

What happened to the 1820 Settler William Agnew and Honora of Cork Ireland ?

"If the data genealogists collected always agreed and was always consistent, many professional genealogists would be out of business. So would a few authors. Discrepancies and inconsistencies are a matter of course in genealogical research, as is dealing with those inconsistencies."

Quotation by Michael John Neill - columnist for the Ancestry Daily News

http://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/37_neill.html



Irish Immigrants ready to leave Cork Ireland

Picture source: <http://www.maggielblanck.com/Mayopages/Emigration.html>

William Agnew of Cork Ireland appears to have never reached South Africa's shores in 1820.

"**Ten of the 27 names** (including Ingram's own) on the original list were still on the final sailing list; a lower proportion of drop-outs than occurred in most of the Settler parties. (see Sources A.A Balkema 1969 and <http://1820settlers.com>)

Maybe not!

The Barque named the "Fanny" departed Cork Ireland on 12 February 1820 and arrived in **Simons Bay** Cape Town on 01 May 1820 under the leadership of Party Head - John Ingram. The "Fanny" then proceeded to Saldanha Bay where passengers disembarked for Clan Williamstown in mid May 1820 in the Western Cape, but many passengers would have disembarked in **Simons Bay** Cape Town despite being legally bound to Party Leaders. The short two week stay in Simons Bay and Cape Town gave Settlers the time to seek out employment while they were ashore. After the allotted time the Settlers then proceeded on their way to Saldanha Bay, being settled in "Kleine Valley" and outlying areas of Clanwilliams town.



Cobh Harbour Cork Ireland from which William Agnew and Honora sailed aboard the "Fanny" Picture source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cork_Harbour

"A party of 62 from Cork led by John Ingram sailed in "Fanny" in 1820, They were located in Kleine Valley in the Western Cape. Most of them were shortly transferred in "East Indian" to Albany, John Ingram remaining." (see Sources A.A Balkema 1969 and <http://1820settlers.com>; Irish Settlers to the Cape - A history of the Clanwilliam Settlers from Cork - Graham Brian Dickason)



Simon's Bay, the Cape of Good Hope where the "Fanny" first anchored Picture sourced: <http://austenonly.com/tag/cape-of-good-hope/>

Many Settlers in Clan Williamstown and Cape Town complained bitterly to the British government about conditions and were transferred to the Eastern Cape. This appears to be the case with George Agnew who had a familiarity with both the Eastern Cape, and Cape Town locations. He is known in researched documentation as "George Agnew of Simonstown", a Catholic adherent. The question now arises, is George Agnew actually William Agnew of Cork Ireland? Second names were often written first, and the first name last, so much so that it appears to be a literacy style used in documentation in the 19th century.

George Agnew and William Agnew of Ireland have many discrepancies in birth dates and other information, but this could possibly be due to poor government documentation in Ireland, ineptitude of lazy officials, the use of third parties filling in questionnaires' on behalf of Settlers, hurried processing without verifiable documentation, or illiteracy. Assuming William Agnew is George Agnew he would not have known his birth date, or have been able to fill in his details, as he was illiterate, hence the reason for the discrepancies. This single fact means that the documentation content would have most likely been flawed, yet adding additional credence to William Agnew of Ireland being "George Agnew of Simonstown".

Remember that some family persons were called by their second name (Middle Name) too, and other second names were used in situations where there were more than one person with the same first names, as in my case, where more than two classmates shared my first name.

"Some middle names were used like a first name. A person named John David Smith may have never been addressed as John at all. He may have used the name J. David Smith or just David Smith or even David J. Smith. Sometimes this is done when the first name is also the parent's or a relative's first name. For example, the world knows this famous British author as Rudyard Kipling—but his full name was Joseph Rudyard Kipling."

"In the U.S. South, the first and middle name could be switched back and forth making it unclear which name was originally intended for which purpose. It was also not uncommon for several siblings in a family to have the same middle name or, less commonly, the same first name with different middle names."

<http://blog.genealogybank.com/guide-to-ancestor-middle-name-research-for-genealogy.html>

See also

<http://schmidtgen.com/wordpress/2014/10/01/german-genealogy-tip-2-germans-often-went-by-their-middle-name/#sthash.J5bc1VWq.dpuf>

Therefore it is quite logical to take the view that George Agnew could in fact be William George Agnew or George William Agnew as long as there are other connective facts.

There were some 40 Agnew families who emigrated from the British Isles to South Africa, some formed part of a British Government Settler Party, others came here individually for one reason or another, and others stopped over briefly. There may be other Agnews which I have failed to uncover in my research but many of these immigrants passed through South African ports on their way to Australasia, while others disembarked here at their peril.

However, remember that "George Agnew of Simonstown" appears out of nowhere but must have arrived in this country in his twenties. There are no other Agnews to be found in Cape Town, or the Eastern Cape, or even Natal other than this family in the time frames we are discussing. Barring George Agnew being William Agnew, he could only then be the s/o Lt John Agnew of Scotland/Ireland who arrived in Cape Town in 1801. George Agnew's birth date appears to precede this event, albeit by a small margin.

Discrepancies in information:

William born abt. 1795 vs George born Abt. 1799

Quote: "John Grenham, in his book *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors, Third Edition* (Genealogical Publishing Company: 2006) (a "must-have" volume for your personal genealogical library) recommends "a large dose of scepticism is necessary" when working with dates of births, marriage, and deaths before 1900 (page 7). Grenham notes widespread discrepancies even as late as between the 1901 and 1911 Ireland census. He attributes the discrepancy

not to vanity, as I had assumed with my great-grandfather, but to people in the 1800's not knowing their date of birth".

<http://irishfamilyresearch.blogspot.com/2010/02/age-discrepancies-when-was-great-grand.html>

"A few problems may arise due to the lax nature of the early documents. When records began, the parents had three weeks in which to register a birth and, after three months, they couldn't register the child at all"

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/content/expert-bmd-certificates>

William's sired male/female? born abt. 1817 vs George sired a son born abt. 1818

99

A List of the Persons who have agreed . [paper fold]
To go out to the Cape of Good Hope with them from
[paper fold]
[columns with ages of children below obscured in paper
folds, as are some of the female names]

William AGNEW, 25, Mason, Honora, 22, One, [column obscured]

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/SOUTH-AFRICA-IMMIGRANTS-BRITISH/2006-07/1153175474>

Quote: "In the early days of registration some birth certificates actually got the gender of the child wrong, largely due to the fact that the parents may have been illiterate and couldn't check the details were correct."

