



THE GARVIE GENEALOGICAL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends,

I would like to share a letter from Heather Purslow. For me it is a beautiful tribute of a bother and sister to their parents. It also serves as a lovely example of the kind of information you can send us.

Then I have also added some very interesting information relating to the "Boers" of Nandi which comes from Australia!

Both relate to Kenya! Yes I am still at it. I need a lot more from you all. I need dates, documents, actual locations, photographs. Photographs please! Please check your cellars for us. The information is there somewhere.

Can we ever get away from our heritage as bakers? Two articles from the William Garvie branch of the family. Thank you for this fascinating wealth of family memorabilia.

Finally there have been several births, marriages, and deaths since our last letter but I am still awaiting details. Please help keep our information up to date by sending your news.

COLIN GEORGE GARVIE

YOU...AND THE HUMAN DRAMA

I am finally understanding just the tip of the iceberg about what the Resurrection means...I'm talking about the Resurrection as it applies to each of us. It means coming up through what you were born into, then understanding objectively the people your parents were and how they influenced you. Then finding out who you yourself are, in terms of how you carry forward what they put into you, and how your circumstances have shaped you. And then...and then...now here's the hard part! And then you have to slough off your "original sin," in the sense you defined it...You have to go on to find out what you are in the human drama, or body of God. The what beyond the who, so to speak.

FROM HEATHER PURSLOW DAUGHTER OF "TRIXIE" VILJOEN (NEE GARVIE)

My mother Margaret Constance Garvie was born on the 15th February 1906 in Bloemfontein. Her mother Elizabeth Garvie (born Skea) had sailed from East Africa during her pregnancy so that she might give birth in what I would imagine - civilisation.

After Mom was born they returned to Kenya. She was one of seven children, May, Jim, Lawrence, Charles, Joan, Margaret and Stewart (who died of diphtheria at the age of 7).

Mom was nicknamed "Trix" by her father, John Garvie, because she was always up to her "tricks", but in her adult life, she was called Marge or Margie by my father and the rest of the family.

Her recollections of East Africa were of course not very vast as she was so small, but I remember a couple of incidents that she related to us.

Aunt May, Aunt Joan and herself had gone for a walk with their little dog who began to bark ferociously at the approach of a lion. Aunt May fainted and the lion, completely astounded ran off in disdain.

Mom also mentioned that trenches were dug to keep the livestock away from the lions but that a large lion would actually jump in and carry out a small calf.

They used beads to trade with the Masai - a tribe of Africans tall and elegant.

Gran used to tell us that they had occasionally army ants that would come in their hoards and literally march through the house or whatever was in their way and there was nothing one could do about it.

The family eventually left Kenya due to the Nandi uprising. As a child, Mom grew up in Troyville where she attended the local school. The house was situated in Kasteel Street and Vion (my brother) saw it years ago, still in use. Years later Gran and Grandpa (John and Lily Garvie) went to Lourenco Marques where he and John Orr opened a store.

Mom was sent to St Anne's Convent in Umzinto. Aunt May sent her two daughters with Mom. They were Dorothy and Thelma Parker. Mom excelled in her schoolwork and music (piano) and received the highest marks in the music examinations.

After her Matric or Senior Certificate as it was called then, Mom left for Bloemfontein where Gran and Grandpa had returned to and the two girls (Dorothy and Thelma) left as well as there was an outbreak of Diphtheria.

Gran and Grandpa owned a restaurant in Bloemfontein and Mom played the piano while Ernest Parker (Aunt May's husband) played the cello. Mom used to say that he was so brilliant as a cellist. The Hotel Cecil in Bloemfontein was owned and named after Cecil Skea who was Gran's brother.

Mom met Dad (Ivan Viljoen) in Vryheid where she opened her own hairdressing salon. Dad was the youngest son of thirteen children and was born in Ventersdorp, in Colesburg in 1897. His father was an "ouderling" in the church and Dad used to tell us of the large Dutch Bible in their home as a child which was read to all the family at night including the servants. He did his schooling at Potchefstroom College and captained the rugby and cricket teams. He and Mom were married in Vryheid in March 1929. Mom used to play the piano for the silent movies in those days.

Vion was born in Vryheid in May 1932 and I arrived in Pretoria in September 1937 after Dad was transferred there. Dad worked in the Magistrate's Court and Mom was the official accompanist on the piano in Pretoria for many years and also played at Voortrekker Hoogte for different functions as well as playing at ballet studios. Dad was subsequently transferred to Durban where we stayed until 1968 but eventually we returned to the Transvaal where we stayed on a plot at Halfway House. Dad passed away after suffering with cancer on 17th May 1972 and we lost Mom on 23rd September 1988.

The greatest joy is that they both came to know the Lord and Vion and I am so happy in the knowledge that they are in Glory with our God and Saviour.

Vion is married to Rina and they have two children, Mark who is a medical doctor and Debe who is an artist. Cliff is my husband and we have a daughter Margaret who is 14 years old.

The memories of our parents are very precious and deeply cherished by us both.

