than fourteen. However, we got to the waterside, and the fun began. The team entered the water, hauling the car after them. The oxen stopped, and so did we! with water coming through the doors of the coupe. No. 2 of the drivers had gone back to get the all-important bag of tickets which No. 1 driver had left where he first inspanned us. In spite of many angry words, and many more blows, the oxen refused to budge. As soon as No. 2 came, and cheered the beasts on with a voice that was evidently familiar to them all, they pulled with one accord. At times we sank deeply into the sand, and both axles were dragging against it, and only brute force hauled the car through about 100 yards of water. Another sandbank was reached, and we temporarily drained, as water had also got into the 'dicky'. Again we plunged — for 30 yards into another pool — deeper than the main river. At last the opposite bank was reached, and in order to see if I could help the tired animals puU us up a one in five gradient I pushed the self-starter, and to my amazement the 'Buick' roared with joy and petrol!

"We were unhitched, and soon under our own power once again, certainly a bit wet inside, but with nothing damaged or spoilt, in May — surely almost a record".

Other Drifts across the Sabi

Whilst no other has the historic connections of Moodie's Drift, Dott's Drift some 5,6 km below Birchenough was used by R. T. Dott (a local rancher) as a commercial proposition from 1927 to 1928 as a rival concern to the more famous one. As far as can now be ascertained the public made little use of this drift despite the lower charges made for the service.

From Victoria to Water Fall Mfetselle Settlement.
 by Moodie's Trek route, the distance is 149 1/2 miles.
 The following are distances between or along, the
 marked line water is scarce in dry season

	Miles
Victoria	0.
Kummutai R.	5.
Popsotkwi R.	7.
Mundilekwi R.	5.
Mozali R.	5.
Yokedya	4.
Lungwi	5.
Stoe	3.
Liga Kops	7.
Blud Creek	4.
Molyperu Stoe	4.
Amien	6.
Knos Creek	5.
Ndarrunderu	5.
Sunday Pass	4.
Yoketaka	4.
Kananga	2.
Loketanga	7.
Lion R.	4.
Mhabi	6.
Bas Bat Hill	2 1/2
Kyegwa	1 1/2
Two fountains	3.
Hell's Wood	4.
Deouli R.	8.
(Lati R) Moodie's drift	6.
Mamessa	6.
Moshagabantu	6.
Lower Mtanganda	3.
Red stone Creek	4 1/2
Middle drift	3.
Magarra	3.
Upper Mtanganda	4.
Water Fall	3.
	149 1/2

Moodie's Trek route: distances.

The Moodie Relics

The Umtali Museum has in its collections a number of items which were brought to Rhodesia by members of the Moodie Trek. Amongst the most important are those listed below:

Piece of a green bottle inscribed **MUDIE 1758**

A Powder Horn made from an ox horn

A Coffee Grinder
A Holy Bible dated 1885
Two Elephant guns and an iron pestle and mortar.

Note: Mudie was an early spelling of the family name in the Orkney Islands. The Moodie family were amongst the 1820 settlers who landed in the Eastern Province of South Africa.

LITERATURE CITED

1. Burrows, G. H. 1954. *A study in Pioneering; The Moodies of Melsetter*. Balkema, Cape Town.
2. Windram, F. 1937. *Night over Africa*. Victor Gollancz Ltd., London.
3. Boggie, J. M. 1938. *Experiences of Rhodesia's Pioneer Women*. Phillpot & Collins, Bulawayo.
4. National Archives. Mo 4/4/1.
5. National Archives. Mo 11/4/1.
6. National Archives. L2/2/95/21.
7. Priest, C. D. 1936. *The Birds of Southern Rhodesia*. Vol. IV. Wm. Clowes. London.

VELD SKETCHBOOK TWO

Veld Sketchbook Two by Jeff Huntly is a second volume of natural history vignettes, accompanied by pen sketches, that were originally published in the *Rhodesia Herald*.

One reviewer rightly described Jeff Huntly as being in the long tradition of artist-naturalists and most of these observations and impressions were made during his painting trips in the veld.

It is an unusual natural history book for Rhodesia because it is not concerned, as so many are, with the larger, more spectacular mammals and carnivores but with the smaller creatures that can only be observed in still quietude, not in enthusiastic moving around. The range is very wide — birds, insects, spiders, termites, mice, shrews, gerbils, geckoes and lizards as well as butterflies, moths and wasps. There are pieces on distinctive landscapes and original observations and discussions on the problems and unusual events occurring in the natural history world.

The great joy of the book is found in the vivid and realistic drawings, some showing dramatic encounters of creatures in the bush and others, such as the striking drawing of the palm swift in flight, the intense urgency in the search for food.

Published by Pioneer Head (Kingstons) at \$10,50 the book, though written in easy non-scientific style, carries the imprint of authenticity in both text and drawings and is a fascinating piece of Rhodesiana.

The Colours of the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers (Western Division)

by Col. J. de Lisle Thompson

(We are most grateful to the author, Colonel J. de Lisle Thompson, O.B.E., E.D., for defraying the cost of the loose colour plate of the Colours that accompanies this issue.—Editor.)

(In a letter Col. Thompson says: "I was asked by the Dean of St. John's Cathedral, Bulawayo, to write the story of the colours hanging therein. Having started to do this I thought I would also make passing reference to the flag presented to the Rhodesia Regiment and the flag presented to the B.S.A.P., as all these colours had their origins in the Anglo-Boer War and from time to time there is some doubt raised as to their various relationships. I enclose photographs of the two Southern Rhodesia Volunteer flags."—Editor.)

The Southern Rhodesia Volunteers was formed in 1898 and organised into two parts, an Eastern Division with its Headquarters in Salisbury and a Western Division based in Bulawayo.

In 1920 it was decided to disband the units of the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers and to maintain Rifle Companies in the main towns in the territory. This system did not meet with enthusiasm. In a Defence Act promulgated in 1926 provision was made for a Permanent Force and a Territorial Force. The Act came into effect on 1st January 1927. The Southern Rhodesia Volunteers were embodied in the Territorial Force on 1st April, 1927.

I believe the above to be correct so officially the unit existed from 1898 to 1927.

* * * * *

On 10th June, 1951 in a simple but impressive ceremony two flags were handed over by Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Tones, Officer Commanding 2nd Battalion, The Royal Rhodesia Regiment to the Venerable E. Aldington-Hunt, Archdeacon of Matabeleland, to be laid up in St. John's Cathedral, Bulawayo.

The colours which had been preserved in a glass case in an honoured place in the Drill Hall were carried from there to the Church accompanied by an armed escort. St. John's Cathedral was crowded when the Governor, Sir John Kennedy and Lady Kennedy arrived. The Colour Party with fixed bayonets was at the back of the Church. Colonel J. de L. Thompson, Officer Commanding

Troops Matabeleland read the first lesson. The Governor read the second lesson.

In his address the Archdeacon recalled that from the earliest times banners have been used as rallying points and signals, and because of this they have exercised, an influence on the men serving under them. The flags have become, in the words of the Archdeacon "an embodiment of the spirit of the regiment, the link between the soldiers of the present and the veterans of the past".

After the last hymn the Colours were taken down the aisle to a slow march played on the bagpipes of the Regimental Band. The Colour Party, who bore themselves with all the dignity of the occasion, presented arms while the Colours were handed over to the Archdeacon for safe keeping in the Church.

For the old-timers the event served as a link between the past and the present. As soon as it was announced that the Colours were to be laid up they came forward with faded press cuttings and old photographs of parades and scenes of men and women in Edwardian dress to establish, where memory has failed, the highlights of the Regiment's history.

Captain A. E. Beechey, M.M., of Salisbury, a Corporal in the Colour Party to which Lord Milner, the British High Commissioner for South Africa, handed the Colour on behalf of King Edward VII, and Mr. C. H. Cleaver, also of Salisbury, who was a trooper in the party, were among those who watched the ceremony in the Cathedral, nearly fifty years later.

On 9th October, 1904, Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Ramsay, accompanied by Lieutenant Sybray and a detachment of five men, Corporals Booth, Haslett, Beechey, Ball and Trooper Cleaver, returned to Bulawayo from Mafeking by the train-de-luxe bringing with them the flag presented by Lord Milner on behalf of the King.

A guard of honour of the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers, under Captain W. Baxendale, was drawn up on the station platform to receive the Colour. Other officers present were Lieutenants Macdonald, Tompkins and Burnett. The band of the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers under Bandmaster Mee was also in attendance.

The flag takes the form of the ordinary Union Jack in silk. The flagpole is surmounted by a crown on which there is a miniature lion. There is the following inscription on a brass plate on the staff "Presented by His Majesty, the King Emperor, to the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers (Western Division) for services rendered during the war".

There is no battle honour emblazoned on the King's Colour. The flag was first paraded in public at the ceremony of Trooping the Colour on the King's Birthday on 9th November, 1904.

Not long after the flag was carried to Bulawayo in triumph in 1904 a movement was initiated by the citizens of Bulawayo for the presentation of a Regimental flag to the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers (Western Division). In order to enable all classes of the community to subscribe to the Regimental

Colour to be the gift of the townspeople of Bulawayo, subscriptions were limited to 10s. 6d.

In due course the flag, made in England, arrived in Bulawayo. Red and blue formed the only colourings besides the gold fringe and mountings. The flag bears the inscription "Southern Rhodesia Volunteers, Western Division" beneath the central decoration comprising the Rhodesian lion and tusk.

On 9th November, 1905, the King's birthday, Mr. W. H. Haddon, M.L.C., presented the new Colour to the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers (Western Division).

It is interesting to note that Mr. Rhodes was the Honorary Colonel of the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers (Western Division").

There was a Rhodesia Regiment operating in the Anglo-Boer War as well as a Southern Rhodesia Volunteer unit, both taking part in actions.

The first unit to bear the actual name of Rhodesia Regiment was formed for service in the South African War of 1899-1902. It assisted in the Relief of Mafeking, and guarded the border along the Limpopo taking part in a number of engagements.

Some of its men were among the 500 Rhodesians and Australians who, at Elands River, held out for a fortnight until relieved against an enemy force nearly four times their number, after twice being given up for lost by columns sent to their assistance. The flag flown at Elands River is now in the St. George's Chapel of the Anglican Cathedral in Salisbury.

The British South Africa Police were also well represented in numerous actions in the Anglo-Boer War and they emerged from it with their reputation for discipline, devotion to duty and bravery greatly enhanced. At the ceremony mentioned above at Mafeking on 5th October, 1904, Colonel W. Bodle representing the Corps was presented with a banner by Lord Milner on behalf of King Edward VII "in recognition of services rendered to the Empire".

This flag now hangs in the Officers' Mess at Police Headquarters in Salisbury. The last occasion on which it was paraded was during the visit in 1960 of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, when she reviewed the British South Africa Police.

The third flag in St. John's Cathedral in Bulawayo is a Union Jack. In common with all Union Jacks, which had been flown at all Government establishments on parallel masts together with Rhodesian flags, this flag was lowered at sunset for the last time on Sunday, 10th November, 1968. On Monday, 11th November, 1968, the new Rhodesian flag was hoisted for the first time at ceremonies held throughout Rhodesia. The Union Jack from Brady-Barracks was retained by the Brigade commander, Brigadier R. A. G. Prentice, O.B.E. He offered it to the Church at Salisbury for safe keeping and it was not until early in 1970 that, unaccompanied by any special ceremony, the flag was mounted on a mast in its present position above the chancel of St. John's Cathedral.

The History of Gwelo

Part 3

by Pat Davis

{This is the final instalment of an article based on a dissertation completed by the author some years ago for the History Department of the Teachers' College, Bulawayo. It brings the early history of Gwelo up to 1906.—Editor.}

1903 —1906

In January 1903 nine tenders were received for the Market Hall, the successful tenderer being Mr. Bauer in the sum of £1 456 10s. 0d. Disagreement between the Board and Mr. Bauer however, led to the contract being awarded to Bourne and Moinet for £1 559 6s. 0d. The site of this Hall was to be "in the centre of the quarter of the Square next to Livingstone Avenue and Third Street" — according to the Sanitary Board minutes of 1st May 1903. The building was completed and ready for use in August 1903 and insured for £1,500 through Finnie and Finnie. Prior to the completion of the building, the Board's Inspector had reported adversely on the state of the Market Square under successive Market Masters. The Board then decided to appoint Mr. Gray the chief veterinary surgeon as Market Master for a period of three months, at a fee of 10s. per month. He was in addition allowed to charge 10% on all goods and produce sold within the Hall and 5 % on all goods such as timber and livestock outside the Hall.

The original offer of a lighting plant by Mr. Golding was extended for a further twelve months subject to his depositing £500 sureties to the Board's account. Later that month, January 1903, an enquiry was received from Bulawayo for the supply and provision of a lighting plant.

The arrival of the railways in Gwelo in 1902 brought problems to the Sanitary Board. The proposed Selukwe railroad involved the Board's co-operation as it crossed certain avenues. Further complications arose because the line passed between the Rifle Club's butts at the base of the Kopje and the firing positions. This latter problem however, was considered by the Board to be the Government's responsibility, as the Board had not authorised the siting of the Rifle Range in that position. The Government, when making a land grant to the Railways did not consult with the Board and it was found that part of the road leading from the hospital to the cemetery, the pound and the Board's Inspector's house were now Railway property. Central Rhodesian Reefs Ltd., also complained that the existing road to their Scout Mine had also become Railway property and that the Railways were digging holes in their road for the planting of trees. Representations were made to the Government who then agreed to

make up the road to the cemetery being an extension of Main Street. This involved the filling in of a well belonging to the Railways which was in the middle of the proposed new road. The Board also requested compensation for the removal of their pound and Inspector's house to new sites. Objections were also raised by the Board to the fact that land granted to the Railways was being leased by them to the Rhodesian Cold Storage and Trading Company, thus depriving the Board of legitimate rates or rentals.

The recently formed Gwelo Sporting Club requested the use of a 360 acre site which included part of the Rifle Range. The Rifle Club had no objections to this, provided the race meetings and gymkhanas did not interfere with their shooting matches or their practices as they had the prior claim to that piece of ground. It was finally agreed to request the Government to let the Sporting Club use this site on a 10 year lease at "a peppercorn rental", subject however to the conditions that if at any time the ground be required for public purposes, the Board could cancel the lease on six months notice and re-acquire the ground with no responsibilities for compensation for any buildings or permanent improvements.

A state of uncertainty existed particularly in financial circles and the Board found it difficult to make an assessment rate in view of the depression. A strong protest was made by the Board at the withdrawal of the annual Government grant of £400, but this withdrawal was confirmed to a deputation from the Board — the Board being told that they were developing the town far too rapidly and ambitiously for so small a community. Subsequently however, the Government relented and gave them the following:

"Loan of £300 repayable in three years for purpose of mules; Renewal of the annual loan of £400; A grant of up to £100 for tree planting on a £ for £ principle."

The Board had, up to this time, been using water for public purposes from a well owned by St. Cuthbert's Church. The latter now demanded a payment of 30s. per month for the use of this facility so the Board discontinued the use of this well and covered one of their own in the park, equipping it with a windlass and bucket.

Requests were made to the Board by Messrs. Meikle and the Milling Company for sites adjacent to the railway line. These requests were recommended to the Government provided on a five year lease with a rental of £1 per month per acre which was to be paid to the Board. Also it was recommended that the Gwelo Milling Company only ground grain and sawed timber and Meikle Brothers only crushed quartz.

Two serious fires occurred within a month in 1903, completely destroying the properties of Dargogan Bros. & Co. and Mr. Stohuke's almost completed premises and a native store. The Board urgently requested the Government to make available fire fighting equipment for the future.

Concern was expressed by the Board by the fact that premises previously occupied by a European, were now rented by an African for use as a native Coffee Shop and Eating House.

Certain roads were still not well defined. This was illustrated by a complaint of the Rev. Truscott, principal of the Government School. The track used by the traffic to Selukwe passed across the school property between the school house and their toilets. The Board however declined all responsibility for this, saying that the school authorities should deal with the matter themselves.

In February 1903, the opening of the new wing of the hospital was celebrated by an enjoyable dance organised by Dr. Smyth and the nursing staff.

By this time the trees planted in the streets were interfering with the telephone lines. Cordial relations between the Board and the Postmaster having now been established the latter was allowed to trim the trees where necessary. The growth of these trees must have been luxuriant as there is a story told of a well known public figure who was addicted to spending much time in the local bars. This practice did not meet with his spouse's approval and on her visit to town in search of him, he was said to find refuge in one of these trees until her departure.

Considerable resentment was felt by members of the Rifle Club when they did not receive the medals won during the 1901 and 1902 monthly shoots. The 1901 medals did arrive eventually at the end of 1902 but the 1902 medals, which arrived in February 1903, were of an inferior quality with no space for engraving any names or particulars. There were no gold medals to distinguish between the first and second class marksmen. The Rifle Club felt that there was no point in continuing the monthly shoots for such medals.

A second bioscope performance was given in the Stock Exchange Hall by a Mr. H. Jones. This was a considerable improvement on the preceding one with a variety of films being shown for an admission charge of 5s. and 7s. 6d.

The fire (previously mentioned in the Sanitary Board's business) which occurred in May, destroying the building which was being erected for Mr. Stonhuke by Mr. Longhurst, resulted in a considerable loss to the latter. The public responded to Mr. Longhurst's loss by contributing to a generous collection which was given to him within a week.

At the beginning of August the Gwelo Public School moved from Trinity Church to its new quarters. The public opening was deferred until the end of the month when the Inspector of Schools would be present.

The Anglican church lost its first rector, the Rev. Walker, who returned to England with his wife. He was replaced by the Rev. Salt.

On 25th August 1903, the first regular train to Selukwe ran from Gwelo, the line having been completed some time previously. There was a regular daily service running in the afternoons, with an additional service four mornings of the week. Wood was used for fuel as coal was most expensive and difficult to obtain.

Gwelo was entertained by two visits by Harry Millar's Lyric Co. On their first visit they staged three short plays, "The Private Secretary", "The Arabian Nights" and "What Happened to Jane". At the end of October, their second visit staged only "Little Lord Fauntleroy" and "His Night Out". As these were so short, variety entertainment was provided afterwards.



Social at Trinity Church, 1904.

Photo: National Archives

Towards the end of the year, a third bioscope was presented by the American Bioscope Company, but the show was very disappointing.

Things were looking up in 1904, with rapid progress being made on the railway line to Bulawayo.

Concern was expressed by Mr. H. Cummings early in the year, "calling the Board's attention to the nuisance and danger to health caused by pigeons". The Market Master, whose services were retained for a further three months, was requested by the Board "to take steps to keep all dogs out of the Market Hall, or else not to allow any vegetables to be placed on the floor". The Board also decided that the Morning Market would be held at 7 a.m. on Saturdays only and that they would offer the market tables by monthly auction to vendors. In July 1904 the Board was worried as the Market Hall foundations showed signs of sinking. It was decided that a layer of gravel be laid around the Hall and the down pipes of the drains be extended for 10 feet thus carrying the water away from the foundations.

Probably as an inducement for people to purchase stands and build, the Sanitary fees were reduced to 7s. 6d. per bucket as from 1st May. Also the rates were reduced to 2½d. in the £ with the usual 33 1/3 % rebate as from September. The following year 1905, also in September, these rates were again reduced to 2d. in the £ with 25 % rebate.

The Government decided that a quarantine area for livestock should be set aside on the Commonage. The Board declined to bear the full cost of this but agreed to contribute on the £ for £ basis if the cost was less than £11 and £50 if the cost was over £100, on the condition that the fence would not be removed without the Board's consent.

In April the Board now agreed to the Government's proposal of the grant of ground for the race-course near the kopje, requested by the Gwelo Sporting Club.

A smallpox scare originated in Bulawayo in August and much concern was expressed by the Board that this might be brought to Gwelo now that the railway link had been completed, but an assurance from the Secretary in Salisbury that the outbreak was under control, allayed their fears.

A request from Meikle Brothers for a free site on the Commonage for a bacon factory was approved by the Board and recommended to the Government.

A dispute with the Government of several years standing over the cemetery was now concluded, November 1904, the Board being responsible for the upkeep of the cemetery with the use of free convict labour from the gaol. Following this, the Roman Catholic and Anglican priests, with the help of some of the ladies in the town, were requested to beautify the cemetery which had now been fenced by the Board.

It is of interest to note that during 1904, it was proposed to set aside a site for Indian residential purposes. Had this materialised it would have included the area now known as Gwelo East and Windsor Park, with Dollar Spruit, then known as the Kopje Spruit, as its eastern boundary.

At this stage in the town's development, it appeared that the Government had decided that the town should be more self-supporting and informed the Board that the guaranteed overdraft at the Standard Bank of £3 000 was reduced to £1 250. Due to financial commitments, the Board asked that this figure be raised to £1 500. This request was firmly rejected and the Board was further informed that the guaranteed overdraft would be reduced to £1 000 the following year.

In June 1905 the first Agricultural Show Committee approached the Board for the loan of the Market Hall together with tables and iron standards for Show purposes. This was approved by the Board.

Rivalry between Salisbury and Bulawayo existed even in these early years, as is instanced by the fact that Salisbury solicited Gwelo's support in its determination that Beira should be the principal port of entry for goods to Rhodesia whereas Bulawayo preferred Cape Town. The Board diplomatically handed the matter over to the local Chamber of Commerce. It did however support a resolution from Bulawayo to the Government deploring the inadequacy of the police force and the training of natives in the use of firearms.

In 1904 the Agricultural Show Society applied for a five acre site adjacent to the gaol and next to the railway line. This request was subsequently agreed to by the Board.

From the earliest days the training and control of indigenous labour was most difficult — the natives being most adverse to regular and continuous hours of work. It was apparently suggested in Government circles that Chinese labour be imported to overcome the problem. This raised such a storm of protest throughout the country that the matter was discreetly dropped.

Early in 1904 the new Court House, having been completed, was used for the first time. A visitor to the town gave his impression of the town in the following words: "After a sharp walk of 10 minutes (from the station) one comes to the town which is tastefully laid out in avenues and streets and does not give you the impression that most towns of the Cape Colony do — that of disjointedness. The streets and avenues are planted on either side with trees of the gum species, which in a few years will afford welcome shelter from the heat and at the same time be an additional attraction to the town. Passing along the thing that strikes one next is the solidity of the local buildings — 'None of your tin shanties for me' says the resident of Gwelo. Among the buildings, the Masonic Temple and the Magistrate's Court catch the eye by reason of their size and architecture. The hotels are prominent and not to be ignored, for the comforts of the inner man are looked after in Gwelo in truly British lavishness, and those arriving need never fear on that score."