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/content/expert-bmd-certificates>

William was a Mason vs George worked "around the Cape Town Fort" Labourer or Mason?/Fisherman.

Could have changed careers, but "working around the Cape Town Castle" means he could have done masonry work (see [NASA](#) documentation). The mere fact his son William George Agnew was a Mason may speak volumes.



The Castle of Good Hope Cape Town in the foreground with Lions Head to the left in the background. Picture source:

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:North view from the Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town.JPG](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:North_view_from_the_Castle_of_Good_Hope,_Cape_Town.JPG)

William listed for Clanwilliams town via Cape Town vs George worked in PE and Cape Town

Historically we know of the movements of the Clanwilliamstown Settlers, many moving to Cape Town and others moving to the Eastern Cape to take up new opportunities. Thus it is absolutely possible to trace the movements of William Agnew which I believe are found in the person George Agnew of Simonstown.

William's first wife named Honora vs George first wife unknown

If we agree to the possibility that George Agnew was actually George [William] Agnew (reasons already stated) then we would naturally accept that Honora Agnew was his first wife because of documentation that already exists. This name, we'd assume with confidence, would be carried down the lineage by George's children. Therefore we need to find his wife, which I believe has remained elusive until now.

If we trace the meaning of the name Honora we find it translated as the variant Johanna, but it also has others:

>Johanna = Jane, Joan, Jean and Honora.

>Honorah = Nora, Norah, (Jane, Jean, Joan)

>Honorina = Honour, Honor

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/IRL-KERRY/2009-11/1259492180>

According to Ó Corráin and Maguire, Julia is derived from Síle or Siobhán/Sibán, Johanna from Siobhán/Sibán and Honora from Onóra. Per Jane Lyons, Hannah can be Honora (also per Woulfe) or Johanna.

<http://boards.ancestry.co.uk/localities.britisles.ireland.ker.general/15570/mb.ashx>

"Sometimes, the translation can throw us off track - for example, Johanna meaning Jane, Jean, Johanna and also being translated as *Honora*"

Joanna, Johanna = Joan, Jane, Jeanne, Jeanette, Joanne, Sinead, Siobhan
Johanna = Jane, Joan, Jean and Honora

<http://www.from-ireland.net/category/irish-genealogy/names/>

Johanna was sometimes the Latin form of Honorah used by Catholic adherents.

Note by ED

The Irish have names which are different but are used interchangeably and accepted. This may be because of the Irish form of the name or a common diminutive to both names either in their Irish, English or Latin form.

Hannah: Honora, Johanna

Jane: Joan, Jean (all Johanna in Latin)

With the attempts of officialdom to change Irish names to versions which they could understand we have other names which are equivalents of one another but not necessarily a direct translation of one another.

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/IRISH-AMERICAN/2005-07/1121914446>

Johanna = Honora - Joanna - Jane - Jean. Names found especially around the Kilkenny area in Ireland. (see Varieties and Synonyms of Surnames and Christian Names in Ireland Page 28/29 by Robert E Matheson - "For Guidance of Registration and the Public in Searching the Indexes of Births, Deaths and Marriages." www.forgottenbooks.com)

Examples of name meanings :

Example of Irish name variants found in Natalian Agnews eg. William John Maurer Agnew :

"Maur - From the dedication to [St Maur\[us\]](#) a Catholic, the patron Saint of the fishing village "Rush" meaning "peninsula of the Yew trees" in Ireland." **Maur** = Maurer - Maurice - Seymour, hence [Maurer](#) Agnew used as a Christian first name in this case. (see also Varieties and Synonyms of Surnames and Christian Names in Ireland Page 30 by Robert E Matheson - "For Guidance of Registration and the Public in Searching the Indexes of Births, Deaths and Marriages." www.forgottenbooks.com)

or from the root Mauer

German and Jewish (Ashkenazic): occupational name for a builder of walls of stone or brick, from an agent derivative of Middle High German mure, German Mauer 'wall' (from Latin murus 'wall', especially a city wall). In the Middle Ages the majority of dwellings were built of wood (or lath and plaster), and this term would have specifically denoted someone employed in building defensive walls, castles, churches, and other public buildings.

<http://www.ancestry.com/name-origin?surname=maurer>



Fishing Boats

Simonstown fishermen Picture source: From the book ["The Far South"](#) by Michael Walker <http://gosouthonline.co.za/the-far-south-where-oceans-meet/>

George Agnew of Simonstown worked as a whaler/fisherman in both Port Elizabeth (Algoa Bay) and Cape Town (Fisch Hoek/Simonstown). He divorced and found work with businessman Frederick Korsten of the Eastern Cape who would shuttle Capetonian Coloured, Malay, and European crew members aboard his boats during the Whaling season to PE (read [Algoa Bay in the Age of Sail \(1488 to 1917\) by Colin Urquart](#)). He applied, assisted by his employer Mr F. Korsten, for permission to reside in CT permanently, because he was working between two cities, and wished to settle in the area with his new wife (see [NASA](#) documentation and Frederick Korsten's signature on George Agnew's documentation submitted to Lord Charles Somerset).



Algoa Bay Port Elizabeth Eastern Cape South Africa [Pic source unknown](#)

He also had friends who were boatmen, but one in particular was Mr J. Took whom he remained witness to at his wedding in Cape Town. Joseph Took married Johanna at this wedding, Honora I believe, to be exact, the woman mentioned as coming to South Africa aboard the "Fanny" with her husband William Agnew. Incidentally William George Agnew s/o George Agnew was born in South Africa in 1827, and was also a Mason. This important fact, including the others mentioned tends to support the William Agnew Irish linkage, as often children were found to be in the same vocation as that of their parents.

George Agnew and Joseph remained family friends despite Joseph marrying what appears to be his first wife. Besides, the argument is strengthened when one considers that probability dictates that after her divorce she married someone in the same social circles as George found himself in.

Johanna, pronounced Jo - anna, or Honora, was the name carried down in the lineage of George Agnew's sons, John Agnew (b 1818 Ireland) and William George Agnew (b 1827 Cape Colony).

