Mpumalanga Erfenis besoek Botshabelo
Mpumalanga Heritage visits Botshabelo

Die volgende is deur Marius Bakkes op Facebook geplaas Sat. 17.05.2015:
Ek is vanoggend nog flink na Middelburg op die Hoeveld. Mpumalanga Erfenis/Heritage het bestek gaan neem van die verwaarlosing wat nou by die Botshabelo opelug museum plaasvind. Dis die ou sendingstasie van die Berlynse Sendingenooskap wat later 'n swart onderwysersopleidingsentrum was en toe deur die ou TPA pragtig gerestoreer en lank deur die ou Middelburgse stadsraad as 'n museumkompleks bedryf is. Sedert 'n grondeis aan 'n groep van die plaaslike bevolking toegestaan is en onderlinge twis onstaan het, is die laaste kuratrisie ses jaar gelede hier weg en het die plek tot niet gegaan. Die Genadendal van die Noorde is getroop en brose ou geboue wat deurlopend aandag nodig het dreig om in mekaar te tuimel. Die wat vir Harold Pakendorf ken sal weet dat hy ook hier op Botshabel grootgeword het. Ek heg ook 'n foto van sy ouerhuis aan. Ek verstaan hy huur die plek nog van tyd tot tyd om hier te kuier. Die laaste keer met sy kleinkinders. Die plek is altyd as 'n statige gasteverblyf bedryf. Nou is dit maar deel van die agteruitgang hier. Ook die ou begraafplaas is oorwoeker van wintergras en staan die potysterkruise van bekende Duitse missionarisse half versteek. Trumpelmann, Beuster, Kuschke ....
From the Desk:
We hope to have a more comprehensive report on the recent visit and the current situation at Botshabelo ready soon. Mpumalanga Heritage will get involved in future actions to prevent this cultural historical gem from getting totally lost for generations to come. This complex has tremendous recreational and tourism potential and should serve as an economic asset to its current owners.

The following was published in Lowvelder 19.05.2015

Following the old Graskop branch line

MBOMBELA - Last year it was a century since the completion of the Graskop branch line connecting the main railway line at Nelspruit with the mining-and-forestry communities of Sabie and Pilgrim’s Rest. The line was built as far as the current town of Graskop. The town then developed around the railhead. From here a tarred road, said to be the first in South Africa, was constructed over the mountain to Pilgrim’s Rest. This railroad opened up the area north of Nelspruit for development. Today 100 years later the railway line sadly lies derelict and unused, snaking through some of the most scenic regions in South Africa.

What did remain of what was once one of the great engineering feats of the eastern escarpment, is a commemorative photo album presented to the resident engineer assigned to the project, one Herbert Dempsey. This booklet shows rare photographs taken during the construction. It now belongs to John Tate of White River.

A group of members of the old Mpumalanga Historical Interest Group now registered as Mpumalanga Heritage, are in the process of studying these photographs in an endeavour to recapture the exact picture 100 later. Equipped with maps, GPSes, cameras and compass, these explorers hope to follow the tracks and find these original spots on Saturday June 13.

All are welcome to participate. Help with the research as well as the finding of the correct positions on Google Maps in advance of the site excursion will be welcomed. Note that the route, road and sites to visit on the day may offer some challenges. Vehicles must have high-ground clearance. Expect some walking to be done.

Find the all the available photos online at www.destinationsmp.co.za. See under “history”. Contact us at editor@destinationsmp.co.za
More photos to appear in the next issue……

