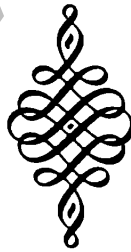




SIMON'S TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN



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EDITORIAL

The last time an Editorial appeared in the Bulletin was in Vol X No.3 of January 1979 when the first editorial board was formed following the death of Mr. F.P. Chapman. The formation of a new editorial board seems an appropriate occasion to publish another as two years have now elapsed since the appearance of the last editorial which inter alia dealt so ably with the role of the Simon's Town Historical Society (STHS) and its relationship with the Simon's Town Museum (STM). It is perhaps primarily the role of the STHS and to a lesser extent its relationship with the STM which has been the subject of considerable discussion among members of the STHS for the past year or so.

The objects (and to an extent the role) of an historical society are well summarized in an extract from a talk given by Mr. R.F.M. Immelman to the STHS on 20th April 1960. The extract appears in paragraph 4 page 85 of Vol X No.3 January 1979 i.e.

"Objects of an historical Society. The aim of an historical society may be said to be to collect and preserve whatever historical records or objects of any kind which may illustrate or be connected with the local history of an area, to make them known, as well as to familiarise the local community with its history and historical places. The historical society takes history to local citizens and seeks to promote a wider appreciation of local history, with emphasis on collection, advancement and dissemination of knowledge about the history of the district."

Insofar as the relationship between the STHS and the STM is concerned the previous editorial explains the present position in para 5 p.82 of the same Vol X mentioned above i.e. ".....it is perhaps desirable to clarify the position of the Museum in relation to the Society. The Municipality of Simon's Town has made available the building to house the collection, the Provincial Administration has provided the salary for the Curator and these two authorities jointly grant financial aid towards the purchase of exhibits, showcases, equipment and the general maintenance of the Museum. The Curator's time is, however, almost entirely occupied by administrative and planning consideration and with public relations. The actual display, research and general viability and growth of the Museum still depends on the voluntary help and participation of the Society. So now, more than ever, there is an opportunity for members to be involved in this exciting project."

It seems generally agreed that during the years following its formation in 1960 the principal aims and role of the STHS were the establishment of a

Museum to house and preserve the historical records and objects etc which the STHS had been able to collect. Now that the Museum has developed into a viable and progressive (though rightly) independent entity a significant part of the role of the STHS has diminished although there is a lot it can still do in assisting with the collection of historiana (its "catchment potential" is surely considerable as there are over 500 active members) with particular reference to Simon's Town and the South Peninsula. Additionally there are probably "other ways" in which the STHS can help to meet the STM's needs in a particular situation, resource crisis and so forth.

Whilst there appear to be very good reasons to support the continuing co-existence of the STHS and the STM what is probably required is a reassessment and redefinition of the role of the STHS and its relationship with the STM. The Society's 21st AGM is due to be held in March 1981 so what better opportunity could present itself than this for the members to express their views on these two very important subjects. Hopefully it is clear that the purpose of this Editorial is not to propose any new or drastic changes of approach but rather to stimulate thought and more important still generate discussion by the members at the AGM which it is hoped will be attended by as many members as possible. It is only in this way that the incoming committee will really be able to gauge the feelings of the members as to how they view the future of the STHS.

In less pedantic vein two contributions to this edition i.e. "The Residency" and "The Simon's Town Water Supply" should strike a responsive chord amongst the readers of the Bulletin. Not very much seems to have changed although in so far as "The Residency" is concerned, Lord Charles Somerset may not still be around but at least the Simon's Town Historical Society and the Simon's Town Museum are!!

Finally it has been suggested that the Society should undertake the reprinting of the following early editions of the Bulletin

January 1961	Vol 1	No. 1
June		No. 2
January 1962		No. 3
June		No. 4
January 1963	Vol 2	No. 1
June		No. 2
January 1964		No. 3
June		No. 4
January 1965	Vol 3	No. 1
June		No. 2

Could you please let the Hon. Sec./Treasurer know whether you would be interested in purchasing copies of these early editions ?

WHY THE NAVY NEVER GOT THE RESIDENCY IN 1815

H C Willis

(This article was found among the Willis papers that are in the possession of the Simon's Town Museum)

Vice Admiral Charles Tyler to His Excellency Lord Charles Somerset,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Admiralty House, Cape Town.
19th January, 1815.

I have received through the Navy Board the directions of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty dated the 25th of August addressed to the late Commissioner Dundas to purchase immediately for the Residence of the Commissioner the House of Mr Brand at Simon's Town agreeably to the original Plan laid before their Lordships by Vice Admiral Stopford and Commissioner Shield.

Commissioner Dundas did not unfortunately act up to that plan but purchased the House belonging to Mrs Hurter, which their Lordships have ordered to be the future Residence of the Admiral commanding on this Station.

It is of the utmost importance to the completion of the Naval Establishment at Simon's Town that Mr Brand's house, which has been purchased by the Colonial Government for Public Offices, should form part of it in consequence of its being so nearly attached to and overlooking the whole of the Naval Yard.

I have, therefore, to request that your Excellency will, if it is possible, cause this Building to be given up and I will order any Expense the Colonial Government may have incurred to be repaid or another house, if there are any to be sold, to be purchased for the Colonial Offices.

Should there be none, however, that will answer the purpose a similar Building to the one in question shall be taken in hand on any spot the Colonial Government may point out.

I am persuaded that your Lordship will give me every aid in your power to accomplish the plan laid down and approved by the Lords Commissioners of the Board.

Your Lordship is so well acquainted with the situation of Mr Brand's House with respect to the Naval Yard that I need not trouble your Lordship with any further explanation to press the necessity of my

request.

(Cape Archives C.O. 68/58)

Charles Henry Somerset to H E Vice Admiral Tyler

23rd January, 1815.

I have been under the necessity of delaying the answer of Y E's letter of the 19th. inst. in order that I might ... transmit to your Excellency the plan of the distribution and appropriation of the extensive premises late belonging to Mr Brand which it is Y.E.'s desire should be given up by the Colonial Government for the future residence of the Naval Commissioner. I embrace with pleasure the opportunity this communication affords me to assure you how anxiously I shall serve every occasion of rendering all the assistance in my power towards the convenience and comfort of the Naval Establishment now forming at Simon's Town of which I trust I cannot give Y.E. greater proof than by saying that I shall be ready to give up the premises in question as soon as equal accommodation can be provided for the various branches of the Civil Establishment now concentrated in these Buildings.

The Colonial Government has already ceded to the Naval Department all the public land between the Naval Hospital and the premises late Mr Hurter's upon which any considerable building could be erected, the land adjoining the Military Barracks, the Officers' Quarters of these buildings now appropriated to the Colonial Establishments excepted. I was considerably influenced in directing the purchase of Mr Brand's premises by a wish to afford greater accommodation to those persons, connected with the Naval Department, who could not even be housed at Simon's Town so long as the several Officers of the Civil Service had their Offices scattered in various parts of the town and I should not even then have brought them into the present building, had I not been officially assured that it was not the intention of the Naval Branch to occupy them.

Notwithstanding these circumstances, if Y.E. will point out in what manner the Officers of this Government can be as well accommodated, I shall be very desirous to meet your wishes although it is evident that no locality is to be obtained so central and so commanding as the premises in question.

The greatest difficulty will occur with respect to a Custom House and adequate storerooms, it being indispensable that buildings of this nature should be situated as near the landing place as possible.

(Cape Archives C.O. 2837/196)

Vice Admiral Chas. Tyler to His Excellency Lord Charles Somerset.
Admiralty House.
29th January, 1815.

I have had the honour to receive your Excellency's answer to my letter of the 19th. instant stating the terms on which Your Excellency is willing to give up the possession of the premises lately belonging to Mr Brand to the Naval Department.

Your Excellency must be aware of the impossibility of obtaining a building at Simon's Town, in which the Civil Establishment could be provided with such extensive accommodation as the premises in question afford and as I do not on further consideration think it expedient to authorise a Building of such magnitude to be undertaken without further instructions on the subject I beg to acquaint your Excellency that I shall not take any further steps on the occasion until the pleasure of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty shall be known.

(Cape Archives C.O. 68/63)

Comment by H C Willis : But the Navy may try again, when there is no Lord Charles around.



Mr Brand's house - later the Residency.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE, SIMON'S TOWN : a compilation of source material from 1850.

F X V Santucci O.M.I.

Introduction

What follows is not meant to be a systematic history of the Roman Catholic Parish of Saints Simon and Jude, Simon's Town. It is rather a collection of the material I have been able to find referring to this parish. I have used primary sources (letters, parish registers, diaries, etc) and certain secondary sources (newspapers, magazines), but have purposely disregarded all other accounts written in recent years on the history of the parish. I have attempted to keep my approach strictly scientific, in that every statement made here has at its basis a primary or secondary source to back it up.

As I have not attempted to write the story of Simon's Town Catholic Parish, what I have here does not give a complete picture of events. It is my hope that someone will be able to devote time and research to completing my groundwork and will thus be able to produce a definitive and complete history of the parish.

I was in Simon's Town during 1978 as Catholic Naval National Service Chaplain and had a very limited time at my disposal to do research. For this reason I have listed possible sources which must still be researched by someone attempting to complete this in Appendix III.

