

William Hursthouse's Pietermaritzburg Journal

1 November 1847–27 January 1848

William Hursthouse (b. 8 May 1821, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire – d. 21 May 1849, Cape Town), was the son of Charles Hursthouse and Mary Jecks, and brother of Sarah, the wife of Dr William Stanger (1811–1854), Natal's Surveyor-General. William and his sister Anne (1824–1900), left England in June 1845 to join the Stangers, who themselves had come to Natal only in March of that year. Stanger, previously in the Cape Roads Department, had secured the Natal post through application. Although Natal had been proclaimed a British colony in May 1843, only in December 1845 was it annexed as a district of the Cape Colony, and a formal administration set up. Most of the senior officials, including the lieutenant-governor, arrived later in December. Natal became a colony in its own right in 1856.

With his education and connections Hursthouse obtained a government post. From about July 1846 he became the clerk responsible for the minutes of the Executive Council,



Dr Stanger's sketch of his residence on Erf 2 Longmarket Street (presumably the house in the centre of the picture). Fort Napier is visible on the hill between the two dwellings.

Source: *Lantern* vol. XXIII(3) March 1974

and in about March 1848 was appointed Chief Clerk in the Colonial Office. In July he was also given the post of Acting Clerk, and later Clerk to the newly-established Legislative Council. (This was not an elected body. Initially it consisted of the Secretary to Government, the Surveyor-General and the Public Prosecutor, and its brief was to draft ordinances and to ensure that the officer administering the Government was adhering to Her Majesty's instructions.)

It is possible Hursthouse came to Natal because of ill-health. Twice in the letter he records short periods of illness. Reading between the lines, it would seem that he did not give himself time to recover fully, in order not to miss interesting expeditions. By February 1849 he was so unwell that he requested three months' leave to visit Cape Town, and sailed three days later. He died of consumption in May.

Hursthouse was on the committee of the Natal Reading Society (until June 1846 known as the Pietermaritzburg Reading Room), the forerunner of the Natal Society, which was established in 1851. It appears that some time in 1847 Hursthouse became secretary, and was still in this position when he left Natal. At the 1849 AGM, held in September, tribute was paid to his contribution to the society – he had 'been unwearied in his exertions for its welfare, and but for his zealous advocacy, it is possible that your Committee would have been induced, from the insufficient funds at their disposal, to resign their responsibilities and propose ... the dissolution of the Society. Mr Hursthouse, however, always pointed to the cheering side; and the institution ... still exists to lament the loss of one of its warmest and most efficient supporters'¹.

The journal takes the form of a letter to his sister, and is obviously a synopsis of a fuller work. It has kindly been made available by Mr John Barrett of 11 Newgate Road, Southgate, London, a Stanger descendant. It is an important document because, as far as this editor knows, it is the earliest journal of daily life in Pietermaritzburg in existence. Many years later, however, two of Hursthouse's friends, John Bird and J.W. Shepstone, left accounts of Pietermaritzburg in the second half of the 1840s.

From the letter one has an insight into the social life of Natal's official élite. With the exception of the Dunns and the Ottos, all the Stanger/Hursthouse associates were either government servants or officers of the garrison. However, at this time, there were few English people in Pietermaritzburg of similar social standing. Only in 1849, with the commencement of organised emigration from the United Kingdom, did the situation change. It appears that even their dining habits differed from the general pattern, which was then for the main meal to be taken in the middle of the day. In William and Anne's circle, 'dinner' was the evening meal, as opposed to 'early dinner', a rarely-taken mid-day repast. Also, 'tea' was normally an evening event, obviously much in favour at the time. Frequently William and Anne and friends were 'taking tea' at one another's houses, often with games and/or music as entertainment.

Unfortunately there are few references to Hursthouse's work – possibly because he thought his family would not find this part of his life interesting.

HURSTHOUSE LETTER 27 January, 1848

PM Burg. January 27/Wed. ½ past 11 P.M. Late hours you will say to begin to write to you but I am so busy in the daytime. First, dear M[ary] I must thank you for your long Journal of August by V.V's² parcel. I got it last week by the 'Rosebud' – I must most strongly protest against any letters from me being sent out or read to others than the

family. They are not meant for general perusal nor are they fitted for it – This you will attend to – You complain of my not being minute enough – I should have feared, I was too much so – and now for my journal.

November 2/47 – Wrote yesterday to H & M³ by ‘Gem’ – Showery – Afternoon with S[arah] and A[nne] went to the M[oodie]s⁴. Dr S[tanger] went down to the Bay⁵ – Minna⁶ took tea here – Music &c. for now the Dr is out we dine at 4 or as soon as I get home.

3 Afternoon rode with the M[oodie]s and Mr Gibb⁷ – Evening took tea there.

4 Showery – Minna and Mr G[ibb] at tea here.

5 A[nne] rode with the M[oodie]s and Mr S[hepstone]⁸ to the Umgeni Water Falls⁹ – the little M[oodie]s spent the day here. They had a pleasant ride – Eveng A[nne] dined at the M[oodie]s’ I went to tea.

6 Showery – Afternoon walked with A[nne], the M[oodie]s & Mr Harding¹⁰ – M[inna] took tea here.

7 *Sunday* Morning with A[nne] to church – Afternoon walked with the M[oodie]s. Eveng Rain – Wesley S[hepstone]¹¹ took tea here.

8 A[nne] with S[arah] & the M[oodie]s called on Mrs Cloete¹² & Mrs Otto¹³ – I took an early tea (before dinner – a common custom here) with Marquard¹⁴ – Eveng Minna dined here – Dunbar¹⁵ came to tea with his flute so we had some pretty duets. He accompanied A[nne] on the piano with the Cornopean¹⁶ which I like very much.

