

REGIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

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For some unknown reason the efforts of the Section for Regional History to maintain contact with local history societies have met with very little success. A copy of the first number of *Contree* was sent to all local history societies on the Section's mailing list, but there was little response. The Section for Regional History would appreciate news about the activities of these societies, new projects and new committees. Since we last wrote to them, however, no such information has been forthcoming except from the Sandton Historical Society, which sent us an invitation to an exhibition of photographs, furniture, pictures and other items connected with the Sandton area in the past.

Since we believe that local history societies have an important rôle to play in the documentation of local and regional history, this series introducing the societies to readers of *Contree* is repeated. The information is basically that of 1976 and may in some instances be out of date by now.

LOWER ALBANY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (PORT ALFRED)

The Society was founded in 1958 by the late Mr E. Morse Jones.

Its main objective is to arouse interest in people and places subsequent to the British Occupation; to provide information for dissemination to children and adults; to plan for the eventual housing of information gained; to preserve buildings of historical interest through the co-operation of their proprietors, private or public, and where possible via bodies created for this purpose; eventually to display movable objects housed in a museum or similar institution.

The society has a growing membership; monthly talks on excursions are scheduled; restoration work, although limited, has already taken place on its initiative; numerous inquiries by interested people are being answered and it has helped to inspire neighbouring areas to form historical societies. Through the society's mediation an 18 feet diameter water-wheel has been constructed.

The publications of the society are:

M.E. Morse Jones, *The Lower Albany Chronicles* (4 vols.); *The roll*

of the British settlers in South Africa; and an annual journal, *The Toposcope*.

The Committee consists of 11 members. The President is the Rev. T. Thorpe and the Chairman Mr A.S. Passon.

COLESBERG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Colesberg Historical Society was founded in 1969 by Mrs D. Collier at a meeting addressed by Mr C. Burton of Port Elizabeth.

The aim of the society is to promote an interest in the local history; to encourage and preserve historical buildings, and, if necessary and at all possible, to buy such properties; to encourage the preservation of historical records; to place descriptive plaques on historical sites; to publish and disseminate facts about the history of old buildings and sites; to arrange for lectures and film shows about these and to organise excursions to them.

The society has brought various buildings to the notice of the Historical Monuments Council; it has obtained an old church building and converted it into a museum; it has arranged tours to Graaff-Reinet, Burghersdorp, Steynsburg and other places in the district; it has supplied interested persons with information and taken them on tours. Current projects include a brochure on Old Colesberg and the collection of objects for the local museum to which the society is linked and where its members give voluntary service.

The Committee consist of seven members. The Chairman is Mr T. Vorster and the Secretary Mrs D. Collier.

DIE CRADOCK-STIGTING

Die Cradock-Stigting is op 22 September 1975 in die lewe geroep deur 'n groepie bewaringsbewuste persone in die gemeenskap van Cradock.

Die Stigting stel hom ten doel om die historiese geboue van die dorp en distrik te bewaar, te restoreer en aan te koop; om die onoordeelkundige sloping van ou geboue te voorkom en om die natuurskoon van die omgewing te bewaar.

Die hoofprojek van die Stigting is tans die beplanning van die Groot Visriviermuseum wat inigerig sal word sodra die restaurasie aan die ou Pastorie en sy waenhuis en buitekamers voltooi is. Hierdie gebou is aan die Stigting geskenk en tot nasionale gedenkwaardigheid verklaar.

Die Stigting beskik reeds oor 'n kernversameling van voorwerpe vir die museum en het reeds beloftes van voorwerpe wat in hul besit sal kom sodra die museumgebou gereed is.

As deel van die museumkompleks word 'n opelugmuseum beplan in die munisipale park. Die Stigting was besonder gelukkig om historiese belang is, bv. 'n goed-bewaarde watermeul uit 1865 wat langs die Visrivier gebruik is; 'n stoomenjinn, 'n waterpomp met koringmeul wat in 1877 by die Klipfonteinbesproeiingskema gebruik is; 'n bakkiespomp wat in die bolope van die Visrivier gebruik is en wat die watermeul in werking kan stel.