The First Church

The first priest recorded as having served in Simon's Town was Father James Watkins. In the 'African Journal' of February 11, 1850 we read : "I would also just remark that the Reverend Mr. Watkins repaired on board the NEPTUNE yesterday morning, and there celebrated Mass to the Roman Catholics."

The first entry in the parish register is dated 18 February 1850 and records a marriage by Fr Watkins in the "Roman Catholic Chapel at Simon's Town." We also find a deed of transfer with this same date reading :

"..... I do hereby grant, in Freehold, unto the Right Reverend Doctor Patrick Raymond Griffith for and on behalf of the Roman Catholic Community at Simon's Town, a piece of ground situated in the vicinity and to the Eastward of Simon's Town, containing three hundred and twelve square rods and seventy two square feet, for the purpose of erecting a chapel, a House for a clergyman and a school for religious instruction thereon, - extending N. to the public road, and towards the Bay, E. to the land of Mr. Clarence, S. towards the mountains and

W. to a passage between this and the so-called Black Town." (1)

A fuller picture of the early situation is given in an article in the 'African Journal' of Thursday 27 June 1850 :

"The Roman Catholics of Simon's Town, as well as the Soldiers, and others of that religion, occasionally settled there, have often regretted that they have no suitable Chapel, and Clergyman of their own, on the spot - a want which is, at length, about to be supplied them, by the Catholic Bishop, of this Colony, (The Rev. Dr. Griffith) who has arranged the necessary preliminaries for constructing a neat, and appropriate Edifice, on a convenient site granted by Government, close to the cottage of Mr. John Clarence, beside the road leading to 'Oatlands'.

"But, like every other similar undertaking, this cannot, of course, be fully successful without a share of public support - and, although several donations have already been cheerfully bestowed, yet in order to ensure perfectness, the appeal should be still more energetically answered. A friend to the cause has most kindly, and generously promised, that when £100 sterling shall have been realized, for this purpose, will, himself, add another £100 thereto. It may not be irrelevant to the subject, to acknowledge 'en passant', the unremitted kindness, and attention evinced by the Rev. James Watkins towards the unfortunate convicts on board the NEPTUNE (2) during their prolonged stay in Simon's Bay, and subsequently, in his visits to the poor sick and dying soldiers of the 95th Regt, lately embarked hence in H M S APOLLO - Those laudable efforts were not unheeded.

"Mr. Watkins will be attached to the new Chapel now in course of erection - meanwhile he has appropriated a part of his own residence, as a temporary place of worship, and would, no doubt, gladly receive any donations that may be forwarded to him for the advancement of the object in view." (3)

Nothing has come to light regarding the period since the above and 1853. Four baptisms are recorded as having taken place. On 26 June 1853 the name of Fr. James Kiernan appears in the registers for the first time, and it seems as if he remained in the parish until 1867. We gain a little information on this period from the diary of Bishop Grimley : (4)

"September 24, 1861 : Left Cape Town for Simon's Town, and was received most kindly by Rev James Kiernan the zealous priest. The Catholic population of Simon's Town amounts to forty persons. Opened little mission which was attended by many protestants. Visited the Flag Ship NARCISSUS, preached on board to the sailors.

"September 26 : Visited Kalk Bay Chapel, examined candidates for Confirmation and gave instruction. The Catholic population of Kalk Bay consists of Manilla fishermen. The Catholic population amounts to forty persons." (5)

Two years later the Bishop notes in his diary on 18 March 1863 :

"Received a letter from Rev. J. Kiernan, Simonstown, informing me he drew a bill for £20.0.0 to pay off carpenters etc etc employed on his church, and although there is no better priest than Fr. Kiernan, yet to avoid getting myself involved in debt, I thought it advisable to write the following letter"

A letter follows in which Fr. Kiernan is reprimanded for getting into debt, and in which the Bishop refuses to do anything about it. The bill was with a David Begley.

On 30 December 1865 Bishop Grimley writes :

"Official return of troops at Cape Town made this day :

At Cape Town	: 299 R. Catholics
Simon's Bay	: 32
Wynberg	: <u>11</u>
	342 "

The next entry is dated 1867 :

"On Tuesday the 25th June I blessed the cemetery and Mortuary Chapel in Simon's Town. I may remark that on my first visit to Simon's Town nearly six years ago I never was so astonished as at the Catholic cemetery in Simon's Town. The place for burial was in the mountain immediately in the rear of the Church or rather of the priest's house (6). The mortuary chapel has St. Joseph - the glorious spouse of the Blessed Virgin as its patron. Father Kiernan deserves the greatest praise for securing ground for the present cemetery and raising the Mortuary Chapel 24 X 14 feet. (7) Father Meagher of Rondebosch and Father Kiernan assisted me in the ceremonies. After the function of blessing I preached on 'Purgatory'. Some respectable Protestants were present. In the evening Fr. Kiernan entertained me and the chief inhabitants of the Town at dinner."

The Colonial Secretary wrote to Bishop Grimley on 10 June 1868 on the subject of this chapel : (8)

"My Lord,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to acquaint you that the Military Authorities have called attention to the fact that by the terms in which the land occupied by the South Battery of Simon's Town is rested in the Imperial Government, the War Department possesses clear-ance rights over the ground subsequently granted (in January 1864) to the Roman Catholic Church for the purposes of a burial place. It appears that the grant of ground to the Church, being for burial purposes only, cannot in strictness be held to include a right to erect elevated structures of any kind to the prejudice of the previously existing rights of the War Department. The Department has therefore thought proper, in view of a revision of the defences of Simonstown, to cause it to be intimated to the grantees, that should it be necessary in the event, or in antiapt-

ion of hostilities, to remove any erections which may interfere with the action of the Military Works, the clearance rights possessed by the Department will be brought into exercise, and any claims for compensation which may be presented must be considered in a strict interpretation of the terms of the grants."

Commenting on this in his diary, the Bishop writes :

"The above letter has reference evidently to the Mortuary Chapel which I blessed last year in Simon's Town. During the erection of the Chapel in the burial ground no objection, as far as I know, was made by any authorities."

During the course of 1867 Fr. Patrick Dunne took over Simon's Town parish. In 1868 Bishop Grimley writes in his diary :

"Death of Revd. James Kiernan, Simon's Town. This most excellent priest - a model of virtue - an honour to his Order - respected by all parties and all denominations in Simon's Town where he laboured for many years to the great advantage of those committed to his care, having during the last year got into bad health was advised to take a trip to Europe, he did so but did not experience any good effect.

"He died in the Haslar(?) Military and Naval Hospital, Gosport England on the 2nd of February - the Feast of the Purification, after receiving most piously the last sacraments, and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery, Gosport. Father Kiernan was a native of Co Cavan, Ireland, was ordained a priest in this city, Cape Town, by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Griffith. He is succeeded in Simon's Town by the Rev. Patrick Dunne, D. PH and D.D. - a native of Dublin Ireland, whom may God long preserve." (9)

The Bishop's prayer was not answered. The only reference in the Bishop's writings to Fr. Dunne's stay in the parish is dated 1868 :

"School at Simon's Town. I was in the school last week, it is held in the entrance to the Chapel, and taught by the zealous pastor - Dr. Dunne. The average attendance seems to be about 12 children."

In April 1869 Fr. Dunne died in an accident. The 'Cape Argus' of 23 April 1869 takes up the story :

"....(Fr. Dunne) was soon after located at Simon's Town, where he has served as Colonial Naval Chaplain and officiating priest up to the time of his paying this last unfortunate visit to Cape Town.

"The circumstances of his death are indeed painful. He was a young man, just completed his 28th year, in the possession of health, and had entered upon his holy mission with earnestness and true devotion. During the time he served at Simon's Town he had by his zeal in work of the Church, by his constant attendance on the poor, his urbanity to all with who he came into contact, his generosity and disinterestedness, gathered round him friends, not only members of the church to which he

belonged, but of all classes and denominations. No man could work with greater assiduity; and the anxiety exhibited since his accident by those who knew him, testifies to the admiration in which he was held. "He arrived here on his periodical visit, for missionary requisites, on the day before his accident, and was a visitor at St. Mary's. His custom was not to be away from his work at Simon's Town more than one day, he having a school in his own parish, which required his almost constant personal attention. He drove up to town in his buggy, and the Bishop's stable being full, he was compelled to put up his horse in a stable in Roeland Street, kindly offered him by Mr. Clear. The horse had never been ridden by him; but being persuaded that it would be as good a horse in saddle as in harness, he commenced to make a trial in Mr Clear's stable-yard. There being no martingale attached to the bridle, the animal threw up its head and commenced to rear desperately. Before the unfortunate gentleman could obtain a fair seat in the saddle, the horse threw him back heavily to the ground and rolled over him. The accident occurred almost in a moment. He was taken at once to bed, where he received the very kindest of treatment from the whole of Mr Clear's family up to the moment of his death. There was no injury to the upper portion of the sufferer's body : he was sensible throughout the whole of his illness. He was under the medical attendance of Drs. Chiappini, senior and junior, Dr. Abercrombie, junior and Dr. Mansfield, naval surgeon of H.M. ship RACCOON; and we are requested by the clergy of St. Mary's to say, that more kindness or attention from medical gentlemen was never before shown towards a patient. The clergy themselves were at the sufferer's bedside day and night throughout the whole of his illness, and all testifying to the patience and truly Christian spirit and resignation which the late gentleman manifested through all his desperate sufferings. When told that his death hour was at hand, he calmly answered, 'God's will be done.'

