

REGIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

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The expected response from Historical Societies to the journal and to the column especially apportioned to them is still very disappointing. This series, introducing the societies to the readers of *Contree*, is repeated in the hope that societies will send me news about their activities, progress with projects, new projects and new committees.

I should like to draw attention to the book reviews as these books can help to fulfil some of the basic needs of a historical society.

FORT BEAUFORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM SUBSCRIBERS' ASSOCIATION

This association is closely connected with the Fort Beaufort Historical Museum. The Chairman and the Secretary of the Museum Board of Trustees hold these offices at the annual general meeting of the Subscribers' Association which is normally the only meeting of the association. It in turn appoints one representative, elected annually, to the Board of Trustees which meets monthly.

The association was founded on 28 October 1963, to obtain recognition of the museum as a provincial or province-aided institution.

The aims of the society are the same as those of the museum, namely:

to preserve and protect the museum as the link with the past, thus acknowledging with gratitude the benefits gained through the difficulties and dangers faced by their forebears;

to continue to collect exhibits of historical interest; and

to continue research on information relevant to the early history of the town and district.

With the aid of the association the museum has grown into what many visitors describe as one of the most interesting in the country, since it is unique in character. The membership of the association includes people in Canada, England, Rhodesia, Durban, Cape Town and other towns and cities in the country.

Its present project is to raise funds to house behind glass the museum's large and valuable collection of firearms and other weapons. It is also busy collating information to publish a history of the area; this will be on sale for visitors to the museum.

The association has a bi-monthly newsletter, *Martello*. The administration of the association, however, is not separate from that of the museum.

HISTORIESE VERENIGING VAN STANGER EN ONDER-TUGELA

Die Historiese Vereniging van Stanger en Onder-Tugela is in Maart 1974 op Stanger gestig deur mev. Esme den Dulk op inisiatief van die plaaslike Vroue-Instituut.

Die doelstelling van die Vereniging is die opsporing en bewaring van historiese argitektuur in die distrik Laer Tugela; die byhou van gegewens oor historiese geboue en plekke; die opstel van 'n indeks van meubels en ander voorwerpe van historiese waarde en die voorkoming van vernietiging van hierdie voorwerpe; die kweek van waardering en respek vir die natuurskoon van die distrik en die versamel van feite daaromtrent; die versorging en bevordering van boomaanplantings en die bewaring van inheemse plante. Die oogmerke hiermee, is om eerbied vir die natuurskoon te kweek en 'n bewaringsgees ten opsigte van die tradisies en leefwyse van dié streek te bevorder.

Die Vereniging se grondwet maak voorsiening vir subkomitees vir fondsinsameling, druk en publisiteit, restourasie, navorsing, museumbestuur en historiese items.

Die Vereniging het 'n groot aandeel gehad in die totstandkoming van die plaaslike Museum en is tans gemoeid met die beheer daarvan en voorts verantwoordelik vir alle uitstalling en beplanning. Die Vereniging ontvang skenkings vir die Museum en leen voorwerpe aan private of plaaslike instellings vir uitstallingsdoeleindes. Dit geskied in samewerking met die Munisipaliteit.

Voorts beoog die Vereniging om die geskiedenis van die streek vas te lê in projekte i.v.m. die Mbabata-Rebellie, veldslae en die pionierslewe in die streek (die huwelikeremonies, kleredrag, leefwyse en tradisies).

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF KIMBERLEY AND THE NORTHERN CAPE

The Historical Society of Kimberley and the Northern Cape was founded in 1967 by Dr R. Liversidge, with Mr C.J.N. Small as the first chairman.

The main aim of the society is to arouse interest in the historical past of the Cape Province north of the Orange River and the adjoining areas of Philipstown, De Aar, Hopetown, Britstown, Prieska and Namaqualand. It also aims to encourage preservation by drawing the attention of the public and the authorities concerned to places, buildings and objects of historical importance.

The society itself undertakes research into the history of the area and willingly gives advice on matters of preservation and historical interest. It has undertaken several visits to places of historical interest and had over 60 meetings at which addresses on topics of local historical interest were heard. It has also submitted a list of possible street names, with historic connotations, to the Council for possible use.

At present it is working to have the Block House at Modder River declared an historical monument.

The following publications have been issued by the society:

- 1) Facsimile copies of the *Diamond News* of 5 July 1871, published with the brochure on the centenary of Kimberley (out of print at the moment);
- 2) Verena Matter, *George Paton 1830—1914* (Kimberley Series No. 1);
- 3) Eudore Thorne, *The indomitable spirit: the story of Hanna and Carl Meyer* (Kimberley Series No. 2).

The society is run by an Executive Committee of 12 elected members. The Patron of the society is Mr H.F. Oppenheimer. The society uses the postal address of the McGregor Museum.

ERRATUM

GRAHAMSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In the article on this society (*Contree* no. 2, July 1977) the impression may have been given that major events like the Settler Youth Festival of 1972, the inaugural celebrations of the 1820 Settlers National Monument in 1974 and the International Conference of Women in 1975 were arranged by the Society. The only share it had in these events was to arrange guided tours of the settler country and of historic Grahamstown.