

## **D**ear Museum Friends

On the window sill of my office are three typical Karoo plants in bright yellow and orange pots: an aloe, a miniature cactus and an unknown succulent specie. The unknown has fascinated me since it was given to me in November 2006. Consisting of two child-like fingers, it suddenly started to peel back at the beginning of spring to reveal two new fat fingers.

The year has not been without its difficulties: the challenges of human nature, severe socio-economic pressures and ignorance and indifference have contributed to many a sleepless night. I have come to the conclusion that I cannot solve the problems of the world by myself, but in my own way I can tackle one problem at a time – starting right here at the museum. Here we give the human spirit a lift through our exhibitions, our friendliness, our positive attitudes and our concern for the people of our community and those who set foot through our doors. The unknown succulent has become the symbol of my resolve, since I also have a burning desire to end 2008 on a high note.

One of the highlights of this year was when I obtained my Fire Arm Competency Certificate signifying that I have become competent in the use of a handgun, a rifle, a carbine and a shotgun. I am only morbidly interested in fire arms, so having to undergo the competency training for the sake of our fire arm collection, weighed heavily upon my heart. The carbine proved to be my forte and I proudly displayed the damages done by the shotgun for a few days afterwards.

With the training behind me and my interest in fire arms revived, I revisited the story of the Hensley rifle.

### **THE TRANSVAAL VOLKSRAAD AND THE THREE SPECIAL RIFLES.**

R.W. THORNTON C.M.G., C.B.E., in 1964.

I cannot vouch for the truth of part of this story, but I can vouch for the truth of the beginning and end as I was a participant.

The following events took place during a long holiday which I spent with my sister and brother-in-law, Mr Christopher Hensley on a farm adjoining the farm owned by my brother and Uncle Robert just outside Johannesburg.

One day my Uncle Robert Smith said, "Tomorrow I am taking you to Pretoria because the Volksraad is sitting in the Raadsaal and I want you to see the President [Kruger] and members at work; this is for your education." So the next morning we set out on the 35-mile drive to Pretoria in a spider with two good horses. On reaching Pretoria we put up at the old Transvaal Hotel which was a small thatched building in those days.

The following morning when the Raad had assembled, we entered the Raadsaal and sat down to listen to the debate: the question being discussed was the purchase of three special rifles by the Raad. The rifles, if the purchase was agreed to, were to be specially built and each was to have the Transvaal Coat of Arms in coloured enamel on the pistol stock. After we had listened to the debate for some time for and against this purchase, the President rose from his seat and spoke and in conclusion said: "I have listened to what has been said and agree with those in favour of the purchase." Then looking round at the Members he said: "Ik het geseg - I have spoken!" ... and sat down.

What a powerful personality was the President! Through the many years that have passed since that, to me, memorable occasion, yet to this day I

can see in my mind's eye, the President, through sheer personality, hold the Raad in the hollow of his hand. In due course the three rifles reached the Transvaal, three beautifully finished weapons bearing the Transvaal Coat of Arms in coloured enamel. At a ceremony in the Government building, these were presented, one each, to the President Paul Kruger, General Joubert and Mr Skalk Burger. The presentation was made with due ceremony by the Chairman or Speaker of the Raad. When the function had been performed, General Joubert rose and said, speaking to the President and the Raad as a whole, "I am deeply honoured by this award which is for services rendered to this our beloved country and I now, with the President's consent, give my rifle to our nation, with this condition attached: that it be a trophy to be competed for by members of all the Transvaal shooting clubs." This decision of the General was applauded by the gathering and approved by the President.

In due course the competition was started by all the Transvaal shooting clubs and carried on until there were only two clubs left and finally only two competitors. These two men had tied for first place and had therefore to shoot off the tie. This took place at

Pretoria on a beautiful morning, with a large gathering of interested Burghers and others, men and women, present. The shooting was at the then standard ranges laid down and the competitors had by lot to fire alternately. Christopher Hensley had the first shot and secured a bull; his opponent firing next, also scored a bull and this continued up to and including the fifth round when Hensley once again scored a bull but his opponent scored a four and thus Christopher Hensley secured the highly prized trophy.