9 Rode before breakfast. Mrs Shepstone¹⁷, Miss Otto¹⁸, Minna, Dunbar & Donald M[oodie]¹⁹ dined here early – Afterwards we all walked to see Mr Shepstone’s new house²⁰ next the Colonel²¹ which is now building. We took tea in the garden – very pleasant after the intensely hot day.

10 A great contrast from yesterday so nice & cool – with A[nne] and the M[oodie]s went to Col. Boys’ Garden – a very good one for this place – Eveng Minna and Dunbar here.

11 – Fine. With A[nne] & Mr G[ibb] rode first to the Band & then on the Road to the Bay – pleasant day & pleasant ride – evening after dinner walked – bright moonlight.

12 With A[nne] M[inna], Mr G[ibb] walked up to the Valley & home by old Retief’s garden²², & on our way home called on Mrs Shaw²³. Took tea at the M[oodie]s’ & played our usual Rubber.

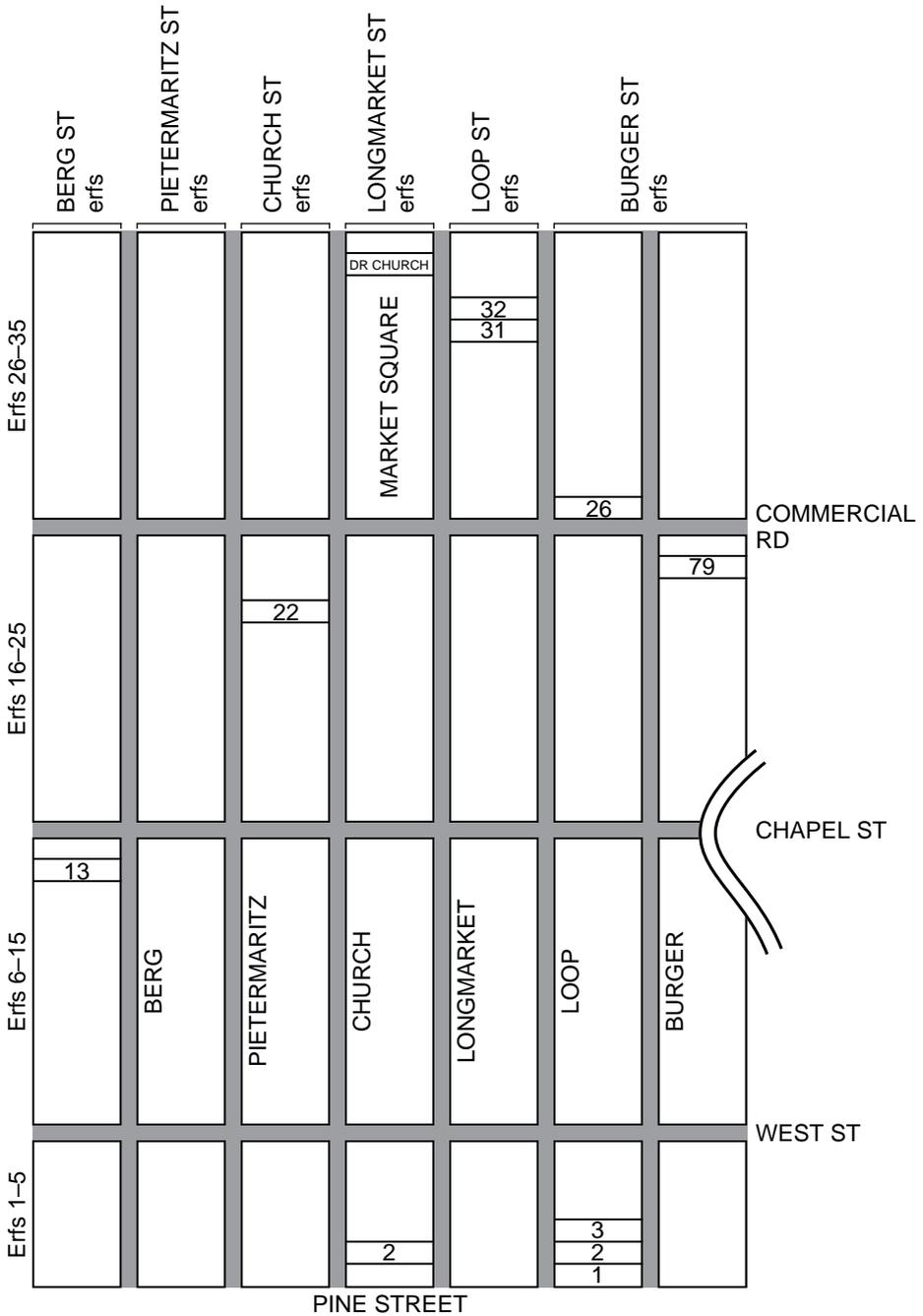
13 Very hot – rode before breakfast. Dunbar’s birthday – We were to have gone to the M[oodie]s’ – a party – but heavy rain prevented us much to our disappointment.

14 *Sunday* – Mornng to Church – Mail by ‘Gem’ arrived – no letter for me – Dr S[tanger] came home from the Bay – Afternoon with A[nne] & Martha Lindley²⁴ to chapel.

17 Jane Dunn²⁵, who came on Sunday with Mrs D[unn]²⁶ came to stay here – I had not seen her since her father’s dreadful death – Rode flower-collecting with the M[oodie]s & got some beautiful things. With A[nne] and Jane took tea at the M[oodie]s’.

