

## Branch News/Vergaderingnuus

Saterdag 11 Februarie 2017, 14:00

Ons Februarie spreker, Dr Johan de Beer (*foto regs*), se praatjie het gehandel oor sy soektog na die De Beer stamvader en die ontdekkings en gevolgtrekkings wat hy gemaak het met die hulp van DNS-profiel.

Johan het verduidelik dat die nasate van die stamvader Matijs Andries de Beer aan Y-haplogroep N1c1 behoort wat aandui dat hy of sy voorgeslagte uit Karelië afkomstig was. Karelië is in die hedendaagse Finland geleë maar het op 'n stadium aan Rusland behoort.

Ook by die vergadering was Arrie de Beer, nog 'n nasaat van Matijs Andries, en Johan kon aan die gehoor verduidelik hoe sy en Arrie se DNA-profiel ooreenstem, maar ook verskil as gevolg van 'n onlangse mutasie. Hulle het egter dokumentêre bewyse van hulle afstamming vanaf die stamvader.

Deur gebruik te maak van inligting wat bygehou word deur die instansies wat die DNS-toetsing doen, het Johan bepaal dat hy naby verwant is aan die Holappa-familie van Finland en het die voorreg gehad om hulle 2016 familie-saamtrek by te woon in Oulu, Finland waar hy dan ook 'n praatjie gelewer het oor hulle verlore familie in Afrika. Die Holappa's was dit eens dat hulle en die De Beer's familie van mekaar is en het die hoop uitgespreek dat meer van hulle Suid-Afrikaanse familie die volgende saamtrek sal bywoon.

Johan se praatjie is as 'n artikel in *Capensis* 2017/1 gepubliseer. Hy het ook twee keer van tevore artikels oor sy navorsing in *Capensis* gepubliseer sowel as een in *Familia*.



*Simone Kay en Johan de Beer*



*Die lede en gaste het die aanbieding terdeë geniet*

## Branch News/Vergaderingsnuus

Saturday 11 March 2017, 14:00

At the March monthly meeting Jaco van der Merwe (*photo at right*) spoke to us about his stamvader/progenitor Willem Schalck who arrived as an arquebusier at the Cape in 1661. Dutch stamvaders are not as well researched as say the French Huguenots, the Germans who came here or the British Settlers. However, more new research is being conducted and present day genealogists are in the fortunate position to have more information available (with less errors than before) which is taken up in publications, websites and articles. Take for example the wonderful website of Delia Robertson and Mansell Upham, namely The First Fifty Years Project. But always remember to always be considerate to your fellow genealogists and acknowledge their hard work by giving their name and sources in your own publication or article.



Jaco further followed the life of his stamvader, being a Company servant and also a Vryburger. Family links were discussed, specifically with the Cloete family and where Willem Schalck stayed – VOC buitepost De Schuer, Liesbeeck River farm, Hout Bay and from 1688 one of the original farmers in the new Drakenstein area. The Simondium area was the called Babilonstoren then, named after a prominent hillock. Willem Schalck's farms were Kunnenburg and Skilpad. He died in 1716, which was commemorated last year – 300 years.

Jaco further discussed the various sources available at the Cape Town Archives for the researchers who are willing to go the extra mile. Most researchers never get past the Estate Papers (Death Notices, Wills, etc.) and therefore do not place their forebears in any historical time context and also within social history aspects. To Jaco this is really what level every genealogist should attain in their research to bring the past back. Our forebears were living beings just like us and did not just have a birth, marriage and death date. Members of the Western Cape Branch are welcome to visit Jaco at the Cape Town Archives so that he can give his expert advice regarding the numerous research possibilities and finding aids.



Paul le Roux thanking Jaco



Part of the attentive audience

## Vergaderingsnuus/Branch News

Saterdag 8 April 2017, 14:00



Ons April vergadering is gewy aan die Boere wat aan die begin van die 20ste eeu hulle in die verlate Suide van Argentinië gevestig het. Die onlangse rolprent "Boere op Aardsdrempel" is vertoon wat die verhaal van die Afrikaansprekende Patagoniërs vertel. Saam met die Dyasons en Schlebuse het ons Patagonië verken en aan hulle reis na 'n moderne Suid-Afrika meegemaak. 'n Storie vol heimwee. Tydens 'n outydse intervalle na die eerste uur van die rolprent, het ons gesellig saamgekuier. Veral taklid Elmien Wood kon haar insette lewer oor die lede van die Spies-familie wie deel van die geselskap was wat hulle in Suid-Amerika gevestig het.