Happenstance:

George Agnew just happened to reside and work where the barque "Fanny" first arrived in [Simons Bay](#) 1820

Honora, just happens to mean Johanna who became the wife of George's friend Joseph Took

George Agnew just happened to name his son [William] George Agnew, the name of William Agnew listed to sail on the "Fanny" from Cork Ireland

William Agnew s/o George Agnew just happened to be a Mason, the trade of William Agnew of Cork Ireland

Johanna, or Honora, Just happened to be carried down in his children's lineage, meaning they were emotionally connected with the life of this person

George Agnew just happened to be illiterate, hence other people were required to give his personal details resulting in documentational inaccuracies

Is this family related to Sir William Agnew of the British Isles?

Sir William Agnew of the British Isles was born in 1825. This means that "William Agnew of Cork Ireland" (George Agnew), born between 1795 and 1799, preceded his birth by five to ten years. There were absolutely no other Agnews with a conferred *Royal Title* by the name of Sir William Agnew before 1825, ever. (see [Agnew peerage for conferred Royal Titles](#)).



1820 Settler Monument Grahamstown Eastern Cape Picture source:

<http://www.southafrica.net/za/en/articles/entry/article-southafrica.net-1820-settlers-monument>

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1820 Settler histories
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"In speaking of the 1820 Settlers, it is curious how often Irish Parties are overlooked. This may possibly be accounted for by the fact that they formed a comparatively small portion of the whole, that there was no cohesion in their ranks, and that they drifted hither and thither before finally settling down. They split up after arrival and re-formed, some electing to remain and try their luck in the arid district allotted to them in the Northwest of the Cape Colony, and others finding their way in parties or individually to the Cape, Port Elizabeth and various parts of Albany. But, though as a whole, they do not loom as large in the mind of

the average reader today as do those who came en masse to the Eastern Districts, they made enough stir at the time, and proved a thorn in the flesh of the Authorities, both here and in England."

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/SOUTH-AFRICA-IMMIGRANTS-BRITISH/2002-12/1041252090>

From: "Jack WRIGHT" <jack.wright@laposte.net>

Subject: 1820 Settlers

Date: Thu, 15 Dec 2005 23:22:24 +0200

In-Reply-To: X-Scanned-By: MIMEDefang 2.52 on 192.168.16.34

Herewith a wonderful excerpt of South African history regarding the background to and arrival of the 1820 Settlers, drawn from "History of South Africa from 1795 to 1872" by George McCall THEAL. Vol I, George Allen & Unwin Ltd, London, 1914.

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Before 1820 the white population of the Cape Colony was almost entirely Dutch, and it was so prolific that it doubled in number every quarter of a century. It was engaged chiefly in agricultural and pastoral pursuits. The only British residents in the country were the principal civil servants, some merchants in Capetown, the staff of the naval arsenal in Simonstown, two or three farmers, a few missionaries, and some mechanics and labourers recently introduced by Mr. Benjamin Moodie, Mr. James Gosling, and Mr. Peter Tait.

In 1817 Mr. Moodie, with the concurrence of the secretary of state, engaged about two hundred young men in the south of Scotland, and brought them out as apprentices indentured for three years. Three-fourths of the number were mechanics, and the remainder were labourers. With two or three exceptions, they were without family ties. They cost Mr. Moodie about £20 each for their passages, and so great was the demand for their services that he had no difficulty in selling the indentures for more than double that amount, in many cases to the men themselves. Some of these people settled in Capetown, others in the country districts, and in a short time all of them who were industrious and steady were in prosperous circumstances. By writing to their

friends at home they helped to bring the country to the notice of the labouring classes of Great Britain, and it was largely owing to their success that Earl Bathurst came to regard South Africa as a suitable field colonisation. Mr. Moodie himself settled on an excellent farm at Grootvadersbosch, in the district of Swellendam.

Mr. Gosling was an experimental gentleman farmer in the district of Stellenbosch. In 1818 he got out twelve boys as apprentices from a charitable institution termed the Refuge for the Destitute, but his expectations of success were not realised, and some of the lads with criminal instincts turned out badly.

In 1818 a gentleman named Peter Tait took to the colony seven Scotch labourers. He received from the government a tract of land in the district of George, where he considered the prospects of farming so good that in the following year he had nineteen others of the same class sent out to him. All were under indentures, and he was able to obtain a considerable advance upon the cost of passage for as many of these as he cared to dispose of. The men thus introduced thrived better than they could have done in Scotland, but Mr. Tait himself lost his capital through the failure of his crops in 1820, 21, and 22, and after struggling on until 1824 gave up farming and returned to Britain.

Some seven or eight hundred time-expired soldiers, principally of the 60th regiment, had recently been discharged in Capetown, but most of these men were foreigners. They readily obtained employment as labourers, though as they were of indifferent character and formed connections with the coloured people, they were more harmful than useful to the colony. Of late, Earl Bathurst had been offering land in South Africa to persons desirous of emigrating, in extent proportionate to their means of cultivating it, but as no other inducement was held out, the offer was almost without result.

For some years after the termination of the long war with France there was much distress among the labouring people of Great Britain, as the country could not furnish employment at once for the large numbers who directly or indirectly had been occupied in carrying on the contest. The only remedy seemed to be emigration to other parts of the empire where the condition of things was different, where there was land without people, or work to be done and no one to do it. This was the state of the Cape Colony, with its genial climate, its sparsely inhabited territory, and its undeveloped resources.

On the 28th of July 1817 the subject of emigration to South Africa on a large scale was first mooted in a despatch from Earl Bathurst, in which Lord Charles Somerset was called upon for an expression of opinion. The governor replied on the 18th of December, enthusiastically favouring the scheme. He described the territory between the Sunday and Fish Rivers, known as the Zuurveld or Albany, in glowing terms, and certainly, judging from its appearance in favourable seasons, he was justified in doing so. It has always been the case in South Africa that any advantages possessed by a locality are recognised at first sight, and its faults only become known by experience. Thus the governor knew no other bane than Kaffir marauders, for

which a dense population behind his frontier defensive line would be an effectual remedy. He described the climate as delicious, and the soil as fertile. Wool, corn, tobacco, and cotton, he affirmed, could be produced for exportation. It was a land where, in his opinion, steady and industrious mechanics and labourers would be certain to succeed.