18 Rode to the Band with A[nne] the M[oodie]s and Mr G[ibb]. Evening with A[nne] & Jane at the M[oodie]s’.

19 Mrs Dunn came to stay some days here. Anne & Jane spent the day at the M[oodie]s’ – Went to tea – Mr G[ibb] – Wesley S[hepstone] there. Danced Quadrilles as A[nne] had



A section of Pietermaritzburg illustrating the positions of the erfs mentioned in the Notes. Erf 79 Burger Street has also been indicated because it might have been where the Moodies were living at the time. They were certainly on this erf by the end of 1852, and it was in their ownership for some years thereafter. (Adapted from Alexander Mair's 1869 map of Pietermaritzburg)

lent them her piano for Dunbar's party last week to which we could not go. Reading a very pretty book called 'Laneton Parsonage' by Miss Sewell.

21 *Sunday* Morn'g to Church. Afternoon after chapel walked to the Mess Garden²⁷ with our usual party – more or less of the M[oodie]s & Mr G[ibb]. Eveng Mr M[oodie]²⁸ took tea here.

22 Rode before breakfast. Very hot. Afternoon called on Dr Best²⁹ who is now quartered here. Evening dined at the Shaws'. Anne & Jane Dunn spent the day here. Very hot. To day [*sic*] arrived Mr Robinson's³⁰ box (of whom we have heard nothing) I need not tell you with what pleasure we had in opening it. Its contents were eagerly examined. I am considered a most lucky man to get two such beautiful pictures. Really I never heard of such extacies [*sic*] as the sight of them caused & still cause to most people.

23 Had a holiday & rode to Swartkops³¹ to Pretorius' Waterfall³² with some of the M[oodies], Mr G[ibb] & Wesley S[hepstone]. Had a be(Anne & Jane)autiful [*sic*] ride through a lovely country – Mr M[oodie] came to meet us. Evening we dined at the M[oodie]s' – Music then home very tired.

24 With the M[oodie]s walked – Called on Mrs Roos³³ a very nice Dutch woman to see her garden for Mrs M[oodie] and I take great garden huntings. Both of us were moved to envy at seeing a Canterbury Bell in flower – As usual got some slips &c. – Dined at the M[oodie]s' – the Miss Cloetes³⁴ dined there – Jane Dunn came to tea – Music – Played at draughts with Henry Cloete³⁵ – Bright moonlight & had a pleasant walk home with them. Wrote to Father to go by the 'Gem'.

25 The Dunns left for *Sea View* taking Martha Lindley home³⁶. We shall miss her very much – such a nice little girl & leaving Jane at her Aunt's Mrs de Villiers³⁷ – Evening took tea with Mr Hertzog [*sic*]³⁸.

26 Attended Library Committee Meeting³⁹ & ordered our first batch of Books – then walked with the Cloetes. Eveng dined at the M[oodie]s' – Music & Whist.

27 Rain more or less. In the middle of the night George M[oodie]⁴⁰ alarmed his family by knocking them up. He had ridden in from Blue Krans⁴¹ with despatches from the Magistrate⁴² about the Boers & Zulus⁴³ – had lost his way, swam over rivers (deep and swollen with heavy rain) 7 times & got in as you may suppose half dead with fatigue – He is now in that part with Mr Bird learning to survey. All the Town in alarm. Afternoon called on the Shaws – none of the others went out.

28 *Sunday* Morning & Aft to chapel or church which ever you may call it. Our only Minister at present is Wesleyan (Mr Richards)⁴⁴ a very good active man – Now however a Bishop⁴⁵ is come we shall of course get a chaplain – Jane Dunn came to stay here.

29 Rode before breakfast & Afternoon rode again with A[nne] & the M[oodie]s.

30 Rode early with Wesley. Rumour that Panda⁴⁶ is coming down with the Boers & 60, 000 men. None of *us* of course believe it but the town is in a great uproar.

Dec. 1 Rode early with Wesley & again in the afternoon rode with large party of M[oodie]s – Mr Gibb, Wesley, Jane Dunn &c.

Dec. 2 This morning a Party of Cape Mounted Rifles marched to Bushman's River⁴⁷ to protect the people more – afternoon went to Govt House⁴⁸ where the Band played – A[nne] rode with the M[oodies]. Minna, George [and] Wesley S[hepstone] dined here.



House on the Longmarket Street frontage of Erfs 31 and 32 Loop Street facing the Market Square. It was rented by Lt-Governor Martin West who resided there from 1846 until his death (1849). This photograph was taken when it was the Prince of Wales Hotel (i.e. sometime between the mid-1860s to the late 1880s). At time of demolition it was John & Salter's Bottle Store. Archbell Street and the government's Natalia Building now encompass the site. Source: Barbara Buchanan's Pioneer days in Natal (1934).

Dec. 3 Rode early. Gardened & walked.

Dec. 4 Gardened – then walked with the M[oodie]s.

Dec. 5 Sunday Morning to church – afternoon walked – George, Minna & Mr G[ibb] came to tea.

Dec. 6 Very hot (when I say hot I really mean so). Called on the C[loete]s – then we walked to the Mess Garden. With A[nne] & Jane at tea at the M[oodie]s' – Mr G[ibb] & Henry Cloete there – played at draughts.

Dec. 7 Very hot again – Bathed with the M[oodie]s, C[loete]s & Wesley.

Dec 8 Cool – afternoon cold. Dr S[tanger] dined at Mess.