Hierdie eenheid sal beslis 'n aanwinst vir die gemeenskap van Cradock wees en behoort 'n groot toeriste-aantreklikheid te word.

Die Stigting beskik ook oor die volledige boekery van die skryfster Olive Schreiner en is verder op die spoor van verskeie versamelings, implemente en ander voorwerpe.

Die voorsitter van die Stigting is mnr. Jean du Bruyn en die sekretaresse mev. Isa Michau.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DUNDEE

The society was established in 1973, and its members are also incorporated in the Local Museum Committee.

As the society fulfils the rôle of a museum at the moment, its main object at present is to collect, preserve and display all objects

or articles which have contributed to the culture or the cultural advancement of the town, country or community. Unfortunately lack of proper accommodation has rather curtailed the activities of the society but the Town Council has promised it a suitable building to enable it to expand.

Several valuable articles have been collected by the society and several more have been promised.

The society also has plans for tours to such historical places in the vicinity as Blood River, Rorke's Drift and the Mine Museum at Dundee.

GRAHAMSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1968 by Dr T. St. V. Buss, the Grahamstown Historical Society aims to interest people in the history of South Africa, and in particular of the Eastern Province and Border regions; to promote knowledge among young people and adults through lectures, conducted tours, literature, exhibitions, and by pictorial and other means; to preserve from destruction; buildings and sites of historical interest, with the co-operation of institutes and bodies similarly motivated; movable objects, which by arrangement will be donated to the Albany Museum or housed in other approved premises; war graves, with the co-operation of both the War Graves Board and owners of property on which the graves are situated.

The society has an annual programme which includes some six evening lectures and six or more excursions a year. It provides guides for tours of the settler country and of historic Grahamstown; it arranged for a Settler Youth Festival held in 1972, for the inaugural celebrations of the 1820 Settlers National Monument in 1974, for the International Conference of Women in 1975 and for various other conferences held at Grahamstown.

The society intends to hold a watching brief for the restoration or urban renewal of an old, picturesque part of Grahamstown and is pressing for the proper maintenance of Grahamstown's historic cemeteries, which could be developed into a tourist attraction. The society publishes an annual magazine called *Annals*.

The committee consists of 15 members. Mrs Dorothy Rivett-Carnac is the President and Miss L.J. McDonald the Honorary Secretary.

HISTORIESE VERENIGING VAN OUDTSHOORN

Die Historiese Vereniging van Oudtshoorn is in Februarie 1976 gestig. Om belangstelling in die geskiedenis te bevorder, veral ten opsigte van die plaaslike omgewing, wil die Vereniging uitstappies reël, lesings organiseer en hierdie lesings en praatjies in die plaaslike koerant publiseer.

Dit word ook oorweeg om projekte soos byvoorbeeld die maatskaplik-huislike patrone in die 19de-eeuse Afrikanerwoning en die onderwysontwikkeling van Oudtshoorn aan te pak. Voorts word dit in die vooruitsig gestel om 'n uitstalhoekie in die plaaslike museum of biblioteek in te rig. Die insameling van items soos ou briewe, koerantknipsels en ander interessante in getikte vorm in verband met plaaslike persone en die omgewing geniet aandag, so ook die opspoor van historiese voorwerpe en plekke in die omgewing en die aanbring van bronsplaatjies om dit aan te dui, die opstel van toeristepamflette vir besoekers, die opbou van 'n kleurskyfiereeks oor Oudtshoorn, die opstel van 'n lys van publikasies oor die omgewing en die skryf van die geskiedenis van die straatname van Oudtshoorn.

Die Vereniging wil ook met onderwysinrigtings saamwerk, onder meer deur die beskikbaarstelling van geskiedenisboeke as skoolpryse, die aanmoediging van geskiedenis-klasmuseums en die reël van opvoerings met 'n historiese strekking. Dit word in die vooruitsig gestel om byeenkomste te reël waartydens die probleme wat geskiedenis-onderwysers ten opsigte van hul vak ondervind, bespreek kan word.

Die bestuur van die vereniging bestaan uit veertien lede met mnr. J. Olivier as voorsitter en mnr. J.A. van Tonder as sekretaris.

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