Hensley was the calmest man I have ever known and it was that extreme calmness that beat his opponent who was as magnificent a shot. This gun is now in the care of the Graaff-Reinet Museum.

Notes:

This event took place in 1896. Christopher Alfred Hensley (1858-1904) was married to Melicent Susan Thornton, sister of R.W. Thornton. His parents were James Hensley and Catharine Rebecca Spiller, who lived on Market Square in Graaff-Reinet.

## **PERSONEEL**

Me Vuyokazi Pika het op 1 Oktober na 'n nood keisersnee, die lewe aan 'n pragtige seuntjie, Mihlayemivuyo, geskenk. Ons hoop om Me Pika en klein Mihla weer op 1 Februarie 2009 in ons midde te hê.

Mnr Brian Le Potha, het na vier jaar as lid van ons aflosspan besluit om die museum te verlaat. Ons goeie wense vergesel hom tesame met die hoop dat hy as besigheidsman van formaat sal ontluik.

Me Leonie du Toit se eerste kleinkind het ook op 17 November die lig gesien. Baie geluk aan die trotse ouma wat so gereed staan om hom op die hande te dra.

## **ORAL HISTORY**

For quite some time now, oral history has found its place in the academic world. It has become a reliable source and is perceived as vital to our understanding of the cultures, events and experiences of the past. Encapsulating people's feelings, personal perceptions and opinions, expressions and nuances of language, oral history is also referred to as our 'intangible heritage'. It is that wisp of the untouchable, that something which you cannot see, but which you are able to hear and experience. Think about the stories you heard as a child, the myths and the folklores and very often, the eye-witness accounts of past events.

In 2009, the Graaff-Reinet Museum will be embarking on an Oral History Project, initiated by Rev Nancy Charton and Anne Rundle. Various

members of the Graaff-Reinet community, as well as Dr Julia Wells from Rhodes' History Department, met on 4 December to put ideas on the table and to plan the way forward. All of us agreed that gaps exist in our knowledge of local history and that the recording of local oral history has become paramount.

The first Karoo Conference which will be held in March 2009 is going to present us with an opportunity to test the waters. The Oral History Collection team – my own appellation - have been tasked to record Karoo oral history. During this two day conference, people from all over the Karoo will be able to sit down and relay their opinions, memories and stories on a variety of subjects.

We would also like to invite all those interested to throw their weight behind this fascinating project and to contact the museum. We are in desperate need of volunteers. If you have the Karoo and especially the well-being of the Karoo at heart, please log onto [www.karoospace.co.za](http://www.karoospace.co.za) for more information about the first Karoo Conference.

## **BAIE PRAATJIES MAAK** **BAIE GAATJIES**

Hermi Baartman

My moeder was vol wyskede en haar gesprekke het gewemel van idiomatiese uitdrukkings en gesegdes. As ons iets verlê het, was dit “*roep die honde en sny spoor*”, as jy gedurig iemand anders se hulp nodig gehad het om iets te vermag, het sy altyd beveel “*kommandeer jou eie honde en blaf self*”, en suinigheid is begroet met “*spaar vir die mond is goed vir die kat en die hond*” synde dat lekkernye wat te lank gebêre word, bederf raak. Een wat op my van toepassing is, is “*baie praatjies maak baie gaatjies*”.

Dit is egter nie altyd so ‘n negatiewe eienskap nie en ek vind dat my spraaksamheid my oënskynlik genaakbaar en toeganklik maak vir die publiek. So het baie informasie en goeie kontakte al gespruit uit geselsies met besoekers.