Dec. 9 With the Cloetes and Miss Wests⁴⁹ walked up the Camp Hill⁵⁰ to hear the Band but to the young ladies' disgust no Band came – Evg. I took tea at the M[oodie]s' – Mr G[ibb] there – Jane Dunn left the Stangers'.

Dec. 10 Very hot. Bathed. With A[nne] & Wesley S[hepstone] dined at the M[oodie]s' early (5) which you will think late – Tremendous Rain. All of us went to Government House to a party. Most of us rode – S[arah] was not well enough to go – Very pleasant Night – As usual 3 Rooms open. We danced in the Dining Room. The Drawing Room for those to chose to stay in it & in the Library were refreshments – tea, coffee, punch &c. the whole evening & on the large round dining table eatables. So there was no actual supper, but people ate & drank all the evening. Plenty of Dancing, Singing & Laughter. Home as you may suppose late & up to our knees in mud.

Dec. 11 Showery – took a long walk with A[nne]. Minna & Mr G[ibb] who dined here afterwards.

Dec. 12 Sunday Mail by 'Flora' arrived no letter for me but in V.Voorst's parcel I got

2 from you & Father. With Anne & the Dr to church – Mr Henry Piers⁵¹ (Ordnance) dined here early – Afternoon with A[nne] & Minna to church – then took long walk up the valley & home past the Camp⁵² & the Colonel's⁵³ with them & Mr G[ibb]. Eveng I took tea with him in his quarters which are distinct from the Barracks & are thus I think the best in the place – Rain at night the most alarming reports of attacks &c. still agitate the Town.

Dec. 13 Very poorly. Took cold last night in walking through the wet grass from Mr G[ibb]'s. Afternoon walked – Evening with A[nne] went to the Cloetes⁵⁴ – Nominally a children's party. Their drawing room is the largest in the place – Quadrilles. All the young M[oodie]s – Miss Wests – Capt. Parish⁵⁵, Lieuts. Coxon⁵⁶, Burrell⁵⁷ & Gibb – Mr Shiel⁵⁸ and Wesley S[hepstone] made up the large party (the Cloetes are 12 in number) so altogether it was a large party – I felt too poorly to stay so came home quite early as Anne slept at the M[oodie]s'.

Dec. 14 Went to Office but obliged to come home & go to bed.

Dec. 15–16–17 Still too poorly to go out – My 2 Doctors (Mensies [*sic*]⁵⁹ & Stanger) were good enough to get me well on Saturday.

18 when I rode out for a little.

20 Well. Went to Office – Afternoon went to the hill behind the Camp where 1200 Kafirs* were dancing their war dance all in full war costume – composed of cow-skin, beads, ostrich feathers, red clay and assegais – It was a very wonderful sight – and would have amused you when you had once got over your fright. Everyone was there to see them – the S[tanger]s and Anne rode – When we came home with the S[tanger]s called on the Shaws – Mr Chiappini⁶⁰ who came in the 'Rosebud' was there – he brought up Van Voorst's Parcel with him with your long Journal & Father's note. His grandfather was the last Doge of Venice.

Dec. 21 Dull day. With a large party as usual made up with the C[loetes] the M[oodie]s & the Miss Wests took a long walk to Pistorius's House⁶¹ just beyond the Town – Then we went up town to see 2 young lions which are going to Cape Town – very fine creatures – then borrowed from Miss C[loete] a beautiful book called 'The Old Man's Home' by Revd W. Adams – then home, dined & took tea at the M[oodie]s'. Anne dined there as did Mr Bird and Mr Gibb.

22nd with Anne Minna & George M[oodie] called at Government House & at Major Cooper's⁶² – Eveng with the Dr dined at Mess with Dr Mensies [*sic*] – A large party & one of the pleasantest I have been at there.

Dec. 24 – Mr Field⁶³ who is up from the Bay dined here early – Then went to Band – very dull & cold. Afterwards with Capt. Parish went to the Camp & through the stables for part of the 45th have lately been mounted – We are in great want of Cavalry here indeed of all Troops – then called on Dr Mensies [*sic*] then back to the Shaws & then home where S[arah] gave an evening party – the M[oodie]s – Shepstones⁶⁴ – Wesley – Field – Jane Dunn – Mr Bird and Mr Gibb made the party – music in the Drawing Room – Whist in the Dining Room. Being Christmas Eve S[arah] gave us supper – Mince pies, Preserves – Candied Fruits & Cake & Wine – Walked home with them for nearly all went the same way – Home late to Bed.

* This was the word used by Hursthouse – it was in general use at the time, and had no derogatory connotation. It is of course unacceptable usage today.

Christmas Day Dull as usual. With A[nne] went to church – Afternoon the Dr and S[arah] rode. We walked with some of the M[oodie]s & G[ibb] & got wet through. Evening dined and soon after to bed.

Dec. 26 – Sunday – Mornng to church – Afternoon walked – Evg G[ibb] & Minna came to tea.

31 Fine – With Anne rode pleasant day. Great preparations going on for the journey to Mr Allison's⁶⁵ Missionary Station tomorrow – Dined & went to bed before 12 & so ends my Journal for the year 1847, which seems to me to have passed dreadfully quickly.