"The remains are to be taken this afternoon into the Cathedral, and will be interred in the nave tomorrow afternoon at four o'clock."

Fr. John Rooney and the second church

Fr. Dunne was succeeded by Fr. John Rooney, previously of Oudtshoorn, as parish priest of Simon's Town on 1 June 1869 (10). On 10 May the Colonial Secretary wrote to Bishop Grimley (11)

"I have the honour to acquaint you in reply to your letter of the 20th ultimo that His Excellency the Governor has on your nomination been pleased to appoint the Revd. John Rooney D.D. to be chaplain of the Roman Catholic Church at Simon's Town in the room of the Revd. Dr. Dunne deceased, with a salary of £100 per annum to have effect from the date of entering in his duties.

In June of the same year the Bishop notes in his diary that he has visited

Simon's Town. The relationship between the Catholic Church and the Naval authorities seems to have been good from the following entry: "A kind invitation. Commodore Dowell - the chief Naval Officer at Simon's Town called to see me and offered 'The Admiralty House at Simon's Bay' at my disposal whenever I visit Simon's Town."

His entry for 3 June describes the situation in the parish : "Simon's Town School. I found 16 pupils in this school. The priest teaches. I hope Dr. Rooney will be able to build a new church and convert the present chapel into a School Room."

The Bishop's wish regarding the building of a new church was put into effect during Fr Rooney's stay in the parish. The few documents relating to this period which have survived deal mostly with fund raising and the building of a new church.

The ecclesiastical return form for June 1878 (12) gives us a picture of life in the parish during this period. The number of Catholics in the district is put down as 36 Europeans and 19 Coloureds. There were 41 children in the school : 16 Catholics, 24 Protestants and 1 'infidel'. The number of persons who can be conveniently accommodated in the church at one service is put down as one hundred. There were three services in the church each Sunday at 10.30 a m, 12 and 6.30 pm, and Dr Rooney puts down the nature of these services as : "Mass, Catechism, and evening devotions." Finally he mentions that these services are fairly well attended.

Regarding the building operations, Fr Rooney built a proper school room soon after 1875(13), as until now he had been using the porch of the church. He apparently incurred a heavy debt as a result of this, as the following letter from the Bishop (now Bishop Leonard) shows :

"My dear Dr. Rooney,

You have my utmost unqualified approval of your efforts to raise funds among your friends in the Vicariate, for the purpose of liquidating the debt on your school. I shall be happy to start your list with a donation of ten pounds, and only regret that the heavy calls made on me at present do not allow me to do more. May your success be great enough to allow you to carry over a balance to your other fund for replacing your present dilapidated chapel by a more suitable structure.

With regard to this latter design I shall be happy to offer you five shillings on every pound you collect up to four hundred pounds." (14)

In another letter the Bishop gives sanction for the plans for a new church and presbytery costing £900. He instructs that the church is not to cost more than £500-560. He promises that any balance realised above



Interior of the Roman Catholic Church of Saints Simon and Jude,
Simon's Town.

£1 000 from the sale of the mission property at Kalk Bay will be given to Simon's Town for the buildings. (15)

The foundation stone of the new church was laid during January 1885 (16). During the same month Father Rooney published a "List of Subscriptions for the New Church and Presbytery" which contains the following letter of introduction :

"To the Catholics of the Vicariate and the many other friends of this Mission.

I cannot forbear to express my heartfelt gratitude for the generosity with which you have responded to my appeal for help to enable me to clear off the liabilities of the Mission. It may not be out of place to lay before you the peculiar circumstances which caused me to appeal to your generosity.

My worthy predecessors, all of whom are now gone to their reward, held School in the Porch of the old Church, a room 12 feet long by 8 feet broad. For six years I followed their example, till in 1875 the Catholic children attending school numbered 28 : so that I was forced to build a proper school-room. To complete the building I was obliged to borrow money, for which I paid interest till 1883, when by permission of our worthy Bishop, I appealed to you to enable me to pay off the debt. With any surplus there might be I determined to put the Church and Priest's house in thorough repair. This latter, however, I found to be almost impossible, owing to the fact that all the timbers in the building were quite decayed, and the walls unsound. When I saw the state of the roof and floor, I felt that it was little short of a miracle that preserved us from a sad accident, considering that the Church had often been crowded.

What shall I say of the receipts taken at the two Bazaars held in Cape Town for the new Church'. It shows the great generosity of your hearts that at a time of general poverty and depression the two Bazaars realized nearly £500.

While tendering to you my heartfelt thanks, I am forced to continue depending on the generosity of my good friends to complete the Church and Presbytery which I have undertaken, and for which I still require about £500"(17)

The Ecclesiastical return form of 1887 (18) states that the church accommodates 200 people. (19)

Apart from the information given below from the Ecclesiastical Return Forms, practically nothing exists in the form of primary documents and sources regarding the later period of the history of the church in Simon's

Town. What follows is a summary of some of the figures from these forms, with some of the comments on the forms.

- June 1887 : Catholic population : 64
 Children at the school : 26
- Comments : "Much drunkenness and immorality as usual in a seaport town." Besides the civilian congregation, there has been a number of soldiers and sailors attending church here. The number of soldiers and sailors has varied from 12 to 63. The number of sailors 6 to 58."
- June 1888 : Catholic population : 58
- June 1889 : Catholic population : 60
 "Soldiers and sailors in attendance varies from 12 - 37 and 4 - 75 respectively."
- June 1899 : Catholic population : 76
 (not including servicemen.)
 on this form Fr. Meagher writes : "Since November 1897 I have been a cripple, and during 13 months, was an inmate of the Claremont Sanitorium, whence I returned hither on the 12th June. I am very considerably better, but unable to move about without the aid of crutches, or sticks.
 During my absence, the work of the district has been ably, zealously, and tactfully carried on by my worthy assistant-priest, Rev. T.J. Cullen, to whom I have much pleasure in recording my appreciation and thanks.
 From the 4th to 11th of the past month a mission was carried on by Rev. T. Murphy, S.J.; and it has been attended by most satisfactory results among the Catholics of the District.....
 During the recent mission the Apostleship of Prayer was established here."

In June 1900 Fr. Meagher writes:

"I regret to say that the interior condition of the fabric of our church here is lamentable in the extreme; horrible to look at; and to me an ever present source of sorrow and shame! I respectfully represent the urgency of the work of repairing the fabric, and removing the scandal of the condition of the building."

In June 1901 he writes:

"In submitting the annual report, I am sorry that it is necessary to draw attention to the statement made last year, of the lamentable condition of the interior of the fabric of our House of Worship.

During the time, embraced by this return, the number of military, of our faith, present in garrison has varied exceedingly : at one time there were more than 300 men; now there are not 50.

The number of sailors has similarly varied. They used to contribute to the "Propagation fund", but this has ceased during the present war."

Obviously the necessary repairs were done to the church after this, because in June 1902 we find the following report :

"The heavy and continuous rains, marking this winter, have played havoc with the interior of our church fabric, which looked so nice after the repairs, recently effected."

The June 1903 report gives the permanent Catholic population as 184, and this is explained by the remarks :

"The numerical increase in the Congregation is owing to the presence of a considerable number of Italian workmen at the dock extension works in this town. Very few of these men come even to Mass on Sundays. They contributed nothing to the upkeep of the mission."

He also mentions that the repairs in the church cost him £135.15.10.

The ecclesiastical return forms for the next three years yield very little of historical value except to show that old age has overtaken Fr. Meagher, and that his relationship with his curates was not too cordial. One gains the impression that this good priest was no longer capable of running a parish but that he remained in the parish as the nominal parish priest while Fr. Luke O'Reilly actually ran the parish.

After this the return forms were either not completed or have been lost. A note in the June 1933 return states : "During Rev. Cullen's rectorship here in 1926 an addition was built to the existing school at the cost of £600."

Footnotes.

- (1) Original copy in the Archdiocesan Archives, Cape Town.
- (2) The "Neptune" was a convict ship stranded in Simon's Bay for a while.
- (3) I have tried to discover where the original church was sited, but no plans exist of this. In the Simonstown municipality there is a set of plans of the convent on the church property. This is the building presently in use as a parish centre and hall. One of the rooms in this building existed before the 1926 convent was built. On inspecting the style of this room, one sees that it is different to the rest of the building, and could possibly have been the first church. Apart from this, there are no other definite indications as to its situation.
- (4) These writings are kept in the Cape Town Archdiocesan Archives under the title : "The History of the Episcopacy of the Most Revd. Dr. Grimley Autobiography."
- (5) From entries in the registers at Simonstown it would appear that Kalk Bay was served from Simon's Town at this time.