Die video kan by verskeie video-winkels gehuur word of op Takealot.com gekoop word teen R129, 'n goeie belegging te ondersteuning van ons geskiedenis.

## Branch News/Vergaderingsnuus

Saterdag 13 May 2017, 14:00

The guest speaker was Glenn von Zeil, who spoke about some of the history of Namaqualand before, during and after the Anglo-Boer War. His main focus was on the small towns of O'Kiep and Concordia, both of which were endowed with rich copper mines and were therefore vulnerable to enemy action.

The commando led by General Jan Smuts had left Vanrhynsdorp and were making their way during March-April 1902 towards Springbokfontein and thence to O'Kiep and Concordia. The second-in-command, Solomon "Manie" Maritz was renowned for his brutality. En route to Springbokfontein he and his men were involved in a massacre of the local population of Leliefontein. This alerted the people in the district to the true intentions of the commando.

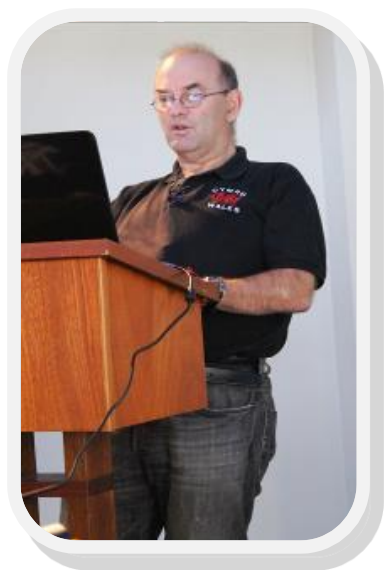
The O'Kiep copper mines were controlled by De Beers and hence by Cecil John Rhodes. Due to his massive influence with the Cape and British governments, he was able to have enough British troops available to guard the O'Kiep copper mines against the Boer commandos.

However, the Concordia mines were privately owned and had no such influence as the Okiep mines had. Consequently, the local Town Guard, supplemented by miners and other concerned citizens, were all that stood between the mines and the advancing Boer commando. At a critical juncture the commanding officer at O'Kiep, Colonel Shelton, ordered the Concordia Town Guard to march to Okiep and thus provide additional defence against the Boers. The commanding officer of the Town Guard, Captain Phillips, refused to comply, citing that his men were adamant that they would not and could not leave their wives and children behind at the mercy of the Boers. These were known as the "Men who would not march".

Captain Phillips, after the Anglo Boer War was over, was arrested and court martialled. He was found not guilty, because the court martial was "improperly constituted". He was released soon afterwards. It took a number of years before it became clear that he was, in fact, a hero for standing up for his men and their families.



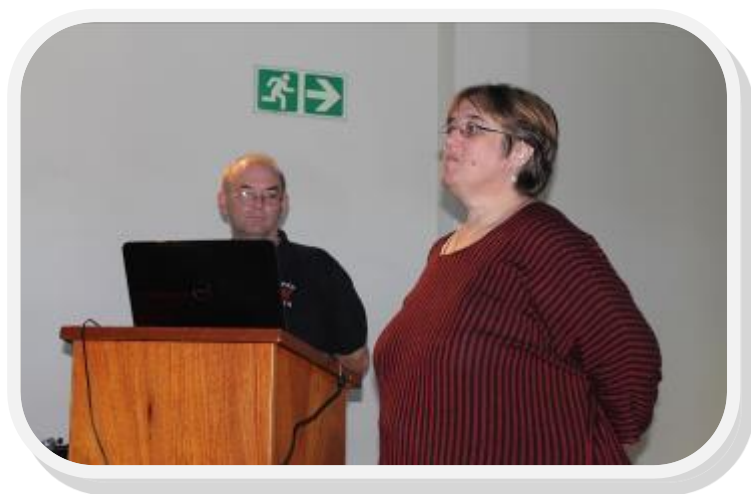
The unveiling of the monument to Captain Phillips and his men took place in Concordia on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Around the side of the monument, shaped in the form of a sundial, are engraved the names of those brave men who would not march, but preferred to meet the enemy head on.



