

As gevolg van die geografiese gesteldheid van die land het die eerste uitbreiding van die Blanke nedersetters aan die Kaap noordwaarts langs die weskus geskied. Teen die begin van die agtiende eeu, toe die besetting van die gebied oos van die bergreeks pas begin het, het die voorhoede van die noordwaartse trekbeweging reeds tot in die omgewing van Piketberg gevorder. Die kusvlakte langs die Kaapse weskus kan dus met reg beskou word as die oudste vestigingsgebied van Blankes in die binneland van Suid-Afrika.

Die vestigingsgeskiedenis van hierdie vroeë pioniers in die suidelike gedeelte van die Sandveld tussen die benede-Bergrivier en die Verlorelei is die onderwerp van hierdie publikasie. Die eerste hoofstuk behandel die geskiedenis van die Sandveld voor die stigting van die Kaapse nedersetting en die eerste ontdekkingsreise oor land, terwyl hoofstuk 2 'n oorsig gee van die koms van die eerste veeboere na die gebied. Die volgende ses hoofstukke word gewy aan die bekendste families van die Sandveld, te wete die Coetzees, Smits, Brands, Kotzes, Vissers en Lambrechtse. Die boek word afgesluit met twee hoofstukke oor die ontstaan en verdere geskiedenis van die dorpe Redelinghuys, Velddrif en Laaiplek.

Dit is 'n waardevolle bydrae tot die genealogie van die bekendste Sandveldse families en veral die volledige stamlyste is baie handig. Ook as streekgeskiedenis kan hierdie publikasie hoog aangeslaan word. Dit kan beskou word as 'n gesaghebbende studie oor hierdie streek van ons land en die mense wat dit bewoon en ontwikkel het. Dit is duidelik dat die skrywer deeglike navorsing in sowel staats- as kerkargiefbewaarplekke gedoen het. Daarom is dit jammer dat die gebrekkige voetnootegnien nie ten volle reg laat geskied aan die navorsing nie. Net die bewaarplek en bandnommer word in die voetnote vermeld sonder enige verwysing na die dokument, datum of bladsynommer. In ander gevalle word regstreeks uit ander bronne aangehaal sonder om die betrokke bron te vermeld.

Die skrywer het 'n vloeiende en maklik leesbare styl wat die mense en gebeurtenisse wat hy beskryf lewendig uitbeeld. Ons maak kennis met interessante karakters van die Sandveld, soos Theunis Erasmus Smit, grondbaron en geldskietser, ds. D.J. de Villiers van Redelinghuys en H.E. Smit, onderwyser van Velddrif. Besonder interessant is ook die vertelling van die lewe op 'n Sandveldse plaas gedurende die eerste dekades van hierdie eeu en die beskrywing van die visserijbedryf te Velddrif en Laaiplek. Soms is die skrywer egter geneig tot herhalings, soos Dowe Jan Smit se verbintenis met die plaas Laaiplek wat op twee plekke in die werk breedvoerig bespreek word. Ongelukkig kom daar ook enkele spelfoute in die teks voor.

Ten spyte van kleiner tekortkominge lewer hierdie werk 'n belangrike bydrae op die gebied van die genealogie én streekgeskiedenis en is dit 'n waardige nalatenskap deur die skrywer, wat ongelukkig nie die publikasie daarvan beleef het nie.

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A. WESSELS (ed.). *Anglo-Boer War diary of Herbert Gwynne Howell*. Human Sciences Research Council: Pretoria, 1986. 218 pp. Illus. R18,60 (exclusive). ISBN 0 7969 0287 9.

Like its ten predecessors in the series, this publication of the Institute for Historical Research of the Human Sciences Research Council, focuses on the war of 1899-1902. Surprisingly, however, this is the first in the HSR series of South African War source publications written by a British soldier. The diary was brought to the attention of the South African Military Attaché in Portugal by his counter-

part at the British embassy in Lisbon, Gwynne Howell's son.

