



# GGSA Nuusbrieff

# GSSA Newsletter

*Genealogiese Genootskap van Suid-Afrika - Wes-Kaap*  
*Genealogical Society of South Africa - Western Cape*

Uitgawe/Issue 2017/3

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(Continued)

## **From the Editors**

Dear Reader, you are welcome to send any items relating to genealogy and/or family history to us. We will endeavour to publish your article/s if space permits. Please send your submissions to [becksx2@gmail.com](mailto:becksx2@gmail.com)

## **Vergaderingsnuus/Branch News**

*Saterdag 8 Julie 2017, 14:00*

Die Wes-Kaapse takvergadering van Julie 2017 was aangewend as 'n vraag en antwoord sessie waar lede vrae oor genealogie in die algemeen kon vra of kon probeer antwoorde kry oor spesifieke probleme wat hulle ondervind met hul navorsing.

Daar is advies gegee oor die verskillende argiewe en mees prominente webtuistes vir familienavorsing. Heelwat tyd is spandeer op die webtuiste *FamilySearch* en hoe om jou weg te vind deur hierdie enorme bron van inligting.

Hierdie vraag en antwoord sessie was baie suksesvol, goed ontvang deur die lede en daar word gehoop dat dit 'n permanente instelling sal word waar die jongeres kan leer by die meer ervare genealoë en die ouer mense by die jongeres kan leer oor die ewig groeiende tegnologie.

Deur die bereidwilligheid om ons kennis met mekaar te deel, verbreed ons nie net almal se kennis nie, maar bevorder ons ook genealogie in die breë.

*(Met dank aan Nicky Lategan vir hierdie bydrae)*



*Meeste van die advies is deur die drie taklede hierbo gegee. Van links: Simone Kay, David de Klerk en Nicky Lategan*

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**(Continued)**

**Branch News/Vergaderingsnuus - (Continued/Vervolg)**

*Saturday 12 August 2017, 14:00*

Our branch was honoured to be addressed by eminent historian and author, Dr Helen Robinson. She has written a number of books about the area around the east side of Table Mountain.

She spoke to us primarily about her book 'Wynberg a special place'. Originally a military garrison after the 1795 British invasion, the area prospered as farmers and traders in the area supplied the camps with their requirements.

By the 1840s the small village has been developed and extended as people began to settle in the Wynberg area. Several shop-keepers had set up businesses in Alphen Hill Road. Durban Road continued to be the centre of commercial activity in the village and at least fourteen shops were situated there.

In the mid-twentieth century, the village on the hill once again experienced a restoration by the private sector after a period of decline. This time Wynberg attracted an artistic fraternity and many crafts were represented; graphic artists, painters, sign-writers, interior decorators, furniture designers, silk-screen and gold-leaf workers all settled there. Many of these artists and crafters worked from their homes as villagers had done in earlier days. Accommodation was at a premium after World War 2 and the particular appeal of the old village for creative artists encouraged a rapid resettlement of this hitherto run-down area. With their arrival, the first phase of reconstruction in the village had begun.

Buildings were renovated and the importance of preserving a unique heritage was recognised. On 27 August 1981 the Cape Town City Council amended the Town Planning Scheme to control development in designated conservation areas like Wynberg Village. This was due to the efforts of residents whose purpose was to liaise with, and advise the Cape Town City Council and the National Monuments Commission with regard to the preservation of buildings in the old garrison village of Wynberg, and the need to limit business interventions in the village to acceptable levels.

Wynberg Village contains the largest surviving concentration of traditional Cape thatched vernacular cottages in Cape Town. It also boasts a fine collection of Cape Georgian and Victorian buildings, modest vernacular domestic dwellings and proximity to public open spaces and parks.



*Dr Helen Robinson*



*Members browsing books by Dr Robinson*



*Simone Kay thanks the speaker*



*Members enjoying Dr Robinson's talk*

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**Branch News/Vergaderingsnuus - (Continued/Vervolg)**

**Visit to Cape Town by up-country GSSA members (by Pam Beck)**

*Sunday 20 August 2017 to Friday 25 August 2017*

Visitors from the Northern Transvaal, Johannesburg and Bloemfontein Genealogical Societies arrived on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017 for a weeks visit to the Mother City. The group leader was Ellen Harmse and their aim was to meet with members from the GSSA WP, do more family research at the Cape Town Archives, at GISA and at the Paarl Museum.

On the day of their arrival, Phil (Beck) and I met them outside St George's Cathedral at the Gardens. The visitors were pleased to meet us, but were rather disappointed not to have been able to communicate with more members from the GSSA WP who were unable to attend. However after a short stroll through the Company Gardens, we stopped for refreshments at the tearoom and spent a most pleasant afternoon with our new friends.

Ellen very kindly invited us to join the tour and we did on the Tuesday when they visited GISA to conduct more research.