Saturday January 1 1848 – Up very early & had breakfast. Soon after S[arah], Alice, Harry Lilly & Talerta⁶⁶ set off in the Wagon – I rode with them as far as Camp Drift⁶⁷ & walked back – Dr S[tanger] & Warner⁶⁸ followed on horseback leaving A[nne] & I alone for the 2nd time only since we have been here – Mr & Mrs M[oodie] soon followed riding. A Holiday – Morning went up town & to the M[oodie]s' – the Dutch make a complete holiday of this & amuse themselves with continually firing off Guns. With A[nne] had some lunch & then with the M[oodie]s & Mr Bird walked to the Cloetes' – Very hot walk – There we found the Miss Wests – soon after we all walked down to the river, & sitting low down on the bank had tea & cake & passed a very pleasant hour or two – Home at dusk – Evng we went to the M[oodie]s' – the Cloetes, Jane Dunn & Mr Gibb there. A merry evening – Round Games, Singing &c. Home late.

Jan. 2 Sunday mornng with A[nne] to Church. Dreadfully hot & feeling very poorly I never remember having so bad a headache. Took medicine, went to bed and on the morrow.

Jan. 3 rose much better. Great preparings for our long talked of Expedition to Table Mountain⁶⁹ – Mr & Mrs M[oodie] returned from the Allison's' delighted with all they saw there. We got home from M[oodie]s' late, had tea & went to bed very tired.



Although of a later period, this shows Table Mountain in relation to Pietermaritzburg – the latter being below the trees on the skyline on the right of the picture. Source: A.F. Hattersley's More Annals of Natal (1936).

Jan 4th – Up at sunrise fine day – About 9 started with 3 Wagons for the Mountain – Most of the party rode, but George, Lolotte⁷⁰, Jane Dunn and I went in the first wagon to the Martens' Farm⁷¹ where we outspanned. Here the riding party joined us. About 4 we inspanned – I then joined the riders & after a hot & fatiguing journey we reached a beautiful place just under the Mountain. On one side it reared its huge height – on the other were more distant hills and below us was a beautifully wooded valley with the Umgeni winding through – close to ran a little stream, which falling over the Rocks made a natural shower bath, which was in constant use – Our tents & Marquee (4) & three wagons made a very respectable encampment – We were all dreadfully tired & very glad of some tea which I made on the grass – although we had 3 English servants & plenty of Kafirs yet we had a great deal to do & after a hasty dinner in the Marquee which was both dining-drawing & sleeping room we soon separated for the night – Our party I must tell you consisted of 7 M[oodie]s, Anne, Miss⁷², Evelyn⁷³ and Graham Cloete⁷⁴, Jane Dunn, Lieut. Gordon⁷⁵, Mr Bird, Mr Gibb & myself. I slept in the Marquee which is large & comfortable.

Jan 5 Up early – washed at the Rocks. Very hot. After breakfast books & gossip had been discussed it was settled we should go up the Mountain which is only accessible one way – some rode (all the ladies who went) I walked with George⁷⁶ and Mr Bird – It was a hard pull as you had to crawl up & it was very hot – However we were all glad to have got up. We could see P.M. Burg very distinctly – Got to the Tents again about 3. We then amused ourselves till dinner time – some read, some sketched – a few worked. One great source of amusement was detaching pieces of the rock & letting them fall over the precipice. They made a tremendous noise. The scene from the Tents was really most lovely – About dusk Dunbar⁷⁷ from the town – Dined & had a merry evening – singing – playing at games &c. – Went to bed late.

Jan 6 – Cool day – Up early & bathed. Showery. All but I went down to the Valley below to the Banana Grove – As I did not feel quite well I staid [*sic*] at home & lying down on the grass read the 'Essays of Elia' – a very nice book – When they came home, in spite of the rain the ladies bathed. Mr M[oodie] & Donald⁷⁸ also joined us now – Dinner & a merry evening finished the day.

Jan. 7 – Morning Rain so we had to sit in the Marquee – Working – Reading, singing & talking much. After lunch it cleared up & a party rode down in the valley beneath to the beautiful Umgeni – I with George & Evelyn walked in the same direction – very tired when we got home – I saw an Accacia [*sic*] Father would have given much to see – bright red & yellow. I never saw it before – More Bathing followed – then dinner & a still more merry & noisy evening as it was our last – Late to bed.

Jan 8 – Up early & bathed. Very hot – About 11 – the Wagons started for home – the Riding Party following – At Martens' farm where we outspanned & where Mr Bird's wagon was overturned luckily with no damage, we staid [*sic*] some time – drank claret & tea, ate boiled mealies⁷⁹, peaches & prickly pears which I had never tasted before. I rode in with the others through a new & beautiful way and we all got home about 6 – 14 in number on horseback, having all of us I am sure enjoyed ourselves much. We found all at home, they having come home on Wednesday – S[arah] delighted with the Allison's and her journey & we delighted with ours.



This is the successor to the bridge mentioned in the Journal, but the topography would be much the same as it would have appeared in 1847–8. In the middle distance is the town, with 'the Camp' (Fort Napier) on the low hill towards the left. Source: A.F. Hattersley's Pietermaritzburg Panorama (1938).

Jan'y 9 Sunday – Very hot Morning to church. Afternoon walked. Evening took tea at the M[oodie]s' – Charles Piers⁸⁰ there. Mr & Mrs M[oodie] & Mr Bird took tea at S[arah]'s.

Jan'y 10 – Intensely hot. Rode before breakfast – Afternoon walked with the M[oodie]s – Eveng Mr G[ibb] dined here. Tempest, of which we have had a few this year.

Jan'y 11 – Very hot. Rode and bathed early – Called on the Cloetes with Anne. Evening George M[oodie] dined here.

Jan'y 12 – Rode and bathed early – The last 4 have hereto been the hottest of 4 successive days I remember – Afternoon walked as far as the heat would allow me – Eveng at home reading a foolish book by Albert Smith called 'Mr Ledbury'.