The plan he recommended was that parties of working people should be sent out, each under a competent head who should receive a grant of land proportionate in size to the number of his retainers. Apart from such a system being one which he as a member of an aristocratic family would naturally favour there was a special reason, in his opinion, for its adoption in the eastern part of the Cape Colony. It would provide in the best manner for defence against the Kaffirs, as a number of men would be always ready on every estate to repel marauders. It was indeed the common system of the colony, for instances were very rare of the owner of a plot of ground cultivating it with his own hands. In the west the proprietors of the cornfields and vineyards had numerous slaves, in the midland and north-eastern districts the graziers had always Hottentots and other coloured dependents upon their farms. But the parallel was not complete. What answered well where the labourers were of an inferior race might not succeed where the proprietor of the ground and the dependents were of the same blood and of the same, or nearly the same, station in society.

The imperial government then resolved to send to South Africa some of the surplus population of Great Britain and Ireland, and in 1819 parliament was asked to grant £50,000 for the purpose. The money was voted without demur, and measures were immediately taken to carry out the scheme. The first step was to call for applications from persons desirous of taking out emigrants, which was done by inserting notices in the leading newspapers.

The conditions were that each applicant should engage to take with him at least nine other able-bodied males over eighteen years of age. Passages, including provisions for the persons composing such parties and their families, would be provided free of charge to the port of landing, but the responsibility of the government for further maintenance would then cease. Ground to the extent of one hundred acres for each male over eighteen years of age would be allotted at once, and at the expiration of three years a title-deed would be issued free of all charges to the head of the party for as many hundred acres as there should be then such males remaining on it.

No taxes were to be payable for the ground during the first ten years, and thereafter the annual quitrent was not to exceed £2 per hundred acres. Each person taking out emigrants was to deposit with the government £10 for every man with his wife and two children and every unmarried male over eighteen years of

age, and where there were more than two children in a family £5 for every one in excess between fourteen and eighteen, and £5 for every twounder fourteen years of age. One-third of this deposit was to be returned when the party landed, one-third when the ground was occupied, and the remaining third three months thereafter. Agricultural implements, seed corn, and rations for a short period were to be supplied to any who might need them at cost price, to be paid for out of the deposit money. The head of a party was to be at liberty to make any arrangements with his people that he and they might consider best for their mutual advantage; and every party of one hundred families was to have the privilege of selecting a clergyman of any denomination of Christians to accompany it, to whom a salary would be paid by the colonial government.

In reply to this invitation so many applications were received that the government had fully twenty times as many to choose from as could be sent out with the means provided by parliament. A careful selection was then made, which ended in the approval of fifty-seven heads of parties, who undertook to take out one thousand and thirty-four Englishmen, four hundred and twelve Scotchmen, one hundred and seventy-four Irishmen, and forty-two Welsh-men, about two-thirds of whom were to be accompanied by wives and children. Before embarking, however, a good many changes were made in the lists of names, and one party of four hundred Scotch families under Captain J. Grant withdrew altogether.

The parties were variously constituted. Only a few, and they the smallest of all, consisted of servants bound by agreements to their head. Many consisted of groups of persons each of whom had a few servants, together with some who were dependent on their own labour alone, and who elected a head merely as an intermediary with the government. Such parties agreed to divide the ground that was to be granted to the head in fair proportions among them. Others consisted entirely of independent units, with only a nominal head, and these agreed that each man was to receive one hundred acres of the grant, and each one contributed his own deposit money. One such party, from Nottingham, was supplied by public subscription with the necessary funds.

In a few instances parishes furnished the os to families who, in consequence of dearth of employment, were likely to become burdensome on them.

Many of the leaders of parties were military or naval officers, who, in consequence of the peace, were obliged to live on half pay. There were four large English parties : of one hundred and two men, seventy-two women, and hundred and thirty-three children, under Mr. Thomas Wilson, accompanied by the reverend William Boardman, a clergyman of the English Episcopal church; one of one hundred and one men, eighty-two women, and one hundred sixty-one children, under Mr. Hezekiah Sephton, accompanied by the reverend William Shaw, a clergyman of the Wesleyan church ; one of ninety men, fifty-eight

women, and hundred and eight children, under Mr. John Bailie ; and of sixty men, thirty-four women, and seventy-three children, under Mr. Thomas Calton.

There was an Irish party seventy-five men, fifty women, and ninety-five children, under Mr. William Parker, accompanied by the reverend Francis McClelland, a clergyman of the English Episcopal Church. The others were all groups ranging from ten to thirty men, with a number of women and children. In some instances the men left their wives and children behind, these did not reach South Africa until several years.

The people who were about to leave Britain and Ireland, where they could then obtain no employment, with the intention of making homes for themselves in a country of which they knew little more than the name, consisted of a men who were unfit for manual labour but who were possession of small capitals, clerks, mechanics of all disciplines, farm labourers, discharged sailors and soldiers, boatmen, fishermen, workers in towns, men in short of most every known occupation. They were not aware that the physical condition of South Africa was very different from that of the land they were leaving, but pictured to themselves wide-spreading cornfields and flourishing villages on their little grants, a hundred acres of land seeming to them a considerable estate.

The first transports—the Chapman and Nautilus—left the Thames on the 5th and 9th of December 1819, and arrived together in Table Bay on the 17th of March 1820. They were followed by the Garland, Canada, Belle Alliance, Brilliant, Zoroaster, Aurora, and Sir George Osborne from London, the John, Stentor, and Albury from Liverpool, the Northampton, Ocean, Weymouth, and Duke of Marlborough from Portsmouth, the Kennersley Castle from Bristol, and the Amphitrite from Torbay. Altogether these ships brought to South Africa one thousand and seventy-nine men, six hundred and thirty-two women, and one thousand and sixty-four children as immigrants. Four Irish parties, under Mr. William Parker, Captain Walter Synnot, Captain Thomas Butler, and Mr. John Ingram, numbering together one hundred and twenty-six men, seventy-three women, and one hundred and fifty children, sailed from Cork in the transports East Indian and Fanny on the 12th of February 1820, and arrived in Simon's Bay on the 30th of April and 1st of May.