The visit to GISA proved to be most rewarding for us because I was researching Phil's maternal grandmother and traced that side of the family back to a Jean Le Roux in 1689. When I told her what I had found she showed me her family lineage and to our surprise we found the Harmse's stamvader was also Jean Le Roux, 1689!

Once back in Gauteng, Ellen wrote and told us that the tour had been a great success.

A memo to all members of the GSSA WP. Please note that the GSSA Ntvl will be repeating the tour with a different group next year in August and would really like to meet up with a good number of members of the GSSA WP.

Please welcome Margaret Gundry who has just relocated to Cape Town from Johannesburg and transferred her membership to GSSA WP.



*Photo at right:  
The team at tea*



*From left to right: George Schlünz (NTvl), Margaret Gundry (Now WCape), Doreen Piner (Jhb), Benita Young (NTvl), Ellen Harmse (NEC), Pam Beck (WCape), Mike Hendricks (NTvl), Teuns Deetlefs (NTvl), Phil Beck (WCape), Robert Bush (Jhb), Colin Mohr (NTvl). Absent: Pat Bauer (eGSSA Bloemfontein)*

## Branch News/Vergaderingsnuus - (Continued/Vervolg)

Saturday 9 September 2017, 14:00

Our speaker was the renowned shipwreck researcher and locator, Gavin Clackworthy

He was born in 1950 in Rhodesia and educated at Milton High school in Bulawayo. He spearfished for Rhodesia and also played underwater hockey for Rhodesia. He was elected as the chairman for the Rhodesian Underwater Diving union

He moved to Cape Town in 1976. He started diving on shipwrecks in 1978 and researched and located 7 old shipwrecks with treasure on board over the past 40 years. He further located another 5 shipwrecks, previously found by other divers and subsequently found remaining treasures and artifacts

He currently lives in Cape Town with his wife Colleen and has 4 children, the eldest being a Captain in the Royal Marines. He has been privileged to have his whole family involved in some of these expeditions

He delivered a most interesting illustrated talk on his involvement with shipwrecks. He also displayed a few salvaged treasures

Among the treasures on display were ingots of lead, tin, and copper which were used as ballast. There were pieces of eight, other coins, cannons, high grade silver ingots, porcelain, household items made of pewter, pipes, buttons, jewelry and trinkets. Despite the perception that the treasure aboard many shipwrecks consists of gold, there has only been one bar of gold found off the Cape coast, from a VOC ship the 'Leymuiden'.

The treasures salvaged from the wrecks around the South Africa coastline were removed for safe keeping to the South African National Heritage Department. Some items are displayed at the National Maritime Museum at the Waterfront, at the Naval Museum in Simonstown, at the maritime museum in Mossel Bay and also at the Bredasdorp Museum.

There is a growing concern from the Shipwreck Foundation that the various governmental conservation departments seem to have turned their interest away from the historical importance of the ships wrecked around our coast. Another part of our heritage is thus seriously at risk.



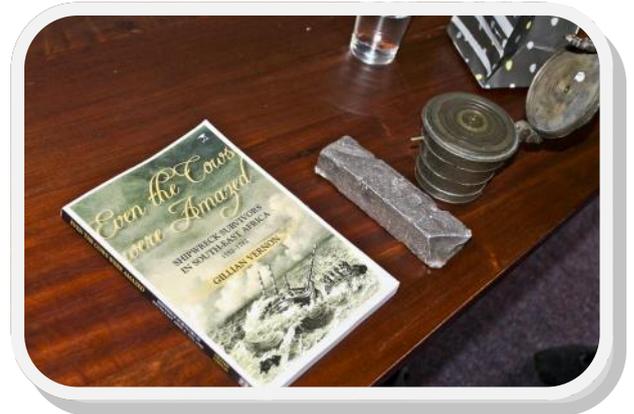
*Left: Gavin Clackworthy*



*Right: Simone Kay thanking the speaker*



*Left and right: Some of the artifacts found on shipwrecks*



## Newsflashes

### Press release on new book on Rev Francis McClelland

Dean McClelland, a 62 year old Chartered Accountant who is a direct descendent of Francis McClelland the first colonial chaplain, has written a lively and colourful history of his ancestor. Dean had a deep desire to find out about this enigmatic man and in so doing has uncovered many interesting facts about early Port Elizabeth

Dean recently retired from corporate life and immediately set out researching the information for the book. Thousands of PE schoolchildren have visited the McClelland home at 7 Castle Hill, now a museum, over the years. This gem of Victorian life has proved very popular among tourists as well.

In his book readers can trace McClelland's life from Longford Ireland to Clanwilliam and finally PE. Dean has delivered a book of meticulous detail with many photographs both in colour and black and white. This story captures the life of Victorian Port Elizabeth as well. Dean says he believes early Port Elizabeth with its cosmopolitan population has a wonderful story to tell and is eager to write another book. He refuses to tell what this one will be about.