- (6) The parish registers refer to this burial place in the mountain behind the church. Today no trace of this burial place remains.
- (7) I was unable to discover the whereabouts of this chapel.
- (8) Original letter in the Archdiocesan Archives, Cape Town.
- (9) In the porch of the present church there is a plaque (in latin) commemorating the life and death of Fr. Kiernan.
- (10) Diary entries for April 30 and June 1 1869.
- (11) Original letter in the Archdiocesan Archives, Cape Town.
- (12) Original in the Archdiocesan Archives, Cape Town.
- (13) Of the Subscription List of 1885 kept in the Archdiocesan Archives.
- (14) Letter of Bishop Leonard to Dr. Rooney of 30 June 1881. Copy in the Archdiocesan Archives.
- (15) Letter of Bishop Leonard to Dr. Rooney in the Archdiocesan Archives. The date of this letter is faded, and cannot be deciphered.
- (16) Bishop Leonard's Lenten Pastoral Letter of 1885. Kept in the Archdiocesan Archives.
- (17) Original copy in the Archdiocesan Archives.
- (18) This and all the other "Ecclesiastical Return Forms" referred to are kept in the Archdiocesan Archives.
- (19) I have been unable to find any details of the opening of the church. The ecclesiastical records do not refer to it, and I have read all the newspapers available in the Cape Town Archives for 1885. This leads me to suspect that perhaps the opening was either not covered, or else may have taken place in 1886.

List of Priests whose names appear in the Parish Registers.

James Watkins (from February 18, 1850)

James Kiernan

P. Van Ewijk O.P. (only one entry for October 23, 1853)

Patrick Dunne

John Rooney (took over on June 1, 1869)

Thomas Meagher

Bernard O'Riley

Thomas Cullen

T.A. Nolan

Luke O'Reilly

J.J. Tyndall (appointed on September 5, 1908 according to the ecclesiastical return form of June 1909)

L.H. Barry

C. Nalin S.J.

Rene Michielsens

Father Costello

A. Seba

T.A. Introna

R. Cawcutt

F. Santucci OMI (National Service Chaplain during 1978)

Note: From 1933 onwards several names appear in the registers, but these were obviously temporary supplies during the absence of the various parish priests, and I have not included their names in this list. All the parish registers are kept in the Parish of Sts Simon and Jude, Simonstown.

Source material which has been consulted, and possible sources for future research.

I have consulted the following :

Parish registers and letters, Simonstown.

Cape Town Archdiocesan Archives.

Simonstown Municipal Archives.

Simonstown Museum.

All Western Cape newspapers up to and including 1885, kept at the South African Library.

The South African Catholic Magazine (in the Archdiocesan Archives).

Possible sources for future research :

Archives of the Royal Navy and South African Navy.

Cape Town City Archives.

All newspapers from 1886 onwards.

Society for the Propagation of the Faith Archives in Paris for the annual reports submitted by the Vicars-Apostolic on the affairs of the Vicariate.

The Vatican Archives may have certain information submitted on the parish.

A Correspondent, who calls himself 'Traveller', pathetically describes the privations he suffered one Sunday not long since, on the road to Simon's Town. Not having been able to procure the least refreshment during his hot ride, his stomach was so much out of order when he reached the Bay as to require medicine, but this he could not procure, as there is no Apothecary's shop at that place. He concludes by reprobating the rigor of Ordinance 54. ('The South African Commercial Advertiser', 4 April 1829.)

THE SIMON'S TOWN WATER SUPPLY

Public interest in the water affairs of Simon's Town has recently been aroused by the proposed water augmentation schemes. That the water supply has always been a topic of concern to both the inhabitants and the naval authorities is borne out by the following dispatch written at the time that the Municipality of Simon's Town was established and extracted from a file on the Water Supply compiled from Archival sources by the late Mr H C Willis.

G H 17/5

"Boadicea" at Simon's Bay

19th December 1883

Nowell Salmon, Rear Admiral and Commander-in-Chief, to H E Lieut General The Hon Leicester Smyth, C B Administrator and High Commissioner.

I have to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's dispatch of the 6th inst ... and beg you to convey to Ministers my thanks for an opportunity of expressing my opinion on the draft regulations for the government of Simon's Town Municipality with the view of avoiding any conflict of rights, especially with regard to water.

2. These Regulations do not make any reference to existing Admiralty rights, and I am informed by the Chairman of the Municipal Board that it was intended by that body that if any such do exist, the passing of the Regulations drafted by them should render these rights null and void.

3. I regret that I am unable to come to any terms with the Council. I have long been in communication with them on the subject of the water supply and since the receipt of your dispatch, I have again addressed them ...

4. The Chairman informed me that the burden thrown upon the Town's people by the formation of a Municipality is greater than they can bear unless the Admiralty (who, as Your Excellency is aware, own a large amount of property in Simon's Bay which is not rateable) will in some way contribute. I was more than willing to meet their wishes in this respect and informed the Chairman that I would support a proposal from the Council that the Admiralty should contribute the sum which he named (£50 per annum) as a fair compensation for the benefits they derive from the use of the roads, etc. but that I should strenuously resist any attack on the Admiralty rights as to water. I also informed him that the Admiralty had approved of the expenditure of £750 to add to the existing supply to the Naval Tank, the overflow from which would

run to the Town Tank.

5. I enclose a Memorandum compiled from the Records of my Office and that of the Resident Magistrate (the latter furnished to me by the Chairman of the Council) which contains a history of the water question here since 1812. A perusal of this memorandum will show that ever since that date the right of the Navy to the whole supply from the main pipe, on emergencies, has been maintained by that Department and allowed by the Colonial Authorities.

6. Before Simon's Town assumed its present proportions and when the "fountain" was the common rendezvous for water, the demand of the Navy for water was very considerable, necessitating occasionally (as in 1849, when the Town supply was cut off for three days) the use of the whole supply from the main pipe.

7. In 1826 the Lieutenant Governor pointed out that whatever improvements the Navy wanted they must pay for, and from time to time various items of expenditure for water service appear.

8. In 1851, however, the Resident Magistrate proposed to carry all the water from the main spring to a general reservoir, from which the Town and Naval Establishments were to receive an equal supply. This led to much correspondence, resulting in the building of the Town Tank with a stop cock above it which the Navy were empowered to turn off on emergencies.

9. In 1855 the Naval Tank, holding 500 tons, was built.

10. In 1859 the Colonial Government, in compliance with the Admiral's representations, decided that water from the main pipe should not be carried into any more houses, and pointed out to the Resident Magistrate the necessity of increasing the Town supply from other sources. About this time the Harbour Board Tank was built. This tank is for the supply of the merchant shipping which is now represented by Vessels bringing Coals and Stores to the Naval Yard. The spring from which it is filled is not much inferior to that which supplies the Navy and the greater part of the Town. Beyond supplying a few houses in the immediate neighbourhood, no use is made of this tank, the whole of this excellent supply of water is running to waste. I mention these facts to your Excellency to show that there is plenty of water here. The Town is in a very dirty condition, it is true, and it is high time to adopt sanitary measures, which will necessitate an increased consumption of water. They will be made practicable by using the supply from the Harbour Board tank, supplemented by the considerable gain which must arise when the addition

to the Naval supply, referred to in para. 4, is brought in.

11. It only remains for me to submit to your Excellency that in the transfer of property from the Colonial Government to the Municipal Council, the rights which the Colony has granted to the Navy at Simon's Town may be guarded.

12. I think the present a very good time to settle a long vexed question, and it was with this view that I addressed the Council on the 14th instant. My proposal to them practically amounted to this, that the Admiralty shall have absolute control over the spring which at present supplies both the Navy and the town tanks, but which the Navy are empowered to cut off from the Town in case of emergency and that they shall be permitted to bring in extra water at their own cost, and that the overflow from both sources shall be led into the Town Tank. For these privileges, I was prepared to recommend to the Admiralty a payment of £50 a year.

13. I regret that the Council has adopted what I can only regard as a very short sighted policy. The existence of the town is entirely dependant on the maintenance of the Naval Establishments, and the town's people have been constant gainers by the improvements which the Admiralty have made and are willing to make in the water supply. I may mention that the Navy is still paying a mason permanently for keeping clear the sources, it having been considered that they are the most interested in securing a constant supply. These points it is convenient for the Council to ignore; they are not desirous that the Navy should do less than formerly towards maintaining a sufficient water supply, but they want to ease themselves of the burden, which the formation of a Municipality necessarily imposes upon them, by asking the Admiralty to pay an annual rent for improvements which that Department has effected, whilst at the same time they make a proposal which I can only regard as preposterous viz. that the requirements of the Navy, at a purely Naval Station, in such an important element as water, shall henceforth, during war as well as at other times, be placed under the control of a Municipal Council.

14. To carry out the proposals of the Council, they would be compelled to purchase from the Admiralty the tanks and water service at present existing; without this they would be altogether unable to supply either the Admiralty Establishments or a considerable portion of the Town, including the Magistracy and Colonial Gaol. Their largest tank is capable of holding 60 tons, whereas the Navy found it necessary, in 1855, to build a tank holding 500 tons (In margin - "In addition to one of 120 already existing"), and it is in contemplation still further to increase the means of storage.

15. I append a rough plan which will show Your Excellency what my proposal is. The springs to the North, which I ask for permission to bring in, are calculated to supply about 8,000 gallons of water per diem in the dry season (In margin "These amounts are approximate only"), that marked No. 2 11,000 gallons, No. 3 about 6,000 gallons. There is in addition a small supply to the Eastward, which is divided between the Naval Hospital and the houses surrounding it.