FROM DOUGLAS GLEDHILL OF AUSTRALIA, GRANDSON OF DONALD SUTHERLAND GARVIE OF KENYA, WE HAVE THIS INTERESTING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE STEYNS OF KENYA. YOU MAY RECALL FROM PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS THAT "GARVIE AND STEYN" WERE REFERRED TO AS TWO "BOER FAMILIES" LIVING IN KENYA BY MEINERTZHAGEN. DONALD GARVIE HAD MARRIED NELLIE STEYN AND WITH THEM IN NANDI WAS STEPHEN STEYN...

My grandmother Cornelia Gertrude Steyn was born I believe in Somerset West in the Cape and was one of the youngest of a large family of brothers and sisters. The family were, I think, in Johannesburg at the time of the Boer War, the male members who were able, fighting for the Boer side. Her father was captured as was Stephen her young brother. The father was sent to India and Stephen to St Helena for the remainder of the war. Stephen who was prospecting for gold together with my uncle Donald S Garvie (jnr) on the Lupa goldfields, Tanganyika about 1936 died in the bush and is buried in an unmarked grave there. From all account Stephen was a pretty wild character and we were told that the manner of his burial would have been as he would have wished having been a lover of the bush life.

### GARVIE'S BAKERY, BENONI

The Garvies of South Africa were essentially bakers. In previous editions we featured the Kensington Bakery of Laurance Garvie and Sons. John and Iris Latta, sent me copies of newspaper cuttings featuring the Benoni Bakers. Unfortunately the source and date of these cuttings are not known. Nevertheless it makes for interesting reading.

### GARVIE'S NEW BAKERY

One of the most gratifying features of Benoni today is the solid advance being made in many of its industries, and notably in the bakery business.

In Benoni the bread business started simultaneously with the first arrivals, and amongst these was Mr Garvie. He baked the first bread for sale in Benoni in 1905, and has been at it ever since, but on a continually increasing stage.

No one who looks at the fine range of buildings and the up-to-date plant contained in Garvie's factory at the corner of Amphill Avenue and Swan Street, Benoni, would guess at the comparatively small beginnings. But it all shows what energy and business ability, coupled, of course, with first-class bread, will accomplish.

The new shop and works are just being completed, and form a big ornament to Amphill Avenue. On the corner of the street is the new shop with the name Garvie in the marble door step. The whole of the front beneath the windows of the store consists of green tiles, while a massive verandah runs round Swan Street and Amphill Avenue. The flooring of the front shop is Perfecto. Behind this is the confectionary baking-room and [lovely] kitchen with the latest [stoves and] oven.

The bread making plant is a very fine one. An extraordinary machine for making bread has just arrived. It resembles a huge tub or vat which deals with three sacks of flour at a time. This is called the "dough mixer," and the mechanism is operated by a 5 h.p. electric motor. An iron arm, which reproduces the action of hand mixing, throws over the mass of dough, which will make about 320 loaves.

The new plant had not started running when the "City Times" representative visited the place, but it should be in operation by the time this appears in print.

The shop is also about ready for us to assist in selling the "Home Made Bread" which has made Garvie famous on the East Rand.

What strikes the visitor is the compactness of the plant and cleanliness of the buildings. If Benoni goes on as it is doing now we can imagine the leading local bakers turning the place into the Reading of South Africa.

It may be mentioned that the new buildings were designed by Mr. Henderson, the architect, and the contractors were Messrs. Milne and Mackenzie. Mr Garvie, and we shall also say Mrs. Garvie, are to be heartily congratulated on their enterprise.

[Can anyone assist us with the date of this "City News" report or erection of the new building. Has the building been replaced? What became of the "Garvie paving stone"? The article below was printed in 1931. - Ed.]

#### GARVIE'S BAKERY

The late Mr. Wm Garvie first started business in Benoni in 1905 when he took over a bakery in Wilstead Street from Mr. Johnson. After nine months he sold this to Mr. Philipson and purchased the property, Corner of Swan Street and Ampthill Avenue, where the present bakery stands.

He built the bakery and house and installed the plant. In 1916 he sold the plant and goodwill and leased the property to Mr Rae. He again took over in 1920, having worked as a drill sharpener on the Geduld Mine during the intervening period. The shop was added in 1922 and the adjoining property bought in June, 1930.

Mr Garvie also had many other interests in Benoni, being the owner of the first electric bioscope and of the skating rink.

Since Mr. Garvie's death in August of last year, the business has been carried on by his two sons, W. J. and J. H. Garvie. The history of the firm can be summed up in the words "steady increase."

At various periods the plant and buildings have been added to and the proprietors hope to extend the bakery to the adjoining stand within a few months.

Starting with a delivery of horse vans, faster delivery has become essential so that motor vans have been bought from time to time. The major part of the firms's trade is on the mines and in Brakpan and Springs.

Bread is an essential commodity and therefore it must be produced under the most cleanly and hygienic conditions. This has always been the aim of Garvie's, and, to judge from their shop and bakehouse, they have succeeded in reaching the highest standard in this respect.

#### GARVIES' RECIPES

We are hoping to compile a book of the Garvies' Favourite Recipes. Post your favourite traditional family recipes to us. Tell us why? We want especially traditional Garvie breads, pastries and confectionaries. Does anyone have the original recipes for Garvie's famous bread? Carefully page through your very old recipe books for this! And send it to Rev. Colin Garvie, 46 Woodlawn Crescent, 4051 ROSEHILL.