Van Worcester dam tot Barberton se Strand

Die volgende verskyn in die Barberton Times van Woensdag 20 Mei 2015:
Wie was al by die see, Barberton se see?
Vandag is Barberton se strand al erg toegegroei onder die palmiet, maar jare gelede toe die ou Worcesterdam se klipwal gebreek het, het hier ’n groot plaat pragtige wit sand uitgespoel. Dit was gou ’n gewilde uitspanplek vir die mense van Nelspruit en Barberton. Die deel van die damwal wat bly staan het, het ’n mooi watervalletjie gemaak en wanneer die sytak van Noordkaaprivier sterk geloop het, kon die jong seuns daar agter die val skuil en ongesiens ’n dampie slaan, uit die oog van pa-hulle onder die strandsambreel of by ’n swanniebraai op die sand. Danie Loubser vertel ook van ’n foefieslaaid wat van die wal bo die noordelike oewer tot op die sand gespan was en Johan van Zyl onthou van sy lekkerste vrye hier by die Barbertonse strand. Destyds was dit op die plaas van ene Joubert, en mense kon maar inry. Vandag is dit midde-in die Barberton-natuurreservaat.

In die vroeë dae van mynbou was die noordelike deel van die Dekaapvallei ’n bedrywige kol. Hans Bornman vertel van ’n hele myndorpie teen die hang regs van die pad na Barberton oorkant die ou Worcestermyn. Vandag sien mens steeds tekens van huise en tuinplante, onder meer ’n palmboom of twee, hier in die veld.

Die Worcesterdam, ’n bietjie hoër op in die rivier, was waar die water vandaan gekom het. Die myntjie word nog van tyd tot tyd bedryf na gelang van die goudprys, maar die mense wat daar gewoon het is weg. Lewers in die jare sestig het ’n gedeelte van die pragtige ou kipkeermuur padgegee.

Dit sou gaaf wees om van ons leersers te hoor wat hulle nog van Barberton se strand kan onthou. Ons plaas graag ’n foto of twee van hoe daar in die jare sestig en sewentig hier uitgespan is.
Kry Nuwe Geskiedenis van SA nou gratis aanlyn
http://huisbou.litnet.co.za/articles/nuwe-geskiedenis-van-suid-afrika/


Annual Val Boer & Brit Day
23 May 2015
Beer & Boerewors tasting
Contact: Rita at 082 550 5540

Namens die “Ommidraai Kronkelroete/Meander” is hierdie is ’n vriendelike uitnodiging/a friendly invitation to our 6th Annual Boer & Brit dag!
Laat weet asseblief almal weet wat geïnteresseerd sou wees, en trek gerus aan soos ’n Boer of ’n Brit! Anyone who is interested in having a stall, free of charge, please let me know
Any handmade or traditional wares: handwerk, konfyt, ingelegte produkte, biltong, droee wors
Demonstrasies van tradisionele aktiwiteite, soos seepkook, sweepklap, riempiesvleg, ens
Burgerbeeld op Carolina verder beskadig

Nico Moolman The Anglo Boer War facebook Group:
Saw this yesterday in Carolina...A wounded statue. ABW.

Harry Cilliers:
Sorry if my English is poor. Carolina is my town of birth and where I was in school from Gr 1 to Std 10. I can't "like" this sad information, but thank you for sharing. The Boer in the statue held a gun which probably was a Mauser or a Lee-Enfield. I'm not sure. My heart is aching to see the hateful plundering of things that we held dear. My father and two of my brothers are buried in the local cemetery but nobody visits that desolate place anymore ... too dangerous.

Pieter Meyer:
My late father was born on a farm between Carolina and Badplaas. My great grandfather's name is on that monument. I've noticed the broken off hand and rifle a few years ago. My grandfather's grave is also in the cemetery at Carolina. I visited the cemetery last year in April. Some tombstones were knocked over. Grass was long.
A site of historic significance

Moosa Makhanya writes:
There is quite a number of unidentified sites that I think qualify for historic status. One is near Masgobe. Thousands of Cattles belonging to all the Blacks who lived around those areas were suspected to be carrying a certain if not false sickness. They were killed and buried in a mass grave. This event paralysed the black men economically. My father who witnessed his father's estimated at over five hundred head of cattle killed and buried there, is still surprised that the very same meat they went to scavenged and consume did not caused any sickness to anyone even when it was used as a meal for his brother Yingwana to stop being breastfed. The meat was perfect. What is your view? My dad was born in 1925 but still has fresh memories of the event. He was about 11 yrs old. He is alive and still strong to walk. I suggest we meet at the place in question to get the story from the horse's mouth. Directions are: Follow Hectorspruit to Komatipoort N4; Turn right at Coopersdal road proceed 2.5 km past Banana farm. The spot is somewhere there.