16. I return herewith the draft regulations and venture to suggest to Your Excellency that their approval shall be deferred so as to admit of the insertion of a clause preserving to the Admiralty the rights which they at present enjoy, which are so necessary to the efficiency of the Naval Station and the exercise of which has undoubtedly proved very beneficial to the inhabitants of Simon's Town.

Enclosure 3.

Simon's Town Water Supply.

The correspondence from which the memorandum is compiled dates from 1812.

1812. On the 20th April 1812 the Captain of H.M.S. "Lion" requested the Customs to acquaint the Port Captain that the Water Pipes on the Wharf must be put into complete repair.

1813. In the following year the Governor consented to the Water Superintendent undertaking the Water Works at Simon's Town, and referred him to the Naval Commissioner for further instructions.

1816. In 1816 the Water Works and Conduit were reported complete and the Colonial Secretary directed the Government Resident to consult the Naval Commissioner and Mr Gardner on the subject of permanently keeping them so. They proposed to place a keeper at the first spring to attend to the water supply, the Master Attendant to take charge of the waste cock on the Wharf, Mr Gardner and the Master Attendant to take charge of the cocks supplying the shipping, and a sentry to be placed there to prevent the water being used except for watering the ships.

The Governor approved.

1818. By arrangement between the Naval authorities and the Resident, a stream at the South End of the Town was made jointly available for supplying the Naval Hospital and the inhabitants in the vicinity; Colonial and Imperial Governments shared the expense.

1822. Water Superintendent informed the Colonial Secretary that there would always be complaints that Men of War could not water fast enough, until there is a tank built exclusively for them.

1824. 29 July, Contract entered into by Colonial Government for care of water pipes and channels. The Superintendent of the water pipes was instructed to attend generally to the pipes etc. and specially to see that on Mr Osmond's property no water is lost to the shipping; also to attend when Boats are watering, so that there may not be any complaints of want of water.

Wooden Reservoir at end of Searcher's Office contains 1,000 gallons, and into this the whole of the supply from the hill runs until it is full when a ball cock stops it.

1826. The Colonial Secretary transmitted to the Resident Mr Chisholm's report of the water supply and directed him to consult with the Commodore. Whatever improvements Commodore may think required for better supply of the Navy must be paid for by that Department. Colonial Funds cannot be charged with any expense for improvements calculated for the benefit of the Navy alone.

1835. Admiralty approved of an expenditure of £120 to build a Naval Tank.

1843. Admiral Joscelyn Percy reported to Admiralty that to prevent the inconvenience experienced in Admiralty Buildings arising from interference with Stop Cocks by persons not understanding the Water system, he had approved of placing the water supply entirely under the control of the Naval Storekeeper and granted the Store Porter £10 a year for turning on and off the water.

Admiralty approved.

1847. Admiral Dacres complained to Colonial authorities of the defective condition of the pipes as likely to be very inconvenient in case H.M. ships should require to be completed suddenly. Suggested that the Colonial pipe should be placed under the care of the person superintending the Naval Pipes.

On this the Resident Justice reported that the first branch pipe inserted on the main pipe leads to the Naval Tank of 100 tons, the second and third branches lead along the Dockyard Wall to the Admiral's House, and furnish six minor pipes as well as the Gaol pipe, the only Colonial pipe upon them.

The fourth pipe supplies the fountain, the common rendezvous for water, and the Main pipe leads thence direct to the Merchant's Jetty. As the Navy has the preference on the Main pipes, so long as no complaint of want of water at the fountain is received it is presumed that the Colonial pipes cannot be materially out of order. Thinks the Chief Constable should superintend Colonial pipes. Governor informs Admiral that Resident Justice will have pipes repaired and Chief Constable will make a weekly report of their condition. His Excellency trusts this will prevent any inconvenience to the Naval Establishment. Material sent out to build a 500 ton Tank; no order for the work.

1848. Mr Willet allowed by Admiral to join a pipe to Naval Water pipes, provided House is not used for a Canteen. If permission is abused, will be instantly withdrawn.

1849. Commodore Wyvill represented to Governor the inefficient state of the Water Works. Recently when two French ships of war wanted water it occupied three days and three nights to fill the naval Tank Vessel with 90 tons, during which time the water was cut off from the inhabitants. Admiral begs that an Engineer may be sent down to report. Navy will afford him every facility.

1850. Captain Pilkington ordered to report. He suggested that the Naval pipes should be the first or uppermost ones, connected with the Colonial pipe (as it always has been) with a stop cock to it. Below it the pipes leading to the proposed town tank, a pipe to take waste water from naval to town tank, of 100 tons of 10 days supply; this plan was nearly carried out when, in Commodore's absence, the Resident Magistrate stopped it (In margin. - "16 Feby."). It appears that he, in forwarding Captain Pilkington's report, made a proposal of his own that a general reservoir should be constructed to collect all the water and that from this tank three pipes should lead to three tanks, one for the Town, one for the Merchant shipping and one for the Navy. The Governor on the 21st July approved of this plan "provided the pipes leading to the Naval Wharf and tanks are kept very clean" - but inhabitants of Simon's Bay should share in the expense of building Reservoir - Convict labour may be used and Colonial Funds to the extent of £50. Captain Pilkington agreed on the superiority of the Resident Magistrate's plan provided the reservoir be kept in good condition, and the pipes of each Department placed in the same level. But if neglected as Colonial pipes are, it may happen that there will not be water for anybody.

11th. December. Commodore invited the Governor to reconsider the matter. Mr Pinney's plan will give equal supply to town and naval establishments, whereas the needs of the latter are often 100 to 1 of the former. The Naval Department would be dependent on the efficiency of the Town Tank. Captain Pilkington's plan recommended. If more water is wanted there is ample from the spring over centre of town.

1851. In consequence of this representation, the Governor, Commodore and Resident Magistrate visited the water works and on the 20th March the following plan agreed upon was communicated from the Colonial Secretary's Office to the Commodore. The Naval pipe at its junction with main pipe is to be placed underneath instead of at the side of main pipe. (This would secure the whole supply to the Navy in emergencies.) A tank to hold 50 tons to be built by Government and the inhabitants a little below the junction of the naval pipe with the main pipe and out of the lower side of that tank, the main pipe for the service of the town to be placed. Position of naval pipes not to be altered till Colonial tank is finished provided that is done within three months. If not finished Naval Department may then alter

position of Naval pipe. The Colonial Tank of 50 tons always to be kept filled for town use.

The proposed alteration in the position of the pipes was found a difficult operation and the Naval Storekeeper suggested to the Resident Magistrate instead that a stop cock should be placed above the Colonial Tank to secure if necessary the whole supply to the Navy without altering the pipes. This stop cock was placed and then a question arose as to the custody of the key. Finally the Resident Magistrate and the Naval Storekeeper each had one. The Tank for the town supply was at once completed by the Naval Department. In October of this year the Commodore reported to the Colonial Government that the Resident Magistrate was laying down a line of 3 inch pipes through the Main Street, intended eventually to convey water to each house, and pointing out that this would absorb all the water from the spring and be a serious inconvenience to the Navy. The Resident Magistrate explained to the Colonial Secretary that the pipe was being laid down now because labour was cheap and to carry out a resolution of the subscribers as to the appropriation of the balance of the tank funds. Ulterior object not determined on; considered at present to have a central pump. Nothing in having a central watering place repugnant to spirit of arrangement with Navy; stop cock above Navy tank will secure Navy from waste. No objection to supply being regulated to average consumption of town, say 2 or 3 feet daily. Colonial Tank of 50 tons is, on emergencies, at the service of the Navy. In acknowledging the receipt of this report the Commodore pointed out that the Naval Department has always had the control of the water, that the plan he desired to carry out would secure to the town more water than they had ever had beforehand that to protect the Navy they ought to be given the undoubted privilege, on emergencies, of turning off the stop cock above the Colonial Tank, in consideration of which a supply of water will be maintained for the town at the Victualling Yard.

No objection to Mr Pinney's proposal to supply average consumption.

November. Governor replied that it does not appear that by contemplated plan of supplying water to the Town the Naval Department will be deprived of the water ensured to them by present arrangement. Instructions given to Resident Magistrate that Naval Department shall have, on emergencies, privilege of turning off stop cock above Colonial Tank, supply of water for town being maintained at Victualling Yard.

This arrangement was reported by the Naval Storekeeper after communication with the Resident Magistrate to be satisfactory.

1852. On the recommendation of the Commodore the Governor approved of the source of the Colonial pipe being altered.

1853. Admiral Talbot represented to the Admiralty the very serious inconvenience experienced by the Navy and the Town in watering 7 of H.M. ships. They wanted 650 tons and could not get it in a week. £1300 inserted on Estimates 1854/55 to build a Tank.

1855.

1856. Owing to increase in prices it costs £2,200 exclusive of pipes to build this tank. Governor approved of the direction proposed for pipe from Naval Tank to Barracks.

Governor approved of an arrangement proposed by the Commodore to lead a branch pipe direct to the Hospital from main pipe provided equitable arrangement be made for division of water between Hospital and inhabitants.