Nou die dag was hier ‘n paartjie wat aangesluit het by ‘n gesprek oor die Anglo-Boereoorlog wat ek met ‘n vryskutjoernalis gevoer het. Hulle het toe te voorskyn gekom met ‘n donasie wat eintlik bedoel was vir ‘n ander museum, wat glad nie toeganklik of ontvanklik was vir die argiefstuk nie en het besef hierdie

museum verwelkom die memoirs van Jacobus Lodewicus Coetzee van Middelburg, wat as lid van Lötter se kommando tydens 'n geveg op *Pêrrefontein* (Paardefontein?) teen Kolonel Schobell geveg het. Die destydse bewoners van *Liewertas* (Libertas?) van Pearston het volgens hom die kommando se teenwoordigheid gerapporteer by die owerhede.

So volg 'n lang relaas oor sy wel en weë as krygsgevangene en banneling na Ceylon. Vir my is dit aangrypende persoonlike ervarings soos die van die arme Coetsee wat ons plaaslike geskiedenis substansie gee. Anders as koue feite en swart en wit woorde op papier, voel ek die lyding van hierdie man aan en kry 'n insig in sy smart, weerspieël in sy memoirs.

### **EDUARD EN FRANSIE HOUGH**

*'n Wyle gelede het mnr en mev Hough in Graaff-Reinet besoek afgelê en een van hulle doelwitte was om 'n kosbare plakboek persoonlik aan die Graaff-Reinet Museum te oorhandig.*

Eduard was vanaf Julie 1974 tot Desember 1981 'n senior dosent in Opvoedkunde aan die Onderwyserskollege in Graaff-Reinet. Hy het 'n tak van die FAK op Graaff-Reinet gestig. Eduard was ook

ondervoorsitter van die Distriksraad van die kiesafdeling Graaff-Reinet, met Mnr Petrus de Klerk LPR in die Provinsiale Parlement in Kaapstad.

Ons stel Mnr Hough aan die woord.

“Petrus de Klerk het my in die begin van 1979 genader om 'n gedenksteen op te rig naby die plek waar Gideon Scheepers gefusilleer is, en sy laaste rusplek nooit opgespoor is nie. Scheepers sou in daardie jaar 100 jaar oud wees. Die aangewese plek was langs die dam, wat in 1902 nog nie bestaan het nie, en wat nou onder water is as die dam vol is.

Dit was 'n wonderlike uitdaging, nie net om dit te ontwerp nie, maar ek moes ook die oprigting waarneem en die opening organiseer.

Scheepers was 'n veldmens en daarom sou 'n beeldhouwerk of geboude monument onvanpas wees. Daarbenewens moes die gedenkteken by die omgewing inpas.

Ek het 'n ontwerp gemaak en toe die klippe gaan soek wat daaraan voldoen. In een van die klofies wat lei tot die Vallei van Verlatenheid vind ek toe die groot rots en daar naby die twee kleineres.

Die Voortrekkers het die terrein skoongemaak. Ek het die klippe nader gebring en gestapel met 'n

skopgraaf. Penne is daardeur gesit om die klippe te anker. (*Ek is oortuig daarvan dat mnr Hough sommer geweet het dat iemand die rotse sou probeer omgooi- HERMI*)

Kellerman van Cradock het die graniet geskenk en die inskripsie gratis daarop aangebring.

Mnr John Vorster het die onthulling waargeneem en Joan Retief en leerders van Volksskool, almal in swart geklee, het as spreekkoor *Gebed om die Gebeente* 'n gedig van D J Opperman voorgedra.”

*Mnr Hough het 'n uiters waardevolle plakboek saamgestel met dokumente, korrespondensie en koerantberigte oor die projek en ook van Gideon Scheepers en sluit af soos volg:*

“Hierdie taak was 'n besondere voorreg en die inligting in hierdie bundel word aan die Graaff-Reinet Museum toevertrou vir bewaring en navorsing. 'n Fotokopie gaan aan die Gericke Biblioteek (Africana Afdeling) van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch.

My eie oupa Gerrit Daniel Scholtz is gedurende 'n geveg naby Bothaville OVS gewond en doodgesteek tydens die ABO en moeder en ouma en die gesin was in die konsentrasiekamp op Brandfort.