The tariffs of the Metropole Hotel were advertised as 3s. per single meal, 3s. per bed and 11s. per day, under the new management of Seckle Bros. The Victoria Hotel, which was the nearest hotel to the station was taken over by Mr. Skey in June 1904. Gwelo was now becoming more sophisticated with Messrs. Dulys and Co. advertising their new imported motor car with "Ton-neau body, seats five people, and the 13 horse-power will carry it merrily along at 25 miles an hour if necessary — quite swift enough for safety on Rhodesian roads — and its minimum speed is three miles per hour". It also had "three speed forward and reverse". Also A. Cole, one of the chemists in Main Street advertised "photographic material of every description". Twilly Brothers' Store boasted five separate departments — ladies' dept, men's dept., children's dept., drapery and furnishing. One exclusive stock-in-trade of which they were very proud, was the evening gown illustrated in the sketch copied from an advert, in the "Gwelo Times" of 1904. Mr. Chivers had by now formed the Gwelo Printing and Publishing Company and the price of the local weekly paper was reduced from 6d. to 3d.

At this time the Dominican Convent consisted of five rooms, a kitchen, stable and outhouse. The more spacious of the two classrooms had been divided by a partition, the one portion being reserved for a private chapel. On Sundays, the partition was opened for Mass and Benediction and this improvised chapel was sufficient for the town's needs. Meanwhile Father Leboef had drawn up plans for the building of a much needed Convent, and after many delays and disappointments, "the foundation stone was blessed and solemnly laid by the Right Rev. Father Sykes on the 19th March 1904".¹ The Sisters were obliged to borrow a large sum of money at an 'extortionate' rate of 7 % interest to raise the

1. *On God's White Robed Army*, p. 198.



Buildings of the early 1900's in Gwelo. Top, the Market Hall: bottom, the Court House.
Photo: National Archives

necessary funds. Mr. John Moran made and offered 100,000 bricks for the building. The new convent was occupied on June 28th. To celebrate this the school children gave pianoforte recitals and staged a play. At the end of the year the Sisters entered one of their pupils for the School Higher Examination of the Cape University. She passed first class and sixteenth out of a total of 743 candidates in South Africa

Rifle shooting was more popular now with three major competitions being held each year, these being for the B.S.A., Dewar and Grey challenge shields. Mounted paper chases were also a popular form of entertainment. The Gymkhana Club and Cricket Club were now well established and most active.

In October and November two further organisations, namely the Farmer's Association and the Rhodesian Pioneers' and Early Settlers' Society were constituted. The latter association, with a Captain Howard the Secretary, held its first dinner at the Horseshoe Hotel with Major Hurrell as mine host. Many members of the 1890 and 1893 Columns were present, enjoying an excellent dinner and recounting many stories. Life was rough and raw in the very early days with female society non-existent. One story related was of an incident when a visiting troupe put on a variety show. The one audience consisted entirely of men. A female member of the troupe, somewhat past her prime in looks and voice, was so heckled that she had to stop her performance. However one burly individual in the front row rose to his feet and quietened the audience, requesting them to "give the old cow a chance". The lady in question bowed to this man saying, "Thank you, Sir, you are the only gentleman in the room". Another story was told of a police officer on special duty, arriving in town after a long tiresome journey, repaired to the nearest bar for some liquid refreshment. Standing up against the counter at the far end of the bar were an officer of the police, a prison warder and a convict. The newly-arrived officer discreetly swallowed his drink and retired to his room for a bath and change of clothes. On returning to the bar some time later, he enquired from the barman the circumstances surrounding the three previous drinkers and was told that a wealthy relative of the convict had died in England, leaving him a substantial sum of money. The police officer and gaol warder had a nightly sundowner for some months with the convict on the strength of this.

In June 1905 the first Agricultural Show was held in the Market Square.

Some time in 1905 the following incident occurred: "Trains were very irregular in those early days, and passengers might consider themselves fortunate if they could get accommodation on a goods-train and Mother Ignatius with a Sister companion were among these. They sat on their baggage in a truck and held on tight. It was well that; they did so for the train was derailed with a terrific jolt which well-nigh broadcast passengers and their belongings. They had to sit out in the veld for some hours until the train was ready to proceed.

1906 — the new year was heralded by an all day cycling and athletics meeting by the Gymkhana Club. The day was hot, sunny and cloudless — the rains had been poor this year causing some concern.

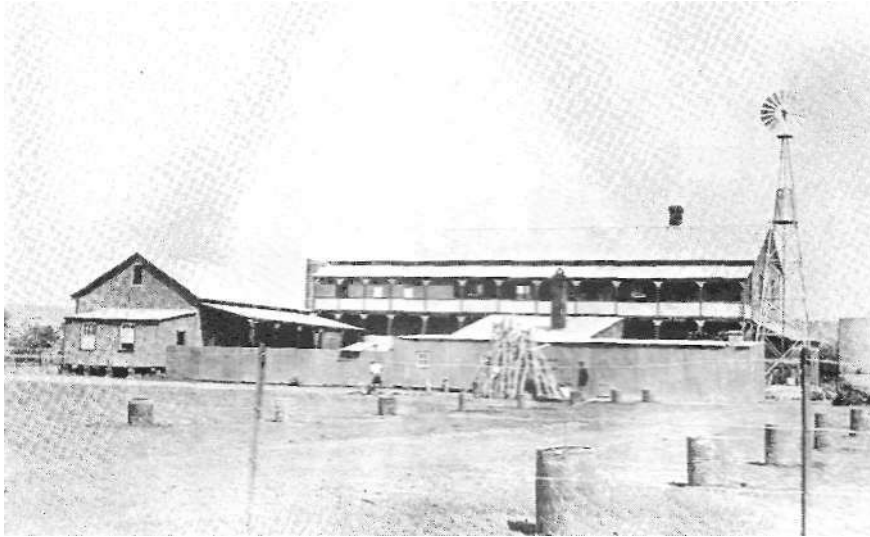
One of the biggest social events since the Rebellion was the wedding of the very popular couple Mr. Peel and Miss Walsh. All business in the town stopped at 11 a.m. and the town was gaily decorated with much bunting. The wedding ceremony was held at the Convent Chapel at 2.30 p.m. This Chapel had been attractively decorated by the Sisters. The bride "looked very pretty and was charmingly dressed in a handsome gown (a creation by Madame Guthrie, Court dressmaker) of ivory silk, crepe de soie. The bodice was a perfect fit, beautifully trimmed with fine hand tucked chiffon yoke with lace motifs to match the drapings of the front and puffed elbow sleeves. A plain tulle veil fell over a tiara of orange blossom". She had a page boy, Ross Bradley, "dressed in white silk corded breeches, white silk blouse with lace, and a large leghorn hat with ostrich feathers". There were also two bridesmaids and two flower girls. The reception was held at the Court House with almost every one in the town attending in all their finery. At 5 o'clock the party dispersed. Many and costly presents were received by the couple, ranging from cheques, one with three figures, a canteen of knives and forks, an afternoon tea service, a silver toast rack and butter dish, a set of fish carvers, a pair of Indian worked mantle drapes, a piano cover, a point lace table cover and numerous silverware items. In the evening the couple left by train for the Cape Colony — "Owing to the blinding shower of rice falling indiscriminately all over the station our representative was unable to see what was taking place, but the location of the happy pair was ascertained by a couple of old shoes fastened to a mast over their apartment. The train moved out to the accompaniment of deafening cheers, witty sallies and good wishes and the report of 21 fog signals, which was answered by the roaring of several lions in the surrounding bush, the king of animals evidently objecting to the unusual commotion".¹ No sooner had the couple left than the rains started bringing a happy relief from the hot weather.

Besides the numerous lions that roamed the Gwelo district, a rhinoceros had taken up its abode near the Shamrock Mine, frequenting the banks of the Gwelo river.

Mining activity was on the increase with the Shamrock Mine striking a 60 ounce pocket of gold, one lump weighing over one ounce. Great excitement was caused by Sir John Willoughby's stating that a large diamond deposit had been found a few miles from Gwelo on the Somabula Flats. In the first eleven months of operations a large number of stones had been found and the site was equipped with bigger and more efficient mining gear. Great resentment was felt by the public over the concession granted to De Beers Consolidated over the matter of diamonds in Rhodesia. Much criticism in the press followed and a number of public meetings were held protesting at this concession. While this was going on a rumour quickly spread that De Beers concession had been rescinded but this was just as quickly repudiated.

The first recorded case of arson occurred at the Gwelo Mills where a bag of rags and paper, soaked in paraffin, had been pushed under the boards and set

1. *Gwelo Times*, 13th January.



Dominican Convent, Gwelo. Early 1900's.

Photo: National Archives

alight. Fortunately the flames were soon noticed and the fire extinguished before much damage was done.

In February 1906 the Gwelo Dramatic Society staged its first performance with "Our Boys". Although the audience was very critical, the play was well received and appreciated.

The Gwelo Agricultural Show Society staged its second show in June, with Mr. R. B. Nash as its Secretary. The Society was gravely concerned at first as finances were low and there appeared to be little support from exhibitors. Following a meeting held to discuss the problem, £100 was raised within a couple of hours by a collection, and with a Government grant of £ for £ their financial problems were solved. Ultimately the Show proved to be a great success being well supported with a large number and variety of exhibits.

Gwelo suffered the loss of a prominent citizen — the Rev. Truscott, who had done so much for the Nonconformist (Presbyterian) Church and the founding of the first school in Gwelo. He was succeeded by the Rev. Bryant. A newly established photographer Mr. W. H. Davies astonished those attending the farewell-cum-social for the Rev. Truscott and the Rev. Bryant by taking the first photographs. This social may well have been held in the wood and iron manse which was erected in 1906 and is still in use today.

A number of hockey enthusiasts must have arrived in Gwelo as there were sufficient to start a Hockey Club in June 1906.

Following an extremely poor rainy season large swarms of locusts were reported between Lalapansi and Gwelo. Numerous grass fires were reported on the Commonage, some deliberately started by poachers after game. Water

supplies were failing in both wells and streams and hopes were expressed for an early start to the rainy season.

A Mr. Holland passed through Gwelo early in August, having left Johannesburg on 1st May on a walk around the world for a wager of £5 000. His journey had to be completed in Johannesburg by 29th April, 1911.

The engagement of Mr. W. D. Finnie to Grace McCabe prompted the following remark in the *Gwelo Times*. "We are becoming aware that marriageable girls are getting scarce in Gwelo, and to the remaining bachelors we say, 'Pop the question without delay'."

One of the first stores near the station was opened in September 1906. This was owned by Mr. J. Antoniadis, a general merchant.

Discontent with the Chartered Company Government had been growing stronger and the visit of Lord Selborne, the British High Commissioner, provided the people with an opportunity for airing their grievances. When his train arrived at 8.30 a.m. the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers under Capt. Boggie formed a guard of honour. Lord Selborne and his wife were driven in a motor car to the Court House via Livingstone Avenue which had been colourfully decorated with streamers, overhead and between the gum trees. At the Court House P. G. Smith presented the large Reception Committee before Grace Hurrell presented Lady Selborne with a bouquet. Lord Selborne met many deputations throughout the morning and afternoon. At a banquet that night, the High Commissioner made a long speech and the dinner finished at 11 p.m. The Police had engaged an extra 300 natives to hold burning torches, lighting the route for the visitors to the station on their departure after the banquet. Nothing was recorded of the outcome of the deputations.

At the annual St. Andrew's Nicht Ball many participants appeared in national costume for the first time and formed a set to dance a reel and a schottische which were picturesque.

The name Hurrell has appeared regularly and consistently throughout this story and the following tribute was paid to their memory by Capt. Beechy now resident at Strickland Lodge in Umtali: "... in the very early days, 1906 to 1909, I was then a young Corporal aged 22, of the B.S.A.P. stationed in Gwelo, during that period under the late Colonel Cashel. I well remember the old wood and iron Horseshoe Hotel, which was then run by those very popular people the late Major and Mrs. Hurrell. The present Midlands Hotel was years later built on the same site. We young lads of the B.S.A. Police, stationed in Gwelo during that period, whenever we could afford it, on our extremely low pay in the Police at that time, went down to the Horseshoe Hotel, from our Camp, which was then about a mile out of town, went down for a 'bingo'... We always had a good time and were always welcomed and entertained by the late Major and Mrs. Hurrell, a couple that we young lads always respected, and we became very fond of the Hurrells".

Harold Basil Christian

An Early Rhodesian botanist

by Michael J. Kimberley

Harold Basil Christian was born in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, in 1871. He was the youngest son of Henry Bailey Christian, a prominent farmer, merchant and race-horse owner of that town. Basil's grandfather, Ewan Christian, first came to the Cape as a midshipman on the flagship of his uncle, Admiral Sir Hugh Christian.

Henry Bailey Christian served in the Kaffir War of 1846, attained the rank of Captain and subsequently settled on the farm Kragga Kama, 12 miles from Port Elizabeth. He was an energetic, versatile and enterprising man, "splendid looking, tall and straight, and handsome in face as he is comely in figure". He was President of the Port Elizabeth Agricultural Society, the first President of the South African Agricultural Union, President of the Port Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce and President of the Jockey Club of South Africa and the Port Elizabeth Turf Club for a number of years. He was a Harbour Commissioner and, for a short while, a member of the Legislative Assembly. When he died in 1903 it was said of him "by his death a link with the past is severed and South Africa is the poorer by the loss of a good man who was the type of what an English colonial gentleman should be".

He had four sons, Owen Smith, Ewan, Henry Courtney and Harold Basil, and four daughters Ada, Maud, Hilda and Mary.

The members of the Christian family who settled in South Africa and Rhodesia were of the Cumberland branch of an old Manx family whose members had been deemsters or judges in the Isle of Man for many years.

A famous ancestor was Fletcher Christian, who was first officer on H.M.S. *Bounty*, an English vessel which sailed from Spithead in 1787 en route to Tahiti under Captain William Bligh to collect plants of the bread-fruit tree for the West Indian colonies. On the return trip the crew, led by Christian, mutinied under Bligh's harsh treatment, and turned Bligh and his supporters adrift. The mutineers settled on Pitcairn Island in 1790 and destroyed the *Bounty* so as to sever all links with the outside world; they remained undisturbed until 1808 when an American vessel called at Pitcairn Island and stumbled on the solution of the mystery of the mutineers of the *Bounty*.

Harold Basil Christian was educated at Eton College where he distinguished himself as a sportsman. Issues of The Eton College Chronicle of 1887 and 1888 record his prowess at football, sculling and rowing. He rowed at No. 6 in the eights and was a proficient sculler. At football it was said "he is very energetic, showing great keenness in the game" and "is a good selection for the place he occupies, has strength and a fair amount of skill".

Like his brother Ewan, who served in Rimington's Guides and died from wounds received at Paardeberg on the 28th February 1900 while saving a comrade, Basil also saw action in the Boer War, serving in the Imperial Light Horse, and distinguished himself by gallantry in the field. He was present at the siege of Ladysmith and rescued a fellow trooper at Hlangwane by carrying him a mile and a half through heavy fire.

Until about 1910 he was apparently employed by De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited in Kimberley and by a mining company on the Witwatersrand as an engineer, but the record is almost silent on this period in his life. He told Ronald James of Salisbury that on instruction from Cecil John Rhodes following a meeting in Kimberley he was the first person to write the word "Rhodesia" on a map. This is reasonably possible because the name "Rhodesia" had unofficially been used by the British South Africa Company from 1895 and in a proclamation in May, 1895, Leander Starr Jameson formally named the territory "Rhodesia".

While engaged in mining Christian undoubtedly heard much of the country to the north of the Limpopo River and perhaps this, coupled with the fact that his first cousin Harold Henry Dunell Christian settled in Rhodesia in 1896 and lived near Salisbury, caused him to emigrate to Rhodesia in 1911.

A few years after his arrival he purchased the 662 morgen farm Mount Shannon, being Subdivision A of The Meadows, from Gerald Ernest George Fitzgibbon for £5 000.

Christian immediately set about developing a garden. It was perhaps natural that through contacts during his youth with gardeners brought out from England to work on his father's farm Kragga Kama, near Port Elizabeth, he should concentrate on imported European alpine plants. Needless to say these plants, which are at their best when growing at high altitudes in cool conditions and require considerable water, did not adapt to the Salisbury of 1914.

Spacious lawns were laid out in front of the homestead to provide a suitable setting for alpine plants, and when one large rock interfered with the continuity of the lawn and could not be removed a surveyor engaged in surveying the farm removed a clump of *Aloe cameronii* from a nearby hill and planted it close "to hide the stark appearance of this unsightly rock".

When this *Aloe* flowered the following year, without having been watered, Christian was so delighted with it that he decided there and then to abandon alpine plants and their problems and devote his attention to *Aloes*.

From that humble beginning in about 1916, rockeries and more rockeries were constructed and *Aloes* and more *Aloes* were collected or otherwise acquired and in the words of Gilbert Westacott Reynolds, written in 1939, "today I think this is the finest and most complete collection of *Aloes* in existence".

On the 18th December 1920, Christian married Annabella Roberta Kemp Saint. The marriage took place at the Cathedral in Salisbury and was solemnized by the Anglican Bishop of Southern Rhodesia. By 1923 certain irreconcilable differences had arisen between Christian and his wife and in September



Harold Basil Christian.
Photo: National Archives

of that year the couple entered into an agreement of separation. She returned to Scotland where she died in 1955.

Like his father before him, Christian played a significant part in organized agriculture. From 1929 to 1931 he was President of the Rhodesia Agricultural Union which became the Rhodesia National Farmers' Union.

While still an active farmer he was instrumental in starting in Mashonaland a maize competition for the best maize yield off one acre of land. He also played some part in encouraging the use of fertilizer and contour ridging and subsequently judged maize competitions.

In 1930 Gilbert Reynolds' acquaintance with the genus Aloe began in the Transvaal when, during the pursuit of his profession of optician in the country towns and villages of South Africa, he dug up an Aloe in the veld near Pretoria and planted it in his garden where it soon died after it had been repeatedly swamped with water.

In the words of Reynolds: "I realised I had something to learn about the cultivation of Aloes; I then sought but in vain, for helpful literature on the South African Aloes . . ." Fortunately for the world he then "had no alternative but to try and master the subject, with its many diverse and complex aspects" and subsequently resolved "to accumulate sufficient data to publish and thus make available to others the information I had so eagerly sought for myself."

At about this time Christian was enthusiastically and industriously collecting, identifying, cultivating, studying and photographing the Aloes of Africa and publishing the results of his researches in the Rhodesian Agricultural Journal and elsewhere.

It was inevitable that Reynolds and Christian, the two foremost enthusiasts and students of the genus Aloe, should meet. Their first meeting was arranged by Fred Long of Port Elizabeth and occurred in about 1933. In the words of Long "They met at breakfast in the King Edward Hotel, Port Elizabeth. By 10.30 a.m. one had ordered porridge but had not tasted it and the other had just added the sugar and milk . . .". The result of that uneaten meal was that Reynolds confined his attention to Aloe species occurring south of the Limpopo River and Christian to the north.

For the next 15 years Christian devoted much of his attention to the preparation of a book on the Aloe species of tropical Africa. The fine large leather bound notebooks as well as his rough notebooks and plant registers are evidence of his meticulous attention to detail and of progress made towards an unfulfilled ambition.

In about 1935 Christian injured his right hand on a rusty nail. The wound did not heal and became septic and two years later it became necessary for the arm to be amputated above the elbow.

Gilbert Reynolds and his wife Kathleen visited Ewanrigg for the first time in Mid-1939. In a detailed description in the notable South African Gardens series published in the South African Horticultural Journal Reynolds writes:

"Glowing reports of 'Ewanrigg' have often reached me and it has long been my keen desire to go up and see for myself just exactly what this famous garden really did look like . . . I shall endeavour to record my impressions but justice cannot be done in a mere pen picture. It is one of those gardens that must be seen to be appreciated, and one should linger for days to take it all in. We had only a day at our disposal — much too short a time . . . The memory of that unique garden, of the rockeries and pools and especially the blaze of colour put up by the masses of Aloe cameronii will linger for many a year to come. We left 'Ewanrigg' reluctantly but with the earnest hope that we would be able to visit it again one day."

The growth of Christian's reputation as an acknowledged expert on the genus Aloe, coupled with requests from Kew and Pretoria to: botanists to send new specimens of Aloe to him for cultivation, identification and study, led to the arrival at Ewanrigg of innumerable parcels, cartons and crates of Aloe specimens of all shapes and sizes. Plants were recorded, cultivated and, when they flowered, described and the descriptions published.

By 1943 the Aloe garden had been considerably extended to some seven acres and had gained a reputation throughout the world. Christian had come to be recognized by botanists, both professional and amateur, as a leading authority on Aloes generally and tropical African Aloes in particular.

Consequently, it was not surprising that in 1943 the Minister of Internal Affairs proclaimed as a national monument: "A beacons area of approximately 14,5 acres situated immediately east of the homestead on Ewanrigg Farm, Salisbury District, comprising the Aloe Garden, the slopes of the kopje covered with indigenous timber adjoining the garden, and an area of land at the base of the said kopje."

During the latter part of his life Christian devoted much of his attention to the collection, cultivation and propagation of Cycads. He created a very comprehensive and representative collection of the African species of these ancient and fascinating plants, and today large and healthy specimens of all but a few of the known African species of *Encephalartos* may be found at Ewanrigg.

The results of his intensive study of the genus Aloe were recorded in articles and papers published in various learned journals during the period 1933 to 1952, several being published posthumously.

His first venture into print was his Notes on African Aloes published in the Rhodesia Agricultural Journal in 1933. These notes begin: "From a gardening point of view the growing of Aloes has several advantages which are not possessed by the ordinary plants grown for decorative purposes. Aloes are perennials, and once they are planted they continue growing and flowering for many years. Once established, they can persist throughout the driest seasons without watering, although certain species from the winter rainfall areas or mist belts thrive much better with an occasional watering in our winter."

During the 1930's Christian undertook several journeys. Gladys Clarkson recalls a trip she made with Christian to Chipinga, in the eastern districts of Rhodesia, in 1937. In 1938 Christian, with Fred Holland, journeyed to Nyasaland to study the Aloes of that country. Reynolds records "to Mr. Christian chiefly is due the credit for stimulating interest in the Aloes of Nyasaland". In 1947, with Dr. I. C. Verdoorn and others, he undertook an extensive field trip in South Africa where he examined all the known localities of *Encephalartos*.

It was inevitable that at some stage a new Aloe would be named after Christian. The description of *Aloe christianii* was written by Gilbert Reynolds in 1936 — "the species having been originally collected by Christian at 'Ewanrigg'."

His attention was not confined to Aloes and Cycads alone but ranged over many genera and species. Euphorbia was a genus which interested him and in the *Succulent Euphorbiae of Southern Africa*, published in 1941, Christian is one of fifteen listed collaborators acknowledged and thanked by the authors "for very useful information about the species native in the Rhodesias, and for gifts of plants and photographs". Several photographs taken by Christian are used in the book.