Jan'y 13 – Cool & showery – Rode & bathed early – Rumours of attacks growing louder every day. The Troops from Bushman's River Recalled & other steps are being taken⁸¹. Afternoon rode again with A[nne] and the M[oodie]s – Mr Bird, Mr Gibb, the Colonel & Lieut. Gordon joined us – the former is such a funny old man!

Jan'y 14 – The Burgher [*sic*] Force ordered to be enrolled – Eveng took tea at the M[oodie]s' – Whist.

Jan'y 15 – Rode early – The troops came in – Morning enrolled myself in the Burgher [*sic*] Force – Lunched with Mr Bird – Walked by the River with the Cloetes, Miss Wests and some of the M[oodie]s. Dined at the M[oodie]s' – Mr Gibb there.

Jan'y 16 Sunday – Morning to Church – Very hot – Afternoon showery, Walked with A[nne] & the M[oodie]s to the Garden⁸² – Minna & Mr G[ibb] took tea here – I staid [*sic*] to tea at the M[oodie]s'.

Jan'y 17 – Rode & bathed early – Rode again with A[nn], the M[oodie]s, Mr Gibb & Mr Harding who is our Chief Commandant of the Burghers [*sic*] – Mr G[ibb] dined here.

Jan'y 18 – Breakfast at Mr Hertzog's [*sic*] – then with Wesley & the M[oodie]s Rode to the Market Place where all the Burghers [*sic*] were met. Mr Harding made us a speech on Loyalty our Duties &c &c & then we proceeded to elect 4 Commandants Mr Howell⁸³,

Mr Landman⁸⁴, Mr Ogle⁸⁵ Mr Otto⁸⁶ & then the Burghers [*sic*] enrolled themselves under the man each liked best. We – under Mr Otto – S[arah] spent the day at the M[oodie]s' as did the 2 Miss Cloetes. Afternoon walked to the Bridge⁸⁷ – Evng Dr S[tanger] dined at the M[oodie]s' – so Alice [*sic*]⁸⁸ and I had our coffee together.

Jan 19 – Showery Afternoon with Minna, Jane Dunn, Anne [*sic*] & Mr G[ibb] went to the Mess Garden – then to the Shepstones' to tea, in their new house close to the Colonel's & near us. Alice Shepstone's Birthday⁸⁹ – A very merry evening – playing at round games &c. & making as you may suppose a great noise – the Dr & S[arah] rode out in the afternoon. S[arah] on the Dr's great horse.

Jan 20 – No Band to our regret . The 2 Miss Cloetes⁹⁰, Jane Dunn & Minna spent the day here – Afternoon walked – Evening some people to tea – Mr Gibb, Lt. Coxon, Mr Bird, Wesley, most of the M[oodie]s – Henry Cloete, Henry & Charles Piers made a large party for our small rooms. The piano this time was moved into the Drawing Room – Refreshments were served in the back hall, & this arrangement was very good – We had a very merry evening – Music – Round Games both quiet and noisy ones, songs &c. Mr Coxon went into raptures at seeing your last 2 heads as indeed everyone does who sees them.

Jan 21 – Mail by 'Rosebud' arrived – In your September parcel your journal of August 19 & H's⁹¹ welcome notes of August 29 – also a letter for S[arah] and Anne. Afternoon showery – Evng with Anne dined at the M[oodie]s' – Mr Gibb there – played a rubber.

Jan 22 Showery Mr M[oodie]'s 3 youngest sons came on 'Rosebud' from school⁹² & for whom it was necessary to send a Wagon – so Anne, Minna & George were to go down for them & I got leave much to my joy to go too. Had an early dinner at Mr Hertzog's [*sic*]. Got leave from Commandant Otto to absent myself from the General Muster & about 5 off we started in great glee not caring a bit about the Rain – the Jolting in the Wagon &c. on our journey of 110 miles⁹³ – We outspanned at Uys Doorns⁹⁴, had tea & luckily G[eorge] and I found another wagon there in which we slept & so we were spared the trouble of pitching our Tent.

Jan 23 Up at daybreak had breakfast & about 8 started – a beautiful morning. We had got about an hour on our way, when lo and behold – we met a wagon with 3 boys in it, who soon proved to be Benny, John Bell & Duncan Moodie⁹⁵. Was it not a sell? Nothing however remained but to turn back. At Uys Doorns we again outspanned & had tiffin & got home about 5. Found all in a state of great excitement – the 'Douglas' had just arrived with 60 men of the 45th on Board & Sir Harry Smith⁹⁶ was reported to have proclaimed peace on the Frontier & to be on his way overland to Natal – All were rejoiced at it – Evng Mr G[ibb] took tea here. They were of course surprised to see us back so soon.

Jan 24 Morning Rode – Evng walked with Mr M[oodie] & Mr Cloete to the Bridge – Dined at the M[oodie]s' & played a rubber.

25th Mornng rode early & bathed. Afternoon the Dr and S[arah] rode – I walked with Anne for a wander alone – Evng took tea with Mr Cameron (45th)⁹⁷ who has recently become our neighbour – Minna, George & Mr Gibb took tea here.

Jan 26 – Afternoon the Dr & S[arah] rode – We walked.

Jany 27 Morning rode with Wesley S[hepstone] – Afternoon went to the Band – afterwards rode with Anne, Wesley & George M[oodie] – Eveng went to see Dunbar M[oodie] who is unwell – Henry Cloete and Wesley there – Had tea & then went into George's Room & played a rubber.

January 28 Morning Rode – Afternoon went to Library Committee Meeting – Then walked with the M[oodie]s & Cloetes – Evening at home busy writing this to you.