Ter afsluiting moet ek meld dat vandale in 1981 probeer het om die vlekvrre staal-naald te verwyder en is die kettings, wat nie deel was van die oorspronklike ontwerp nie, bygevoeg.”

## **PRESTEERDERS VAN GRAAFF-REINET**

Ons presteerder-uitstalling vorder fluks. Die ATKV het al reeds die Anna Neethling-Pohl paneel geborg en onlangs het die “Parsonage Street Congregational Church” fondse beskikbaar gestel vir die ontwerp en die druk van die Hufkie paneel. Indien u belangstel om 'n stukkie van Graaff-Reinet se geskiedenis in 'n paneel te verewig, ons is nog steeds op soek na 'n individue of organisasies om die Beyers Naudé paneel te borg.

So 'n bietjie meer oor Frederick Emmanuel Hufkie:

## **FREDERICK EMMANUEL HUFKIE**

**15 APRIL 1918 – 19 JULY 2001**

Frederick Emmanuel Hufkie was born on 15 April 1918 in Somerset East. He completed a BA degree at Fort Hare University where he studied with prominent struggle heroes such as Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo.



### **The Teacher**

Frederick Emmanuel started his teaching career as a Science and Language teacher at John Bisseker High School, East London in the 1941. In 1944 he became headmaster of the William Oats Memorial School in Somerset East and in 1951 headmaster of the Spandau High School in Graaff-Reinet, a year after the inception of the school. He served the school diligently for 26 years trying to realize his dream of making the school one to be proud of. Under his leadership the school thrived, not only academically, but also on the sports field. Discipline, pride and self esteem were some of the qualities he required from both pupil and teacher. He retired in

1977, but remained 'Pappa Huff' for many who attended the school.

### **The Churchman**

In 1981 Frederick Hufkie qualified as a Christian minister at Rhodes University and in 1984 he was ordained as minister of the Parsonage Street Congregational Church in Graaff-Reinet where he served until 1995 at the age of 77. Together with the late Rev W T Kruger, Hufkie directed the building of a new church and hall in Kroonvale, Graaff-Reinet, after the Group Areas Act expropriated the church building, school building and manse in what was then declared as an area for whites only. He eventually became Emeritus minister of the United Congregational Church of South Africa.

### **The Sport Enthusiast**

Hufkie became vice-president of SARU, the non-racial South African Rugby Union when it was established, a position he held for fifteen years. He was committed to the development of local rugby and actively encouraged his community to get involved. He declined re-election when he went to Rhodes University to commence his theological studies.

## The Political Activist

As a member of the ANC and the United Democratic Front, Hufkie vigorously condemned the Apartheid Government. He was detained for seven months in 1976 in the Victor Verster Prison, in Paarl at the age of 58. He also condemned the Tri-cameral Parliament and was again imprisoned for six months in the security prison at Middelburg in 1985 at the age of 67. The Tri-cameral Council, led by many of Hufkie's colleagues in the Christian ministry, refused to grant him a marriage officer's licence on account of his public condemnation of the Council. It took great courage to defy the Apartheid government, but Frederick Hufkie made it clear that there was no other option but to defy those that chipped away at self esteem through undemocratic laws. For these beliefs he became one of many who were detained without a hearing during the Apartheid period.

## The Family Man

Frederick Hufkie married Rhoda Goodman in 1944 and together they had five children: Roderick, Deborah, Ezzard, Ebbon and Rhonda. He and his wife were

inseparable and after she was called to rest in 1999, he lost the will to live and kept to his bed. His daughter Deborah remembers her father as steadfast, fair and very humble, a man who instilled the love for rugby and cricket in his sons.