It had been Lord Charles Somerset's intention to locate the whole of the immigrants in the Zuurveld, but Sir Rufane Donkin made a different arrangement. Earl Bathurst had directed that each nationality—English, Scotch, and Irish—should be provided with ground by itself, so the acting governor decided to keep the Irish and some of the other parties in the western districts of the colony. The Scotch party under Mr. Thomas Pringle, consisting of twelve men, five women, and seven children, was directed by him to be located in the valley of the Baviaans' river in the sub-district

of Cradock, and the principal English parties were to be placed in the Zuurveld. In accordance with this decision, the East Indian and Fanny on their arrival were sent to Saldanha Bay to disembark their passengers. Four parties of mixed Welsh and English, under Captain Duncan Campbell, Lieutenant Valentine Griffith, Lieutenant Thomas bite, and Mr. Joseph Neave, consisting together of fifty men, twenty-five women, and thirty-two children, were landed at Capetown, and the transports containing all the others were sent to Algoa Bay. Captain Moresby, in his Majesty's ship Menai, accompanied the Chapman and Nautilus when they sailed for that bay, and remained there superintend the landing of the immigrants and the stores. Between the 10th of April and the 25th of June 1820 one thousand and twenty men, six hundred and seven women, one thousand and thirty-two children, were set ashore the sandy beach below Fort Frederick without a single incident occurring.

The number of immigrants about to arrive was unknown the Cape authorities, but preparations for their reception been made on such a scale at Algoa Bay that there was lack of food or tents for shelter. A surveyor had been d to make a rough chart of the country between the 'e and Fish rivers, and from his sketches and descriptions the soil and water locations were selected for the various 'houses according to their size. One party, under Mr. Charles Gurney, consisting chiefly of fishermen from Deal, and posed of thirteen men, three women, and eight children, erred to remain at Algoa Bay, where they thought they t succeed in the occupation to which they were accused They established themselves near the mouth of the Swartkops river, and called their little station Deal in memory of their old home. Wagons were requisitioned the Dutch farmers of George, Uitenhage, and Graaff Reinet, and with as little delay as possible the other immigrants were sent forward and placed on the ground selected them. Mr. Henry Ellis, who since July 1819 had been deputy colonial secretary, was there to superintend the arrival arrangements until Sir Rufane Donkin should arrive.

The acting governor decided to locate the four Irish Parties in the valley of the Jan Dissel's river at Clanwilliam. It was an unfortunate choice of locality, for the ground capable of cultivation was too limited in extent to support so many people, and the heat in summer is so great that nothing can grow there without irrigation. But under the most favourable circumstances very few of these people could have made a living by agriculture, as the great majority of them were mechanics or town labourers. Mr. William Parker,

the head of the largest party, had come to South Africa with the expectation that he would be granted land at the Knysna, where he intended to engage in commerce, and was greatly disappointed when he was informed that the ground there was private property. He then with a companion visited Clanwilliam, and returned to Saldanha Bay, where the East Indian and Fanny were at anchor, with such an unfavourable impression that discontent became general among the

immigrants.

The government now offered the Irish parties the choice of being located at Clanwilliam or the Zuurveld, upon which they selected the former, and were conducted to Jan Diesel's Valley in wagons requisitioned from the farmers. Mr. Parker, however, with some of his indentured servants remained at Saldanha Bay, where he formed fantastic plans of founding a town, engaging in commerce, and establishing a large fishery, though his means were very limited. As a matter of course, these schemes came to nothing, and he then threw the blame of his failure upon the government, and particularly upon Lieutenant-Colonel Bird, the colonial secretary, whom he accused of having purposely sought to ruin him. Colonel Bird was a Roman Catholic, and this was before the Catholic Emancipation Act was passed in England. Mr. Parker 'asserted that he was conspiring to subvert Protestantism in the colony, and that as a Catholic it was illegal for him to hold a civil office. He wrote long letters on this subject and his own distress to Earl Bathurst and many leading men in England, and after his departure from South Africa in October 1822 he pestered the colonial office with letters and pamphlets for several years, in the vain hope of obtaining either a lucrative situation or pecuniary compensation for his losses.

A few weeks' experience convinced the settlers at Clanwilliam that it would be an impossibility for so many persons to make a living there. The government also recognised that a mistake had been made, and on the 25th of July offered to remove them to the Zuurveld and supply them with rations free of charge until they could gather crops, in consideration of their loss of time. Most of them accepted the offer, and thereafter became blended with the English settlers in Albany. Some of Mr. Parker's people, whom he had abandoned, preferred, however, to remove to Capetown, where they could obtain employment at high wages, and they were permitted to do so. Mr. Ingram was allowed to purchase the claims of some of the others at a very low rate, and had a title to the ground given to him, so he remained there a couple of years longer, though his party removed to Albany. Captain Walter Synnot remained also, and on the 30th of November 1821 became deputy landdrost of Clanwilliam, in succession to Mr. Olof Martini Bergh. The reverend Francis McClelland, who was in receipt of a salary from government, was retained at Clanwilliam, where after 1822 he had only six English-speaking families to minister to, until November 1825, when he was transferred to Port Elizabeth.

The parties under Messrs. Griffith, White, Campbell, and Neave were sent to the farm Wolvegat purchased by the government for £1,200 for the purpose, adjoining some vacant ground on the Zonderend river, not far from the Moravian mission station Genadendal. But the soil proved so poor that all idea of permanent residence there was soon abandoned by most of the

settlers, and on the 25th of July an offer was made to them similar to that made to the parties at Clanwilliam. Lieutenant Griffith preferred to take over from the tenant the lease of the Old Post farm in Groenekloof, and with his brother and some labourers moved to it; Mr. Neave chose to remain where he was; the others accepted the offer of the government, and were conveyed to Albany. Thus the immigrants with very few exceptions were located on the ground that Lord Charles Somerset intended they should be settled upon. At the time of their arrival there were only thirty-eight farms occupied in the whole of that district, so completely had the depredations of the Kaffirs deterred the old colonists from settling there. Of these farms sixteen were subsequently resumed by the government, so that from the first Albany was almost purely a British settlement, although at a later date several Dutch colonists had land granted to them there.