On the 5th June, 1948, in the presence of W. D. Gale and J. B. Richards as witnesses, Christian executed a codicil to his last will and testament which included the following terms:

"I give and bequeath to the Chairman for the time being of the Natural Resources Board, and the Chairman for the time being of the Commission

for the Preservation of Natural and Historical Monuments and Relics, a portion of my farm Ewanrigg situate in the Arcturus District of Southern Rhodesia, in extent seven hundred and seven acres on which is situate the aloe and cycad collection which has been built up by me over a period of years."

The *Rhodesia Herald* of the 8th June, 1948, published an enthusiastic report on the bequest:

"If the offer of the owner Mr. Basil Christian is accepted by the Rhodesian Government, the finest and most complete collection of aloes and cycads in the world will become the property of the Colony for all time."

In an interview at the time Christian said that his work could never have been achieved nor the collection brought to its present state if it had not been for the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in England and the Division of Botany in Pretoria, South Africa, both of which had asked botanists to send new specimens to him for cultivation, identification and study. He indicated that this work had been in the nature of a hobby and that during his many years of research he had corresponded with botanists throughout the world. The complete records which he had kept of all species would be presented with the collection. He added that although other gardens had a larger number of specimens than existed at Ewanrigg, the contribution made to science by the Ewanrigg garden had been considerable. He mentioned that as the collection and the garden had gained a reputation throughout the world, the work should be continued.

In June 1949 and pursuant to that part of the bequest of 1948 which referred to the maintenance and development of the garden, H. F. W. Davies took up residence at Ewanrigg. Davies, who had met Christian at a meeting of the Succulent Society of which Christian was the founder and president, was a horticulturist who had trained at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, and worked at the National Botanic Gardens at Kirstenbosch, Cape Province. He remained curator for 23 years until his retirement from the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management in 1970.

On Friday the 12th May, 1950, Harold Basil Christian died at St. Anne's Hospital, Salisbury, at the age of 79 years. He was buried in the Salisbury Cemetery on the afternoon of Saturday the 13th May, 1950, after a service in the Anglican Cathedral.

One of several tributes published in May 1950 was by C. L. Robertson, O.B.E., then Chairman of the Natural Resources Board:

"His passing has robbed us of friend, adviser and benefactor. Basil Christian devoted a long and energetic career to the development of a great and unique garden. From almost every part of the world came experts to examine this wonderful garden of aloes and cycads. Let us make sure that Basil Christian's garden is maintained in the state in which he would have kept it."

In an unpublished article written in 1950 shortly after his death, Dr. Inez Verdoorn recalls:

"The rock-work is still there to be admired and the Aloes and Cycads to be studied, but the maker and builder of that garden has now gone from it. After a long battle with a trying malady on a night in May, 1950, H. Basil Christian of Ewanrigg died. The next day a mutual friend in Salisbury, hearing the news, wrote in part of the 'laird of Ewanrigg' as he called him, 'a very gallant gentleman doing grand work in his own line under the heaviest of handicaps, and holding his head high and scorning the facile pity of weaklings . . . Ave atque vale most faithful of Old Etonians. I like a man who has the courage of his loyalties. . . Eton sustained him against all odds and that is more than can be said of most men'. Ewanrigg must needs be desolate and wan for a while but in time it will recover. Long may it be a monument to the memory of Basil Christian and an asset to the country that he loved."

His last will and testament, apparently executed in 1921 could not be found, nor could a codicil to the original will executed in 1923. However, a codicil executed in 1927, confirming the provision of the original will of 1921 was found, together with the codicil executed in 1948, in terms of which his farm Ewanrigg was given and bequeathed to the Natural Resources Board and the Commission for the Preservation of Natural and Historical Monuments and Relics.

Certain doubts were raised as to whether he had intended to bequeath the entire farm of 707 acres to the nation or only the 14,5 acre portion which had been declared a national monument in 1943 and the codicil of 1948 did not put the matter beyond all possible doubt.

Fortunately, however, the matter was amicably resolved in 1954, when his executor, his wife's attorney and the Minister of Internal Affairs representing the Trustees, agreed that the true intention of the deceased was that the whole of the 707 acre farm should be transferred to Trustees in perpetuity for the purpose of the national monument proclaimed in 1943. It was also agreed that the whole of the income of the Estate should go to his wife.

The writer asked Ronald James to state in a few words what sort of man Christian was. His reply: "A complete autocrat; a real character who belonged to the old school; a great talker who knew most of the botanists of his time and enjoyed reminiscing about botanists and plants; he enjoyed talking about rowing and was a keen horseman."

Gladys Clarkson remembers Basil Christian as a very staunch and proud Old Etonian; a man who enjoyed talking, "lunch could be at 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. or even 3 p.m. depending on what was being discussed"; sometimes argumentative; somewhat stern and unfriendly towards children; an enthusiastic worker for causes which interested him such as the Rhodesia Agricultural Union, the Botanical Society and the Botanic Gardens.

Anthony Warton of Gardiner Farm, near Salisbury, twin son of Mrs. Alice Warton, who often acted as a hostess for Basil, spent frequent school holidays at Ewanrigg and had vivid recollections of 'Uncle Basil'.



Basil Christian in the grounds of his home, Ewanrigg Aloe Gardens, 1948.

Photo: National Archives

He recalls his enthusiasm for Rhodesia Agricultural Union matters and the maize competition: visits to Ewanrigg by successive Governors of Southern Rhodesia; his prowess as a horse rider, especially on Zulu, a beautiful horse of 16½ hands — "he could ride at full tilt and pick up a handkerchief"; fierce arguments between Old Etonian Basil and Uncle Harold Christian, a Charterhouse man; and his enthusiastic membership of The Salisbury Club.

Anthony Warton also remembers Basil telling him that he was the second man to ride into Ladysmith at the time of the siege and added that the first man in, the commanding officer, Sir Redvers Henry Buller, was also an Old Etonian.

Anthony summed up 'Uncle Basil' in these words:

"He was autocratic and one of the old school — one survived in his book if one did what one was told. He was a disciplinarian especially where children and farm employees were concerned. Quite a slave-driver as far as visiting schoolboys were concerned — the large garden had to be weeded

and watered almost from dawn to dusk. He was generally a serious person though sometimes drily humorous."

Mr. E. C. Bertram of Salisbury has the following recollections of Basil Christian and of times spent at Ewanrigg:

"Mr. Christian was a man for whom I always had the greatest admiration and I feel it was a privilege to have known 'Basil', as we all called him behind his back. I met him first when I joined the Succulent Society (afterwards the Botanical Society of Southern Rhodesia) in the mid 1930's and later, as Secretary to the Society, I saw him frequently and remained in contact until his death. His courage in overcoming the disability of the loss of his right hand by training himself to pen meticulous botanical descriptions with his left hand was fantastic. To be invited to Ewanrigg for the day or to stay for a weekend was usually a highly entertaining though sometimes a somewhat exhausting experience. On the wide mosquito gauzed verandah overlooking his favourite view of rich farm lands and distant hills, he would entertain his guests, in between excursions round the garden, with anecdotes of rich and varied experiences. Time meant nothing to him and it was quite usual for one to sit down to lunch at 3 o'clock. How his cook was able to produce such excellent meals was a miracle. He entertained in style and the table was always beautifully set with family silver. For years, until age and failing health bothered him, he would wear a dinner jacket whether he had guests or not. If you were really interested he would give you aloe suckers from time to time but woe betide you if you forgot the names or allowed one to die, he would not replace it."

During 1952 a ceremony took place at Ewanrigg and was reported as follows in the press:

"A simple plaque to the memory of Basil Christian who, in his Aloe garden at Ewanrigg has left to the nation a source of pleasure and inspiration for future generations, is a fitting tribute. Sir Ernest Guest, when he unveiled the plaque, quoted the Latin inscription to Sir Christopher Wren in St. Paul's Cathedral: 'If you want a memorial, look around you'. His garden is his memorial, and any elaborate edifice would have been out of place. A rock bears a brass plate with this inscription:

HAROLD BASIL CHRISTIAN
1871 to 1950
Here a garden was born
FONS et ORIGO
ERECTED BY THE BOTANICAL
SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN
RHODESIA, 1952

'Fons et Origo' — the fountain and source. It was at this spot that Christian planted his first Aloes, which are still growing. From that small beginning came the inspiration to build what is reputed to be the finest garden of aloes, cycads and succulents in the world. It was declared a national

monument several years ago, and before his death in May, 1950 he gave it to the nation.

Farmer, lover of nature, and a world authority on Aloes, Basil Christian has left for posterity a thing of beauty."

Although Ewanrigg had been administered as a national park under the curatorship of H. F. W. Davies from about 1950 and had been open to the public since that year, it was not until 1960 that His Excellency the Governor of Southern Rhodesia formally proclaimed Ewanrigg as a national park.

Despite the belated formal proclamation as a national park, considerable development took place under the curatorship of H. F. W. Davies; the cultivated area developed from 7 acres in 1950 to about 60 acres in 1970, and in many ways the work of Harold Basil Christian during the period 1916 to 1950 has continued.

Progress and development at Ewanrigg since 1950 is recorded in the various annual reports of the National Parks Board, the National Parks Advisory Board, and of the Director of National Parks and Wild Life Management.

Davies retired in 1970 after 21 years service to Ewanrigg and was succeeded by A. G. Buckland, a keen student of stapeliads, aloes and other succulents, who has already brought about several significant improvements at Ewanrigg and has a number of ideas for development and expansion in the future.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- The Aloes of South Africa*, by G. W. Reynolds (1950).
The Aloes of Nyasaland, by G. W. Reynolds (1954).
The Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar, by G. W. Reynolds (1966).
The Monuments of Southern Rhodesia, by R. J. Fothergill (1953).
The Encyclopaedia Britannica (14th Edition).
Rhodesia Calls (May/June 1966).
The Succulent Euphorbieae, by White, Dyer and Sloane (1941).
Sundry issues of *The Rhodesia Herald* and *The Sunday Mail*, Salisbury.
National Archives of Rhodesia, Historical Manuscripts, SA/13/2/2.
High Court of Rhodesia, Masters Office file DR 82/198.
Park Administration (July 1950).
South African Horticultural Journal (1939).
Excelsa Nos. 1 (1971) and 2 (1972), published by The Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society of Rhodesia.
Quarterly Newsletters Nos. 2 and 4 (1969), published by The Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society of Rhodesia.
Personal communications from: Dr. I. Verdoorn of Pretoria, Mrs. J. Welch of Arcturus, Mr. A. Warton of Salisbury, Mrs. G. W. Reynolds and Captain G. Wallis of Mbabane.

Alice Margaret Allen: Rhodesia's First Head-mistress

by R. R. Langham Carter

(It is regretted that a photograph of Miss Allen cannot be found.—Editor.)

The church of the Good Shepherd at Protea in Claremont, Cape, was built for the workers on the extensive farm of Bishopscourt, the home of the Bishops of Cape Town. It also served as the bishops' chapel and they and their families and guests worshipped there. Nearly all the gravestones around the building commemorate the Cape Coloured residents of the locality. One of the few exceptions is the stone cross inscribed to Alice Margaret Allen who had served in Rhodesia. How she came to lie in Protea, of all places, is quite a story.

Margaret was born in April 1862, the eldest daughter of the Rev. Edward Allen and his wife Ellen Mary. The Aliens were large landowners around Altrincham in Cheshire and from their proximity to the industrial region of Lancashire one imagines this was the source of their fortune. Edward Allen had been born in about 1835, was educated at Oriel College, Oxford, and was rector of Holy Trinity at Salford across the border in Lancashire for fifteen years. In retirement the Aliens lived at Oswestry House in Meads Road, Eastbourne. Margaret was brought up in the lap of luxury, having, for instance, her own lady's maid from the age of fourteen.¹

Her father's sister, Emily Frances, had married William West Jones, the Bishop of Cape Town, in 1879 and gone to live at Bishopscourt. No doubt after discussion with the West Jones Margaret decided to offer herself for church work in Africa, came out to stay with her aunt and visited the Anglican missions in Pondoland.

Either on her return voyage or soon after her arrival in England she met J. H. Upcher, the Archdeacon of Salisbury, who had come over to obtain staff and funds for the Rhodesian church. He told her of All Saints, the school for the sons and daughters of settlers, which he had opened in Sinoia Street in 1893. The male teacher in charge had since left and the school had had to close for want of a teacher. W. T. Gaul, the Bishop of Mashonaland, was in England at the same time and, after correspondence with him, Margaret agreed to come out to the school, for one year in the first instance. As the Rhodesian church was very short of money she probably signed on to work without salary. Gaul wrote on ahead, asking friends in Durban, Lourenco Marques and Beira to look after her on her journey.

Miss Allen sailed from Southampton on 18th April 1896 in the *Hawarden Castle* of the Donald Currie Line (4 392 tons. Captain H. Rigby). Also on board

were Upcher and a young clergyman named Jones and three nurses for the hospital at Umtali which was staffed by the Anglican church, Miss Foster, Miss Haines and Annie Hewitt. They reached Cape Town on 6th May and Margaret had a few days at Bishopscourt before they sailed on again. It had always been intended that the four women should travel via Beira. Upcher and Jones had meant to go by Bulawayo but, as the Matabele Rising was still a hazard on that route, they too decided to go to Beira.

The party landed at Durban on the 14th and Margaret went to stay at the Royal Hotel. There she had the pleasure of meeting Mark Twain. The famous American author and his daughter had arrived from Lourenco Marques on 6th May at the beginning of a South African lecture tour. The six church folk sailed in the Deutsche Ost-Afrika liner *Kaiser* on the 17th and reached Beira a week later. Africans rowed them ashore in small boats and the British Consul took the four women on his trolley (Beira's normal transport in early days) to the primitive hotel.

Between them they had a good deal of heavy baggage and there were also stores for the mission. Upcher therefore decided to stay on in Beira to see this unloaded and passed through the Portuguese Customs and carried onwards towards Rhodesia. The five others boarded one of the Pungwe River launches on the 25th. Despite its small draught the launch managed to run aground several times and it was after midnight before it arrived at its terminus at Fontesvilla. "Surrounded on the bank by crowds of nude natives", Margaret told her parents. "Such a jabberation you never heard. We had to stick to our luggage by main force — hold it, sit on it, anything to retain possession of it".² There was nowhere else to sleep so they slept on their baggage which at any rate prevented it being stolen.

There was a project for a light railway from Beira to Umtali and the 101 mile section from Fontesvilla to Chimoio had been opened shortly before their arrival. They joined the little train in the early morning. It was a leisurely journey on the narrow gauge track, averaging no more than ten miles an hour, "stops being made when required either to shoot game or picnic for food, etc." They reached Chimoio at nine that night. "It is not as vile a place as Fontesvilla," she reported. "We had stretchers to sleep upon while some of the men slept in the train."

They had hoped to board the weekly coach for the hundred and twenty mile run to Umtali but found it fully booked. They managed, however, to secure space for themselves and their light luggage in a donkey wagon. This proved extremely uncomfortable on the rough track and the passengers found it better to walk though they slept in it at night. By the fourth day they felt they were nearing their destination and resolved to go ahead of the wagon. They soon reached Macequece and there, to their great surprise and relief, Upcher caught them up. He was able to arrange for Africans to carry them on machilas for the final thirty miles. They had one further night on the way and came to Umtali on 31st May. They were all exhausted and probably already suffering from their first dose of Mashonaland fever. Margaret stayed some days at the hospital to

recuperate and while she was there H. H. Foster, the priest in charge at Umtali, asked her to write an account of her journey for the Quarterly Paper of the Mashonaland Diocese.³

In Salisbury Miss Allen was given a room in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sauerthal. This was a wooden house belonging to Doctor Jameson which she heard had been brought out in sections from England. The whole region from Beira inwards had been highly malarious. The party took quinine regularly but Margaret had hardly reached Salisbury before she had a severe attack. And this was accompanied by an attack of a different nature when the Mashona Rising began soon after her arrival. The road to Umtali was cut, wagons were captured, their occupants killed and their contents looted. Margaret had to rise from her sick bed and join the other Salisbury women and children in laager at the gaol where she was thankful to be able to lie down on the bare floor of a cell. Movement outside the laager during the daytime was allowed and Margaret met parents and prospective students at All Saints School and registered them. On the following day they all had a picnic on the Kopje.

Margaret had left England equipped with a good deal of personal luggage by her fond parents and also with a wooden case of school books and requisites. She had to abandon almost everything en route and reached Salisbury with only a few belongings wrapped up in a piece of brown canvas. Some pieces probably never got as far as Umtali, others may have been looted on their way to Salisbury (Upcher lost most of his in this manner). A single box finally reached Salisbury in the following January on the evening before she left the town for good. In the meantime she had to buy what little was available and to make herself one or two garments. She had lost her only waterproof early on the journey up, could not purchase one in Salisbury and had to go about in the rain until the Sauerthals obtained one from Cape Town and gave it to her as a Christmas present.

The food situation was already difficult and the Rising made it worse. There was never a shortage of food but there was very little choice and much of it was unappetising. There was almost no fresh meat and even tinned meat ran out more than once and so did flour. Other tinned provisions were plentiful but the foods which fever victims needed to build up their strength again were in very short supply. Margaret had periods of great depression and this was made no easier by the lack of mail which either was looted en route or had to wait long spells at Umtali till an armed escort was available. Salisbury people felt cut off from the outside world.⁴ As late as 6th December Margaret was writing that "we hear there is fresh meat coming up from Madagascar. Fancy seeing meat again, not out of tins!" And she was soon able to add that the Madagascar cattle had arrived.

She had hoped to open the school on 1st July but this proved impossible as people were still in laager and in fact she managed to open her doors (to fourteen boys and girls) only on 6th August. Classes were held from 9.30 to 2.30. The Sauerthals' house in Causeway was on the eastern edge of the town and rather isolated, so ran some risk of attack by raiders. It was also some distance away



Salisbury. The Paper House. Dr. Jameson's residence, afterwards the first Nursing Home.
Photo: National Archives

from the school on the Kopje side. Most days were either hot or rainy and the track was very rough. She found the walk back in the heat of the day very trying. She obtained some relief when she bought a bicycle and learnt to ride it.

Margaret's position improved further when Upcher gave up his room in Church House to her. This again was in Causeway but was much nearer the school than the Sauerthals' home had been and was also close to the Anglican church. She arranged for her supper to be sent over each evening from a near-by boarding house. Later she returned to the Sauerthals for her final weeks in Salisbury. The discomfort of the frequent moves and the lack of any settled abode must have added to her moods of depression.

Miss Allen had a further attack of fever in mid-August and another early in October. In between bouts she was still quite optimistic, telling her parents on 18th October that "I feel in good condition now and, having food, money and no fever, what more can be desired?" Eight days later "the Doctor thinks I may be able to stay here if I can eat enough and can keep out of the sun." The disturbed conditions in the country districts meant that many women and children had taken refuge in Salisbury. The numbers of school children had so far risen by October that an assistant, a Miss Meredith, was taken on to teach the infant class. But soon after that the Umtali road became safe enough for people to use it more regularly and many left to stay in South Africa until peace was restored in Mashonaland.

By December attendance was down to just a few Boer children of humble

parentage who possessed little knowledge of English. And then Miss Allen had yet another attack of fever in the Christmas holidays. All this proved too much for her and, as she wrote on 15th January, "I really could not stand it any longer".

Hearing that an escorted wagon convoy was due to leave for Umtali on 8th January she obtained Bishop Gaul's agreement for her departure. Each passenger drew six days' rations from the commissariat. The wagons trekked from about three o'clock each morning until eight, outspanned till three in the afternoon and then went on till about eight o'clock at night. Several nights had to be spent at lonely spots and armed men remained on guard all night. On one occasion two Mashona who were thought to be scouts for a raiding party were detected approaching the wagons. They were fired on and disappeared into the dark and no attack came.

The convoy reached Umtali on the 15th. Margaret had some days with her friends at the hospital and left again, by mule coach, on the 21st. The rainy season was the worst possible time to travel. The frequent drenchings brought on fever. Soggy tracks and flooding rivers made progress slow and even dangerous ("the last coach capsized three times."). Things were nearly as bad on her journey. "We had often to get out and walk and once or twice were nearly upset." And yet again she was wet through. But after spending a night on the road they came safely to the new rail head at Bandula. "A queer little engine with two trucks (we sat on our luggage)" took the passengers in two hours to Chimoio where station master Teale kindly gave her his bedroom. This, though small and spartan, was at any rate preferable to the hut which constituted the Chimoio hotel. The line from Fontesvilla to Beira had also been opened to traffic, in the previous October, and they were able to reach Beira in a sixteen hour journey, changing trains at Fontesvilla.

Margaret left Beira in the German ship *General* on 2nd February and at Durban transferred to the Union Line R.M.S. *Guelph*. Her final attack of fever came on while they were off Mossel Bay on the 10th. On arrival at Cape Town she had to be carried ashore. The West Jones took her to Bishopscourt and put her to bed which she did not leave again until she died at nine in the morning on 19th February.

The bishop signed the death notice which was sent to the Cape Town authorities.⁶ He was present at her funeral but evidently felt too upset to conduct it himself. The burial was therefore performed by J. H. Selmes the acting rector of Claremont.⁶ Margaret's parents had her letters to them printed for private circulation.² And a two-light window in her memory was commissioned. This was placed in the east wall of the Protea chapel and unveiled by the bishop in September 1898. It was probably made by Charles Earner Kempe, a leading English craftsman in stained glass whose work is known to have been admired by West Jones.

Conditions in early Rhodesia were arduous for everyone and they proved too much for a young woman who had hitherto lived in luxury in England.

Margaret Allen's stay was a tragically short one. But Mr. Tanser hails her as Salisbury's first head-mistress and she certainly played her small part as best she could for the development of education in Rhodesia.

NOTES

1. This fact and some others are derived from G. H. Tanser's *A Scantling in Time*. Mr. Tanser has himself informed me that some of his information came from Miss Allen's diary that is in the National Archives.
2. *Letters of Alice Margaret Allen* (V. T. Sumfield, Eastbourne, 1897). This is the main source for the present article. There is a copy in National Archives of Rhodesia. The Diocesan Library at the University of Cape Town has a photocopy.
3. This she apparently wrote but I have been unable to trace a copy of the relevant number.
4. Margaret wrote frequently to her parents and is sure to have written several times in the first two months of the Rebellion. But they received no letters of this period. The letters were no doubt lost on their way down from Salisbury.
5. Now preserved in the Cape Archives. No will was filed. Miss Allen had lost nearly all her baggage and had with her only a few personal effects and £91 in cash. She probably had assets in England.
6. St. Saviour's, Claremont. Entry in burials register. Later in the same year Selmes himself went up to Mashonaland to begin his ministry there.

HISTORY OF SOUTH AND CENTRAL AFRICA

A new *History of South and Central Africa* by Derek Wilson deals with the area south of the Congo Forest from the Iron Age of about A.D. 1000 to 1970.

A text book for secondary schools, it is written in straightforward factual style, uncluttered by footnotes and references. But this authoritative approach does have the result that complicated political issues are oversimplified and development difficulties minimised. The book is particularly informative on the less familiar histories of South-West Africa and on the former colonial territories of the Congo, Angola and Mozambique.