January 29 – Morning Rode – Afternoon walked – Evening still writing this horrid long letter to you – Anne and I often laugh at your saying we lead so gay & pleasant a life but we think that yours at Beccles⁹⁸ must also be most pleasant. Your descriptions of the Garden – the River⁹⁹, Lowestoft⁹⁸ & Norwich all appear charming to us – By the By you complain of Anne particularly never writing & say very untruly and absurdly – that she has forgotten Beccles – is engrossed with her new friends here &c. – My dear Mary – you are all wrong – she does write, though you may not get the letters & I am sure she will never forget her home. But about letters why do not we complain of you & say we never hear from you, & yet I am sure you all write often – the fact is the letters get lost & when you come to think of the distance &c – one wonders more are not missing – but seriously dear M[ary] do not accuse A[nne] again of such faults for she is not guilty of them.

With love to all

yours ever

WH

NOTES

1. *Natal Witness* quoted in U.E.M. Judd's 'The origins of the Natal Society, Chapter 3, 1847–1849', *Natalia* 4, Dec. 1974 pp.55–60.
2. See entry for 20 Dec. 1847.
3. Presumably his sisters Hannah Stephenson Smith and Mary Hursthouse.
4. The Moodies – family of Donald Moodie (1794–1861), Natal's Secretary to Government.
5. i.e. Durban.
6. Catherine Jemima (Minna) Moodie (1826–1860). In 1850 she married Lt (later Capt.) William Howard Jesse, RE (c.1821–1855), who died in the Battle of Sebastopol.
7. Lt Charles John Gibb, RE, joined the Army in December 1839, arriving in the Cape Colony in August 1841. He came to Natal with the 1842 British expedition under Capt. Smith of the 27th Regiment to subject the Boers to British authority. Gibb and his RE men laid out the fort in which the British were besieged for a month before being relieved by a British force from the Cape. Gibb also designed and supervised the erection of the fort at Pietermaritzburg (Fort Napier). He was in command of the RE in Natal until his departure for the Cape in March 1848.
8. Presumably Theophilus Shepstone (1817–1893), Diplomatic Agent to the Native Tribes, rather than his younger brother John Wesley Shepstone (1827–1916), because Hursthouse and the latter were friends, and he refers to him throughout as Wesley or Wesley S.
9. Umgeni waterfalls – either what is now known as the Howick Falls, or the Albert Falls further downstream.
10. Walter Harding (c.1810–1874), then Crown Prosecutor and Resident Magistrate for Pietermaritzburg. Later Natal's first Chief Justice.
11. John Wesley Shepstone, then a Zulu interpreter in the Government service.
12. Christina Helen Graham (died 1871), wife of Henry Cloete (1792–1870), Recorder of the District Court (i.e. Natal's one and only judge). She was the sister of Col. John Graham after whom Grahamstown is named.
13. Elsjé Elizabeth Moller (1820–1900) (born Erasmus), second wife of Petrus Albertus Otto (1810–1890), a prominent farmer and landowner. Otto's Bluff outside Pietermaritzburg takes its name from this family.
14. Johann David Marquard (1819–1880), assistant clerk in the Commissariat Department. He was later Pietermaritzburg's first Government Teacher, from July 1849 until he returned to the Cape in October 1853.

- He was also secretary of the Pietermaritzburg Reading Room/ Natal Reading Society before Hursthouse. When the latter went to Cape Town, Marquard acted in his stead, and after William's death, continued to do so until the society's next AGM, when he was appointed secretary once more. He retained this position until he left Natal.
15. William James Dunbar Moodie (1827–1903), the eldest Moodie son. When Hursthouse left Natal on sick leave Dunbar acted for him, and after his death succeeded to his offices. Later a Natal Resident Magistrate.
 16. i.e. cornet.
 17. Theophilus' wife Maria Palmer (1815–1893).
 18. As 'Miss Otto' would, according to custom, have been the eldest daughter (the others having the appellation 'Miss' before their Christian names), one presumes this would have been Gertruida Jacomina Margaretha (1830–1851), who in 1849 married Jacobus Christiaan Zeederberg.
 19. Donald Hugh Menzies Moodie (1830–1911).
 20. Theophilus Shepstone's property was Erf 2 and 3 Burger Street. The house stood on Erf 3.
 21. Lt-Col. Edmond French Boys, 45th Regiment, commanding officer of the troops in Natal. When Lt-Governor Martin West died in July 1849 he administered the Natal government until the arrival of Lt-Governor B.C.C. Pine in April 1850. Boys' property was on Erf 1 Burger Street.
 22. The widow of Piet Retief (1780–1838), Magdalena Johanna Greyling (born de Wet), was granted Erf 22 Church Street by the Voortrekker government. Part of her house still exists as No. 225 Church Street, until very recently the premises of the legal firm, Hathorn, Cameron & Co. The premises of Edgars Stores Ltd (219 Church Street) partially encompass the site of the rest of the house, which fronted on to Church Street. The erf would have gone through to Pietermaritz Street. Each erf was about an acre and a half in extent, so the garden would have been large. William's reference to 'old Retief' is puzzling – possibly he knew a Mrs Retief lived there and was unaware that she was a widow.
 23. Wife of Capt. Henry John Shaw, 45th Regiment.
 24. Martha Jane (1838–1921), second child of the Revd Daniel Lindley, missionary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and his wife Lucy. She went to America in 1855 to complete her education, returning to her father's mission station at Inanda in 1863. In later years she was much involved with the Inanda Seminary.
 25. Matilda Jane Dunn (born c. 1829), daughter of Robert Newton Dunn (1796–1847) of *Sea View*, Durban, a Cape 1820 Settler who came to Natal c. 1837. He had died on 5 September 1847 at Congella between Durban and *Sea View*, having been thrown from his horse, and perhaps trampled by an elephant (this latter fate is sometimes ascribed to him, but up until now no contemporary source has been found confirming this. The words 'dreadful death' could, perhaps validate this cause of death).
 26. Ann Harold Biggar (1802–1851), second child of Alexander Harvey Biggar (1781–1838), 1820 Settler who came to Natal in 1836, and his wife Mary Straton.
 27. Presumably 'Armstrong's Garden', named after the 45th Regiment lieutenant W.C. Armstrong, and situated below Fort Napier in the region at the end of present Havelock Road (an extension of Pietermaritz Street). This was on the Townlands, separated from Ordnance land by the furrow carrying the town's water supply from the present Botanical Gardens area. Its Townlands site was to become a major source of dispute between the citizens and the military.
 28. i.e. Donald Moodie.
 29. Dr Thomas Best (c. 1817–1881), Assistant-Surgeon, 45th Regiment.
 30. Unidentified.
 31. Zwaartkop, a prominent hill west of Pietermaritzburg.
 32. Probably today's Gordon Falls at Edendale. *Edendale*, previously the farm *Welverdiend*, then belonged to the Voortrekker leader A.W.J. Pretorius (see *Natalia* 32 pp.43–7 for more on these falls).
 33. Maria Elisabeth Fürstenberg, wife of Francois Roos (1781–1853).
 34. The Misses Cloete – presumably Catherine Maria (c. 1826–1852) later wife of Army Surgeon George Waterloo Pennington Sparrow, and Charlotte Sophia (born c. 1829), who married Capt. H.W. Parish (see Note 54).
 35. Henry Daniel Cloete (born 1829).
 36. To the Inanda Mission Station, north of Durban.
 37. Mrs Dunn's sister Mary de Villiers (born c. 1804), wife of John George de Villiers (born c. 1793), an attorney in Pietermaritzburg.
 38. Dr Stanger's clerk, D.W. Hertzog.
 39. i.e. the Natal Reading Society.
 40. George Pigot Moodie (1829–1891), the second Moodie son, later Surveyor-General of the Transvaal, and a gold-mining pioneer.