## SAL DIE WARE IVIE H. ALLAN VORENTOE TREE?

Hermi Baartman

Ek het in 1997 begin om 'n uitstalling op te bou oor die ABO in Graaff-Reinet. Van die treffendste ou foto's in die Museum se versameling en plakboeke was dié van Allan. Benewens sy naam op die glas-negatiewe was daar altyd die inskripsie: *Copyright reserved*. Die vlietende gedagte het my gereeld binne geskiet wanneer ek sy portrette van Scheepers, Lötter en John-Steven van der Merwe dupliseer – *Nou draai Ivie in sy graf om*.

Daar is bespiegel dat Allan 'n vrou kon wees. Groot was my plesier om nie net sy portret in mnr Hough se plakboek te vind wat in 1942 in Wepener deur ene Ds Harper Martins geneem is nie, maar om nog 'n vertelling in sy eie woorde in die plakboek te kry was die kersie op die koek! Daar is ook foto's van Kareltye Lehmkuhl, Gideon Scheepers se



Adjutant en ‘n verbasende foto van ‘n bejaarde Kommandant Wynand Malan, wat ek net as ‘n aantreklike jong Kaapse Rebel van 1902 geken het.

Laat ek u nou voorstel aan Ivie H Allen om in sy eie woorde te vertel:

“*IVIE H. ALLAN – THE MAN WHO TOOK THE HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS ABOUT THE EXACUTION (sic)*”

*Mr Ivie Allan, born in Wimbledon, Surry, England. Came to SA in 1890. Stayed in Graaff-Reinet from 1898 to February 1904. He had a photographic studio when the ABW broke out in 1899.*

I was present when Scheepers was brought into town. He was captured in the Camdeboo by Gorringes Flying Column. He was just recovering from an attack of fever. If it was not for that they would never have caught him. Previous to his capture he sent word to Captain Henniker of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battallion Cold Stream Guards, garrisoned in Graaff-Reinet, that he was coming into town and he would hang Henniker from the nearest telegraph pole.

The next thing.... I took his photograph in the goal. He was willing and obliging. He wore a blue

tunic with brass buttons, and I think a very light *trouser* with blood stains on.

After that I took one 8½ X 6½ photo in court, the well known one and the only one because nobody else was allowed to do so.

*Hy wou nie Ds Murray toelaat om vir hom te bid nie. Het die volgende dag verskoning gemaak.*

The original sentence was that he was to be hanged. *Galg was reeds al gemaak.* But the exacutioner (sic) King could not be found, so they decided to shoot him. He was shot at 3 p.m. the following day

The photograph shows how tragic. The school children came out of school swinging their bags for joy of life as the ambulance, in which Scheepers sat, surrounded by armed guard slowly winded its way out to the place of execution. This was about three miles out of town.

I went with the town guard on foot. If you stood with your back to the Dutch Reformed Church, you face the direction they went. They passed the little koppie A good way. Scheepers was buried in that meadow, easy two miles beyond the koppie. I walked to be able to take the photo of the exacution (sic).

And Mr Allan says that he must say in justice of the military from whom he had asked to take the photograph, that he must under no account attempt to do such a thing. If he did so the penalty would be very severe. However he decided to chance it. The little tiny Brownie camera under his tunic. He stood between the two lines of guardsmen, and just enough space to take and not be seen by the officers. He took three consecutive photos of the execution (sic)

- a) Just as the pioneers, who had already dug Scheepers grave and bound him to a chair, and blindfolded him were running away to their positions on the ground.
- b) Showing the chair after the party had fired (incidentally the party consisted of 25, the largest party ever used at an ex. At the place.) Photo shows puffs of dust. Chair half way back on hind legs. The binding round the wrists was severed. His hands about six inches apart.
- c) The body stretched out on the blanket. Doctor kneeling and examining to see if dead.

On arrival of ambulance wagon, then Scheepers started to walk down from the steps from the wagon. The sergeant major offered him his hand

help him down. Scheepers however refused any assistance, and walked along and examined his grave and smiled mockingly. Then turned round, stood up and folded his arms and wanted to be shot standing. This was refused and he was bound to the chair. He was not allowed to die as a soldier. After the ex. As to death, the sergeant of the pioneers broke up the chair, some quick lime had already been thrown in the grave. The body was then lowered into the grave on a blanket. The broken chair dropped in the grave. More quick lime poured over the body. The grave filled in.