Dean now lives in Johannesburg and says Port Elizabethans were very generous with their assistance. He wished to thank them for this. One such person is Alan Montgomery, a keen historian and volunteer at number 7. Alan says the book will be an outstanding source of information for visitors. He says as PE is a crucible of many different peoples it is time that we have information of our early forefathers. It is an ideal Christmas present.

The book is available at Fogartys Bookshop Walmer Park or from Alan Montgomery at 0849818491.

### Top baby boy names in South Africa 2017

1. Junior (1)    2. Blessing (2)    3. Gift (3)    4. Bandile (4)    5. Prince (5)  
6. Melokuhle (7)    7. Siyabonga (6)    8. Lethabo (8)    9. Amogelang    10. Lubanzi

The first 8 boys names remain unchanged, with a small internal shuffle, but Junior beats the others by a big margin: 10 869 baby boys were named Junior, compared to 6 130 little boys being blessed with the name Blessing. Amogelang and Lubanzi are new in the top 10 this year.

The number in brackets indicates the position of the name on the 2015 top South African baby names list.

### Top baby girl names in South Africa 2017

1. Precious (1)    2. Princess (2)    3. Amahle (4)    4. Luthando    5. Thandolwethu (6)  
6. Blessing (8)    7. Angel (3)    8. Siphesihle    9. Melokuhle (7)    10. Amogelang

There's a bit more movement among the girls names, with Luthando, Siphesihle and Amogelang all entering the list.

Extracted from <http://www.parent24.com/Pregnant/Baby-names/top-baby-names-in-south-africa-201617-20170929>

### New library additions/nuwe biblioteek aanwinste - July/Julie - September

<b>29/2017 MAL</b> Malherbe, dr DF du T <b>Driehonderd jaar nasiebou. Stamouers van die Afrikanervolk</b>	<b>30/2017</b> Robinson, dr Helen <b>Wynberg – Beyond the City Limits</b>
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## Genealogical Humour

### Ancient rules for Ancestors!

And they were SO good at following them!

- (1) Thou shalt name your male children: James, John, Joseph, Josiah, Abel, Richard, Thomas, William.
  - (2) Thou shalt name your female children: Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, Maria, Sarah, Ida, Virginia, May.
  - (3) Thou shalt leave NO trace of your female children.
  - (4) Thou shalt, after naming your children from the above lists, call them by strange nicknames such as: Ike, Eli, Polly, Dolly, Sukey.---making them difficult to trace.
  - (5) Thou shalt NOT use any middle names on any legal documents or census reports, and only where necessary, you may use only initials on legal documents.
  - (6) Thou shalt learn to sign all documents illegibly so that your surname can be spelled, or misspelled, in various ways: Hicks, Hix, Hixe, Hucks, Kicks or Robinson, Robertson, Robison, Roberson, Robuson, Robson, Dobson.
  - (7) Thou shalt, after no more than 3 generations, make sure that all family records are lost, misplaced, burned in a court house fire, or buried so that NO future trace of them can be found.
  - (8) Thou shalt propagate misleading legends, rumors, and vague innuendo regarding your place of origin:
    - (A) you may have come from : England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales.... or Iran.
    - (B) you may have Maori ancestry (replace with American Indian...) of the \_\_\_\_\_ tribe.....
    - (C) You may have descended from one of three brothers that came over from \_\_\_\_\_
  - (9) Thou shalt leave NO cemetery records, or headstones with legible names.
  - (10) Thou shalt leave NO family Bible with records of birth, marriages, or deaths.
  - (11) Thou shalt ALWAYS flip thy name around. If born James Albert, thou must make all the rest of thy records in the names of Albert, AJ, JA, AL, Bert, Bart, or Alfred.
  - (12) Thou must also flip thy parent's names when making reference to them, although "Unknown" or a blank line is an acceptable alternative.
  - (13) Thou shalt name at least 5 generations of males and dozens of their cousins with identical names in order to totally confuse researchers.
  - (14) If thou wife shall die before you, thou may only be wed again to a woman with the same given name.
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- \* Genealogists don't get Alzheimer's, they just lose their census.
  - \* Eventually, all genealogists come to their census.
  - \* Housework avoidance strategy: Genealogy!
  - \* There's a fine line between a packrat and a serious family historian.
  - \* A home with everything in its place, and a place for everything, means you're not well suited for genealogy!
  - \* Can't find enough ancestors? No problem. Let me adopt you. I've got more than enough to share.
  - \* Does your family coat of arms have too many or too few sleeves?
  - \* Taking your children to meet family at a reunion is often an effective form of birth control.
  - \* Genealogical paydirt is discovering the ancestor who was the family packrat!
  - \* Heredity might be better spelled as heir-edity.
  - \* I can't find my ancestors, so they must have been in a witness protection program!
  - \* Motivated genealogists scan once—and then share across the Internet!
  - \* A genealogist's bad heir day is when you can't find what you are looking for.
  - \* A genealogist's filing system usually incorporates the floor.