In view of its purpose, the book concentrates on historical events and their effects on the African peoples. African political movements, the rise of nationalism, the achievement of Independence and modern history since Independence are all covered thoroughly. The same emphasis on African affairs appears in the histories of South Africa, Rhodesia and the Federation, with, perhaps, an over-emphasis on the current theory that the Africans have always "resisted" European domination, albeit often unconsciously and by devious methods that have only been put in their true perspective by modern historians.

The book is well illustrated with numerous maps, drawings and pictures of leading personalities and of notable events and places. It is a work that should also appeal to the general reader interested particularly in the modern and current history of the area. It is published by Cambridge University Press in limp cover at £1,50.

William Henry Sitwell (1860—1932)

by Otto Reitz

During 1974, Mrs. Elizabeth Main, who lives in Scotland, paid a visit to South Africa to collect material for a biography she was writing of her father, Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams. I met Mrs. Main and we had several interesting discussions about the Bechuanaland Border Police, a force in which Goold-Adams had served. We continue to correspond as and when additional pieces of information on our common interest come to light.

One item I learned of in these discussions was the existence of three letters written by Captain W. H. Sitwell to his mother while he was serving in the BBP at Macloutsie in 1892. Copies of these letters were held by Mr. Jim Haskins, then Minister of Works and Communications, in Botswana. Mr. Haskins had seen these letters during a visit to Stanley Gibbons in London where they were catalogued at £40 each for their value to stamp collectors. Mr. Haskins kindly lent me his Xerox copies of the letters which he had had prepared. When I returned the copy I thanked Mr. Haskins and asked him if there would be any objection to publishing these letters. I do not think that Mr. Haskins likes writing letters because he subsequently telephoned me from Gaborone and from this conversation I gathered that there was no objection to publication. He did mention that he proposed sending these letters to Colonel A. S. Hickman but I have no means of knowing whether this was ever done. This exchange took place in October 1974.

I am therefore sending you my annotated transcriptions of these three letters together with biographical notes on Captain W. H. Sitwell, all of which you may consider suitable material for publication in Rhodesiana.

There are in all three Sitwell letters dated 9th July, 18th and 25th August, 1892.

Unfortunately when Mr. Haskin's copy was being made the centre pages 2 and 3, as well as 6 and 7 were copied on one sheet and the lowest line did not always print. This means that there are lines of six or seven words each missing on pages 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the letter of 18th August and pages 2 and 3 of the letter dated 25th August. It is not a serious omission; it is only a pity that such interesting documents should be incomplete.

In the enclosed transcriptions of the letters words which have obviously been omitted in the original have been added and written in square brackets. Words which are difficult to decipher have been suffixed by (?). Even the signature at the end is difficult and it is not certain whether the writer signed as Willie or William. I have settled for the latter.

Transcriptions were made and checked from Mr. Haskin's copy before it was returned. Annotations have been made where I considered it necessary but there may well be other points which could be amplified. From letters of 18th and 25th August it will be seen that Sitwell was practising field astronomy and it can be deduced from this and the map which accompanies Sitwell's article in the *United Services Magazine* (see reference No. 11 to the notes on W. H. Sitwell) that he was proficient in determining latitude and longitude from the stars.

A point not examined is that Sitwell's account of the Macloutsie river in the dry season of 1892 indicates that rain had been plentiful that year and that there were large pools of water in August. See also his description of the Shashi in flood in January 1892 in the *United Services Magazine*. Descriptions of the same area when visited by the Rhodesian Schools Exploration Society — see the Macloutsie Expedition 1961 — give an impression that the area is arid and the rivers dry.

The only known portrait of Captain Sitwell is in a group — see No. 6 in the list of references to W. H. Sitwell.

These letters represent some of the very limited original source material that has been traced which relates to the Bechuanaland Border Police.

Macloutsie

July 9th 1892

My dear Mum,

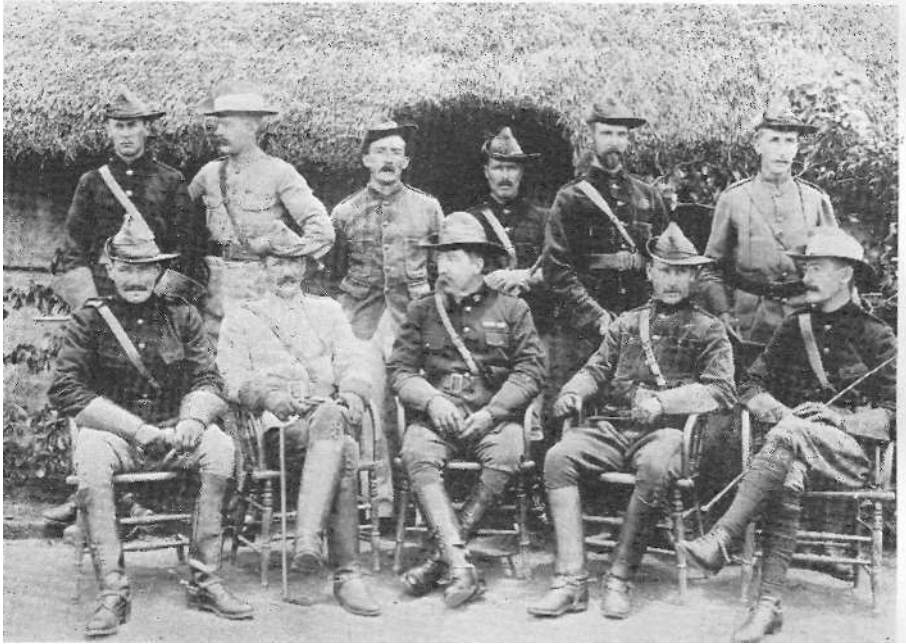
Last night I sent out men and horses to seek the lost remount and at 10.30 p.m. they sent in for reinforcements. I made this up to 9 men and 12 horses and ordered them not to return without the lost one.

At C.O's stables at 8.30 they were still absent, but ½ an hour later returned with the lost horse bound tight to an old one and only 2 casualties amongst the men.

All the rough riders and farmers were put on to transfer him to a tree, which they did, after considerable ructions — a real brute, tho' only vicious from ill treatment.

At the same time we can neither afford time nor men to go in for horse-breaking. As soon as ever we get them in condition they must be fit for work.

The artificers and engineers have applied today to go out lumbering timber for a fortnight. Knowing that Williams¹ had got 50 large trees a few months ago, this afternoon I rode out with him along the Macloutsie banks to see whether they had all been brought in. We found one with about 70 feet of timber still untouched since it was felled, tho' we hadn't time [to] ride the whole of the banks there are others without doubt. The artificers are all skilled workmen and do a great deal of valuable work, but they are all heavy drinkers and a fortnight's timber felling means for them a week's debauch.



Col. Carrington and his staff.

Back row: l. to r.: Capt Greener, Capt. Molyneux, Lieut. Wright, Dr. Vigne, Lieut. Walton, Lieut. Marsham.

Front row, l. to r.: Hon. Capt Coventry, Capt. Sitwell, Col. Sir F. Carrington, Major Grey, Capt. Brown.

Photo: National Archives

The river banks are tremendously dangerous, great brakes of reed and swamp grass, which has hid (?) Koodoo in the heart of the day, and likewise leopards, wolves, hyenas and occasionally bold Leo.

Last years' flood too has altered the river bed a good deal and there are some enormous pools each of which contains one(?) crocodile.

There is to be a sing-song tonight. Full moon at 1 p.m. today and she rose in splendour 10 minutes before the sun went down.

It will do the men good without doubt — the sing song, but I rather wish it were all over.

*Y. loving son,
William.*

Macloutsie

18th Aug 1892 [The cover to this letter is dated 19th August]

My dear Mum,

On Monday night I had a fairly satisfactory evening with the stars, tho' slightly impeded by the smoke of a veldt fire and one or two feathery clouds which from time to time reduced stars of the 1st magnitude to impractical dimensions. Yesterday heartily sick of everything and the whole atmosphere and

firmament surcharged and cracking with heat, I set out for the disputed territory² with Trooper Hay³ the Orderly for the day, one of the Hays of Duns Castle who knows every field on Barmoor intimately. We rode several miles and got beyond the belt of game then returned carefully . . . *line obliterated*... at last I caught a glimpse of beasts and was with them in an instant, I could not distinguish the biggest one but a fine young roan antelope bull broke away from the herd and I after him. As he reached a fairly open spot I was off my horse and to my joy he halted behind a tree. I had only 6 inches of his shoulder to . . . *line obliterated* . . . singing away into the distance a palpable miss, he galloped away and I rolled him over stone dead with my second burst through his neck.

On to my horse and after Hay whom I rapidly overtook, but suddenly his hat was knocked off and I saw him reeling in the saddle, a moment later he fell from his horse — my first charger, a fine horse but a real brute —

Shoving in the spurs I overtook him and caught him under a large Wacht-n-beetie¹ tree, and at the same moment, four of the herd trotted past within 100 yards and I couldn't even fire at them.

Went back ¼ mile and found Hay stunned and shaken but no harm done and we returned to my beast and in half an hour were in full march home with the head and haunches.

It then turned out that Hay had overtaken the herd who were standing at graze within 20 yards of him, but my beastly first charger short of wind(?) and mad with excitement wouldn't stop and ran him into a tree.

A magnificent opportunity of killing at least three lost thereby.

We walked and rode alternately . . . *line obliterated*... at length of the old country as you may imagine.

This morning an hour's parade under the Colonel⁵ who gave men and horses a deuce of a dusting, did this batt(?) (battalion ?) a lot of good and the Field Firing was really excellent. Immediately afterwards I sent Hay, (should be Dae?—Editor) my servant⁶ and my black to fetch in the rest of the meat. . . . *line obliterated* . . . the place, but have just returned 8.30 p.m. and a pitch dark night with the whole of it

This afternoon I went fishing on the Macloutsie with Browne⁷ and Marsham,⁸ caught a lot of little ones, so the past 48 hours have not been unprofitably spent and have done me a vast [amount] of good.

*Yr loving son,
William.*

*Macloutsie
25th Aug. 1892*

My dear Mum,

Made very short work with the official letters yesterday and put in an hour's sleep before lunch which I needed for I had had a stormy drill at sun-rise.

No fault to find with the men, but Lieut. Allen Wight⁹ the worthy son of a Scotch Meenister, (sic) honest and the soul of integrity tho' underbred drove me perfectly wild. The Colonel⁶ told him at Gaberones that if any young officer of 6 months service in the Army had made such an exhibition of himself as he did on Parade he would have had to leave the service.

He is too bad for words, one of those miserable beings who can neither look about him and take notice or remember what is told him and he has not yet thrown off the shyness... *line obliterated*. . . tho' he has been 5 years in the Corps. A miserable policeman. I can't call him soldier.

In the afternoon I went to Big Tree Hill on the Macloutsie to fish with Browne.⁷ Only caught one Barbel but my word the beauty of the scene was beyond compare. A stretch of water a couple of hundred yards in length but varying in width, so very deep under the reeds which grow 10 feet high in the right... *line obliterated*... golden sands and sharply defined igneous rocks now cropping up in the channel now, scarped sheer and precipitous into the water. Lumps of wrack and flood debris in fantastic masses high up above the water line, a background of massive foliage and overall a sky of ethereal blue. Behind us the Western Horizon lit up with wonderful tints of pink and amber all of which were faithfully mirrored in the pool. The trade wind had dropped with the setting sun and a hush was over the scene which one only meets in Tropical Latitudes. Not silence for at least three varieties of king fishers were busy fishing, thousands of reed birds twitted in the reeds, from time to time a great fish wallowed in the shallows and sent the small fry flashing over the surface of the water, a large horned owl was hooting in the bush and our watchful ears listened instinctively for the stamp and swish of our horse's tails who were tethered in the veldt a hundred yards away from the bank.

A wonderful sight to see and stranger to listen to which repaid us for the sport which was very indifferent. A close evening followed by a hot and breathless night and at 3 this morning I up and studied the stars for 3/4 of an hour. All old friends now tho' the planets Mars and Jupiter blazing in the firmament are rather confusing at first. However I located all the constellations visible in due course and then slept peacefully till day break.

Another very hot day and the Colonel didn't return till after lunch, however I put in a very good mornings work and shot on the range in the afternoon tho' not in good form.

Visited the hospital in the evening: a dialogue with Father Nicot¹⁰ and so another day has gone by.

*Yr loving son,
William*

NOTES TO LETTERS

1. Ashley Paget Wilmot Williams (1867-1913). Server is a Sub Lieutenant in the B.B.P. from 12.7.1891 to 1895.
2. The disputed territory, claimed by both Khama and Lobengula, was that part of Bechuana-land lying between the Macloutsie and Shashi rivers.

3. No. 1532 Trooper Alexander Graham Hay; born 9th June 1871, son of Major-General A. C. Hay of Duns Castle, Berwickshire, Scotland, about 16 miles from Barmoor.
4. Wag-'n-bietjie boom. *Zizyphus* species.
5. Colonel Sir Frederick Carrington, K.C.M.G.
6. In January 1892 No. 2102 Trooper John Rae was acting as Captain Sitwell's servant.
7. At this time there were two officers with the name of Browne serving with the B.B.P. They were: Sub-Lieutenant H. W. A. Crichton-Browne (1866-1937), who served from 18th June 1890 to the second half of 1893, and Captain, later Major S. D. Browne, R.A. (1862-1947), son of General Sir Samuel Browne, V.C., of Sam Browne Belt fame; he served in the B.B.P. from 31st March 1892 until June 1894.
8. Lieutenant the Hon. D. H. Marsham (1871-1899), the third son of the Earl of Romney. Served B.B.P. from 10th March 1890 to 1995. Marsham was killed at Canon Kopje on 31st October 1899 during the siege of Mafeking.
9. Allen Thomas Wight-Wight. Served in the B.B.P. as Lance Corporal June 1886; Sergeant January 1887; Quarter Master Sergeant February 1889. Commissioned as Sub-Lieutenant 4th March 1889 and promoted Lieutenant 15th May 1890. He resigned 31st July 1894 while serving as Lieutenant.
10. Father Victor Nicot, S.J., who must have been at Macloutsie, on and off, for at least eighteen months in 1981-92 looking after the welfare of the Dominican Sisters who ran the hospital there. (See page 24 of *Rhodesiana* No. 35, September 1976.) Dr. A. Vigne was the Medical Officer. (B.B.P. Annual Report April 1892 — March 1893).

Biographical details of W. H. Sitwell

William Henry, the eldest son of Major Francis Henry Massey Sitwell, of Barmoor Castle, Lowich, Northumberland, was born on 20th November 1860. Educated at Harrow and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the then 5th Northumberland Fusiliers on 14th January 1880.

William first saw active service in the Afghan campaign of 1880 for which he was awarded the medal. He was promoted Lieutenant on 1st July 1881 and Captain on 10th April 1889 and in the next year passed the Staff College. These promotions took place while serving with the Northumberland Fusiliers.

He was appointed Captain and Adjutant of the Bechuanaland Border Police on 20th March 1891 and served with that force until 9th May 1893. During this period the B.B.P. had their headquarters at Macloutsie and were commanded by Colonel Sir Frederick Carrington, K.C.M.G. Sidelights on Captain Sitwell's service at Macloutsie are to be found in references 5 to 11. Major A. G. Leonard of the B.S.A. Company's Police, who was stationed at Tuli some 80 kilometres east of, and connected by telegraph to Macloutsie, wrote in May 1891:

"Now Sitwell is a most excellent fellow socially, but as adjutant of the B.B.P. he is a bit of a nuisance and an awful alarmist. A Staff College man, most proficient in theory, he is sadly deficient in experience, and being quite new to this style of work, he seems to seize on every shave with avidity. But worse than this, in a trice he converts it into a scare, which he passes on to me, and already though the wires are only a few days old, he has supplied me with two!"

Major Leonard did however have a bit of a chip on his shoulder. Lord Randolph Churchill was given a demonstration of the B.B.P. at field exercises and writing of events in November 1891, says:

"Captain Sitwell displayed the efficiency of his force in a field day performance specially ordered for our benefit and instruction. Some two hundred and fifty men, mounted on small wiry horses in first rate condition, scoured the bush at a gallop——"

In addition to Sitwell's competence as adjutant and his capabilities when putting troops through their paces on parade and on field exercises he was also an accomplished surveyor as the map in reference 11 demonstrates.

Early in 1892 Sitwell made a trip to Bulawayo to witness the Big Dance of the Matabele. His own account of the visit is in reference 11 while another account as a fellow officer saw events is in reference 10. Sitwell accompanied by Sub. Lieutenant Ashley Williams, Regimental Sgt. Major G. V. Drury and No. 2102 Trooper John Rae proceeded by an easterly route to Mangwe Pass while Captain James Robson Scott, 3rd Hussars, and at that time in temporary command of the B.B.P. travelled via Tati. He was accompanied by No. 1402 Trooper H. Alexander Lynman.

It is to be noted that neither Sitwell nor Robson Scott were serving in the B.B.P. during the advance on Matabeleland in 1893 when their knowledge of the routes to Mangwe Pass would have been invaluable to Colonel Goold-Adams who commanded the Southern Column. However, all the other members of this expedition to Matabeleland in 1892 were still serving in the B.B.P. in November 1893. G. V. Drury, then a Sub. Lieutenant, and Trooper H. A. Lynman were present at the action at Impandine (Singwesi). Sub. Lieutenant Ashley Williams and Trooper J. Rae, though members of the Southern Column, were not present at the action on 2nd November, 1893 — see reference 15.

Sitwell moved from southern to West Africa where he took part in the Ashanti Expedition of 1895/96 under Sir Francis Scott, being awarded the 'star' for duties in the Special Service Corps. His next appointment was as D.A.A.G. in Guernsey before returning to Africa once more to take part in the Sudan campaign under Sir Herbert Kitchener. Sitwell was at first on the Red Sea littoral until the end of 1897, when after the desert march from Suakin to Berber on the Nile, he took part in the operations of the River War. Promoted Major on 21st January 1898 he was wounded on 13th March in a skirmish when the Dervishes attacked Egyptian troops on Shebaliya island —12. Other references state that he was "severely wounded" in this action but it is difficult to reconcile the severity of his wounds with the fact that he took part in the battle of Atbara on 8th April, less than a month later, followed by the attack on Shendi and finally the battle of Omdurman on 2nd September 1898.

For his services in this campaign Major Sitwell was twice mentioned in despatches, awarded the British medal and the Khedive's medal with three clasps. He was gazetted Brevet Lieutenant Colonel on 16th November 1898. In 1899 he commanded the 4th Soudanese Battalion* in pursuit of the Khalifa to Gebel or Gedir, for which service a further clasp to the Khedive's medal, was awarded.

*Reference 12 states that this was the 14th Sudanese Battalion.

War broke out between Britain and the South African republics in October 1899 and Sitwell came south to serve throughout the South African War. In 1899-1900 he commanded the 9th and 10th regiments of Mounted Infantry in operations in the Cape Colony and the Orange Free State. In 1901-1902 he raised and commanded the 22nd Battalion of Mounted Infantry, later commanding a column of all arms in operations in the Transvaal until the end of hostilities. He was mentioned in despatches, at least once, and awarded the D.S.O., the Queen's Medal and three clasps and the King's Medal and two clasps, for his services.

In 1902 William Sitwell married Constance Selina, the youngest daughter of Canon the Hon. Sidney Meade. His wife saw him advance to Lieutenant-Colonel on 17th February 1904 and Colonel on 2nd July of that year. She died in 1908, the year that Sitwell was awarded the C.B.

Colonel Sitwell, C.B., D.S.O., then saw service in India as A.A.G. and G.S.O.I. with the 3rd Lahore Division. His second marriage in 1912 was to Constance Evelyn Mary, the youngest daughter of Gustavus Talbot and the couple had three children, a daughter and two sons.

The First World War broke out while Brigadier-General Sitwell commanded the 1st Infantry Brigade at Quetta, India, and in 1915 he commanded the 34th Infantry Brigade at Suvla Bay. After the withdrawal from the Dardanelles he commanded the 17th Reserve Infantry Brigade and the Prees Heath Reserve Centre until the end of the War.

Retiring to Barmoor Castle, Brigadier-General Sitwell, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, was appointed a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant of the County. He published *The Border from a Soldier's Point of View* in 1927 and *Stones of Northumberland and Other Lands* in 1931.

Predeceased by his wife he died on 7th September, 1932, and was buried at Lowick. Among the congregation at the burial service, which included his immediate family and relatives, representatives from the Army and the Conservative Association, were two men who had connections with the Bechuanaland Border Police in earlier years. One was Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Raleigh Grey (1860-1936), who had commanded the B.B.P. in 1894-1895, having joined the force in 1889. The other was Captain Carr Ellison who would, in all probability, have been John Campbell Carr Ellison (1897-1956), the son of Ralph Henry Carr Ellison (1863-1923), who had served as a Captain in the Bechuanaland Border Police from 1890 to 1892.

Robson Scott, in his reminiscences about himself, Raleigh Grey, Carr Ellison and Sitwell during the 1890's says that they were ". . . all Northumbrian men who had joined the Militia previous to entering the Army. It was rather a strange coincidence that four men from the same county, should have become members of the British Bechuanaland Border Police (*sic*), all serving with it at the same time."

REFERENCES

1. *Who was Who*.
2. *Hart's Army List*, 1903, 1905.
3. *South African War: Honours and Awards* 1899-1902.
4. *The Times* of London:
 - (a) Thurs., Sept. 8, 1932, p. 12a: obituary;
 - (b) Mon., Sept. 12, 1932, p. 13b: Report on funeral.
5. Cecil Gosling: *Travel and Adventure in Many Lands*, (passing reference only.)
6. Vere Stent: *With the Southern Column to Matabeleland— Occupation Souvenir*. (Portrait in Group).
7. Annual Report of the Bechuanaland Border Police, 1891/92.
8. A. G. Leonard: *How We Made Rhodesia*: pages 231, 232, 293, 294.
9. R. S. Churchill: *Men, Mines and Animals in South Africa*: page 316.
10. J. R. Scott: *My Life as Soldier and Sportsman*: pages 42-49.
11. *United Services Magazine*: Vol. VIII, No. 781, Dec. 1893, pp. 213-226
12. Winston S. Churchill: *The River War*, chapter xi.
13. L. Creswicke: *South Africa and the Transvaal War*, vol. vi.
14. The official *Army List* (Quarterly), Jan. 1912 and 1922.
15. B.S.A. Co., Medal Roll, Matabeleland, 1893.

AFRICAN EXPLORERS IN AFRICA

Explorers in Africa by Richard Hall is a book in the Museum of Discovery Series published by Usborne Publishing Ltd. of London at £1,50.

The approach is mainly pictorial with a wide range of new, coloured illustrations and diagrams and maps. Original photographs and portraits are reproduced as well as sketches and paintings done by the explorers. These are interspersed in the compact but clear and authentic text set in large pages. The whole forms an attractive and striking format.