The immigrants had hardly reached their destination when dissatisfaction appeared among them. They found a beautiful country indeed, clothed with grass and dotted over with trees like an English park, but it was not the country they had pictured to themselves before seeing it. The proportion that was capable of being tilled was small, and the hundred acres allotted for each man included that which was fit only for pasture as well as that adapted for the plough. Then in many cases redistribution of locations became necessary, as fresh parties arrived, and those who were moved to inferior ground were loud in their complaints. Besides this, the mechanics and the labourers who were indentured to heads of parties came to hear of the high wages paid in other districts of the colony, and were desirous of breaking their engagements. To keep them together very stringent regulations were made by the government, so that no one could leave his location without a pass from the head of his party, or the district without a pass from the landdrost, under penalty of being apprehended and punished as a vagrant. The majority of the settlers knew nothing of agriculture, and those who had been accustomed to farm life in England had yet to learn a great deal in Africa. Still, with all the dissatisfaction, the settlers generally speaking set to work with the utmost energy. They had obtained seed corn and farm implements from the government on credit, and were furnished with rations on security of the two-thirds of their deposit money that had not yet been repaid. And so large patches of ground were turned over and sown with wheat, and cottages of simple structure were put up to serve until more substantial houses could be built.

On the 29th of April Sir Rufane Donkin left Capetown to visit the new settlement. He found that the cost of conveyance of the immigrants from Algoa Bay inland would absorb the whole of their funds still held by the government, so that nothing would remain to meet the charge for rations. He therefore proposed to the secretary of state that they should be relieved from payment of inland transport, and to this Earl Bathurst consented.

In the centre of the locations Sir Rufane Donkin selected a site for a village, which he intended to be a seat of magistracy. It was on the left bank of the Kowie river, about nine miles or fourteen kilometres from the sea, and was a situation of much natural beauty. He caused building allotments to be laid out, some of which were granted to applicants free of charge, and others were sold. This place he named Bathurst, in honour of the secretary of state, and on the 23rd of May Captain Charles Trappes, of the 72nd regiment, was stationed there as provisional magistrate. Shortly after-wards a commencement was made with the erection of the necessary public buildings. On the hill above the landing-place at Algoa Bay the acting governor erected a monument to the memory of his deceased wife. On the 6th of June he named the rising town upon the shore Port Elizabeth after her, of which notice was given in the Gazette of the 23rd. On the 25th of the same month he reached Capetown again.

Upon the withdrawal of the large party of Highland Scotch, the emigration commissioners selected other families in different parts of Great Britain, who embarked in seven vessels, of which four arrived towards the close of 1820 and two early in 1821. These immigrants were not very numerous, and all of them were located in Albany. The fate of those who left in the other vessel was extremely sad.

The Abeona, a transport of 328 tons burden, sailed from the Firth of Clyde on the 13th of October 1820. She had a crew of twenty-one officers and men, and there were on board a party of emigrants consisting of twenty-nine men, twenty-one women, and seventy-six children, under the leadership of Mr. William Russell, besides two men, three women, and nine children who had paid their passages, and Lieutenant Robert Mudge, the admiralty agent. On the 25th of November, in latitude 4° 30' N., longitude 25° 30' W., shortly after mid-day a fire broke out in the store-room, caused by the chief mate using a lighted candle when drawing off some spirits. The flames spread with such rapidity that they were immediately beyond control, and only three small boats could be got out. Into these forty-nine persons crowded, when they could contain no more. The boats remained by the burning ship until she disappeared. A little before daybreak next morning the survivors were picked up by a Portuguese vessel from Bahia, and were taken to Lisbon, where they arrived on the 20th of December. Of Mr. Russell's party twenty-one men, twenty women, and fifty-nine children perished, including himself and his family. Of the other passengers, one woman and four children, and of the ship's crew eight men, met the same fate. Of those who were saved, five men and one woman persisted in their wish to settle in South Africa, and were sent out some months later.

At the same time that emigrants were being sent from Great Britain and

Ireland at the expense of the government, a number of persons proceeded to South Africa without any aid, on the assurance of the secretary of state that they would receive larger grants of land if they paid for their passages. Some of these settled in Capetown and its neighbourhood, being induced to do so by the prospect of a comfortable livelihood there, others went on to Albany. Altogether, nearly five thousand individuals of British or Irish birth became residents in the colony between March 1820 and May 1821. The cost of conveyance of those who were sent out by the imperial government was 186,760 5s. 4d.

To provide more fully for the maintenance of order in the new settlement, on the 15th of September 1820 Sir Rufane Donkin issued a proclamation by which special heemraden with considerable authority could be appointed, and Messrs. Thomas Phillips, Duncan Campbell, and Miles Bowker were empowered to act in this capacity. This proclamation was followed on the 13th of October by another, by which from the date of assumption of duty by a landdrost the portion of the district of Uitenhage east of the Bushman's river, together with the tract of land between the Fish and Keiskama rivers, was created a separate district called Albany. The office of landdrost was offered to Lieutenant-Colonel John Graham, who was then commandant of Simonstown, but illness prevented him from removing, and in March 1821 he died. The situation was then offered to Colonel Moncton, who declined it ; and it was only on the 24th of May 1821 that it was filled by the appointment of Major James Jones, an officer on half pay who had recently arrived in the colony. On the 30th of May Major Jones was installed as landdrost and military commandant of the frontier, and Albany was severed from Uitenhage. Captain Trappes, the provisional magistrate at Bathurst, was now relieved of duty, but on the 4th of January 1822 he was appointed landdrost of Tulbagh in succession to Mr. Jan Hendrik Fischer, who retired. The office of deputy landdrost of Grahamstown, which had been filled since October 1819 by Captain Henry Somerset, was also abolished when Albany became a fully constituted district.

Throughout South Africa the wheat crops in 1820 were attacked by a kind of blight previously unknown in the country, and those in Albany were completely destroyed. This was a very severe blow to the settlers, who had expended their strength chiefly in attempting to produce corn, and who now found their labour fruitless. Under these circumstances many of the mechanics evaded the regulations of the government to keep them on the ground, and made their way to other parts of the country where they could obtain profitable employment. The great majority of the settlers, however, remained on the locations, and it is indeed much to their credit that they did not lose heart altogether, but resolved to bear the disaster bravely and to persevere in the effort to make for themselves comfortable homes. In June 1821 Sir Rufane Donkin again visited the eastern frontier. He found

the immigrants in fairly good spirits, and making much greater progress in cultivating the ground than could have been expected from the previous occupations of most of them. Some had purchased a few working and breeding cattle, and had large gardens, with plenty of vegetables, pigs, and poultry. The majority were still of necessity provided with rations by the government, the meal for the purpose being brought from the western districts, where there was still corn left from the exceptionally good crop of 1819. Some of the parties had broken up, and were reorganised under other leaders ; one of the largest had been abandoned by its head, Mr. Thomas Willson, who returned to England to pester the colonial office with his complaints and demands for compensation for his losses. Each member of this party now regarded himself as an independent settler, but the reverend Mr. Boardman was acting as a general director and was the medium of communication with the government. With the exception of the Scotch party at Baviaans' river, the large party under Mr. Sephton was the most thriving of them all. They had already built a neat little village, which they named Salem, where they had established a school, and where their clergyman, the reverend William Shaw, conducted services regularly.