The author of the diary was a Welshman, probably not yet twenty years of age at the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War, but already the holder of the Cape of Good Hope General Service Medal with the clasp *Bechuanaland* for his participation in the campaign to suppress the so-called Langeberg Rebellion in 1897. Herbert Gwynne Howell who had come to South Africa either in 1896 or 1897, had joined the Cape Mounted Riflemen (CMR). It seems that he was born in November 1879, but that he gave his date of birth as 1876 when enlisting, to comply with the age regulations. The diary, written in spare, at times flat, language, is at the same time a remarkably mature, self-possessed account of a drawn-out war's dangers, horrors, boredom and discomfort by an adventurous young man barely out of his teens. It is further testimony to the fact, as Malvern van Wyk Smith has pointed out, that the South African War was a particularly literary war.

The diarist initially relates his experiences as a corporal with the CMR operating with the Colonial Division in the Cape Colony, containing the Boers after Gatacre's reverse at Stormberg. After the arrival of Roberts, Gwynne Howell was involved in the advance from Dordrecht to Aliwal North and the invasion of the Orange Free State. He saw fierce action at

Wepener in April 1900 and accompanied the Colonial Division in the operations in the Eastern Free State. In August he was a member of the flying column of the Colonial Division that, together with other British units, failed to achieve their object in the so-called first De Wet hunt.

Gwynne Howell subsequently received a commission in the Royal Artillery and spent most of the rest of the war in the Western Transvaal where he was involved in convoy duty, drives to clear the country of supplies and women and children, and some sharp fighting. He provides further evidence that indiscriminate farm-burning continued after Roberts's orders limiting such action in November 1900 and during Kitchener's command (as late in fact as October 1901). There are a number of descriptions of civilians being brought to concentration camps and he entered the mild rebuke in his diary in August 1901: "We do not treat them as well as we ought to." His patience at military inefficiency had worn thin by the last quarter of 1901 and in October he was driven to write: "If we go on like this the war will never end." He was exhilarated by action. The fierce clash at Rooival on 11 April 1902 (of which he provides a graphic eye-witness report), he described as "one of the best shows" he had ever been in.

In May 1902 he visited Mafeking and found that "People still talk of the siege and gave one the hump. It was siege, siege all the blessed time. Place does not look the worse for the siege anyhow. They still keep the defences up, some right in the streets and they would not part with them for thousands."

Gwynne Howell was an active man who spent his spare time playing football, hockey, polo, bridge and fishing for barbel and yellow fish. He appreciated visits to towns and cities — he considered Johannesburg "far away the finest city in South Africa" — to alleviate the boredom.

The editor, Mr André Wessels, deserves high praise for his editing. His M.A. dissertation was a theoretical and practical introduction to historiographical annotation. In keeping with this, the explanatory footnotes are of a high order revealing a sensible balance regarding relevance and detail, meticulous research (particularly in identifying personalities mentioned in the diary) and considerable expertise in the literature and documentation relating to the war.

There are, however, a few jarring notes struck by Wessels in his introduction to the diary. He should certainly have used *served* as the verb instead of his unfortunate reference to Black and Coloured troops who "*fought* on the side of the British, either in a combatant or *non-combatant* capacity". Similarly the sentence constructions around the ill-chosen "good old Tommy Atkins" phrase and the question regarding "the *average* British soldier's" experiences are irritating. It is unnecessarily fulsome, and what is more, untrue, to maintain: "Even though [Gwynne Howell] might not have intended it as such, his Anglo-Boer War diary has now given him a secure place in historiography." This is as silly as the statement that "Herbert Gwynne Howell trekked enough, fought enough, experienced enough to speak on behalf of most of the British soldiers who took part in the war."

Herbert Gwynne Howell spoke on behalf of himself and his diary provides us with yet another individual's valuable observations and impressions of certain facets of the Anglo-Boer War.

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Warrenton 1884-1984. [Warrenton, 1985]. 16 pp. Geill.

Hierdie boekie is eintlik 'n aandenkingsprogram van Warrenton se eeu- feesvierings gedurende 1985 en bevat twee kort brokkies oor die dorp se geskiedenis. Die eerste handel oor sir Charles Warren na wie Warrenton vernoem is en in die tweede word die ontstaan van dié Noord-Kaaplandse dorp geskets. Hoewel oorsigtelik en met enkele foute mag die oningeligte persoon wat iets in 'n neutedop oor Warrenton wil weet, hierdie feesbrochure nuttig vind.

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