Starting in the days of the Portuguese seafarers of the 15th century the unravelling of Africa's mysteries by the explorers of many nationalities is related. Unusual sections are those on the kit that explorers took with them; on the scientific and archeological explorers; on women travellers; and on the Africans' views on the explorers. There is also a succinct, illustrated outline of some African cultures.

Ending with a useful narrative time chart the book is an excellent introduction to the history of the continent for the general reader and one that should appeal especially to the late teenager.

Short Articles

EARLIER DAYS IN SALISBURY

by the late L. S. Maclean

It may be of interest to some, if not all, to have a brief description of what Salisbury and its environs were like in the early 1920's. Although by no means a Pioneer, or anywhere near it, I did come to Salisbury in March 1920. I had come to join a Firm, Messrs. Puzey & Payne, Motor Engineers and Distributors, in the capacity of Workshop Foreman. They had recently completed a new building in Speke Avenue, opposite what was then the Waverley Hotel, later to become the Grand Hotel Annexe.

The building consisted of a rather small Showroom for cars and a large workshop. We held franchises of several makes including Austin, Dodge and Hupmobile and had to look after all kinds of strange productions. I recall an air-cooled Franklin, a Chalmers, with compressed air starting, a Roamer, Stutz, Crow, Auburn and Peerless of American origin, while from Britain and Europe we had marques such as Darracq, Delage, Isotta-Fraschini, Metteltorgique, Argyle, Napier, Bean and the old Bentley. These were the days when the Ford T, Overlands and Maxwells were in their hey-day.

We had manually operated petrol pumps but no tanker deliveries so the pump tanks were filled from cased four gallon tins. At the time Salisbury was a compact pleasant little town with fairly wide streets but not as wide as those of Bulawayo. The street surfaces were plain (i.e., veldt) mostly cleared of grass but not gravelled. There was one stretch of tar macadam from Meikles Store corner opposite the Standard Bank in Manica Road to the Angwa Street intersection. Here were sited the then imposing Board of Executors Building on the North-East corner and opposite on the South-East corner Jeff Clinton's popular Posada Bar.

The Northern Suburbs, "The Avenues" as they were called, were directly joined to the town, others East, West and South were separated with small farms, the Cemetery, the Gaol and a brickworks intervening. All were connected to the Town by shocking ungravelled roads, full of pot-holes with high grass growing along the middle and plenty of unbridged spruits to cross.

In the town itself it is interesting to recall that the busy thoroughfare called Inez Terrace consisted in those days of a small road to the north side of Manica Road, with only two small houses on the top or east side. Below these it was open ground down to the Makabuzi. On this open space the annual Agricultural Show was held and it also served as a site for visiting circuses and fun fairs. The buildings in the town were mostly of one or two storeys the only exceptions being the Board of Executors, Meikles and Commercial (later Grand) hotels and the S.A. Mutual Building. The interior of Meikles Store had board floors with sawdust and the seats were empty petrol cases.

One thing stays vividly in my memory. It was practically impossible to pay cash for purchases, the shops and stores were not equipped to deal with cash. Few had tills and cash registers were unknown. Everything was on the chit system, even in the Bars and of course the tot measure system did not exist. You simply helped yourself from the bottle. This worked out all right, the boozier usually had a whacking great helping for a start and then tailed off so that in the end it came to more or less the same as "X" tots.

I stayed at the Commercial Hotel at first where I met a great character, Frank Biller, Watchmaker and Jeweller and an engraver of considerable talent. I shared his table in the dining room where the service was terrible. Our method of calling a waiter was to gather up the cutlery and throw it on the board floor. We got attention and also mild reproofs from the Boss, one Abe Goldberg, who would amble up saying "Now poys, now poys, not so much noise".

Thinking of the Old Commercial reminds me of an incident I think worth recording. One day during the 1920 rainy season the owner of an ox-wagon came to me and asked if I could help to extricate his wagon which was stuck in a mud hole opposite the main entrance to the hotel. The oxen could not shift it owing to the slippery mud. I called out my staff and an Austin Tractor. The oxen were unyoked, the tractor hitched to the rear of the wagon and with much manhandling of the dissel boom and hauling on the hind wheel spokes, out she came. Almost incredible when one looks at Speke Avenue today.

Animal transport was plentiful, riding horses, pony traps, mule carts and the like abounded. Not out of place and to be seen most Saturday mornings was a T Ford which supported a thatched grass roof.



Manica Road about 1920.

Photo: National Archives

A word about commodity prices, interesting I think to compare with the present day.

Live chicken 1s. 6d., Eggs 6d. to 1s. a dozen. Milk 3d. a pint. Bread 3d. a loaf, Beef and Pork 1s. lb. Mutton 1s. 3d. lb. Scotch Whisky 7s. 6d. a bottle and London Gin 5s. a bottle. Clothing was not cheap, all items being imported but we were not very clothes conscious. Salaries and wages were naturally proportionate and my salary when I got married was £50 per month, but my wife continued working, earning £25 per month, we were quite comfortable.

We had no luxuries such as refrigeration, though Ice was plentiful, obtained from the Salisbury Cold Storage, nor had Radio been thought of. Nevertheless, we were all very happy, blacks and whites alike.

Shortly after marriage we bought a piece of land in the Highlands area, which was then mainly bush. Here we lived in tents and enjoyed it. Taking a bath in the rainy season was simple, you just walked out with a piece of soap.

There is much more I could write about — our early cinemas (Bioscopes); fights and shooting affrays in pubs and bars; the regular visits to the Railway Station to see what new specimens, especially female, were arriving; the famous Referendum of 1923; early morning walks from the town after guinea-fowl and ducks and week-end trips and picnics. When on these trips and on a hot day, the sight of a gurgling stream or a secluded pool would result in a bathing party and we were not worried by lack of costumes or about bilharzia either.

UMTALI INCIDENT

by Mrs. Hilda Richards

In August 1907, the Crown Prince of Portugal, H.R.H. Louis Phillipe, Duke of Braganza, on his visit to Beira, came on to Umtali with the Secretary of State and the Governor of Lourenco Marques by special train. This was driven by a very well-known engine-driver, Johnnie Sargeant of Umtali.

The train arrived at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and was met by the local band, 130 Volunteers, an escort of the B.S.A. Police and Sir Thomas Scanlen, the Acting Administrator.

The Prince drove through the decorated streets and planted a tree in front of the Court House. He would have been driven in some sort of a carriage because at that time according to the *Rhodesia Advertiser* (Umtali), the little town only possessed one motor-cycle and two motor-cars, one of which was described as a "flier" and the other as a "stay-behinder".

The report continues: "The Prince was then mounted and rode up to the top of Christmas Pass and admired the scenery."

Mrs. Andrew Fleming gives her version of the event as her husband, who was one of the guests, described it to her.

She wrote the following letter to her mother on August 17th 1907.

"Andrew has just been down to Umtali to the festivities in honour of the visit of the Crown Prince of Portugal, which was a great success.

"A hundred Volunteers turned out, all very smart, and a detachment of B.S.A. Police. They fired 21 guns in salute and put on a tip-top show. They put him and his suite on horses as soon as he arrived and took him to the top of Christmas Pass. They gave him a drink there and he brought them all down again at a hand gallop. He is a splendid rider.

"Then there was dinner for about 50 people which was a great success. They got the Prince off about 11 p.m. amid great enthusiasm, he having enjoyed himself immensely — among other things a cake-walk danced after dinner by Mr. Tredgold and Captain Masterman. Then the whole company apparently went mad and painted Umtali red that night. One rather funny episode: Two of the Prince's suite had been hobnobbing with two Volunteers and when they were all pretty far gone, two of the Police came along and changed their tunics, so when the royal train left, the bodyguard were found wandering about in Volunteer tunics and promptly put under arrest and the Volunteers were found in high epauletted Portuguese uniforms."

I made enquiries as to the two young men who charmed the Prince with dancing the cake-walk and Mr. P. Emmerson of Archives replied :-

"The gentlemen concerned in the 'Cake-Walk' episode were not very young but obviously frisky. Mr. Tredgold was Clarkson (later Sir) Tredgold, the then Attorney General and father of Sir Robert Tredgold. His partner "Tubby" Masterman was an officer in the British South Africa Police. They were both members of the official party which went down from Salisbury to Umtali to meet the Crown Prince. Capt. Masterman was the officer commanding the Guard of Honour. The party also included the Administrator and other senior members of the Administration."

Six months later, on 1st February 1908, this same Crown Prince was assassinated with his father King Carlos I while riding in an open carriage in Lisbon. The second son was the ex-king Manoel.

The late Mr. Chase, the well-known botanist was very worried about the tree the Prince had planted, he said it was called the Settlers Tree. Someone, he said, wishing to park his car and finding the tree in the way had taken a hatchet to it and would have destroyed it had not someone in the hotel opposite rushed out and stopped him. Because of this, the tree cut off a few feet from the ground, showed only one sign of life, a slender branch sticking out at rather a rakish angle.

When shown this tree I wrote immediately to the Municipality suggesting that it should be preserved.

This was done and in August 1967, exactly sixty years after the planting, there was a solemn celebration to which I was invited.

I found that the tarmac round the tree had been removed and grass laid down, something like a grave. At the foot was a plaque giving the history. Our Provincial Commissioner was present and Portuguese officials.

There was on that day of celebration a high cold wind which seemed to be doing its best to break off this one remaining branch and we all hoped that it would not be successful until the ceremony was over.

However it survived and is now a well-grown nourishing tree.

BINDURA IN THE TWENTIES

by Mrs. R. M. Morris

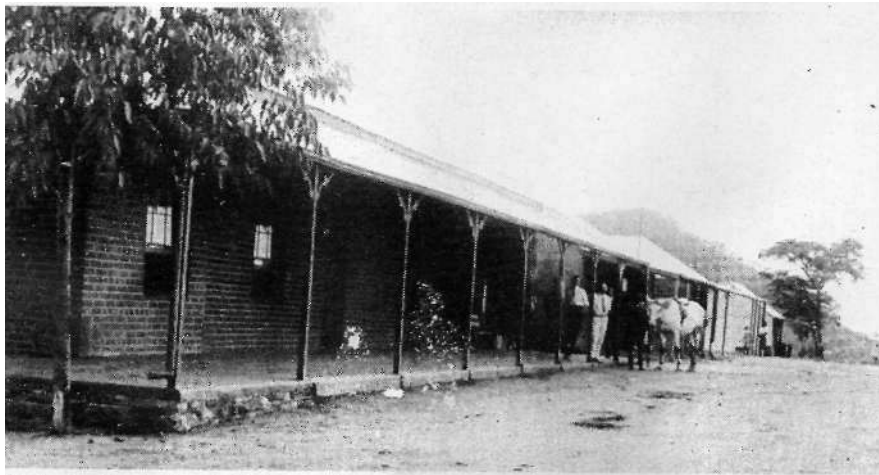
When we were married, in 1928, my husband was doing a locum in Bindura, so that was my first home.

At that time, the mine had closed down, a cotton ginnery which had been built to provide work had not been a success, and was also closed, and the European population of the village was thirty-five people.

There were a number of farms in the district, many owned by families whose names are now well-known in Rhodesia, e.g. Whaley, Rattray, Hagelthorn, etc.

The centre of the village was "Thurlow's", the general store and the hotel run by Mr. Thurlow. Each week-day, an African came round with a list from the butcher, and each customer ticked off his or her choice from the available items, so that if one was low on the list, one simply had to take what was left.

Our house was on the hillside, a long Kimberley brick building divided into three, a bedroom at one end, dining-room in the middle, and sitting-room at the other end. The last had a door leading on to a verandah, and had seats for four people, a piano, a very large fireplace, and a couple of small tables. The dining room was just large enough for the table and chairs, and a sideboard. It had a door which opened on to a short path leading to the kitchen which was a



Kimberley Reefs Hotel, Bindura, with Mr. V . E. Thurlow and Mr. Alec Coffon outside. 1911.

Photo: National Archives

separate hut several yards away. What happened to the food carried to the table during the rains, we did not discover, as we were there during the dry season.

The thatch above the bedroom had several holes through which I could see the stars as I lay in bed. We were told that the boundary between the railway strip and the village ran through the middle of the house.

There was no water laid on, and we had a tank on wheels, a donkey, and a piccanin who drove this contraption half-a-mile down the hill to the standpipe in the village street, twice a day. It rattled gaily down, and toiled back slowly when full.

There was no bathroom, and a tin, coffin-shaped bath was carried in to a storeroom each morning. The water was heated in petrol tins on fires outside, and poured into the bath, while another petrol tin of cold water was placed beside the bath. When one of us had bathed, the water was emptied outside, and the whole process repeated.

The stove was an ancient Dover, in which the fire was laid on bars above a lower section into which the ashes fell. Unfortunately, the bars in this one were broken, so that sometimes the fire fell out. My first effort at cake-making—a gingerbread—suffered this fate, and the oven, of course, grew quite cold, and when I took the gingerbread out, it was like india-rubber, and could be bent, but not broken.

As I had lived all my life in a city, all this was completely strange to me, and I found housekeeping somewhat difficult. However, after about eight weeks my husband was transferred into Salisbury, and life became more normal, and much simpler.

Still, in spite of all the drawbacks, I am glad to have known the country in the days when we all accepted the difficulties, and made the best of what we had. I would not have missed the experience for anything.

(Dr. R. M. Morris, C.M.G., O.B.E., became Secretary for Health in the government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. He is now an Alderman of the City of Salisbury.—Editor.)

MAJOR F. R. BURNHAM, D.S.O.

by J. P. Lott

(In our last issue, September, 1976, Mr. Lott published an article on Major Burnham of the Shangani Patrol. In the following extracts from a letter he brings out some interesting information about Burnham's life, his family, his adventurous friends and his life after his Rhodesian interlude.—Editor.)

Roderick Dean Burnham, a son of Major F. R. Burnham, died on 2nd July 1976 and he was very glad to know that my article was to be published in *Rhodesiana*. Rod was cremated and his ashes placed beside his father's and mother's grave in the Three Rivers, California cemetery at the base of the

Sierra Nevadas where the Major's old cattle ranch, La Cuesta, is located. He started this ranch after the 1899-1902 Boer War and John C. Blick, Homer Blick, Judd Blick and their father James lived there in the three houses built by the Major and the Bricks. All is well preserved and the place is very beautiful in that the scenery is almost identical to that of Rhodesian kopje country. I am inclined to believe this was the reason for the Major locating there.

After the death of little Nada in Bulawayo in 1896, the Burnham's longed to be with Roderick, then back in Pasadena in school. He had missed much schooling by going to Africa in 1893 and after Nada's death, the pull at the Burnham's heartstrings was too much for their grieved state. Nada is in plot #144 in the Pioneer Cemetery in Bulawayo.

Also buried in the Three Rivers cemetery is John C. Blick, Burnham's right hand man on many a Rhodesian scout and in West and East Africa. Blick was a fearless man who fought and won a famous hand-to-hand duel with an Ndebele after the charge which broke the impis on their last effort to take Bulawayo on the Umguza. Black was with Gifford's Horse, as were his brothers Judd and Homer and their fellow Pasadenan, A. Kingsley Macomber, whose father, Dr. Macomber brought Rod into the world in 1886. Also buried there is Pearl "Pete" Ingram, the Montana cowboy who was such a fine scout in 1893 when he was Burnham's selected companion on his ride for help from Forbes. Previous to that he, Burnham, Bain and Jan Grootboom had trailed Lobengula's wagons and had barely escaped capture during a surprise encounter with an armed band of warriors. Actually, Ingram had left the party before this confrontation and only Bain and Grootboom were there because Ingram's horse was exhausted. It was Ingram and Lynch who carried word of the Shangani Patrol's fate to Bulawayo.

In 1895 Ingram and Judd Blick and Burnham crossed the Zambesi on Burnham's Barotseland expedition during which he and his party almost died of thirst after recrossing the Zambesi on the return trip. Ingram was also prominent in 1896, and, of course, the Blicks were only in the 1896 War. Ingram married Grace Blick, Mrs. Burnham's sister.

Buried there are nine who are Rhodesian pioneers. Major Burnham, "Pete" Ingram, John C. Blick, Judd Blick, Homer Blick, their father Mr. James Blick, Grace Blick Ingram and Blanche Blick Burnham, and now Roderick Burnham. Burnham's memorial stone was designed by Rod, a fine artist, and is an obelisk of very rough granite with four sides and at the base a bronze frieze on each side showing a scene depicting a typical activity symbolizing Burnham's four main pioneering phases, Rhodesia first, showing Rod leading, then Alaska, the Major and a rifle, his wife and the Studebaker "spider" drawn by donkeys, with the Major and his dog sled, last, Arizona, showing him prospecting with sluice outfit, and California with oil wells.

Had there been five sides he could have shown him in Mexico, since he pioneered the Yaqui Valley and Yaqui River irrigation project which was finally overtaken by revolution before World War I. Burnham held firm and his settlers were not killed however. When they saw what a fight they would have on

their hands, the bandits and revolutionaries bypassed the settlement and it was finally purchased by the Mexican Government under President Alvaro Obregon who built his home on Rod's land.

Burnham's East African explorations were the most intense in that area, during the years 1902, 1903 and 1904. His West African explorations were also in depth and of great interest, but these and other assignments for British Intelligence were rarely discussed and little written up. The Major said next to nothing about his defeat and killing of the Hausa slaver, Samauri, in West Africa, and I have only recently learned of his kit being destroyed in a harbour in Martinique during the eruption of Mt. Pele. Burnham was to have gone there on a British Secret Service assignment and also was once to have been sent to Tibet, but instead Capt. Younghusband was sent and Burnham instead was sent to East Africa.

He was very active in counter-espionage for Britain in the U.S. during World War I and much of this concerned Capt. Fritz Joubert Duquesne, the Boer spy who became, in World War I, an Imperial German spy and the top Nazi spy in the U.S. in World War II. Duquesne had a diabolical hatred of the British and Burnham tried to cure him of this and failed. I have Duquesne's letter on his private stationery, praising Burnham. The letterhead says, "The Man Who Killed Kitchener", which Duquesne was allegedly responsible for in giving information to the Imperial German General Staff of Kitchener's mission and route on the cruiser *Hampshire* to meet with the Russians. The letter says, "To my friendly enemy, Major Frederick Russell Burnham, the greatest scout in the world, whose eyes were the vision of an Empire. I once craved the honour of killing him, but failing that, I extend my heartiest admiration. One warrior to another, Fritz Joubert Duquesne. 1933".

I have read all the stuff relegating Burnham to vastly diminished status, but can only say that after going into the man's life carefully and knowing so many who knew him and who are not members of his family, knowing the character of his family and reading his letters and the remarks of so many distinguished people who knew him, that Burnham was far more than he has been regarded even on the basis of *Scouting*. He could have made a fortune here in Hollywood with his ability and credits, but he refused to exploit his reputation and lived mainly as simply Fred Burnham, oil man and rancher. Such a man was completely out of character as anything weak, cowardly or in any way dishonourable.

I now have the last of Burnham's papers, photos and memorabilia. Among these are the ribbons from his Rhodesian medals (the medals are family pendants unfortunately) and the epaulet pins from his Boer war full dress and khaki uniforms. I have just about everything needed for the full picture of Burnham, and the deeper I dig, the better he looks. Also have his revolver used in Arizona in the Apache Wars and later in Rhodesia and his Lee-Netford rifle used to kill Hobani, the Mlimo cult official, his bandolier, skull of an induna he killed at the Imbembesi, other artifacts and a vast amount of Rhodesian and other historical letters and papers, photos, etc. Also have the original map he drew on the back of an old Johannesburg hotel letterhead in India ink of the

route of Lobengula, the scouts, Wilson, his Last Stand and Forbes' positions and the return route of the scouts. It was drawn in Rhodesia and I was told by Roderick that it was drawn for the Court of Inquiry. It has on it all the times and estimated distances and directions and notes of explanation. Burnham never used it in any of his books. One can see through it and read in reverse the name of Hotel, the Grand National, Johannesburg and the year is printed 189- with the last digit left out for insertion, so it fits in with Rod's remarks and it has an obvious aura of authenticity and was found among Burnham's papers in an obscure place.

AFRICAN SOCIAL RESEARCH

The main article in the December 1976 issue of this University of Zambia publication (at K2,50) is a study of the ruling United National Independence Party's functions and capabilities during the first Zambian Republic (1964-73). It shows how the political party, having achieved its single objective, independence, adjusts to new problems and adopts new functions. Local U.N.I.P. organisations, and only strong, enthusiastic branches have adapted. *Inter alia* such organisations become the guardians of moral standards, the dispensers of patronage (trade and liquor licences) through their control of municipal and local councils and, in the rural areas fixing loans for party member farmers through their control of the Co-operative societies.

The second article is on psychology and higher education in Africa.

There are two long review articles. One is on *Chibaro: African Mine Labour in Southern Rhodesia* (1900-33) by Charles van Onselen and the other on Fergus Macpherson's *Kenneth Kaunda: The Times and the Man*. There are 15 other reviews.

Society Activities

MASHONALAND BRANCH LECTURES

In 1975 the National Historical Association, in collaboration with the National Gallery, mounted an eminently successful exhibition entitled "Rhodesia before 1920". (It was reported on with pictures in our March 1976 issue.)

During the course of the exhibition, in September-October, the Mashonaland Branch organised a series of five lectures on the theme of "Rhodesia 1896-1923". Set against the appropriate background of the physical exhibits in the Gallery the lectures attracted good audiences.

The texts of the lectures have now been published by the Branch in booklet form. Each is prefaced by biographical notes on the lecturer and, where necessary, notes and references have been added.

The first lecture was "The Beginning" by G. H. Tanser who dealt with the start of local government, the first Legislative Council and the first administrators and civil servants.

J. G. Storry, in "The Stewards", told the story of the founding of the B.S.A. Company, the formation of public services and government departments. He described some of the early problems of mining and agricultural development and commented on the, sometimes irritable, relations between the settlers and the Company.

In "The Carriers", A. F. H. Baxter dealt with the whole basic development of Rhodesian transport since, he said, "the majority of roads and railways were planned and built, albeit gradually, during the period with which we are dealing, and what has happened since has been mainly modernisation."

H. R. G. Howman in "The Guardians" traced the idea of "guardianship" as applied to the native policy evolved in Southern Rhodesia and gave an outline history of the Native Department particularly in its relation to Native Reserves and the Tribal System.

In the final lecture, "The People", W. D. Gale said that the surrounding exhibits gave some idea of the kind of life lived by an earlier generation of Rhodesians and he wished to portray the kind of people they were and the conditions they had to contend with. He described life in the towns, on the farms and mines and he told of the establishment of schools, churches, sporting facilities and the problems of housing, health and transport. He pointed out that the population of the period was a young one and that the first, predominantly British-born population (49%) had, by the end of the period, changed to 31 % with South African-born 35% and, significantly, 25% Rhodesian-born.