The bar at the mouth of the Kowie river had been crossed frequently by a small fishing boat, and it was believed to be passable by sailing craft of light burden. There was a fine sheet of deep water above the bar, and strong hopes were entertained that it would furnish a safe harbour and do away with the long land carriage to and from Port Elizabeth. The health of the settlers was remarkably good ; there was hardly one who was not more robust and hearty than when in England. Since their arrival the deaths had not exceeded a dozen, and the births had been over a hundred.

The Royal African corps was at this time under orders to return to England to be disbanded. Sir Rufane Donkin thought he could utilise the best men in it as an advanced guard of the colony, by forming a settlement with them in the lower portion of the vacant territory east of the Fish river. It was Lord Charles Somerset's intention to keep the district between the Fish and Keiskama rivers unoccupied except by soldiers, to have it constantly patrolled, and thus to prevent depredations by the Xosas and illegal intercourse between the two races. This design was now set aside by Sir Rufane Donkin, who resolved to fill a portion of it with Europeans. It had been his intention to locate the large party expected from Scotland in the valleys at the sources of the Kat river, and the ground there was surveyed for the purpose ; but the Highlanders changed their minds and remained at home, so that those beautiful and fertile valleys were still open. It was at the other end of the vacant district, however, that he now resolved to settle the discharged soldiers. At an interview with Gaika, after a short and friendly discussion that chief consented to his proposal.

On the 13th of June 1821 the acting governor entered into an agreement with Captains M. J. Sparks and R. Birch, Lieutenants A. Heddle, W. Cartwright, C. McCombie, and J. P. Sparks, Ensigns A. Matthewson, A. Chisholm, and C. Mackenzie, and Assistant-Surgeon R. Turnbull, officers of the Royal African corps, that to each of them should be granted a farm of two thousand morgen of land between the Beka and Fish rivers, free of charge for survey or title, and of quitrent for ten years, on condition that they should engage among them at least sixty men of the corps as servants and occupy the ground personally. The servants were to be provided with rations for nine months, were to receive two months' pay from the 25th of June—the date of disbandment, and each was to have a free grant of one hundred acres of ground at the end of three years' service, if he was an artificer fifty acres extra, if he should marry within three years fifty acres extra and twenty-five acres for each child. They were to be provided with arms and ammunition free of charge. No intoxicating liquor was to be sold within the settlement during the next three years, and neither men nor cattle were to cross the Beka.

On the same conditions, and with the approval of the officers, Mr. Benjamin Moodie, who brought out the Scotch mechanics in 1817, and who was then residing at Grootvadersbosch near the confluence of the Breede and Buffelsjagts rivers, and his two brothers, Donald and John Dunbar Moodie, retired lieutenants of the navy and army, who had recently arrived in the colony, were to receive farms of two thousand morgen each. A little later three brothers Crause, retired officers who were among the settlers in the Zuurveld, entered into a similar agreement.

To the non-commissioned officers of the Royal African corps who had saved some money, an offer was made of grants of land from two to four hundred acres in extent, according to their means, if they would engage a few of the men. They were to have the same privileges of rations, pay, and arms as those who took service with the officers. Six non-commissioned officers, with eighteen private soldiers as their servants, accepted this offer.

In addition to the farms to be granted, a village was laid out, in which all except the servants had plots of ground four acres in extent given to them free of charge. This village Sir Rufane Donkin named Fredericksburg, in honour of the Duke of York. The officers and seventy-eight discharged soldiers engaged as servants, together with the non-commissioned officers and their servants, at once took possession of it, and commenced to build cottages and make gardens. A military post, garrisoned by thirty-three men of the Cape corps, was established close by to protect the settlement in its infancy.

Everything went on well for a few months, but on the 26th of October the

landdrost Major Jones issued a notice that as many farms as were required would be surveyed, and then the ownership would be decided by lot. The officers had already selected the ground that they desired to have, but this notice prevented all cultivation except that of the plots in the village. Time went on, and no surveyor appeared. The two months' pay promised to the soldiers was also withheld, which gave great dissatisfaction to the non-commissioned officers' parties. Further, Mr. Benjamin Moodie, who was to have been vested with magisterial authority, changed his mind and remained at Grootvadersbosch, so that there were no means of preserving order at Fredericksburg, and many of the servants were disposed to be unruly. These causes combined made the prospects of the new settlement particularly gloomy at the close of the year 1821.

For some time after the arrival of the British settlers the Kaffirs gave no trouble, but in September 1821 a daring robbery took place. Forty-eight head of cattle were driven off from Mr. Smith's location, and an English boy who was herding them was murdered. Mr. Brownlee, the missionary and government agent at the Tyumie, reported that the robbery was committed by the people of Nambili, a petty captain of Ndlambe's faction, that the cattle had been taken from the robbers by Dushane, and that the matter had been made known to Gaika. Major Jones, with one hundred and fifty infantry, a detachment of the Cape corps, and twenty mounted burghers, then entered Kaffirland to recover the cattle or make reprisals, but on arriving at Nambili's kraal found it abandoned, so he was obliged to return empty-handed. Gaika was strongly suspected of complicity with the robbers, and some time afterwards it was ascertained that several of the stolen cattle had been appropriated by him. He still professed, however, to be a friend of the colony, though it was recognised that no reliance could be placed on his word.

On the 20th of July 1821 Sir Rufane Donkin issued a proclamation for establishing periodical fairs at Fort Wilshire. The method of trading with the Kaffirs by permitting small parties of them to visit Grahamstown was a failure, as they took nothing there except baskets and articles of trifling value, and since the war even this petty traffic had ceased. Sir Rufane Donkin's proclamation provided that, under supervision of government officials, the Xosas could obtain anything they wanted, except spirituous liquors and munitions of war. Licensed traders repaired to the ground adjoining the fort with wagons laden with goods. In the morning of the day appointed for the fair the Xosas were permitted to cross the Keiskama in parties under their chiefs, with their women carrying ivory, hides, and gum. The traders then made presents to the chiefs, and between them they fixed the relative value of everything to be bartered, before the common people were allowed to have any dealings. When these preliminaries were concluded, trade commenced, the chiefs keeping order among their followers and taking usually as a tax about half of what each one purchased.