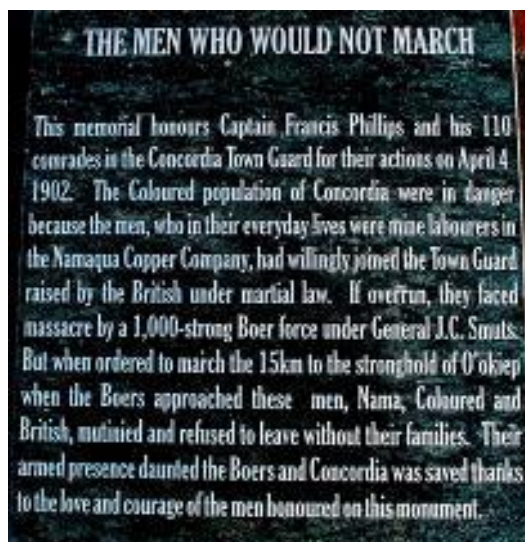
*Left: Glenn von Zeil*



*Left: the new monument to the Men who would not march*



*Above: Simone Kay thanks the speaker*



## **Vergaderingsnuus/Branch News**

*Saterdag 8 Julie 2017, 14:00*

Die Wes-Kaapse takvergadering van Julie 2017 was aangewend as 'n vraag en antwoord sessie waar lede vrae oor genealogie in die algemeen kon vra of kon probeer antwoorde kry oor spesifieke probleme wat hulle ondervind met hul navorsing.

Daar is advies gegee oor die verskillende argiewe en mees prominente webtuistes vir familienavorsing.

Heelwat tyd is spandeer op die webtuiste *FamilySearch* en hoe om jou weg te vind deur hierdie enorme bron van inligting.

Hierdie vraag en antwoord sessie was baie suksesvol, goed ontvang deur die lede en daar word gehoop dat dit 'n permanente instelling sal word waar die jongeres kan leer by die meer ervare genealoë en die ouer mense by die jongeres kan leer oor die ewig groeiende tegnologie.

Deur die bereidwilligheid om ons kennis met mekaar te deel, verbreed ons nie net almal se kennis nie, maar bevorder ons ook genealogie in die breë.

*(Met dank aan Nicky Lategan vir hierdie bydrae)*



*Meeste van die advies is deur die drie taklede hierbo gegee. Van links: Simone Kay, David de Klerk en Nicky Lategan*

## **Branch News/Vergaderingsnuus**

*Saturday 12 August 2017, 14:00*

Our branch was honoured to be addressed by eminent historian and author, Dr Helen Robinson. She has written a number of books about the area around the east side of Table Mountain.

She spoke to us primarily about her book 'Wynberg a special place'. Originally a military garrison after the 1795 British invasion, the area prospered as farmers and traders in the area supplied the camps with their requirements.

By the 1840s the small village has been developed and extended as people began to settle in the Wynberg area. Several shop-keepers had set up businesses in Alphen Hill Road. Durban Road continued to be the centre of commercial activity in the village and at least fourteen shops were situated there.

In the mid-twentieth century, the village on the hill once again experienced a restoration by the private sector after a period of decline. This time Wynberg attracted an artistic fraternity and many crafts were represented; graphic artists, painters, sign-writers, interior decorators, furniture designers, silk-screen and gold-leaf workers all settled there. Many of these artists and crafters worked from their homes as villagers had done in earlier days. Accommodation was at a premium after World War 2 and the particular appeal of the old village for creative artists encouraged a rapid resettlement of this hitherto run-down area. With their arrival, the first phase of reconstruction in the village had begun. Buildings were renovated and the importance of preserving a unique heritage was recognised. On 27 August 1981 the Cape Town City Council amended the Town Planning Scheme to control development in designated conservation areas like Wynberg Village. This was due to the efforts of residents whose purpose was to liaise with, and advise the Cape Town City Council and the National Monuments Commission with regard to the preservation of buildings in the old garrison village of Wynberg, and the need to limit business interventions in the village to acceptable levels.

Wynberg Village contains the largest surviving concentration of traditional Cape thatched vernacular cottages in Cape Town. It also boasts a fine collection of Cape Georgian and Victorian buildings, modest vernacular domestic dwellings and proximity to public open spaces and parks.



*Dr Helen Robinson*



*Members browsing books by Dr Robinson*



*Simone Kay thanks the speaker*



*Members enjoying Dr Robinson's talk*

## **Branch News/Vergaderingsnuus**

*Saturday 9 September 2017, 14:00*

Our speaker was the renowned shipwreck researcher and locator, Gavin Clackworthy. He was born in 1950 in Rhodesia and educated at Milton High school in Bulawayo. He spearfished for Rhodesia and also played underwater hockey for Rhodesia. He was elected as the chairman for the Rhodesian Underwater Diving union.