The booklet, put out under the optimistic sub-title of Occasional Paper No. 1, is an excellent and unusual piece of Rhodesiana. It can be obtained from the Secretary, Mashonaland Branch, P.O. Box 3946, Salisbury, for \$1,50.

MATABELELAND BRANCH

Outing on 25/26th September, 1976 to Wankie National Park

Sixty members boarded four small buses and headed for the Main Camp, Wankie National Park, at 8 a.m. on Saturday, 25th September.

After a tea stop en route the Camp was reached in time for members to settle themselves in the very comfortable camp accommodation and then have lunch.

After lunch Mr. B. Williamson, a Research Officer of the National Parks and Wild Life Department gave the party a most interesting talk on the influence of wild animals in the settling of Rhodesia. It was wild animals which, no doubt, attracted the early Bushmen to the country and elephant were sought for their ivory in the second half of the 19th century by the European hunters.

These hunters roamed, often on foot, over most of the country in search of elephant and so became aware of the vast areas suitable for settlement. It was hunter Henry Hartley who found gold bearing quartz and subsequently interested the geologist Karl Mauch in this find.

Mr. Williamson also stressed the part played by the mosquito and the tsetse fly in hindering both hunters and subsequent settlers in their effort to tame the country.

Questions answered by Mr. Williamson ranged from water supplies in the Wankie Park area to the game population, their habits, peculiarities and how the Wild Life Department was dealing with preservation and conservation.

Members learned a great deal from Mr. Williamson's talk and fully appreciated his ability to explain complex technical matters in simple words.

During game viewing on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning members saw nearly all the species of game including wild dog, lion and hyena.

An early morning walk conducted by Mr. Williamson to a pan about a mile from the Camp was a novel and enjoyable experience.

The Society is indeed most grateful to the National Parks and Wild Life Department for the enthusiasm with which they greeted and cared for the party and for ensuring that members enjoyed every consideration and comfort.

THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL DINNER AND VISIT TO UMTALI

Robert Turner reports: To the Manicaland Branch fell the honour of being the hosts to the Society's Ninth Annual Dinner. The venue was the splendid new Cecil Hotel in Umtali where the dinner was held on Saturday, 4th September 1976. Umtali, the most beautiful of all African cities, sits on the border with Mozambique. A few days before the dinner the city had been subjected to unprovoked Communist rocket and mortar attack. But these dastardly acts, far from discouraging members from attending, appeared to have precisely the opposite effect.

Some 80 members from Salisbury alone attended this function, and there were people from many other parts of the country. The Matabeleland Branch was represented by Councillor Joan Sharland who is, incidentally, the Deputy Mayor of Bulawayo. While the Mashonaland Branch was represented by a strong contingent including the Branch Chairman, Mr. Michael Kimberley.

The party from Salisbury travelled in cars and in two luxury coaches. They were met at the Crocodile Motel in Rusape by Mr. Harry Went, Chairman of the Manicaland Branch, and a number of his members from Umtali. On the way they stopped for a picnic lunch at Mount Zonga Farm. The Society is deeply indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Boyd-Clark for their kind hospitality and for the interesting talk on the history of the area given by Mr. Boyd-Clark. (The farm has been owned by the family from Pioneer days). After lunch, the party was shown the dramatic Devil's Pass which lies on the old road from Rusape to Umtali.

In early September the veld was at its most beautiful with the coppers and reds of the msasas (*Brachystegia spiciformis*) transforming the countryside into a fairyland. Is it any wonder that two of Alice Blanch Balfour's most successful water-colours were of the historic Mount Zonga and Devil's Pass? (She was the sister of the British Prime Minister and travelled through Rhodesia in 1894).

But to come to the dinner. Mr. Harry Went, and his Committee had done a magnificent job not only in organising the dinner, but also in making hotel bookings and plans for the next day.

The guests of honour were the Hon. B. F. Mussett, the Minister of Internal Affairs, and Mrs. Mussett. Mr. Harry Went was in great form as Master of Ceremonies. The food, which included chilled asparagus, mushroom soup and roast duckling, was excellent. The diners were then treated to a stirring speech by the Minister.

Mr. Mussett traced Umtali's colourful history, spicing it with many a lurid anecdote, the best of which are better not recorded in the cold print of a respectable journal. On a more serious note he touched on Umtali's key geographical position. He said:

"Umtali is in the forefront of our country's military effort. I am sure the city, and indeed the whole country, echoes the pride of military achievement of our present young men that must have been expressed in connection with their illustrious predecessors."

As an Umtali man himself, Mr. Mussett said he was gratified to see so many visitors at the Rhodesian dinner. He added, "Umtali is not looking for sympathy. We believe life goes on as usual, and we are pleased to see you feel the same."

The proceedings ended when Mr. Robert Turner, the National Chairman, thanked the Minister, the organising Committee and all the members of the Society who had contributed to making the function such an outstanding success.

The Editor of *The Umtali Post* summed up the significance of the dinner in a leader page article:

"Past, Present and Future.

It was heartening to see the good turn-out of visitors from many parts of the country for the Rhodesiana Society annual dinner in Umtali at the weekend. It showed that they, like so many Rhodesians, are not letting the situation interfere unduly with their activities.

Those activities are all the more significant today. The past gives meaning and dimension to the present, and at a time when all eyes are straining to see the future it is well to look back and know how the swift and exciting march of history in this little — now volatile — corner of the world has led to the present state of affairs and has set the scene for what is to come.

A lively interest in a nation's heritage is a healthy thing, and this the Rhodesiana Society encourages, not in a spirit of nostalgia or jingoism but to enjoy intimacy with a young country's birth, the better to understand its growing pains to maturity."

The next morning two places of great interest were visited before the coaches left for Salisbury. The first was 'Utopia', the old house built by Rhys Fairbridge the Pioneer surveyor and father of Kingsley Fairbridge, the poet and founder of the child emigration scheme. The visit was made a truly memorable occasion as the guide was Mr. Harry Went, none other than the grandson of Rhys Fairbridge.

Mr. Went was in sparkling form, entertaining and instructing the party with many first-hand stories connected with the house and his illustrious grandfather. The house, which has several unusual, if not, eccentric features, is presently being restored by the National Museums and Monuments Commission. The whole atmosphere at the old house was a quaint mixture of history and beauty: the weathered structure with calico ceilings, every part of it had a texture that only time can impart; and the sweeping panorama of a modern city with the delightfully wooded setting of the house dominated by a fine kafirboom (*Erythrina lysistemon*) whose flaring reds were indescribably cheerful.

Before returning to Salisbury the party had tea and a picnic lunch at La Rochelle, the former home of the late Sir Stephen and Lady Courtauld. The Society is grateful to the National Trust of Rhodesia for the trouble the Trust's committee went to with regard to the visit. La Rochelle, which is set in the rich Imbesa Valley, is too well-known to describe in detail. Suffice to say that the Courtaulds, who were international connoisseurs, philanthropists and immensely wealthy, could have chosen to live anywhere in the whole world. They chose a place just north of Umtali.

The main group of Mashonaland members were back in Salisbury by 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Notes

NOTES ON NEW CONTRIBUTORS

V. L. Bosazza, who contributed an article on Arabic navigations on the East Coast in our September 1976 issue, and a letter to this issue, was born in Johannesburg. He gained two degrees in 1936 and 1938 in geology and chemistry at the University of Witwatersrand and a D.Sc. at the University of South Africa in 1947. He served with the South African forces during the war in Egypt and Libya. After the war he became a minerals research officer in the Mines Department. Then he became a geologist to various mining companies and the Portuguese government working in Mozambique, Rhodesia, Botswana, South West Africa, Malawi, Ghana and other countries. He is interested in the scientific aspects of the explorations of the central African travellers from Livingstone onwards and he has completed a long monograph on Thomas Baines.

O. G. Reitz was born in South Africa and took a degree in Land Surveying at Cape Town University. He served with the Survey Companies of the South African Engineering Corps during the war in East Africa, the Middle East, North Africa and Italy and was awarded the M.B.E. and was Mentioned in Despatches. From 1956 to 1963 he served with the Department of Surveys of the Federal Government of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, becoming Deputy Director. He served on the Northern Rhodesia-Angola Frontier Commission and was involved in the production of maps for the Federal Atlas, particularly a map depicting the routes of early travellers in south and central Africa. This remains an interest and he has done research of events involving the Bechuanaland Field Force, 1884/5 and the Bechuanaland Border Police, 1885/95.

Dr. J. F. Midgley, educated in South Africa and England, holds degrees in both law and history. He taught in several South African schools and was for many years a matriculation examiner in history. He has written several books of local history in South Africa and his magnum opus is a monograph on the *Orange River Sovereignty*. He is now retired and takes an active part in the civic affairs of Cape Town.

BOTSWANA NOTES AND RECORDS

Two volumes of this annual are to hand, Vol. 7, 1975 and Vol. 8, 1976. Both are large, 211 and 305 pages respectively, and illustrated, Vol. 8 with a colour frontispiece showing examples of beadwork. Each has 20 or more articles and ten or more Research Notes and Reviews.

The contents of both embrace the usual wide range of articles which fall within the very broad terms of reference of the journal and can be on "subjects in the Fields of the Natural Sciences, the Humanities and the Arts".

Vol. 7 contains several articles on archaeology, on ecology and on natural history. There are others on tribal history and lore (The Survival of Chieftainship: The Tribal Healer in a Changing Society); on arts and crafts (Decorations on Ostrich Eggshells: Craftwork of the Hambukushu); and five articles on the Bushmen and their culture including one on the Trance Dancer and another on Thumb Piano Music. "How Rhodes tried to Seize Ngamiland" is the first of a proposed series called "Documents on Botswana History" in which extracts from important but little-known documents on the past history of the country will be published. Some contributions reflect current affairs. Such are those on the Customs Union with South Africa, on the 1974 General Election, on commercial strategy in the labour export market, and on foreign investment in a less developed country, such as Botswana.

Vol. 8, again, has articles on archaeology, ecology and natural history, one in the last section, a check list of Butterflies of Botswana, being by Elliot Pinhey of the Bulawayo Museum. One of the main features is a Study of the Traditional Music of Mochudi. Contributions on tribal history and lore include one on the recent history of Ngamiland, the entry of the Herero into Botswana and a personal reminiscence of Tshekedi Khama. Tribal crafts such as basketry, beadwork and thatching feature in this volume. Of current subjects there are studies of population movements, especially into towns, on manpower planning, social change and on development schemes.

Many of the technical and professional articles come from members of overseas universities who have done field work in Botswana.

Botswana Notes and Records is published by the Botswana Society, P.O. Box 71 Gaborone, Botswana at P3,50 per copy.

THE MATABELE JOURNALS OF ROBERT MOFFAT 1829-1860

The National Archives has published a facsimile reprint of the two volumes of *The Matabele Journals of Robert Moffat 1829-1860* originally published in the Oppenheimer Series in 1945 and which have been out of print for 20 years.

In a new Foreword to the reprint E. E. Burke, Director of the National Archives, says that in 1945 the then Government Archivist, V. W. Hiller, pointed out that "the history of Rhodesia had still to be written and it was, in fact, a field as yet unapproached by the trained historian". In particular there was no corpus of published material describing the initial European contacts with Rhodesia during the 19th century.

The publication of the Oppenheimer Series by the National Archives, a project made possible by the generous support of Sir Ernest Oppenheimer was the first step in bridging this gap. *The Matabele Journals*, edited by J. P. R. Wallis was the first of nine titles in the Series.

Seven of the titles were edited by Professor J. P. R. Wallis formerly of Pretoria University. He had been appointed to the university in 1917 and in 1943, at the invitation of the Government of Southern Rhodesia, he left the university to devote himself to editing for publication some of the important

original historical sources in the National Archives and to write several books, including a life of Rhodesia's first Prime Minister, Sir Charles Coghlan. In the new Foreword, E. E. Burke pays tribute to the work of Professor Wallis "which made him a pioneer himself in Rhodesian historical editing". He died in 1957.

An advertisement elsewhere in this issue and a leaflet distributed with our last issue (September 1976) give details of the content of these two volumes — journals, letters and a biography — which described Moffat's adventures among the Ndebele and his dealings with Mzilikazi. Moffat was also responsible for the first European settlement in Rhodesia when he founded Inyati Mission in 1859.

The reprint is published in hard-covers at \$16,50 the two volumes and in limp-cover at \$12,00. The hard-back edition has a new dust wrapper showing contemporary engravings — one of Moffat on the front and three on the back showing Mzilikazi, an Ndebele warrior and the Ndebele Great Dance. The same illustrations are reproduced on the covers of the limp edition.

The reprint is a wholly Rhodesian publication. (The original was published by Chatto & Windus). The binding, general reproduction, especially of the colour frontispiece of Moffat from a Baxter Print, are excellent and a credit to Mardon Printers.

RHODESIANA'S FIRST COLOUR PLATE

As a "throw-in" to this issue is a colour plate of The Colours of the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers (Western Division). It accompanies Col. J. de Lisle Thompson's article on the subject and the cost of the plate has, most generously, been paid by Col. Thompson. We are grateful to him for providing *Rhodesiana* with its first colour plate in its long existence.

There were technical difficulties in binding in the plate but readers who preserve the journal will, no doubt, themselves fix in the plate in its relevant position.

DISCOVERING RHODESIAN HISTORY

R. W. Dickinson's book (limp cover, Longman Rhodesia) with the above title was first published in 1968. It has now gone through six impressions. In 25 short chapters it takes Rhodesian history from Bushman days to the Federation and after and includes the long distance effects of Arab and Portuguese voyages and the Boer Trek. Although written for schools it is one of those books in which adult readers can find snippets of interest. Here, such are the chapters on the Portuguese search for silver, the terraces, pits and forts of Inyanga and Chaminuka the rain-maker.

Correspondence

SIR DIGBY BURNETT AND THE CAM AND MOTOR MINE

Sir,

I want to put the record straight concerning your article on Sir Digby Burnett. (*Rhodesiana*, September 1976). He became consulting engineer to the Cam and Motor Mine in 1921.

My father, E. H. Bulman, was appointed manager in 1918 by the Bailey Group to resuscitate the mine. He had been the first manager of Randfontein Estates, had been managing other mines on the Rand and was a friend of Sir Abe Bailey. He had also been a consulting engineer in Bulawayo from 1900 to 1904 (?). It was entirely due to his efforts that a Mr. McCann came from Canada to put in the oil flotation plant (*on the Cam and Motor*) after having tried a huge roasting plant with wood obtained from the Suri Suri district by small railway. The oil flotation plant was instrumental in separating the antimony, arsenic and gold, a process which *made* the Cam and Motor. A Mr. Buchanan also discovered the enormously rich reef.

So the mine was made in those three years before Sir Digby came in from his railway job. All this and other developments therefrom is another story. So it is quite incorrect to say, and I quote — "It was largely due to his (*Sir Digby's*) engineering skill that the Cam and Motor Mine ... was turned into the largest gold mine in Rhodesia."

I feel that my father who was known as "a lucky miner" and nearly always appointed to get mines out of trouble, should have some of the kudos for the Cam and Motor. He managed Randfontein Estates twice, Apex, Rand Collieries, New Kleinfontein during strikes and troubles, as well as the Rezende mine in Penhalonga, Rhodesia.

Yours etc.,

CAROL MCEWAN
Box 156, Knysna, Cape.

FATHER GOETZ AND THE GOETZ OBSERVATORY

Sir,

It is very gratifying to see that the scientific achievements of the past are described for the non-scientific reader. The Society is indebted to Fr. W. F. Rea, S.J., for placing on record the efforts to establish an Astronomical Observatory in Rhodesia. (*Rhodesiana* No. 35, September 1976). Fr. Goetz's work extended beyond the Observatory itself and his scientific work included two field expeditions, one to Barotseland and the other in Matabeleland. These were concerned with the measurements of the Earth's magnetic field using a Nalder Unifilar Magnetometer No. 135 and a Dover Circle No. 113. The three

important elements of the earth's magnetic field, the total field intensity, dip of the magnetic needle and the declination were measured.

The declination is of greatest use to field men as a whole, where very often they depend upon magnetic compasses for navigation as well as survey work.

FR. . Goetz's work was published in 1920¹ and covered an area to the north-west of a previous survey by Professor J. T. Morrison and Professor J. T. Beattie. This latter was a very big investigation covering the Cape Colony, Orange Free State, the Transvaal, Natal and Rhodesia during the years 1898 to 1906.² Although some years later, Goetz's work was in a much more remote area and in fact the previous investigations (although only comprising the determination of position and some magnetic declinations), were by David Livingstone in 1855.

The value of Goetz's work has never been appreciated and it should be noted that in effect the 14 stations over less than 5° of latitude can be considered as a geophysical traverse over country where there are few exposures of rocks, and certainly where rift valley faults exist. The variations in the value of dip from 51° 40,2' South at Katambora to 48° 14,0' South at Lealui, suggests some considerable difference in the hidden geological features.

Another point of interest from Goetz's work in this area is the position in 1914 of Sesheke. The following data indicate different positions:

Date	Reference	Lat. S.	Long. E.
31/8/1855	D.Livingstone	17° 31' 38"	25° 13'
2/9/1855	I. Schapera p. 295	17° 31' 34"	25° 2' 15"
	I. Schapera p. 4	17° 28'	24° 18'
13th June 1914	E. Goetz p. 298	17° 30,0'	24° 52,0'

Schapera³ on p. 4 has a footnote to the effect that Sesheke has changed position several times. As the Zambesi here flows about WNW to ESE only a small difference in latitude can be accompanied by a larger one in longitude.

It was not unusual for ministers of religion to carry out geophysical measurements during the 19th century. Among others in Western Europe in the 1870's there was the work of the Rev. S. J. Perry and in India in gravity work Archdeacon Pratt, while on the Zambesi in 1858-61, the careful observations of the Rev. Charles Livingstone were valuable and accurate.⁴

Yours etc.,

V. L. BOSAZZA

39, Barkly Road, Parktown, Johannesburg.

NOTES

1. Goetz, E., Rev. 1920. *Magnetic Observations in Rhodesia*. Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Afr. Vol. 8:297-302.
2. Beattie, J. C. 1909. *Report of a Magnetic Survey of South Africa*. Royal Society, London. 125 pp. Appendices. 235 pp.
- Beattie, J. C. and Morrison, J. T. 1913. *On Magnetic Work in Southern and Central Africa, 1908-1909*. Carnegie Institution, Washington. No. 175: 101-106.

3. Schapera, I, Ed. 1963. *Livingstone's African Journal*, 1853-1856. London. Chatto and Windus.
4. General Sir Edward Sabine. 1877. *Contributions to Terrestrial Magnetism*. Phil. Trns. Roy. Soc. 167 (11): 461-508, see p. 470-471.

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICTS

Sir,

I have been lent a copy of *Rhodesiana* No. 30, June 1974. As regards the article "The Early European Settlement of the South Western Districts, Part I", by Allison Shinn, her information on the Gwanda school, page 29, is incorrect. I quote — "In 1945 an assistant teacher, Mrs. McKenzie, was appointed".

I was in fact appointed in 1928 and was "Miss" not "Mrs.". The school room was one room only and so the billiard room of the original hotel was rented to me. It was in fact on stilts, very hot and very dilapidated. I taught in that room until the middle of 1930 when the new school, which is now the kindergarten section of St. Christopher's, was built.

Yours etc.,

MRS. HELEN B. PAYNE (*nee* H. B. McKenzie)

P.O. Box 63, Gwanda.

THE SHONA PEOPLES

Sir,

I was delighted to read that your reviewer, C. J. K. Latham, was able to commend my book, *The Shona Peoples* (*Rhodesiana*, Sept. 1976, pp. 73f.).

I was, however, a little disturbed by the way he removed from its context - of sickness and personal misfortune my remark on the Shona belief that Spirit Guardians control the lives of the Shona; instead, Mr. Latham emphasizes his views of the belief's "dominant effect on the social organization and psychology of the Shona". There is a common belief among white Rhodesians that Shona Society is dominated by primitive superstition: I do not wish to be associated with this belief because I hold that it is not a true reflection of the Shona people I know (although I do hold that privation and anxiety often find strong religious expression among any people).

A more serious point on which I wish to take issue with Mr. Latham is his remark that ". . . the author has allowed his own emotionally held views to intrude from time to time. This is particularly noticeable in his chapters on the evolution from subsistence to cash economy; in his treatment of the educational system and his dissertation on the institution of Chiefship. Here he has permitted a certain amount of patronising liberalism and his own religious background to intrude into what should be an objective thesis." I see no reason to pick out my treatment of these topics on the basis of their relationship to cited evidence, although I do believe that the evidence in these areas is liable to

disturb the comfortable paternalism not uncommon in white Rhodesian society.

Among some north African people, there is a rule* to the effect that if a man shoots at another and misses, only half the normal blood-price was payable since no harm was done; but if a man aims to shoot at another and then does not shoot, the full blood-price can be demanded since nobody knows where the bullet would have gone. Had Mr. Latham been more specific in his criticism, we could have seen how accurate his marksmanship is. But his vague and general criticism is liable to leave the impression that my treatment of the subject in question is not to be taken seriously. This would be a pity; and it would result in a failure to understand precisely in those areas where understanding between the races is most important.

In another review by another person associated with the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Roger Howman in *The Rhodesia Herald*, 26th April), I was accused of an "incapacity to draw upon or even fairly assess any material of an official character". His examples of sources I failed to use were statements of policy: these should never be used as evidence for what happens in practice.

Throughout the work, I tried fairly to assess and to use the widest possible range of sources, and to present an objective account of Shona life. So far, I have come across nothing to shake my view that on the whole I succeeded. Unless he can produce evidence to the contrary, my belief remains that the intrusion of emotionally held views occurred on the side of Mr. Latham.

Two small points: for his query on the spelling of *n'anga*, I refer Mr. Latham to the latest edition of Hannan's *Standard Shona Dictionary*; and the price of the soft-covered editio of *Shona Peoples* is \$5,40, not \$6,80.

Yours etc.,

M. F. C. BOURDILLON

Southwell House, 39 FitzJohn's Avenue, London, N.W.3.

*Cited by E. Gellner in "*The Concept of Kinship*", *Philosophy of Science*, 27 (1960), pp. 203f.

BACK NUMBERS OF RHODESIANA

Only the following back numbers of *Rhodesiana* are in stock. Copies can be bought from the Hon. National Secretary, Rhodesiana Society, P.O. Box 8268, Causeway, Salisbury, Rhodesia, at a cost of R\$3,00 per copy. Remittances from outside Rhodesia must be for the equivalent of Rhodesian currency.

Rhodesiana No. 17, December 1967.

Rhodesiana No. 19, December 1968 onwards, two issues a year, up to the current number, *Rhodesiana* No. 36, March 1977.

