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Cover Picture

The shale facade of Government House,
home of colonial governors before Union
and of the Natal Training College from 1912 to 1987.
(Photograph: T.B. Frost)

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Editorial

Regular readers of *Natalia* will have noted the name of Miss P.A. Reid heading the list of Natal Society Office Bearers as its President in every single one of the sixteen issues published so far. This year it is no longer there. Her resignation marks the end of an era, and it is fitting that the eloquent tribute paid to her by the Vice-Chairman of Council, Mr S.N. Roberts, at the 1986 Annual General Meeting of the Society should reach a wider audience than those present on that occasion, and be recorded for posterity. He said:

Let me try to get her contribution into perspective. The Natal Society was founded in 1851 so it is some 135 years old. During that period it had no less than forty-six Presidents. Prior to the Reid era the longest serving President had held office for a period of nine years.

Pamela Reid first became associated with the Natal Society Library in an official capacity when for the period 1953-1959 she represented the City Council on the Council of the Natal Society as a member nominated by the City Council.

In 1960 after resigning from the City Council, she became one of the elected members of this Council. So she has been a member of this Council from 1953 to 1986 — thirty-three years, or nearly one-quarter of its existence. In 1964 she was elected President and as such Chairman, ex-officio, of this Society. She has been re-elected to this position every year since then and I have no doubt whatsoever that had she decided to make herself available for re-election to this Council again, she would have been unanimously re-elected President this year and for many years to come until, as the lawyers say, she might have had the office by prescription. She has chosen otherwise and we must respect her decision.

Of course, long service is not in itself necessarily a claim to fame. It is what one does during that period of service that counts. On this score I think that it is probable that Pam Reid's efforts will remain unrivalled for all time. I say so for these reasons.

In 1964 when she first became President, the Natal Society was housed in its old premises in Longmarket Street. At that time the membership of the Society was 10 767 and the library contained some 109 434 books. Book issues during the year were 341 841.

Pam Reid was instrumental in arranging the removal of the Library from its cramped quarters in Longmarket Street to this building in which we are meeting today. . . . It provides the residents of Pietermaritzburg, regardless of colour, creed or gender with a most

civilised facility, and long may that be so. Our latest annual report reflects our membership as 35 538, our bookstock as 398 945 and the number of books issued during the year as just under 1,1 million.

No one should overlook the extraordinary exertions which were necessary in order to bring about this dramatic growth and change between 1964 and 1986. The driving force behind all that came from Pam Reid.

She and her various Councils and Chief Librarians over the years were responsible for negotiating an arrangement with the City Council of Pietermaritzburg which to date has enabled this Library to maintain in proper fashion both its privileged position as the Copyright Library in the Province of Natal and the public library for the City of Pietermaritzburg.

Since 1917 the Natal Society has always been recognised by Parliament as being the body worthy of and responsible for the considerable privilege of being the Copyright Library in Natal.

The Reid era has not been without its problems, calling for wisdom, firmness and tact. Pamela Reid was able to provide this and more. So with financial backing from the City Council of Pietermaritzburg and the Natal Provincial Administration (without both of which the Natal Society could not function) Pamela Reid has inspired the members of her Council, and the Chief Librarian of this Library and her staff to build this Library with its satellites into a vital part of the life of our city.

During the Reid era the Society acquired the Weinronk property in Commercial Road and the Lambert Wilson Library in Longmarket Street. More recently the Natal Society had been obliged on behalf of the City Council to take over the branch libraries which have been operating in the Indian and Coloured areas of the city. These are what I have called its satellites and, of course, each is part of the same system. Under Pamela Reid's leadership, this Library became, I believe, the first multi-racial municipal library in Natal at a time when such attitudes were not fashionable.

I fear that I may have made this tribute to Pam Reid sound like something in the nature of a funeral oration. It is by no means that. On the contrary, I am in the happy position of being able to eschew those crocodile tears of Mark Antony. As Vice-Chairman of the Council of the Natal Society it is my good fortune and pleasure tonight to praise Pam Reid for all she has done for all who have used our Library.

I suppose the highest recognition of what she has done in the library world is the award a couple of months ago of Honorary Membership of the South African Institute of Librarianship and Information Sciences, SAILIS. It is practically unique for a person who is not a professional librarian to be made an Honorary Member of this distinguished Institute. I believe that this important award represents a fitting culmination to her long career of service to the Natal Society Library and to everyone who has benefited from its light which has shone in our dark continent.

1988 will see the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of Pietermaritzburg. With a special book being produced to mark the event,

we did not feel it appropriate to devote an entire issue of *Natalia* to Pietermaritzburg and its history. But we pay tribute to our city by reprinting the article written by G.H. Calpin for the centenary celebrations fifty years ago, with thanks to Mr J.P.C. Laband for providing its editorial introduction. We also publish an evocation of that neglected period, the twenties and thirties by Dr W.H. Bizley based on a series of interviews with elderly Pietermaritzburg residents.

The 1987 Natal Society Annual Lecture was given by the State Herald, Mr F.G. Brownell. We publish it here with some of the illustrative material which accompanied its initial delivery.

Mr David Robbins, an assistant to the Editor of the Natal Witness, was the winner of the prestigious CNA Literary Award for 1987 with his book *The 29th Parallel*. We regard our prior commission of an article by him on the Natal poet Douglas Livingstone as something of a coup — few journals can claim contributions by distinguished literary prizewinners.