He moved to Cape Town in 1976. He started diving on shipwrecks in 1978 and researched and located 7 old shipwrecks with treasure on board over the past 40 years. He further located another 5 shipwrecks, previously found by other divers and subsequently found remaining treasures and artifacts. He currently lives in Cape Town with his wife Colleen and has 4 children, the eldest being a Captain in the Royal Marines. He has been privileged to have his whole family involved in some of these expeditions.

He delivered a most interesting illustrated talk on his involvement with shipwrecks. He also displayed

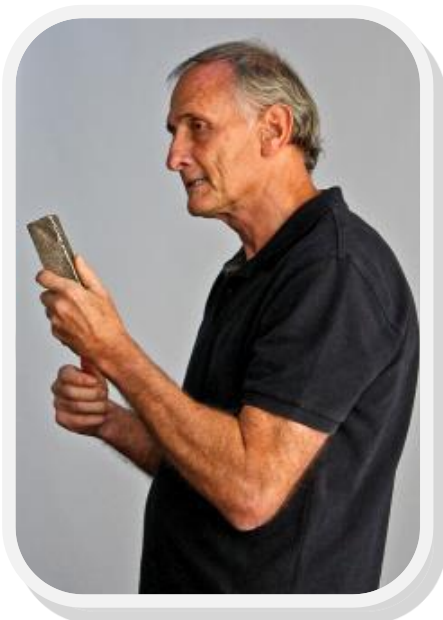


a few salvaged treasures

Among the treasures on display were ingots of lead, tin, and copper which were used as ballast. There were pieces of eight, other coins, cannons, high grade silver ingots, porcelain, household items made of pewter, pipes, buttons, jewelry and trinkets. Despite the perception that the treasure aboard many shipwrecks consists of gold, there has only been one bar of gold found off the Cape coast, from a VOC ship the 'Leymuiden'.

The treasures salvaged from the wrecks around the South Africa coastline were removed for safe keeping to the South African National Heritage Department. Some items are displayed at the National Maritime Museum at the Waterfront, at the Naval Museum in Simonstown, at the maritime museum in Mossel Bay and also at the Bredasdorp Museum.

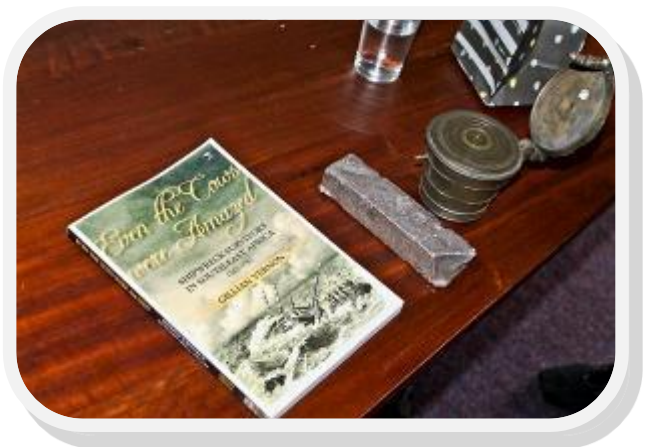
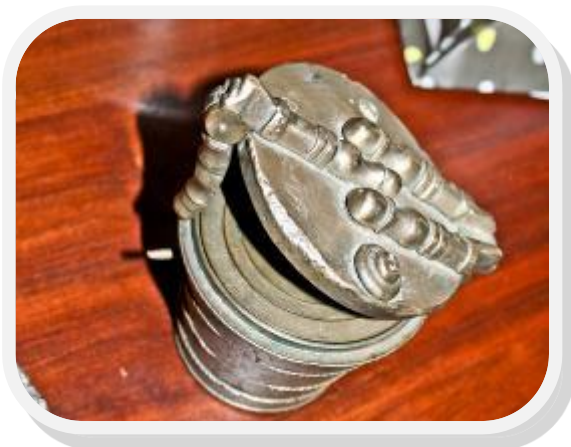
There is a growing concern from the Shipwreck Foundation that the various governmental conservation departments seem to have turned their interest away from the historical importance of the ships wrecked around our coast. Another part of our heritage is thus seriously at risk.



*Left: Gavin Clackworthy*



*Simone Kay thanking the speaker*



*some of the artefacts found on shipwrecks*