Rhodesia Served the Queen

A Review Article

by J. F. Midgley

(Rhodesia Served the Queen: Rhodesian Forces in the Boer War, 1899-1902. Volume Two by the late Colonel A. S. Hickman, M.B.E., was published in 1975 by the Rhodesian Government under the auspices of the Rhodesian Army. 354 pages, illustrations and maps. Vol. I was published in 1970 and was reviewed in our December 1970 issue—Editor.)

In his foreword to this second volume the Hon. P. Van der Byl, Minister of Defence and Foreign Affairs, rightly says that in writing this book the author "has rendered an outstanding service to posterity". With this handsome well-merited commendation one surely cannot cavil. That this publication will be of great interest is unquestioned, nevertheless the Minister's estimation that it will also be of "great value to students of military history throughout the world" must be qualified in certain respects.

A serious shortcoming of this book is the absence of any maps to illustrate the military operations of the forces with which Rhodesians were associated. There are only sketch plans of the engagement about Israel's farm and of the siege of Brakfontein. For instance a map of Plumer's advance southwards to Mafeking could have been substituted for the plan showing the defences of the town by Major C. B. Vyvyan, especially as in this second volume the siege of Mafeking as such is not dealt with by the author. The siege is treated in Volume I and a similar plan by Vyvyan figures therein. Moreover without the presence of a further map of the difficult terrain of the Transvaal *mise-en-scene* the general reader must be greatly handicapped in following, and not a little confused by, the marchings to and fro against the elusive Boer commandos, indeed only the reader with a sound knowledge of the topography can grasp the complicated and tortuous comings and goings. Such a map would also indicate the difficult problems of the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Roberts, in reducing the various theatres of resistance, and of carrying out his policy of pacification, as well as those of his subordinate commanders. The author could profitably have incorporated this aspect in an introduction.

Col. Hickman has assembled a fund of information in his 350 pages, but by including several extracts from published works on the same episode and accounts by different participants therein, however interesting, the narrative becomes rather repetitive of the heart of each engagement. No doubt he felt that any condensation would detract from his purpose in producing the book and allowing each protagonist to speak fully for his own experiences.

The author has been at pains to identify the precise sites of engagements by extensive travel and inquiry and has supplied several photographs of these. He has paid a deserved tribute to the "foresight and energy" of Colonel Nicholson who played a vital role in the success of Colonel Plumer's operations by providing and maintaining supplies, transport and guns, such as were available. Similarly, *inter alios*, Lt. Col. White and Majors Weston-Jarvis and Bird are praised.

With such a vast amount of material before him I feel that the average reader would have appreciated some preliminary account by the author of the background of each engagement. Some degree of critical assessment would have been helpful. In the main he has personally refrained from strictures and passing judgements, generally restricting them to the individuals he quotes. With one or two exceptions I shall deal now.

Says the author: "Baden-Powell should have been there", at Olifants Poort, and "It is obvious that Baden-Powell was still extremely siege minded", repeating debunker Gardner! These animadversions do not make adequate allowance for B-P's unenviable predicament at Rustenburg surrounded by the Magaliesberg. He had been allocated a hundred miles of mountainous country interspersed with passes or poorts, with a limited force under his command to defend the town and lengthy communications to be maintained with elusive Boer commandos hovering about ready to strike. Some such explanation is needed.

I have another similar point to make. Again, had the author touched on the background of the Transvaal operations which he mentions, his readers would have had a better understanding of the course of events. The author includes criticism of Lord Roberts from the volumes of Louis Creswicke and H. W. Wilson who aver that the Commander-in-Chief "suffered from over confidence and want of consistent policy", which the author submits is "a very apt summary". These armchair critics were not men on the spot and some elucidation of the Field-Marshal's predicament is called for. Until Lord Roberts arrived the British generals, though not lacking in courage personally, had little or no previous experience of handling an army or even an army corps in war, certainly not against White opponents such as the mobile mounted commandos of Boer marksmen. "They lusted to close with the (Boer) enemy and rain blows in a paroxysm of violence" with the resultant "Black Week" of December, 1899, which led to the appointment of Lord Roberts. Some of his subordinates never developed the necessary flair in combating the Boer in admittedly trying circumstances.

During his campaigning in Afghanistan Roberts had to operate in very mountainous country with serious problems of long lines of communication, transport and supply against forces far outnumbering his own. He quickly realised the wastefulness and futility of frontal attacks and planned how to circumvent the enemy by reconnaissance and outflanking movements. By using these same tactics and strategy he defeated Cronje and, had his cavalry not been

exhausted by the dash to relieve Kimberley and General French temporarily off form, would have netted President Kruger within the week after Paardeberg.

Roberts has been criticised for pulling out of the war when he did. After the surrender of the two capitals Bloemfontein and Pretoria and the defeat of the Boers in the last major battle of Diamond Hill, the war was virtually over and so it should have been but for some firebrand leaders and misguided patriots, who by two years of futile guerrilla warfare brought needless suffering upon the land and its people. In mid-1900 Roberts was committed to a policy of pacification. No looting of Boer farms had been permitted and those who delivered up their arms and wished to return to their farms were given permits of protection. Though the British forces far outnumbered those of the Boers they were scattered far and wide in effecting this policy. Most of them were infantry, whereas the mounted Boer operated on his home ground with the sympathy and connivance of local non-combatants.

In the event Roberts was handicapped by the inadequacy of some of his commanders. For instance with regard to the siege of Brakfontein the author states, without any adequate clarification, that "No less than four British generals — five if Lord Roberts is included — heard of the predicament (of Col. Hore) yet neglected to take action", though he does take the incompetent general Sir Frederick Carrington to task. Small wonder that Boers who had surrendered were encouraged by minor sporadic successes to break their pledges and resume their harassment of the British forces by rejoining the Commandos still in the field, as the author does show. In the end it was left to the ruthless Kitchener to finish the business.

In conclusion, Col. Hickman must be commended upon so assiduously accumulating much colourful material on the activities of Rhodesians in the South African War. They served the Queen with much fortitude and gallantry, as they and their successors did in the subsequent two World Wars. Alas, in view of the more recent persistent senseless persecution by 'the powers that be' in Britain, has all the loyalty and sacrifice been in vain?

Reviews

One Man's Vision: the Story of Rhodesia by W. D. Gale. (Rhodesiana Reprint Library. Silver Series, Vol. 12. 1976. 288 pages. Illustrated. Price \$11,20).

The author of *One Man's Vision* became a reporter on the *Rhodesia Herald* in 1930, and quickly realised that his journalistic duties demanded a clear knowledge of recent Rhodesian history. At this time little published material on the subject was available, but fortunately Mr. Gale soon came across some important manuscript accounts of their experiences by twelve pioneers.

Only a little later Gale lighted on still more valuable material in the shape of papers collected by W. E. Fairbridge. These included additional personal reminiscences of the significant and exciting events of the 1890-97 period. Thereafter the author contacted other pioneers, organised their accounts with great skill, and, during 1935, put them together in a book which described the events of these years from the Europeans' point of view.

In it the story of the Occupation of Rhodesia was admirably told, and the book was eagerly accepted by the public. It provided valuable source material for historical students, while to the general reader Mr. Gale showed that recent history provided very palatable reading. Subsequent books written on the Rhodesian past have owed much to the author's diligent research at a time when many of the key figures were still alive.

I well remember reading the book with interest and enjoyment soon after its appearance, but when I reread *One Man's Vision* recently, to these were added a vague sense of nostalgia. It reminded me of happier times when no one questioned the merits or immutability of the British Empire, and when the Royal Navy was recognised as the ultimate arbiter of all human affairs; but it also demonstrated very forcibly the way in which our attitudes have altered since 1935. How right it appeared then for Mr. Rhodes' young men to have seized the fertile heartland of Central Africa and denied it to the militant Germans and effete Portuguese. How inevitable it seemed then that a few hundred thousand Africans would be dispossessed of their land by the more dynamic white men, but how fortunate it was that at the same time these people were to be exposed to the benison of the British experience.

For since Mr. Gale wrote his book there has been a metamorphosis in our ideas. Radical politicians, not Imperialists, have become the masters of cynical oratory, the fallacious pamphlet and the organised petition, and all of us, to some extent, have responded to their propaganda. After the failure of Mr. Eden's adventure at Suez the conquests during Great Britain's period of expansion have looked a little tawdry; accounts of the overkill at Ulundi and the massacre of the *fuzzie wuzzies* outside Omdurman seem no longer to belong to that class of literature which was spoken of as 'heroic'; our tales of the derring-do that painted red over a quarter of the globe have come to sound no more than victors' propaganda.

Moreover we have learned so much of the Africans' side of the colonial wars that the patronising judgements of our fathers' times, rightly, appear less credible and creditable than before, and Adolf Hitler's demented theories have made it difficult for us to think rationally on the all-important problems of racialism throughout the world.

But this is a passing phase, and the present spirit of defeatism in the West will be dispelled. So change in no way detracts from the merits of Mr. Gale's book. It was a pioneering work which captured the mood of the time and demonstrated the manner in which modern Rhodesia developed on lines utterly different from those of other British colonies in Africa. The state of Rhodesia was initiated not by slave dealers and traders but by missionaries and a group of pioneers who represented a real cross-section of a contemporary European community. Thereafter it was developed by settlers who had come to stay, instead of by a handful of expatriate officials, and this at no cost to the Imperial treasury. The country was always defended by Rhodesian fighting men of all races, and never had to call on help from soldiers of the Crown. Moreover some of the magic which exists in Rhodesia allowed the development of relationships between the races which are more harmonious than anywhere else in Africa, allowed the emergence of a country which remains a vital asset to the West in its coming struggle for existence.

The uniqueness of Rhodesia can never be too strongly emphasised, and this quality has been stressed in his book by Mr. Gale. In doing so he played a part in perpetuating the Rhodesian legend, and this was no mean achievement. For legends no less than dry facts have their special values. They engender that sense of national pride and purpose which can overcome great obstacles. Nor, it seems, has the author wavered in his confidence of the Rhodesian achievement; for in his preface to the reprint edition of *One Man's Vision* he writes: "Given our Rhodesian heritage of victory over setbacks and difficulties we shall surely triumph over the dangers that face us today — provided we display the Pioneer spirit". It is a sentiment which will be endorsed by Rhodesians of all races.

O. N. RANSFORD

My Life was a Ranch by D. M. Somerville. Edited by V. Somerville. (Kailani Books. Distributed by Kingstons, Salisbury. 1976. 190 pages. Illustrated with photos and line drawings. Price \$6,00).

This is the evocative account of the establishment of Devuli Ranch in the 1920's. The author, after meeting and being inspired by the Bridges brothers, left England in 1920, sailed to the Cape and journeyed to Rhodesia by train. His descriptions of the route and of Bulawayo and Fort Victoria are amusing and very vivid.

From Fort Victoria he made his way to Devuli, first by ox-wagon and then by car, on bush tracks wholly unsuited to motorised transport.

Life on the ranch was hard but rewarding. Wild life in abundance — lion in

particular — meant that everyone had to become a good shot. Ally Hamman one night shot 13 lions — a record for those parts, if not for Rhodesia.

The Bridges brothers, Despard and Lucas, were the moving spirits behind the formation of Devuli Ranch: both outstanding personalities and very hard workers. Despard, over the years, spent considerable time at the Ranch. Eventually, after he had been made manager, the author married Despard's daughter.

Dr. Coates-Palgrave then lived at Bikita. He was an energetic maker of roads and a good friend. The author, in his travels round the Lowveld, found an excellent site for crossing the Sabi River. His judgement was proved sound when Birchenough Bridge was built at that very place!

The chapter on Relics and Ruins is particularly interesting and incorporates tales of rich gold deposits that petered out, while the very few that succeeded seemed to bear a charmed life. He also mentions ruins on Devuli Ranch that, at the date of writing, had not been investigated by archaeologists.

Tribute is paid to the African, with whose help the ranch was developed. Fashions changed slowly from skimpy skins to trade cloth, shiny shoes and suits. Family customs are described, including the example of their first engine supervisor, who already had several wives and, upon his father's death, inherited six or seven more. "Perhaps the responsibility was too much for him, because on Sunday morning, after visiting a friend, he was recrossing a river when he unaccountably fell dead." In true Somerville tradition, the welfare of the wives and children became the responsibility of the ranch.

During the grim depression years the ranch only just survived the dismally low prices paid for stock and maize, the foot and mouth plague and the severe drought.

The author was asked to stand for the Reform Party as candidate for Umtali North, and was elected after a vigorous and exhausting campaign. After six years he was replaced by a new candidate, Edgar Whitehead.

The ranch and allied ventures began to show profit, due to the dedication and hard-work of the author, and his daughter, Veronica, brings the story up to date in a postscript.

This book makes fascinating reading, for the character of the author is always evident — his love for the country, his understanding of its people, his wry understatement of difficulties and, above all, his intense vitality in the face of challenge. He was a remarkable man.

ROSEMARY KIMBERLEY

Spirits of Protest by Peter Fry (Cambridge University Press 1976. 145 pages. Price £4,50).

This is a really intriguing book. Over a period of three years in one community of the Chiota people near Marandellas, Peter Fry observed with trained attention and raises an array of perceptions and hypotheses which will stimulate every student of "native custom" to think again or delve deeper.

The years 1963-66 were a period of political unrest. This stopped research into the economics of commuters between the T.T.L. and Salisbury. Instead, the author found himself unexpectedly enveloped in a surge of public concern with the invisible members of the community, and to the week-end rituals, the spirit mediums and popular reactions he devoted his anthropological skills.

When so many authorities write about the absolute authority of spirits, the total belief in their power and of life dominated, even controlled, by spiritual influences, "witch-bound", we are apt to forget that in making their point they are exaggerating. The image makes the African far too credulous. Fry pulls us away from this kind of theory based on abstract questioning. He gives us an account of struggles for prestige and power, of alignments for and against competing spirits who are acclaimed as genuine or dismissed as bogus according to kinship links or differing personal interests. As he says, "They believe and they doubt". So a book on 'doubts', and enjoyable dis-belief, is as valid as a book on 'beliefs'.

In this book we have a masterly combination of both in real life.

There is a striking chapter on spirit mediums in action. A vivid record of lively, sick and anxious persons performing within kinship bonds and rivalries over a long period — the questioning, the disbeliefs, the excuses and mistakes as they explain misfortune in many different ways, and how the selection of any one particular cause is decided by manipulation of kin, village cleavages, magico-religious rivalries and "political" considerations in the village. It could be called a study of *choices*, so remarkably different to the answers one gets from stock questions.

A commendable point is that the term "witch-doctor" is never used. Nice distinctions are drawn among ritual practitioners and the illnesses or emotional disturbances ("allergies" as he calls them) for which spiritual cures were sought (and found) raise fascinating questions in the medical fields of psychoneurosis, as well as proof that confidence in scientific measures can co-exist with belief in spiritual influences.

There is a pleasant absence of academic conceit. Theory is put forward as "very tentative" and in stressing the flexibility, the uncertainty and changing nature of Zezuru culture we are brought back to the flux and shadow of African life which was once so apparent before solid concepts of "tribal structure", "traditional systems" and "authority" with a capital "A" were made the foundations of official policy instead of intussusception.*

A few points of criticism. It is doubtful if it is correct to assign succession to the eldest son of the senior wife rather than to the first-born son of any wife; to describe *Gona*, the medical horn, as a medicine; to ascribe the power of witchcraft to a *Shave* spirit; and it will be disconcerting for his theory about Zezuru/Korekore contrasts to learn that Nengubo people are not Zezuru (they are Budya from Mtoko) and their tribal spirit is Nohureka, originally a Korekore. The last chapter, rather speculative and politically inclined, presumably inspired the title of the book. This is something we have to expect from the academic climate, at least until studies of a similar nature can be made in

countries where Black Power is the imposition and its exercise is for the good of the State.

Such matters of detail do not detract from the most probing study of a community spirit environment we have had in Rhodesia.

ROGER HOWMAN

"taking in of foreign matter by living organism and its conversion into organic tissue".

Two African Statesmen: Kaunda of Zambia and Nyerere of Tanzania by John Hatch (Seeker and Warburg, 1976. 268 pages. Illustrated. Price £6,00).

This study of Kaunda of Zambia and Nyerere of Tanzania by John Hatch, a well known socialist writer on Africa, is a less valuable work than it could have been.

Mr. Hatch, who will be remembered in Rhodesia by some people who met official and semi-official visitors in the days of Federation, is a self-proclaimed and uncompromising critic of the white man in Africa. He claims, as Commonwealth Officer to the British Labour Party at the time, to have played perhaps a key role in marshalling opposition to the Federation in the late 1950s.

It goes without saying that he is an even more resolute opponent of the present government in Rhodesia.

This attitude, coupled with a correspondingly unrestrained admiration for Kaunda and Nyerere, produces a book which is unashamedly one-sided. For Hatch there are no good words for white men who do not support his heroes one hundred per cent. He suffers from the besetting affliction of all bigots that only he is right.

From the literary point of view the book is inept. The inclusion in one volume of fairly full biographies and appreciations of the achievements and philosophies of the two presidents, is a good idea as their careers have run along parallel and sometimes convergent lines. In the last 15 years or so they have worked much together and been influenced by one another and by similar circumstances.

But Mr. Hatch has chosen the worst way to present the results of his work. A brief introduction is followed by an account of Nyerere's early life, then by one of Kaunda's, then back to Nyerere and so on without any links between the sections.

A sensible and tidier arrangement would have been a combined introduction, perhaps at some length, followed by a full and uninterrupted account of Nyerere, then by one of Kaunda with a final summing up of the two men. The pattern chosen is confusing and illogical.

The defects of the book are the more regrettable as it is a potentially valuable addition to African studies. Where Hatch is content to be merely factual he is exceedingly interesting and useful. But too often he is not content to be a historian but insists on being polemicist and apologist too.

The life stories of these two men are arresting enough to need none of his controversial embellishments. Kaunda, the son of a Nyasa missionary brought up in the Northern Province of the then Northern Rhodesia, and Nyerere, son of a village headman in a remote corner of the Lake Province of Tanganyika, rose from obscurity largely by their own efforts to lead their countries to independence and to govern them ever since.

This is a remarkable record. Mr. Hatch does it justice from a factual point of view and shows us how the two men were motivated, what problems they have had to face and have still to overcome.

With all its imperfections this is a book one is glad to have read. A good many Rhodesians can profit from reading it particularly at this critical stage in their history.

W. E. ARNOLD

Zambia: Security and Conflict by Jan Pettman (Julian Friedmann, London. 284 pages. End map. Price £5).

Zambia obtained its independence in 1964 and this book is a study of the domestic and foreign policy of the new state over its first nine years.

Although Kenneth Kaunda and the United National Independence Party were firmly in control at the time of independence, government was not running smoothly. There were separatist troubles with Barotseland, clashes with the Lumpa church, conflicts with the African mineworkers' unions which staged prolonged strikes in 1966, troubles with opposition parties and there was even dissension within U.N.I.P. itself. Kaunda's first task was to resolve all these conflicts by turning the country into a one-party state and to equate the party with the government. It took a long time and the author describes how it was effected, mainly through the absolute personal dominance of Kaunda over both government and party. Zambia became a one-party state in 1972, not by the ballot box as Kaunda had hoped, but by decree. Now, the holding of office, or advancement, in any significant organisation from the civil service to the trade unions, depends absolutely on being a member of the U.N.I.P.

But Zambia is still plagued by internal problems. In industry, lack of discipline, falling productivity, rising wages and shortage of skilled labour have hindered progress. Agriculturally Zambia was "even less productive and more backward than most African countries" and expensive rural development schemes have not yet raised production. And the specious doctrine of Humanism devised by Kaunda (which has no relation to the western philosophy of the same name) as a theme for uniting the people, has not yet, says the author, caught their imagination.

As regards foreign policy, the author explains that Zambia considered itself surrounded by potential enemies in so much that all the white minority governments shared common boundaries and that group as such impinged on Zambia from Rhodesia, Angola and South-West Africa. Zambia's policy was therefore to seek aid and political support from outside southern Africa. The book

describes Zambia's dealing with other African groupings, with international companies, with western and eastern countries including the failure to get aid from the Soviet Union.

The book ends in 1973 and the author's conclusion is that the one-party state in Zambia has yet to demonstrate that it is any more effective than any earlier form either in providing a base for stable government or for mobilising a willing people and resources for real development.

W. V. BRELSFORD

Wild Flowers of Rhodesia, by D. C. H. Plowes and R. B. Drummond. (Longman Rhodesia (Pvt.) Ltd., Salisbury. 1976. 165 pages, 193 illustrations in colour. Price hard-cover \$16,00; limp-cover \$8,00).

Botanical Africana, provided the publication is of a high standard, has always enjoyed a wide appeal. For, superimposed upon collectors of Africana, there are a host of botanists, horticulturists and general lovers of nature who are likely to be intensely interested in the work. *Wild Flowers of Rhodesia* is just such a book.

The authors are exceptionally well qualified: Darrel Plowes is one of Rhodesia's top agriculturists who is a dedicated naturalist; *Aloe plowesii* is named in his honour. While Robert Drummond is one of Africa's leading taxonomists, and is in charge of the National Herbarium in Salisbury.

The book describes 150 species of Rhodesian wild flowers. The main criterion of selection has been that the species described are showy and spectacular. There is an interesting introduction, and useful glossary as well as indexes to scientific and common names. The description of the various plants depends to a large extent on colour photographs taken by Plowes. Some species are illustrated by as many as three photographs, most of which have an added charm as they were taken in habitat. The majority of the 193 of these are of a high standard; indeed, many of them have a touch of brilliance. But, alas, three or four of them are sub-standard: the photograph of *Ansellia gigantes* var. *nilotica*, that is, Rhodesia's well-known leopard orchid, is particularly poor. However, having said that, one can have nothing but praise for the authors, the publishers and the printers.

The hard-cover edition is a joy to handle. The limp-cover is produced on this same high quality paper as the hard, and is excellent value for money.

R. W. S. TURNER

East African Journey: Kenya and Tanganyika, 1929-30 by Margery Perham (Faber and Faber. 1976. 246 pages. Illustrations. Map. Price £6,95).

In 1929 Margery Perham, a young Oxford Don, was given a Rhodes Trust Travelling scholarship to study the problems of race. Her diary covering southern Africa, including Rhodesia, was published as *African Apprenticeship* in 1974. (Reviewed in our September 1975 issue.)

This East African diary gives a picture of the heyday of British colonial rule, of colonies staffed by well-bred Oxbridge District Officers and enthusiastic cadets, of cheerful, obedient Africans who greeted the arrival of their rulers with mass dancing and who turned out in their thousands to do communal work, such as clearing tsetse fly areas, without pay. A D.O.s work, says Margery Perham, demands conscience almost more than brains and in footnotes she lists, in name-dropping fashion, the D.O.s and cadets with whom she became acquainted and who became Governors.