Past issues of *Natalia* have carried few articles on art. That by Dr Melanie Hillebrand on the Natal sculptress Mary Stainbank is therefore particularly welcome. We are also happy to be able to publish the fruits of the researches of two regular contributors to *Natalia* — Robin Lamplough on Hillcrest and the schools which once flourished in the area, and Professor Joy Brain on the life and work of that great Christian humanitarian, the late Paul Sykes.

Every edition of *Natalia* carries obituaries. This year we pay tribute not only to two distinguished individuals — a former Judge President and a former Director of Education in Natal — but also to a distinguished institution, the old Natal Training College, whose origins go back to colonial times and which, since 1912, has been the occupant and custodian of Government House. It is a terrible irony that at a time when the provision of education for all Natalians is perhaps the most pressing need of the day, a college of education is closed because the segregated system of white education is unable to absorb all the teachers it trains. We are grateful to Mr George Dale, a former Rector of the College, for his tribute.

While not publishing a full obituary, as the Journal of the Natal Society *Natalia* notes with regret the passing of one of the Library's most loyal servants. Mrs Joan Hawes died very suddenly in August 1987. She had been on the staff for thirty-one years and has been sadly missed by both colleagues and members of the public.

After last year's attempt to widen the Register of Research, this year we publish only the returns submitted to us. The limited response is perhaps indicative that the Register has not fulfilled as useful a purpose as we would have wished.

Mrs Shelagh Spencer has been a member of the Editorial Board of *Natalia* since 1976. Her encyclopaedic knowledge of Natal settler history has made her a particular asset and saved us from numerous potential inaccuracies. She has also alerted us to the publication of many books which might otherwise have passed unnoticed. During the past year the appointment of her husband Brian as Librarian of the Don Africana Collection has necessitated a move to Durban. We wish them well in their new sphere, and rejoice that though, of necessity, less involved in the production of *Natalia*, Shelagh Spencer will continue on the Board as a Reader.

With steadily rising printing costs, *Natalia* relies for its continued existence not only on the willingness of the Council of the Natal Society to tolerate an increasing financial burden — subscriptions by no means cover costs — but also on the labours without pecuniary reward, of many. To our main authors, to the contributors of shorter items such as reviews, notes and obituaries, and to the members of the Editorial Board, our readers owe a debt of gratitude. We are confident that their efforts have provided another edition of abiding interest and value.

T.B. FROST

Select List of Recent Natal Publications

- DEWAR, David. Some proposals for small business stimulation: a case study of the Durban Metropolitan region. Cape Town: Urban Problems Research Unit, University of Cape Town, 1987.
- HEATH, R.A. The north coast of Natal: the provision of economic and social infrastructure. Durban: Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Durban-Westville, 1986.
- HENDERSON, Patricia. Waaihoek. Pietermaritzburg: Association for Rural Advancement, 1986.
- HILLIARD, O.M. Grasses, sedges, restiads and rushes of the Natal Drakensberg. Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press, 1987.
- HUDSON-REED, Sydney. Hope beyond; a memoir of Treverton's first twenty-one years, 1964-1985. Treverton, P/Bag 505, Mooi River, 3300, 1987.
- LAWRENCE, Clive. Graeme Pope-Ellis, the Dusi king. Pietermaritzburg: Shuter & Shooter, 1986.
- McCARTHY, J.J. Natal's coastal regions; towards a planning policy for the management of urbanization. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, 1987.
- MARWICK, C.W. Green shadows. Pretoria: Forestry Branch of the Department of Environmental Affairs, 1987.
- MORRISON, Ian. Durban: a pictorial history. A photographic record of the changing face of the City of Durban, with emphasis on its buildings. Cape Town: Struik, 1987.
- NAIDOO, K. Self-help housing at Woodview; community area 22 of Phoenix. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, 1987.
- PADAYACHEE, Menaka. A socio-economic profile of four market gardening communities in metropolitan Durban. Durban: Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Durban-Westville, 1986.
- RANKIN, Sheldon. A socio-demographic profile of the 'Coloured' community of the Durban metropolitan area. Durban: Institute for Social & Economic Research, University of Durban-Westville, 1986.
- RANKIN, Sheldon and Tichmann, Paul. Housing strategies and the housing environment in 'Coloured' group areas. Durban: Institute for Social & Economic Research, University of Durban-Westville, 1986.
- SCALLAN, Joyce. Dick King: feats fame family. Port Elizabeth: Scallan, 1987.
- SPIES, P.H. Perspectives in the future of Natal/KwaZulu. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, 1986.

Register of Research on Natal

This list has been compiled from individual submissions from subscribers to *Natalia*. Persons knowing of current research work that has not been listed are asked to furnish information for inclusion in the next issue. A slip is provided for this purpose.

BRAIN, Peter, *and* Brain, Joy

Medical history of Natal from the earliest times, with emphasis on diseases.

CHRISTISON, Grant

History of South-Western Natal (Highflats, Ixopo, Underberg)
The Golds and the Christisons.

GORDON, Dr R.E.

Notable women of Natal — to be published as *Petticoat Pioneers* (1988).

HUTSON, T.R.

Narrow Gauge Railways, including Sugar Tramways, of Natal.

MERRETT, C.E.

History of sports facilities in Pietermaritzburg.

RUSSELL, G.

130 Years of Water Power in Natal (Waterwheels to Pumped Power Storage).
Anglo-Boer War Concentration Camps in Natal.

WILLCOX, A.R.

The 'Cinnabar Rush' in the Drakensberg.