But this could only meet to a very limited extent the desire for traffic, and now adventurers began to make their way far into Kaffirland, where an ox could be obtained for a few strings of beads or a crown's worth of bangles. Very stringent regulations were issued by the government against this trade, and all unauthorised persons were forbidden to cross the Fish river under severe penalties ; but to no purpose. The annual fair at Fort Wilshire was rapidly turned into a quarterly fair, then into a monthly fair, and next into a weekly market, under official supervision. Still, the illicit commerce was not checked. The gains were so large that the number of persons engaged in it constantly increased, and in the course of a few years many of them acquired a considerable amount of wealth. Traffic of this nature was demoralising, but the government attempted to enforce the restrictive system until the close of 1830, when traders were freely licensed to enter Kaffirland.

In 1820 the commissioners of the admiralty proposed to establish an astronomical observatory at the Cape, and the design received the approval of the king in council. On the 12th of August 1821 the reverend Fearon Fallows arrived in the colony as astronomer royal. The first observatory was a wooden structure in Capetown, which was only intended, however, to be used temporarily. In 1822 a site was selected on a knoll in the Cape flats, which could be seen from the shipping in the bay, and two years later authority was received from England to construct the necessary buildings. In 1827 they were occupied, though they were still unfinished. The establishment has continued to the present time to be maintained at the expense of the imperial government, and a great deal of very excellent scientific work has been performed by the talented men at the head of it.

In 1817 Dr. Samuel Bailey, who was then practising medicine in Capetown, made a proposal to the burgher senate to establish a hospital for merchant seamen, slaves, and poor people generally, on conditions which would make it partly a private and partly a public institution. The proposal was accepted, and the governor's approval having been obtained, a building was commenced. The burgher senate contributed a portion of the money required, on condition of having the right at any time to take over the institution at a fair valuation. In 1818 the hospital was opened. For about two years Dr. Bailey conducted it on his own account, when his resources being found insufficient for its proper maintenance, the burgher senate took possession of the building, and paid him £4,500 for his interest in it. The institution has ever since been in existence, though in recent years used only for certain chronic and mental diseases. It is now known as the old Somerset hospital.

In 1819 the merchants of Capetown combined to establish a commercial exchange, and for the erection and management of the building chose a

committee consisting of Messrs. Abraham Faure, Stephen Twycross, Andries Brink, John Bardwell Ebdon, Antonio Chiappini, John Collison, and Daniel Dixon. The capital was raised in one hundred and fifty-eight shares of £37 10s. each, of which the government took twenty-five. On the 25th of August 1819 the north-eastern corner-stone of a large and handsome building on the parade ground, which was in use until recent years, when it was removed to provide a site for the present general post-office, was laid by Lord Charles Somerset with much ceremony, a great number of people being present. The troops were drawn up, the regimental bands were in attendance, and a salute was fired from the castle. After the stone was laid, the governor, the principal civil and military officers, and about two hundred of the leading people of the town and suburbs sat down to tiffin in a huge temporary tent erected close by. The hall was opened for use in 1821.

The knowledge of the natural history of South Africa was at this time greatly increased by the labours of M. Lalande, who was sent out by the government of France, and during the years 1819 and 1820 made a very large collection of animals. Among the specimens which he sent to Paris were some hundreds of previously undescribed insects.

In 1806 the three Roman Catholic clergymen then in Cape town—two military chaplains and a priest maintained by the authorities in Rome to minister to civilians—were required by Sir David Baird to leave the colony, and a construction was afterwards put upon Mr. De Mist's proclamation granting religious equality which its author had not intended it to bear. Under that proclamation no clergy-man could perform service publicly without the governor's permission. Mr. De Mist's motive was to prevent improper persons of any denomination from acting as clergymen, but the wording of the regulation was construed by the early English governors to mean that they could refuse to admit the ministers of any creed that they disliked.

In 1819, however, at the request of the right reverend E. Slater, titular bishop of Ruspa, who was about to proceed from England to Mauritius, Earl Bathurst consented to a clergyman of the Roman Catholic church being stationed in Cape town. On the first of January 1820 the bishop arrived, with the reverend P. Scully, who remained in the colony. His duties for more than a twelvemonth were confined almost entirely to the soldiers, but on the 17th of January 1821 Sir Rufane Donkin made him an allowance of a thousand six dollars a year as a civil clergyman. Some months later he and his congregation resolved to build a church, when not only the principal civil servants and townspeople, but even the clergymen of other denominations subscribed to the fund, and the burgher senate approved of a site being granted free of charge. The place selected was off Harrington-street, where Trinity church—English Episcopal—now stands. There, on the 28th of October 1822, the foundation-stone of a building was laid, which when completed was

used by the Roman Catholics to worship in. When Lord Charles Somerset returned to the colony the stipend to the priest was withdrawn. In January 1826, however, Earl Bathurst sanctioned a salary of £100 a year being paid from the colonial treasury to a clergyman in Cape town, and also to one in Grahamstown whenever he could be obtained.

Practically, after 1821 there was political and civil equality for persons of every religious belief, though it was still vaguely held in theory that Roman Catholics could be excluded from civil offices by laws of England that were binding in South Africa. The doubt remained until January 1830, when an ordinance was issued, declaring Roman Catholics in the Cape Colony to have full civil rights, but imposing restrictions upon members of certain religious orders.

Jack

WRIGHT

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/SOUTH-AFRICA-IMMIGRANTS-BRITISH/2005-12/1134681744-02>

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Black Colonial Structures of the Eastern Cape South Africa



Picture source: [Ozzie Saffa](#)

Elitistkak - These housing structures were developed by central African blacks who brought them to South Africa through nomadic migrancy (Immigration). The structures evolved to a degree to suite the harsh sub Saharan conditions, but all have been replaced by better European building and architectural techniques now days. Everything in this picture is traditionally African barring the European woven blankets and wrist watches.