1857. Resident Magistrate reports the arrangement there made satisfactory to the two interests concerned.

1859. Admiral Sir Frederick Grey called attention of Colonial Government to the inconvenience that will arise if permission is given to Mr Martin to extend water pipes from Colonial tank to his house at east end of town. They should look to other available sources of supply.

On this the Resident Magistrate was ordered to report. He replied that Mr Martin had nearly completed laying down the pipe - that the Naval Authorities had the privilege, on emergencies, of turning off the stop cock above the Colonial Tank and that since the privilege was granted a tank to hold 500 tons has been built and an additional 3 inch iron pipe inserted in the main pipe. Navy can stop supply of water to the Colonial Tank of 60 tons until their two tanks (120 and 500 tons) are full.

Mr Martin's house might be supplied from the tank at the East end.

There is a very fine spring a few yards to the East of the source of supply to the Government Tank built in 1851 which runs to waste. If this were appropriated there would be no further deficiency.

Colonial Secretary informed Admiral that, as permission had been given to Mr Martin and his pipes were already laid, his supply could not be interfered with; no similar permission will be given to others without consideration of the sufficiency of the supply; His Excellency trusts no inconveniences will arise from the permission given to Mr Martin. Attention of Resident Magistrate called to advisability of increasing supply.

1862. Inhabitants at a public meeting expressed their desire to have the water supply placed under a Board of Commissioners elected by them; express their willingness to be taxed to secure a liberal supply of water, ask what are the respective rights of the Admiralty, Colonial Government and Harbour Board. Resident Magistrate submits report to Government and recommends that increased supply from springs running to waste is necessary. Sir Baldwin Walker furnishes the Resident Magistrate with copy of the Colonial Secretary's letter of 20 March and 3 November 1851. Considers water supply should be increased, but that it will be highly injudicious to interfere with existing right of the Navy to the use of the Main Spring.

1866. Admiralty sanctioned a new line of pipes at a cost of £270 to increase the water supply. Commodore Caldwell called the attention of Governor to the inefficiency of the water supply. Asks permission to connect with Naval Tank a spring 140 feet below main spring head.

1867. Water Committee proposed to lead this waste water into main pipe, thus benefiting equally town and Navy. They state there is abundance of water for all.

Commodore informed Resident Magistrate his objection was to save the necessity on special occasions of shutting off the supply from the Colonial Tank and thus inconveniencing the Navy. However if Water Committee on further consideration think their plan best he will concur.

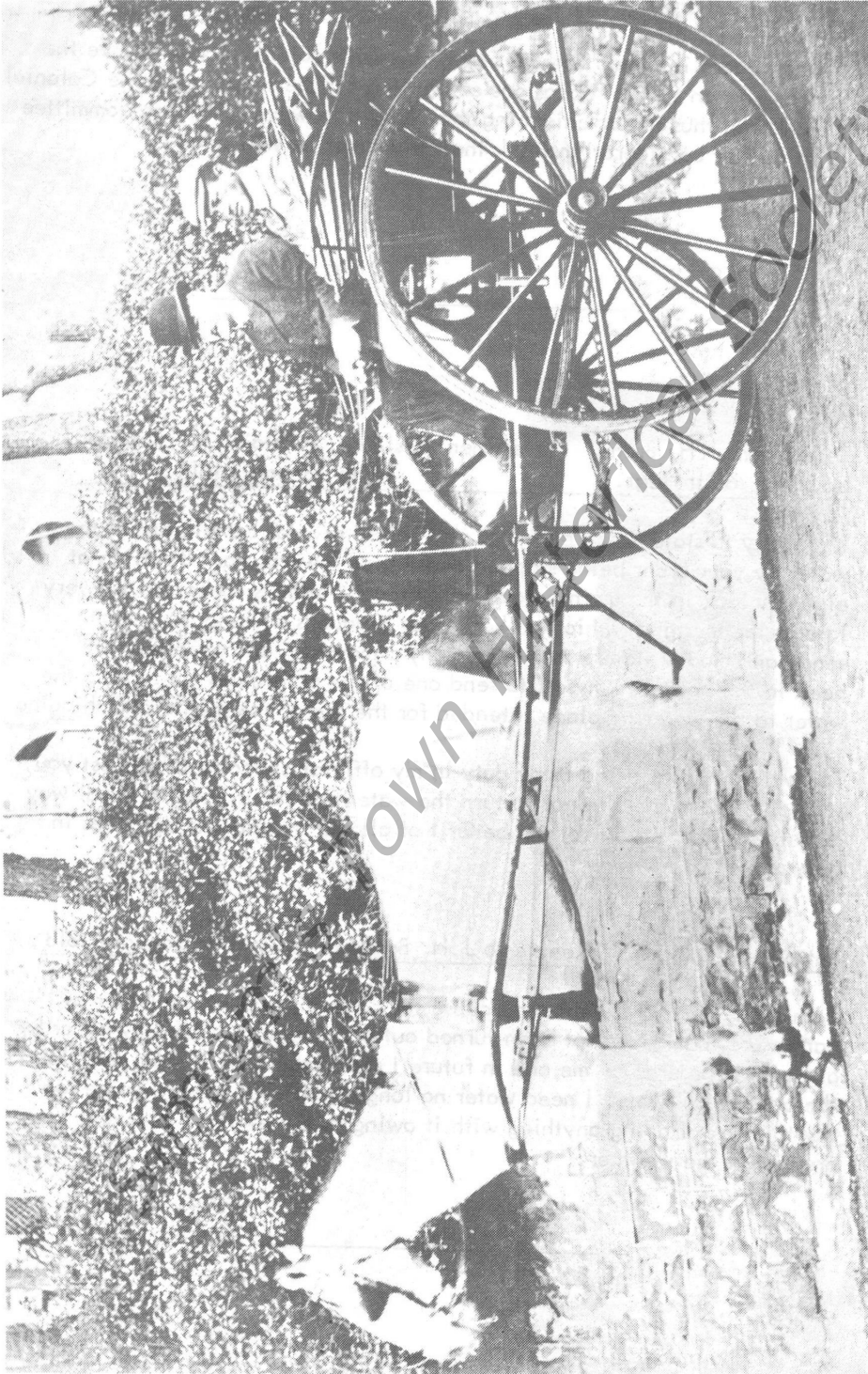
Letter from J.H. Brand, Government Resident, to Major MacKenzie,
1st Battn, 60th Regt. 19th January, 1813

I am sorry to state that I have not only heard several complaints, of the water by your order being stopped and turned towards your dwelling at eight o'clock in the morning and only brought into its former course very late in the morning, which an hour after produces nothing more than sandy and muddy water; but even many a morning and evening have been in the necessity myself to send one of the constables for turning the water to the watering place intended for the use of the public and shipping.

For which reasons I find it my duty in my official capacity to request you will give such orders as not to turn the water and let it have its usual way as before your arrival for the benefit of all the inhabitants and ships in the harbour.

Letter from Major MacKenzie to J.H. Brand in reply 19th January, 1813.

I am sorry you should have any cause for complaint about the water as I can assure that it has not been turned out of its regular course by me or by any person ordered by me and in future I shall take care it shall not, for the purpose for which I need water no longer exists my garden being too dry to think of doing anything with it owing to the extreme heat and drought of the weather.



Dr Henry Clark, Major, Cape Garrison Artillery and District Surgeon, Simon's Town, outside the Church of Sts Simon and Jude. He lived where St Joseph's Convent now stands having bequeathed his property to the Catholic Church.

UNSANITARY SIMON'S TOWN. An Official Condemnation.

Simon's Town is in a bad way from a sanitary point of view according to the report for 1894 of Dr. H. Clarke, the district surgeon. This gentleman draws a most pessimistic picture of the Municipality. Here are a few extracts from his report: The water supply is totally inadequate. The various springs about the mountain yield a sufficiency of pure water if properly conserved, but instead of building a suitable reservoir, year after year nothing more is done than to discuss the matter. The supply is so bad that water has frequently to be sent to several inhabitants in the town water-cart. The water supply is insufficient owing to want of storage. One of the streams, namely, the Kloof stream, supplying the town, is liable to contamination in the Range valley. The water is also liable to pollution within the town, owing to the pipes being laid in the same channel with the drains. Night-soil is thrown into the sea and refuse is collected daily by two carts, and is burned on one of the beaches. Some drains are unventilated and consequently dangerous. Several houses are still unprovided with privies. When privies are found overflowing and other accumulations of filth are discovered by the police, who act as sanitary inspectors, a report is at once made to the local authority, but unfortunately the authorities fail to prosecute in a large number of cases. The "Brook" neighbourhood has still an insufficient water supply. Some dwellings are overcrowded. I cannot report on slaughterhouses, butcheries, bakeries, dairies and other trades affecting health, for I have no power to inspect such premises. Persons who are engaged in those businesses seem averse to their places being inspected by a Government officer, but they are subject to supervision in every civilised country throughout the Empire, and why this Colony should be an exception one fails to understand. Two slaughter-houses exist in Simon's Town, the refuse, blood, &c. from which are discharged into drains, which emit bad odours during the summer. Were slaughtering carried on outside the town would be healthier. The dairy regulations have not been adopted. Cattle abound in Simon's Town, and pig-sties flourish in its most thickly populated places. It is of no use to complain to the local authority, for although they order the owner to clean the objectionable pigsty, within a few days it becomes as objectionable as ever, and so the nuisance goes on repeating itself. With regard to sanitary improvements, I would rather the local authority itself stated all it has done. An objectionable location exists about a mile from the town, within the municipal limits. I do not believe it is subject to any regulations whatever, but it is fortunately not large. The general health of the municipality is indifferent. There were a few cases of typhoid fever brought to my notice, two of diphtheria, and three of scarlatina. The typhoid and diphtheria were probably due to bad sanitation. ("Cape Times" 24 July 1895).