The guards sat over it for several days. Until the quick lime had done its work. The guards were put there as the military was afraid that his friends might come and try to remove the body.

Signed I. H.A.

*(It is a well-known fact that the body was removed the night of the execution. Six Coldstream Guards snuck to the grave in the middle of the night and reburied the body in the soft river sand. His body was never found.)*

### **MORE ABOUT IVIE ALLAN'S CAMERA**

The camera was a Cooke Triplet Lens Watson. I did not follow the court

case but left with my camera. Went to the Studio and developed it. One of the numerous plates was good. Did not ask court to keep still.

After that I took the promulgation of Scheeper's sentence on the Market Square. Coldstream Guards formed three quarters of square with fixed bayonets. On the open end of the square were the tables with officers of Guards and Col Henniker presiding. Colonel then rose up. Read the various charges against Scheepers .... In as much as on a certain date etc.... you committed murder ... About nine charges.

First the sergeant major bought him a chair. He kicked it flying over the soldiers. Then he was standing with his hat on. He would not allow them to take his hat off.

I also took General Kritzinger's trial in Graaff-Reinet. Took Cmdt Malan the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1902 IN BED AT Noupoot on the day peace was proclaimed. The snow lay 2 ft on the ground.

I took Cmdt Lötter in goal at Graaff-Reinet, splashed with blood all over. Cape Mounted Rifles captured him under Col Schobell.”

## **AFRICANA VERSAMELING**

Ons het agtergekom dat talle boeke en historiese geskrifte uit die versameling verwyder is. Daarom is ons dringend opsoek na mense wat bereid is om 'n volledige oudit van die Africana versameling te doen. Dit is 'n kans om jou kennis oor geskiedkundige persona en gebeure te verbreed en beloop om uiters interessant te wees. So het ek byvoorbeeld agterkom dat 'rainbow nation' nie 'n moderne konsep is nie maar dat danse waar slawe toegelaat is om deel te hê aan die feestelikhede, 'rainbow dances' genoem is. Indien daar iemand is wat belangstel, kontak asseblief die museum.

## **BAIE DANKIE**

Aan almal wat so getrou die museum op die hande dra: ons woorde is min maar ons harte vol. 'n Spesiale woord van dank aan ons skenkers, ondersteuners, trusteeeraad en almal wat so gereeld by ons kom inloer vir 'n woordjie of twee.

Dankie ook aan almal wat ons straatmark met hart en siel ondersteun het: al die vriende van die museum, die besighede en sommer almal wat daar verby gestap en ons jammer gekry het.

2009 hou vir ons baie belofte in. Na vele gesukkel met die veranderinge binne die Nasionale Lotery Fonds het ons uiteindelik daarin geslaag om die laaste deel van die Lotto-skenking te kry. Ons slawe- en restitusie-uitstalling behoort teen Januarie 2009 op die been te wees.

‘n Spesiale woord van dank aan my kollegas veral Hermi Baartman, Jessie de Gama en Denise van Wyk wat die fort gehou het terwyl ek ‘n loopbaan en student-wees balanseer. Nodeloos om te sê, die personeel van hierdie museum is die mees hardwerkendste en pligsgetroue staatsamptenare, daarom kan ek met trots Patricia Blouw, Denise van Wyk en Hermi Baartman uitsonder as personeellede wat ‘n baie goeie punt tydens hul jaarlikse evaluasie gekry het.

Aan al die vriende van die museum, ons getroue ondersteuners, belangstellendes en familie, ons wens u ‘n geseënde Christusfees toe, met die wense dat 2009 vir u net voorspoed en geluk sal inhou.

*Anxiske Kayster  
en Personeel*

## **REDAKSIE**

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