From the Desk:
We hope to meet with Moosa next Thursday 26 May at 10:00 at the offices of the Corridor Gazette. Anyone who would like to join is welcome.

The Convention Bridge on Grensspruit

Jennifer Bosch posted in The Anglo-Boer War (The South African War) - 1899 - 1902 Facebook Group:
The remains of Convention Bridge on Grensspruit has been proclaimed a national monument with the southern abutment being in Kwa-Zulu Natal Province and the Northern abutment being in Mpumalanga Province.

Just south of Volksrust, the main south-eastern railway line of the NZASM from the Rand of the ZAR to Natal Colony crossed this bridge over the Border Spruit, the boundary between the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek and the Natal Colony.
A lewis is one of a category of lifting devices used by stonemasons to lift large stones into place with a crane, chain block, or winch. It is inserted into a specially prepared hole, or seating, in the top of a stone, directly above its centre of mass. It works by applying principles of the lever and utilises the weight of the stone to act on the long lever-arms which in turn results in a very high reaction force and friction where the short lever-arms make contact with the stone inside the hole and thereby prevents slipping. The holes left in the stones are called 'lewis holes'. The holes are positioned in such a way that when the stone is suspended it hangs at the correct angle for bedding. See photographs.

A mason's mark is a symbol often found on dressed stone in buildings and other public structures.


In 1894 there were a number of matters that called for settlement between the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek and the British Government. One of the most important outstanding questions concerned relationships with Swaziland, so Sir Henry Loch, the Governor of the Cape Colony and British High Commissioner for South Africa, proposed a personal meeting between President Paul Kruger and himself to find solutions to these problems. The Volksraad authorised the President to undertake these discussions, but made it a condition that he did not go beyond the borders of the Republic. Consequently Sir Henry Loch also refused to leave British territory.

The problem of arranging a meeting under these circumstances was solved by putting up tents on an island in the Border Spruit. The discussions took place from 6th to 10th November. During the night of the 9th Sir Henry took ill, so the railway coach in which he was travelling and living was drawn on to the bridge. The discussions could then be continued with the President and the High Commissioner, each sitting on his own side of the border, and in this way the important Swaziland Convention of 1894 was negotiated.

(Oberholster, 1972: 331)

**Meer inligting oor Elandshoek**

Christene Rowe skryf:


Die boek van BP Simmons First 65 years - Lowveld Farmers Association -(1980) het ook 'n hoofstuk oor Elandshoek. Hier kry ek uiteindelik n datum! Bl 210 van
Simmons se boek "...the present station building...is the original one when the line was built and was opened up to Elandshoek on 20 November 1893. .....tiles on the floors are original as imported from Holland and original telephone wires are still in their wooden casings on the walls." So sad die gebou is nou in totale verval. Kan ons nie druk op provinsie begin sit om ten minste die provinsiale erfenis terreine te onderhou nie.

Van die Lessenaar:
Paddy se boekie is baie skaars. Dit het so ses jaar gelede verskyn.
Skoon vergeet om daar te kyk. Ons Mpumalanga Erfenis argief het 'n elektroniese stel van die oorspronklike kiekies van die smalspoortjie. Botshabelo is nou 'n sad sight en mens weet nie wat om daar te doen nie. Die plaaslike bevolking aan wie die grondeis toegestaan is baklei ondermekaar oor geld. (wat anders!) Na regte moes die Duitesers die grond gekry het. Hulle was immers al in 1860 die regmatige eienaars.