THE TRIGGER HAPPY OFFICERS OF THE SIMON'S TOWN GARRISON

Compiled by the late H C Willis

S.M.T. 11/2/117

J H Brand to Captain W Byron, 93rd Regiment,
Commanding Officer, Simon's Town.

23rd January, 1811

I am very sorry to be in the necessity of making my complaints to you that my only pointer, worth 25 to 30 rds., was shot through the body from the steps before the Mess House by some Military Gentleman, when standing on the beach and not molesting anybody, which, if done by an Inhabitant, would be seriously prosecuted because there is no right that admits the killing of dogs or other house animals belonging to Individuals.

The risk I run with my house by the continual firing of guns in the South East winds I have no need to mention as with the slightest imprudence the house may happen to take fire.

There is a law forbidding the firing of guns between the two batteries in consequence of which I hope you will give such directions to prevent that no complaints or any misfortunes may result that the Law may be protected.

.....

(Loose paper unsigned and undated) Enclosed in S.M.T. 10/1 Inkomende Brieve 1797 - 1804.

Memo : Unknown date, probably after 1824 when Heemraden first appointed.

About the year 1796 or 7 some persons firing from the beach in Simon's Town at the Sea birds on the rocks a short distance from the shore, a Ball glanced and went through the heart of a Ship wright at work upon a stage on board H.M. Ship "America". -

In consequence of the above accident His Excellency the Governor / on representation of the Naval Commander / issued a proclamation forbidding any person to fire a musket between the North and South Batteries - as there is no person living in Simon's Town who remembers for what purpose the law was made, it has been construed into a prohibition for any person to kill vermin, destroying their gardens, and although the Clerk of the Naval Hospital and the Notary of Simon's Town ~~have each been called upon to pay the fine of fifty Rds;~~ (sic) the one for killing a goat, the other a pig which had destroyed their respective gardens, were fined fifty Rds. agreeable to the letter of the law - still these fines being contrary to

the spirit of the law have never been enforced or paid -

The Resident and Heemrad of Simon's Town have to request His Excellency will be pleased to draw the line and point out for their guidance in what manner firearms are to be used (?) as at the present moment a person may be subjected to a prosecution for killing vermin by a Musket in his own enclosure although such vermin had entirely destroyed his young Plantations.

.....

S.M.T. 11/3/25

J.H. Brand to Major General J. Baird.

23rd July 1812.

This morning my Constable reported to me that last night between 11 and 12 o'clock he heard some musket shots near the wharf

The wine farmer's clerk in the store opposite the Wharf, also this morning lodged his complaints with me; that at the abovementioned time, he heard the report of a musket which was fired at his door in the alley round the corner of the wine store but then, from fear, being prevented to quit his room this morning had discovered some small shot fired into his stairs leading to the said room. I feel it my duty to bring it to your knowledge this having taken place about the Guard House and not far from the sentry placed at the watering place who will certainly know what persons they were.

.....

S.M.T. 10/4/167

Joseph Baird, Major General, to J.H. Brand.

Government Gardens, 23rd July, 1812.

I was favoured with your letter of this morning reporting that some person had fired a musket in the night. I have sent to B. Major Renwick to make every enquiry into this most unmilitary act which must and shall be put a stop to.

S.M.T. 10/5/15

(Copy) Garrison orders, Simon's Town.

22nd March 1813.

Many accidents having happened in consequence of people shooting Birds from the shore, no Officer (is) to shoot or discharge a Gun on the beach from the Blockhouse to the North Battery.

By order of Major General Baird,
Edw. Renwick, Brigade Major.

.....

S.M.T. 10/5/15A

Edw. Renwick to J. H. Brand.

24th March 1813

Forwarding copy of the above and intimating that the order applies to all Inhabitants.

.....

S.M.T. 11/3/207

J.H. Brand to Capt. Maxwell, H.M. Ship "Daedalus".
23rd May, 1813.

By examining the two slaves belonging to Mr Osmond, which were brought from board your ship this morning, they confessed of being taken by force from a wine house in this town by one of your midshipmen.

I am bound to enquire into the truth of their confession and if gone by their own free will to inflict on them proper punishment.

But if carried off forcibly to request you might issue such orders for the future as will prevent slaves being taken by force at a considerable loss for their masters.

.....

S.M.T. 11/3/321

J.H. Brand to the Commanding Officer on board H.M. Ship
"Lion" in Simon's Bay.

29th November 1813.

One of the inhabitants here, Mr Frans Rossouw having complained about some of your sailors having made disturbances and beaten and wounded some masons under his care and in Government employ in such a manner that they are now unfit for duty, I request you will give directions for the sailors not to remain on shore in the night time which will prevent their committing such disturbances in future.

(From a Female Correspondent at Simon's Town)

It might bestir the Old Bachelors with which this Colony abounds, to hear the particulars of a wedding that took place here yesterday. Early in the morning it was announced that Hymen had something to do in the Dock Yard, by a beautiful garland of ribbands appearing at the head of H.M. sloop YORK. About eight o'clock p.m. the youthful happy pair arrived and immediately afterwards blue lights and rockets were set off from the YORK; a large bonfire also appeared opposite the British Hotel, where, with the many cheers of the people, fire works, it could easily be seen what joy a wedding gives. Now, what really can be the matter that Bachelors will put off that good day so long: is it that they suppose we Ladies are to be trifled with? No, Mr. Editor, place these few hints in print, as a memorial against the Old Bachelors. ("The South African Advertiser" 26.8.1829)

THE CHURCH COMPLEX IN KALK BAY

R R Langham - Carter

Holy Trinity parish in Kalk Bay is fortunate in that, unlike many others, it has all its buildings grouped close together and forming a complex. This is the more remarkable because the land on which they stand was none of it acquired by the parish itself or even by the diocese but by a number of different people at dates which covered a period of some thirty years. The buildings all lie on or near the main road from Simon's Town which at this point runs on an axis of south-west to north-east, and, conveniently for our purposes, the first acquisition was at the south-western end and each subsequent one took the complex a little further up the main road towards Cape Town.

Kalk Bay was for most of our period in the residency and magistracy of Simon's Town. It was in this town's parish of St. Frances until 1882 and it is still in the Simon's Town rural deanery. I understand that the records of Simon's Town parish are not available to researchers. Nevertheless I do not believe that they would yield much material on early Kalk Bay. For all the church developments in this area came from the Cape Town side. The story can be followed by study of documents in the Deeds Office in Cape Town and in many contemporary records.

The beginnings

The first Anglican move was by an unexpected body, the Wynberg and Rondebosch Christian Instruction Society, which obtained a free grant from the Government of erf 89883 on 29th December 1845. Their land, only 56 square rods in extent, lay just to the north-east of the principal group of fishermen's huts and close to the beach on the seaward side of the main road. They erected two small buildings. One served as a chapel for the fishermen on Sundays and as a school on weekdays. The other, further up the road and separated from the first by the playground, was the home of the catechist whom the Society employed to teach and hold the services.

The next step forward came on 8th August 1855 when Robert Gray the first Anglican Bishop of Cape Town bought erf 89657 to 89659 from the Cape Town merchant Oloff John Truter for £ 600. His purchase consisted of a large piece of territory running to 226 square rods 62 square feet and included a single-storey residence which is said to have been built in 1816. A photograph of the house, taken in 1863, is reproduced in Thelma Gutsche's book "The Bishop's Lady", and this old rectory appears to the south of the church in several photographs in the Cape Archives and in the Holy Trinity Muniments and one is reproduced in the centenary pamphlet which the parish issued in 1974. The stables which lay up the slope of the hill just above the house are also shown on some of the photographs.

The Ladies bountiful

When none of the Gray family were in occupation they lent Bishop's Cottage

others. These included two ladies from a religious Sisterhood in Cape Town. One of these was Miss Alice Pocklington. The spelling of the name of the other is in doubt. In books and records in this country she is variously Humphrey, Humphreys and Humphries. I believe, however, that the correct version takes the unusual form of Humphrey and hope to prove this in a later article on the church which the ladies founded. They took up residence in 1870 and were joined three years later by Harriet Humphrey's sister Charlotte.

Their first act was to rebuild the school-chapel, most of the cost being met probably by Alice Pocklington who became its head mistress. But it was Harriet who bought the first properties. On 16th May 1870 she bought some 416 square roods 48 square feet standing on erfs 89625 and 89651, which lay a little further up the main road from the school-chapel but on the left hand or mountain side. The seller was Lt-Colonel Henry Aston, a retired officer of the Bombay Army. Here she erected a large building which she called Dalebrook House and there is a photograph of it in the Cape Archives. As there was no medical help nearer than Simon's Town, six miles away along a very rough track, she equipped it as a hospital. Patients, however, proved to be few and the hospital did not function for very long.