She was particularly impressed with the administration of Tanganyika, that wild land of wild men and wild beasts and glorious scenery. But that country was not bedevilled by a settler problem as was Kenya. At the time Kenya was in political ferment. The recent issue of the Colonial Office paper on the paramountcy of African interests had infuriated the settlers and Lord Delamere was in full cry, leading the settlers determined efforts to take over the government of the country. Both countries followed the policy of Indirect Rule as regards African Affairs but the contrasts between the two countries proved, says the author, that "white settlement and good native government are oil and water". Although she opposed European settlement in Kenya she thought that it would last for a hundred years.

The most outstanding part of the book comprises the long entries about the Masai. She was fascinated by them perhaps as much by their arrogant rejection of the European way of life as by their striking physical characteristics. Her colourful accounts of their customs, rituals and way of life show that she was enabled to see the tribes as had few other Europeans.

The book makes pleasant reading. Although her interests were primarily political and there is much pertinent comment on people and situations from that angle Margery Perham obviously enjoyed both countries. She gives some graphic descriptions of lakes and mountains, of lonely, attractive outstations and, in spite of her opposition to European settlement she does give understanding characterisations of some of the well-known settlers and hunters that she met. So, the diary does give a fairly comprehensive picture of the two countries at that date.

W. V. BRELSFORD

Trails and Tribes in Southern Africa by Peter Becker (Hart-Davis MacGibbon, London. 211 pages. Illustrated. Maps. Price £8).

Dr. Peter Becker was brought up in intimate contact with indigenous peoples, he speaks their languages and the whole of his adult life has been devoted to field research among southern African tribes.

But this volume is not a scientific treatise but a popular record of travels through widespread areas of Africa — deserts, swamps and hills — with factual descriptions of the peoples he met. It is primarily a pictorial record, as much space being devoted to excellent colour and black and white photographs, as to text.

The author deals with nine groups of people and maintains interest by emphasising a different pattern of life with each group. As regards Swaziland, for example, he concentrates on Royal Ceremonials and succession, on the warriors and on the First Fruits Ceremony. In Mozambique he describes the rituals of the diviners, herbalists and esorcists and the way of life of the swamp dwellers of the lower Limpopo. Xhosa territory is typified by the elaborate initiation rites, with pictures of the initiates in their palm leaf costumes with bodies and faces vividly daubed white; and Kwazulu by cattle culture, dancing and elaborate and colourful coronation ceremonies. He takes us to a remote area north of the Namib Desert to the OvaHimba tribe, a nomadic cattle people still virtually untouched by western civilisation. They are a particularly handsome people noted for their elaborate hair styles and profuse use of bangles, necklaces and bracelets.

Typical aspects of Bushman, Hottentot and Tswana cultures are similarly highlighted. And with all the groups Dr. Becker gives portraits of contemporary tribal and political leaders.

The text is authoritative, easy to read and is illustrated by over 200 photographs, taken by the author, of people, places and happenings. Some of them are superb examples of the art.

W. V. BRELSFORD

Lonrho: Portrait of a Multinational by S. Cronje, M. Ling and G. Cronje. (Penguin Books in association with Julian Friedmann Books. 1976. Paperback. 316 pages. Price £1,50).

For those anticipating a definitive history of this Company with its early Rhodesian connections, this book will be a disappointment, as it records, in the main, the contemporary activities of the Company and its chief Executive.

Much of the content of the book has been obtained by the authors from the Report of the Department of Trade Inspectors following the "Boardroom affair" in 1973. The bulk of this report dealt with the Company's activities in Rhodesia and South Africa and in particular the development of the Company's mining interests in Rhodesia. To many Rhodesians the great amount of detailed documentation of commercial and other activities of companies operating here under post U.D.I. conditions will come as a surprise and will indicate how thoroughly sanctions-busting activities are investigated by the British Government.

The book is mainly a commentary on the activities of Lonrho in Independent black Africa with frequent references to Rhodesia and South Africa.

Whilst many would not agree with Mr. "Tiny" Rowland's methods of securing a foothold in African countries for the benefit of his Company, his concepts of entrepreneurial activity are often staggering. The book gives a revealing insight into his conviction that the pursuit of African independence on a socialistic pattern could be made to work to Lonrho's advantage. In

pursuing these objects he thought big and had contact with top politicians in many countries. He believed Lonrho could be developed to earn profits of up to \$100 million per year.

The book contains details of one of the Company's most ambitious schemes, viz. to become the oil consultants of the O.A.U., after they were successful in applying oil sanctions against Southern Africa. The consultancy scheme covered the acquisition, transportation, refining and distribution of oil through the formation of an African oil company to 36 O.A.U. countries. But as a result of protests by Idi Amin because of the Company's association with Rhodesia and South Africa, the contract was cancelled. The Secretary-General of the O.A.U., Ekangaki, who worked closely with Lonrho, then resigned for "personal reasons".

An account of the Beira-Umtali pipeline and the part the Company, and the British Government, played in applying oil sanctions against Rhodesia is also described.

The Company's methods of conducting business in the African states is perhaps best illustrated during the period 1969, when attempts were made to acquire numerous interests in Senegal, Ivory Coast, Togo, Dahomey, Cameroun, Gabon and other African countries, including Rhodesia. In some instances the interests were acquired in co-operation with the state who retained a 51 % interest with Lonrho having a 49 % shareholding plus a management contract.

There is an interesting account of how Lonrho attempted to control the world diamond business by acquiring a management contract with the Sierra Leone Government, which through a tie-up with Russia and other diamond producing countries would "relieve De Beers" of the business of selling diamonds. Again Lonrho's Rhodesian and South African links resulted in the contract being dissolved by the Sierra Leone Government.

For these reasons it is perhaps understandable that Rowland has never lost an opportunity to criticise and condemn the white governments of Southern Africa, and has promised that his Company would diminish its interests in those countries. But in contrast to the nationalisation of the Company's interests in some African countries the group still enjoys good financial returns in Southern Africa and despite protestation to the contrary continues to expand its operations in these countries.

The authenticity of some of the statements made in the book may be queried but it provides a good insight to the *modus operandi* of a multinational big business operating in Africa and how it plays "both ends towards the middle".

The book contains four appendices which provide details of the Coronation Syndicate and the Rhodesian Mining Profits, the O.A.U. oil agreement and the "Smith Regime" and International Sanctions.

R. CHERER SMITH

African Societies by Lucy Mair (Cambridge University Press. 1974. Paperback. 251 pages. Price £1,30).

The people of our continent are now lumped together as Africans and this stereotype is presented to the world through State Presidents and political voices. Everything on the political surface is so regularly reported that we become unaware that a whole way of life of incredible diversity flows beneath the surface and largely out of reach of politicians.

Briefly, easily and interestingly Lucy Mair, studying Africa for close on fifty years, has brought together studies by specialists of eighteen societies ranging across Africa from West to East coast and as far South as the Tonga of the Zambesi valley. Her aim is to illustrate the important aspects of their social systems as they function to maintain life in their particular environments and as they are structured to produce an orderly mode of living together, not by stressing the exotic or strange ways which differentiate them from "us" but by showing up human nature as it tries to find answers to problems.

The result is fascinating, full of contrasts of character as it is moulded by culture. For example the Nuer who had no ruler (chief) but everyone knew his rights, and self-help was practiced to such an extent that readiness to fight was esteemed as a social value, yet killing, which might wreck the system, was curbed by ritual consequences and taboos so dangerous that peace was assured. In contrast are the Arusha who condemn self-help and feel that any resort to fighting shows a man's case to be weak.

Anyone who believes there is such an abstraction as 'the African personality' or 'Negritude' or an African traditional socialistic mode of life, indeed any of the Pan-African shibboleths, should read this book. And anyone with an interest in any one tribe will find this comparative study, with its brief references to differing anthropological theories, most illuminating.

ROGER HOWMAN

African Literature in the Twentieth Century by U. R. Dathorne. (Heinemann, 1976. Limp cover, pp. xx, 387. Price £2,80).

This book is an abridged version of the author's *The Black Mind: A History of African Literature* (Minnesota, 1974), abridged in the sense that it consists of a reprint of Chapters 7-15 of that work. The author seeks to place these chapters dealing with modern African writing in context by means of an Introduction which traces rather summarily the transition of the role of the African writer from that of "group spokesman" to that of "cultural entrepreneur manipulating the apparatus of culture for export". The abridgement was made in order to provide students with a relatively cheap textbook on modern African writing (£2,80 instead of £13,00!), but the effect of this amputation on the work, which was an attempt to discover and exemplify the origins and persistence of a "Black Mind", is to reduce what is left to reportage. In the original work the relation between the traditional oral literary genres and styles and the new written literature was recognised if not satisfactorily explored or critically

responded to. Nevertheless the character of the immensely influential spoken art was described in four valuable chapters. In this edition we have a rather breathless continent-wide survey of a written literature categorised according to Western genres and criticised without any deep grasp of the influence of the traditional registers and genres.

It would be ungracious to close this review with this criticism which applies to most of current critical appreciation of African writing, and not record one's pleasure at being given a reference book of such breadth which covers writing in the African languages (forty nine out of a continental total of some seven hundred have become literary media) as well as in English, French and Portuguese, and which treats, according to genre, novels, poetry and drama. A short section is devoted to writing in Shona and Ndebele but this is very inadequate in that it deals only with the very first published works of imaginative prose and poetry published in the late 1950's. A great deal has happened since then.

GEORGE FORTUNE

The Tribal Eye by David Attenborough (B.B.C. Publications. 1976. 144 pages. Illustrated. Maps. Price £7).

This book is based on a T.V. series of films made by the author. The aim of the series was to portray traditional tribal art as an art in its own right, not just as ethnographical evidence. So, specific areas were visited where such art can still be found. These were — the far north-west of Canada, Melanesia, the former Aztec regions in Mexico, and South America, Iran to visit nomadic rug makers, and, in Africa, Mali and Nigeria.

An introductory chapter describes the "artistic explosion" set off in Europe in 1904 by the realisation of the artistic significance of African sculpture by such artists as Derain, Picasso, Matisse and Braque. A concluding chapter, bringing together the various themes, emphasises that over the ages African tribal styles have changed as new influences have affected social and religious life. In this century a great deal of African art has nothing to do with tradition but, says the author, it should not be dismissed as worthless because it does display new influences. It should be regarded, perhaps, according to the canons of post-war European art.

An interesting example of a modern influence is instanced in the work of Susanne Wenger, an Austrian who went to Nigeria in 1950. There she is designing extraordinary buildings in local materials for use as shrines for traditional Yoruba religion. Although the style is fantastic, with exteriors and interiors decorated with the weird gargoyles of surrealist imagination, they are enthusiastically used by the Yoruba. This is an instance, says Attenborough, "not of a tribal people producing work for a European market, but of a European artist striving to put her skills at the service of a tribal people".

The general treatment of each of the areas comprises an illustrated description of the traditional arts followed by a discourse on their perpetuation and adaptation to modern life.

Illustrated in colour and monochrome the book is an unusual and fascinating study of tribal art.

W. V. BRELSFORD

African Art: An Introduction by Dennis Duerden. (Harnlyn. London. 96 pages. Illustrated in colour and black and white. Price £1.95).

The author expounds a theory that the typical African art as we know it had its origins in the Sahara during the period 7 000 B.C. to 6 000 B.C. when that area consisted of "orchard bush", supported a large human population and was full of wild life. As the Sahara dried up migrations of people, led by hunters, went eastwards and then southwards. He illustrates styles and designs of rock art, engravings and paintings from the Sahara region to support this theory of the eastward movement of an original art. It is a misconception, he states, that African art had its roots in some early civilization. Rather the reverse. It was African art, in its eastwards movement, that influenced ancient Egyptian and Greek art, not vice versa. There is thus an art that is unique to Africa and one that has a continuity stretching over 8 000 years.

Dennis Duerden does not catalogue and describe the different types of African art seriatim but discusses the place of art in the various manifestations of African life and culture — the place and function of art in social relationships, in political organisations, particularly in the roles of the priest-kings, in trade, religion, cults and secret societies. He discusses the relation of art to certain abstractions — the rhythm of life, existentialism, order and disorder, permanence and impermanence and personality. And, finally he has a chapter on modern African art.

The result of this broad orientation is, in spite of the academic title, not a text book but a highly imaginative and stimulating book. The ninety-four illustrations support the theories rather than exhibit technique or style and, although most of them, inevitably, are of museum exhibits they are mainly of lesser known examples and Duerden has avoided using those well-known, overexposed exhibits seen in so many books on African art.

Rhodesia appears only once in a somewhat speculative reference to Zimbabwe. The author says it was a place of immigrant priest-kings who brought a powerful religious "earth-cult" and whose symbol was the phallic shaped soapstone bird set on a phallic pillar, the whole representing the fertile powers of the earth.

This is an excellent book of its kind. The theories and themes are dealt with in an original as well as thought-provoking manner and, as art books go, it is very good value for the relatively cheap price.

W. V. BRELSFORD

Africa Today by Al J. Venter. (Macmillan, South Africa. 254 pages. Map. Illustrations. Price R8,50).

To the average Rhodesian Africa beyond the Zambezi is largely a closed book. Press correspondents are not encouraged and the flow of information is therefore sporadic. We hear far more about what their leaders have to say about the white regimes in Southern Africa than we do about the living conditions of the people. It is almost impossible to penetrate the veil that obscures the rest of the continent to the north of us.

One way of penetrating that veil is to read this book. Al Venter is a well-known journalist who for many years roamed the various countries of East, West and Central Africa, and has written a number of books about various aspects of life in them. In *Africa Today* he takes us on a conducted tour of these countries. And what he has to tell us about them is both fascinating and enlightening.

Take Liberia, for example. It was established as an independent republic in 1847 and a settlement for freed American slaves. The American influence is strong. Monrovia, the capital, is like a town in the Bible Belt of the southern United States with "blue-uniformed cops, complete with peaked caps, twirling batons and holsters, hamburger joints, American movies, cokes, coin machines and Cadillacs".

Not so long ago the liberated slaves were the elite, a black minority that ruled Liberia's black masses. This is now changing, and the dollar is the deciding factor in whether a person is acceptable or not. But it is surprising to learn that education has lagged badly, that secondary schooling has only recently been introduced and that at least 85 per cent of Liberians are illiterate.

The author describes life in 42 African countries, ranging from Nigeria to Botswana, along the West Coast and along the East and the territories in between who formerly owed allegiance to metropolitan powers and still show the influence of their French, British and Belgian overlords. The French seem to have made a better job of their colonies than the British, and have left a legacy of affection and admiration among the locals which is lacking in the former British colonial possessions.

Mr. Venter finished writing his book in 1975 and so does not deal with Angola and Mozambique, since his main concern is to tell us how the indigenous peoples are managing the job of ruling themselves. For the same reason he does not deal with Rhodesia or South Africa.

In some of the newly independent states the black rulers are managing fairly well, with Kenya probably the best of the former British colonies. Others are leading their countries to economic ruin, with Uganda taking the prize in this class, and in yet others the pernicious doctrine of "Scientific Socialism", as practised by Nyerere in Tanzania, is making life miserable for everybody.

In some countries which threw out the whites with indecent haste there are distinct signs of a change of heart, a realisation that the whites have a part to play in ensuring economic stability and efficient management.

Both white and black Rhodesians would do well to read this book, which is extremely well produced and profusely illustrated. It is a pleasure both to read and handle.

W. D. GALE

Dark Companions: The African Contribution to the European Exploration of East Africa by Donald Simpson (Paul Elek, London, 1976. xi + 228 pages. Illustrations. Maps. Price £7,50).

This book fills a big gap in the story of African exploration. The author, who is Librarian and Director of Studies at the Royal Commonwealth Society in London, is a competent researcher and his work is well put together. His references, bibliography and Who's Who of Africans are of specific interest to the student.

European explorers were easy victims to disease, particularly malaria, and were usually unable to use any form of animal transport because of the deadly tsetse fly. They were thus entirely dependent upon Africans who had, to a great extent, acquired a natural immunity to tropical diseases. Apart from acting as porters carrying vital supplies of food and equipment, Africans acted as guides and interpreters, besides carrying out many other duties ranging from menial tasks, such as cooking, to positions of responsibility such as leading caravans.

The book brings to life many of the African individuals and personalities who appear in the narrations of European explorers and travellers and emphasises the invaluable assistance and support they gave in arduous and dangerous journeys. The success of many an expedition depended absolutely on the courage, resourcefulness and loyalty of the African members, the dark companions. The part they played in the exploration of the continent in modern historical times has perhaps been overshadowed by the romantic exploits of well known Europeans. The author has remedied this and given a depth and a new interest to the old stories of the exploration of Africa.

R. W. S. TURNER

The Economics of the Zambezi Missions 1580-1759, by William Francis Rea, S.J. (Bibliotheca Instituti Historici S.I., Vol. XXXIX, Institutum Historicum S.I., Roma, 1976, 189 pp., limp cover. Maps. Tables).

The historical accidents that led to the drawing of Rhodesia's frontiers to correspond roughly with the edge of the southern Zambezian plateau and a widespread Anglo-Saxon ignorance of and prejudice against the Portuguese language and people have often combined to blind Rhodesians to the existence of a society, lying only a few miles from Rhodesia's northern borders, whose history has been continuously and often thoroughly recorded for the better part of five centuries. Recent publications by Allen Isaacman and M. D. D. Newitt have done much to bridge the gap between Fr. Goncalo da Silveira and David Livingstone for English-speakers interested in the history of the Zambezi

valley, and Fr. Dr. Rea's book is a valuable addition to their work. Avoiding the religious history of the Dominican and Jesuit missions in the lower Zambezi valley, which history has already been covered in German and Portuguese by Schebesta and Silva, Fr. Rea has gone into the question of the economic backing that enabled these missions to function for so long. This involves an extremely detailed — and sometimes overpoweringly detailed — analysis of the sources of the missions' revenue: royal stipends, gifts, trade and the produce of the lands granted to the missions. Many of the points gone into give us an object lesson in the detailed criticism of documents. The scantier nature of the records on the Dominicans means that they are allocated no more than an eighth of the book, and although Fr. Rea goes out of his way to be fair to them — even neglecting to mention that the most successful eighteenth-century Dominican, Frei Pedro da Trindade, was absorbed into African religion as a *mudzimu* spirit rather than that he had any lasting success in the other direction — he makes it clear that their economic impact on the Zambezi valley was no greater than that of their secular rivals in trade. Most of the rest of the book deals with the Jesuit mission, and more than half of it with the evidence thrown up by the expulsion of the Jesuits from the Zambezi in 1759, when detailed inventories of their property were drawn up. Thus most of the book is devoted to a cross-section of Zambezi society in the eighteenth century, and it is of value as both a view of a way of life and as a source of economic data. The information on the crops and stock of the Jesuit lands is especially fascinating.

In certain directions, however, this book has its limitations, chiefly in the way in which it clings too tightly to its topic. Even allowing for the fact that the Portuguese settlement on the Zambezi has been described elsewhere in English, the African background is neglected. The reader learns of the existence of so many free and servile people on the lands and of so many measures of millet and wheat, but is left ignorant of who the people really were, how they lived and how the crops were produced. With no more than a few pages on the environment in which the missions functioned (pp. 91-2, 95-6) and a good account of those more closely attached to the missions, such as slaves and *chikunda* (pp. 111-130, 146-7, 151-2) this account of the economy of the missions is nearly as much in the air as Santos's, Guerreiro's and Sousa's contemporary accounts (pp. 17-8). In a different direction, we are told too little about the Jesuits themselves: granted that the Jesuits were the best agriculturists on the Zambezi (pp. 96-8, 100, 105, 171-4) why was this so? What training did they receive that led to their economic pre-eminence in Portuguese Africa and Brazil? The answer may be obvious to a Jesuit, but the lay reader is forced to read elsewhere to find it. Much the same is true of the treatment of the background to their expulsion in 1759 (pp. 161-2). Like some other works on the lower Zambezi, Fr. Rea's book tends to assume that the reader knows more of the background material than may be the case, but it has two major virtues: for the local Rhodesian reader it shows that eighteenth-century southern Zambezia was not quite the blank spot that is sometimes assumed (*Rhodesiana* 29, p. 39) while for the economic historian it shows how much data must be uncovered, criticised and assimilated if southern African economic history is to get further

than generalities. For both types of reader this book is recommended. In conclusion, the book is well produced if one excepts the errors of Italian type-setters who have, however, introduced some pleasantly sylvan 'Tree tenants' on page 91.

D. N. BEACH

(Department of History, University of Rhodesia)

New Mambo Press (Gwelo) Titles

The Administration of Transition by Dr. Eric Gargett (limp cover \$1,65) is a comprehensive survey of African urban settlement in Rhodesia. It covers the social and political background to the transition from rural to urban life; the various types of basic housing schemes; the provision of welfare and other amenities and services; the participation of Africans in urban local government; and the financial aspects of this urbanisation. The author, who holds sociological degrees from London and the Witwatersrand universities, has been for many years the Senior Welfare Officer for the City of Bulawayo. He has also worked in Livingstone and Johannesburg so the book bears the stamp of wide and practical experience.

African Hymnody in Christian Worship by A. M. Jones (limp cover 65 cents) is a study, covering the last hundred years, of the introduction of genuine African music into churches in Africa. The early missionaries, especially the musical ones, wanted to introduce the African to the richness of Western Christian musical culture but, as time passed, it became more and more clear that the African must be allowed to worship in his own musical idiom. The author relates the interesting history of how this has now become accepted procedure and has resulted in much original African Christian music.

Father John Hallward, C.R.

Christchurch, Borrowdale has published a small booklet — "A Tribute" to Father John Hallward. A short introduction mentions the contributions made by the Community of the Resurrection to the development of Rhodesia and gives an all too brief outline of Father Hallward's career. He became Chaplain with the Rhodesia Railways Mission in 1900, then served in Fort Victoria, Bulawayo, Umtali and Penhalonga before leaving Rhodesia in 1914. The most intriguing remark in the Introduction is that he "was co-founder of Plumtree School in a railway refreshment room in 1902". He also "bearded" Cecil Rhodes to ask for money. The "Tribute", with photograph, is by several anonymous writers, and concerns his character and, in general terms, his work for church schools. But even the slender amount of information given in this booklet does suggest that a fuller study of Father Hallward would be of interest and value.

A Reprint of:

THE MATABELE JOURNALS
OF
ROBERT MOFFAT

1829-1860

Volumes I and II

These important journals were first published in 1945 as No. 1 of the Oppenheimer Series. Both volumes have been out of print for a number of years, and the purpose of now reprinting them is to satisfy a constantly growing demand by libraries and collectors for works that form the basis of the development of Rhodesian historiography.

Apart from a new *Foreword*, the reprint, in paper-back or hard-cover edition, is a facsimile of the original volumes.

The price in Rhodesian currency for the two volumes is: Hard-cover \$16,50 per set and soft-cover \$12,00 per set.

Obtainable from:

THE DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF RHODESIA,
P.BAG 7729,
CAUSEWAY.

PUBLISHED BY THE RHODESIANA SOCIETY