UPCOMING EVENTS/VOLGENDE BYEENKOMSTE
23 May 2015 - Annual Val Boer & Brit Dag, Beer & Boerewors tasting - contact Rita at 082 550 5540
13 June 2015 – Graskop branch line photo excursion
Still to be finalised:
11 July 2015 – Eureka City or HT Glynn commemorative excursion
08 August 2015 - Historic Kruger National Park weekend
11 Sept 2015 – Following the Jock Trail – 11 Sep 2015

FROM OUR PHOTO COLLECTION/UIT ONS FOTOALBUMS
This photograph appeared in The Star newspaper of 16 September 1976. It was about an old bulldozer that was used for years in the Kruger National Park and other national parks. After it was put out of commission it was placed on this special concrete block at the works department at Skukuza. One wonders if it has remained on its spot.
THE FIGHTING DOC
The Rhodesian Bush War Diary of John Coey, KIA 19 July 1975

John Coey

R250.00 + shipping
Paperback / 200 pages
35 b/w photos, 1 map

Military History / African Studies / Bush War / Memoir

It is Saturday afternoon, 19 July 1975, next to a dry riverbed in Rhodesia’s north-eastern operational area, in a war against communist-backed guerrillas. A Rhodesian combat medic receives an order to descend into the riverbed to attend to two critically wounded troopers, their figures seemingly lifeless on the sand. The whereabouts of the insurgents is not known. As the medic, displaying a red cross, moves in, shots ring out and he sustains a fatal head wound. That medic is 24-year-old American John Alan Coey.

Driven by his Christian faith and an ardent belief in the threat of global communist hegemony, Coey had come to Rhodesia to fulfill an overriding passion to help the beleaguered southern African country in its fight against what he perceived to be a communist bid to secure the sub-continent. John was a very complex individual who, right until his death, was in a permanent state of internal conflict as to his mission in life: he wishes he had a wife; he tells young American girls that they must produce strong sons who will fight the good fight; he is disillusioned by his failures; he admits he is a weak leader, virtually offering an apology for his own shortcomings; he vacillates endlessly; he admits to being unable to identify the path he needs to take to achieve his mission. But, finally, as a combat medic—a pioneer in this concept—he finds his much sought-after destiny.
Author bio:

John Coey was born on 12 November 1950 in Colombus, Ohio, USA. He attended the Ohio State University where he studied forestry, at the same time enlisting in the US Marine Corps’ officer training programme. A devout Christian, the ongoing inconclusive war in Vietnam was the catalyst that saw John leaving the USA to join the Rhodesian C Squadron, Special Air Service. The following year he was selected for officer training, but his outspokenly zealous anti-communist and conspiracy views made him transfer to the Rhodesian Army Medical Corps in late 1974. After training at Llewellyn Barracks in Bulawayo, he was seconded to the Rhodesian Light Infantry as a medic, with the rank of corporal. Here he found comfort in the brotherhood of several other Americans serving in the battalion, dubbed the ‘Crippled Eagles’. He went on more than 60 Fire Force missions as a combat medic and was affectionately known as ‘The Fighting Doc’ by the RLI troops. John was killed in action near Mt Darwin on 19 July 1975, the first American to die in the Rhodesian Bush War. He was buried with full military honours in Que Que on 28 July. In 1979 his remains were exhumed and reinterred in the Lutheran Church Cemetery, Hide Away Hills, West Liberty, Ohio, USA.

Books for the Collector

Aucamp, JP (samesteller) – Sterkstroom ons dorp en district/our town and district 1875 -1988
(Excellent condition)
R500.00

Barnes, Harry Elmer - A History of Historical Writing (2nd revised edition/1963/soft cover/good condition)
R400.00
**Coetzee, Abel** – Die Afrikaanse Volkskultuur. Onleiding tot die studie van Volkekunde (1953/excellent condition)
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**Hattersley AF** – Conflict Crisis and the growth of unity. Resistance to transportation in South Africa and Australia 1848 – 1853 (Excellent condition/1965)
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Mills, Elton ME and Wilson, Monica – Land Tenure, Keiskammahoek Rural Survey Vol. IV x2 copies available (1952/excellent condition)
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