Harriet made two further purchases on 29th November 1870. She bought a site of 230 square roods 70 square feet from Aston. This stood on erfs 89660 and 89667 and included his house which she demolished. The land lay between Bishop's Cottage and Dalebrook House and was to be the site for the church the ladies were going to build. She paid the colonel a total of £800 for her purchases.

In her other transaction on 29th November Harriet bought 112 square roods 60 square feet on erfs 89625 to 89627 and part of 89651 from the deceased estate of Oloff Truter, this area lying further north again up the road towards Cape Town. Here too there was already a dwelling house but it was pulled down and a new building erected. It was named Douglas Cottage after Henry Alexander Douglas who had been Dean of Cape Town from 1856 to 1868 and had been, after Bishop Gray, the principal supporter of the sisterhood. Here Harriet and the orphans whom she maintained resided and here she was joined by her sister Charlotte in January, 1873.

Robert Gray died in 1872 and on 26th May 1873 Charlotte bought Bishop's Cottage from the trustees of his estate for £550. This was to be the rectory for the church which they were now building with funds raised partly from their families and friends in England and partly from their private incomes. The church was, however, not consecrated - in the name of the Holy Trinity -

until 15th September, 1874. On that same day Harriet Humphrey sold the site of the church to Cape Town diocese for £400 and she conveyed the land for the graveyard to the diocese on 10th May and 21st July 1875. Her sister Charlotte handed over Bishop's Cottage on 21st September in the same year.

Alice Pocklington made the final purchases. On 12th January 1876 she paid the Rev. P.E. Faure £126 for some land further up the main road. This consists of erf 89619 and 89624 measuring 81 square rods 133 square feet and a further 15 square rods 49 square feet of the adjoining erf 89614. Here she no doubt intended to live and perhaps build a school.

Although only about forty years of age all three ladies were apparently in poor health and in 1877 they decided to return to England. They were able to sell their properties to another church worker, Mary Arthur of St. George's Orphanage in Cape Town. On 2nd October 1877 Harriet sold her Dalebrook House and Douglas Cottage for £350 and Alice Pocklington her more northerly property for £15 and the three ladies left South Africa two months later and never returned. In their brief seven years' stay they had provided the little village with a church, a rectory, a school, a hospital and an orphanage, a truly remarkable achievement.

After the ladies

Miss Arthur added to her estate on 3rd September 1880 when she bought 62 square rods 124 square feet in erf 89616 from R. Glyn for £150 though she transferred it on the same day to the diocese for the use of St. George's Orphanage. She sold Dalebrook House to the Cape Town shipping magnate T.J. Anderson in about 1883. On 10th December 1886 she received a grant of 134 square rods 86 square feet on erf 89627 and she transferred all her remaining Kalk Bay lands to the orphanage on 14th October 1887. They were incorporated in Anderson's Quarterdeck estate soon after. Prior to this date Holy Trinity had effected an exchange of properties. For when the railway was extended southwards to Kalk Bay the site of the mission chapel was needed for the station. The Railway administration bought the school and teacher's cottages for £1,400 on 17th January 1883 and the Cape Government granted a new site opposite the church and between the main road and railway line. Here a new school-chapel and a teacher's house called Stonehaven were erected to the designs of the architect G.M. Alexander at a cost of £1,650 in the same year. These buildings appear in photographs of street scenes in the Cape Archives, and a photograph of the school is reproduced in O.G. Hogarth's book "Holy Trinity, Kalk Bay" (Cape Town 1927). It is also shown beyond the church in a water colour by the Cape Town artist H.W. Hermann in the South African National

Gallery, of which there is a photocopy in the church muniments. These buildings continued to serve the coloured community until Kalk Bay was declared a white area under the Group Areas Act. In 1964 the Cape Town City Council expropriated the buildings and demolished them. A car park now occupies the site.

The upper part of the old rectory was rebuilt in 1898 and the whole building was pulled down in 1938 and the present rectory erected at a cost of £2,000 to a design by the architects Walgate and Elsworth. There is a photograph of the old rectory in Hogarth.

The original Douglas Cottage was demolished also and its site is now occupied by a substantial house bearing the same name. Dalebrook House was burnt down on 4th January 1918 and a new house, keeping the name, took its place.

A parish room was built on the terrace above the church in 1923 and appears in a photograph in Hogarth's book. It was replaced by the present church hall at a cost of R7,000 in 1964. Between 1926 and 1929 four still existing cottages for church staff were built on the hillside above the rectory and the church. The southernmost seems never to have had a name and the others are Gramercy, Azotus and Lanyon. Gramercy (which is the old English for "God reward you greatly") was built at the cost of Miss Bryant, on the condition that she and her sister could occupy it for their lifetimes. Azotus was the Roman name for the town of Ashdod in Israel. Lanyon was presumably named after Sir William Lanyon who was in the Army at the Cape and also Administrator of the Transvaal. His connection with Kalk Bay has not been established. The vergers' cottage cost £400 to build and Lanyon £600 and all four were designed by Walgate and Elsworth.

Dalebrook is now 24 Main Road, the church 36, 38 and 40 and the rectory is 42. Douglas Cottage has no number and is simply described as "off Main Road".

I hope to describe the foundation of the church and its later history in a subsequent article

Editor's comment : While the records of the St Frances Church are at the moment not available owing to lack of space, this will be remedied in the near future and the records will be able to be consulted after an appointment to view them has been made with the Rector of the Church.

SIMON'S TOWN SMALLPOX NOT ABATING

(From a Correspondent)

4th February 1879

This evening a meeting of the townspeople was held at the Resident Magistrate's Office, and the Contagious Diseases Act was brought into operation; and Simon's Town has been divided into five wards. Two gentlemen have been chosen for each ward to see after the cleanliness of the town and get all persons vaccinated; but at the same time this does not prevent the FLORA and the BOADICEA from flying the yellow flag. Yesterday morning one, and this morning; another, corpse was consigned to the deep. The inhabitants feel strongly for Commodore Richards, his officers, and men, and for the suffering patients on board the FLORA, because there is no necessity for their being in the harbour pinned up. Had proper steps been taken by those charged with carrying out the quarantine regulations, by asking the assistance and advice of some of the officials and inhabitants, this would have been avoided. There is Smith's Winkel Bay, about nine miles from Simon's Bay, with a fine stream of water and plenty of dry soil where the patients could have been put ashore in tents, and where the dead could have been buried, without the least risk to the inhabitants of Simon's Town. We are sure that Messrs Hugo, to whom the ground belongs, would never have objected to grant leave at such a time when everyone should do his best to relieve the suffering. Some years back a North-German vessel put into Simon's Bay with immigrants, having fever and scurvy on board. She was placed in quarantine, but her passengers were immediately removed to Miller's Point. The vessel was thoroughly cleaned, and after a time proceeded on her way. Some of the immigrants died, and their graves are still to be seen there. Miller's Point was then unoccupied but is occupied now; but Smith's Winkel Bay is far away from the home-stead of Messrs Hugo and would have been the spot to relieve all. It was the district surgeon, either Dr. Williamson or Dr. Churchill, who picked out the place, and why is our ship now treated differently?

The fishermen are complaining bitterly that the townspeople will not buy their fish. They are therefore without a livelihood. Who is responsible for this? It is to be hoped that Government will cause an investigation to be held without delay, so that it can be proved to Commodore Richards that the inhabitants are not to blame. Our Magistrate and Port Captain deserve every credit for the way in which they are trying to prevent the epidemic spreading. If they had had from the commencement the matter in their hands, things would have been different. It is time something was done to release the Commodore and patients on board the FLORA from the position they are in. ("The Standard and Mail", Thursday 6.2.1879)

CORRESPONDENCE

From Mrs Margaret Cairns of 32 Thornhill Road, Rondebosch to the Editorial Board of the Bulletin on 1 September 1980 :

re Goede Gift - Its early history

In your next issue of the Bulletin would you please correct two errors that have crept into the above article :-

p 66 the last name on the left is KALTENBACH not Koltenbach...
Under reference no 1 p 68 (Cape Archives) must be deleted. The reference is from the Deeds Office.

From Mr Arthur Moore of 25 Highway, Fish Hoek enclosing a copy of this letter :

Nairn
Isabel Ave
Newlands
2 March 1948

Dear Sir

Some weeks ago when searching the old records of St George's Cathedral, the Verger told me you were looking for particulars of the death of one Mudge. I offered to give what particulars I had of a Mudge, whether he is the one you wish particulars of I don't know.

Mudge R.N. : Lt John M Senior
Agent of Transports
Died at Simon's Town
23rd May 1820
Aged 40.

I took note of the inscription on his tombstone in the old cemetery Simon's Town in 1915. The above is from the stone and the notice in the Gazette.

Yours faithfully
Graham Botha

Mr Moore comments : Until the Verger spoke to him, the late Lt Col Graham Botha, a former Chief Archivist, had not heard of me, and yet he took the trouble to forward information which he thought could be of assistance.

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