41. Blaauwkrantz – i.e. the area near the river of that name in northern Natal.
42. John Bird (1815–1896), who besides his surveying duties, was acting as magistrate in the northern district. Later Resident Magistrate, Pietermaritzburg, 1859–1876, then Colonial Treasurer, 1876–1878, and Acting Judge of the Native High Court 1879. At the request of the Natal Society, and with a government grant, he compiled the *Annals of Natal* (1880–1885).
43. This was at the time of the Klip River 'Rebellion', when the Boers in the area bounded by the Drakensberg, the Tugela and the Umzinyati (Buffalo) rivers (the latter, in this region, being the border between the Colony and the Zulu kingdom), set up their own government. They considered the Natal authorities were not acting on their behalf against Zulu refugees who were crossing the border in significant numbers.
44. Revd John Richards (1811–1898). By arrangement with the Dutch Reformed congregation, services were held in their church, the only one in the town.
45. Robert Gray (1809–1872) had been consecrated Bishop of Cape Town in June 1847, but arrived in his new see only in February 1848.
46. Mpande, King of the Zulus. The dissatisfied Klip River Boers maintained that the land they were occupying belonged to King Mpande, and had agreed to pay him 1 000 rix-dollars for the right of occupation, hence the fear in the public mind of collusion between the king and the Boers.
47. Bushman's river – the river which passes through the present town of Estcourt.
48. Government House was on Erfs 31 and 32 Loop Street, facing the Market Square. It was rented in 1846 from Jacobus Nicolaas Boshof (1818–1881) by the Lt-Governor Martin Thomas West (c.1804–1849).
49. Martin West had three daughters, Isabella Caroline, Charlotte Maria and Albinia Clarissa.
50. Camp Hill i.e. the hill on which Fort Napier is situated.
51. Henry Piers, brother of Charles Piers, surveyor (see Note 79).
52. Fort Napier.
53. i.e. Erf 1 Burger Street.
54. Recorder Cloete's home was on Erf 26 Burger Street, on the corner of Loop Street and Commercial Road. The house was in later years known as The Oaks private hotel.
55. Henry Woodbine Parish (born 1821), in 1849 married Charlotte Sophia Cloete. In later years Parish commanded the 45th Regiment in the 1868 Ethiopian Expedition, and by 1880 was the Lt-Colonel of the Brigade Depot at Devizes, Wiltshire.
56. George Stacpole Coxon, 45th Regiment, later owner of Lt-Col. Boys' home on Erf 1 Burger Street.
57. George Burrell, 45th Regiment.
58. Charles H. Shiel, Deputy Assistant Commissary-General in Natal.
59. Dr Duncan Menzies, the 45th Regiment's Surgeon in Natal.
60. Edward Lorenzo Chiappini, of the Cape Town mercantile firm A. Chiappini & Co., which also owned land in Natal. Son of Florentine-born Antonio Baldazar Melchior Casper Chiappini (1777–1860) and Cape-born Johanna Magdalena Heugh who were married in 1804. Edward's Italian grandfather was Lorenzo (or Thomas) Chiappini, whereas the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1910–11 edition) names the Doge who abdicated in 1797, in the face of defeat by Napoleon, as Ludovico Manin.
61. Friedrich Heinrich Pistorius (1789–c.1862) and his son Carl Wilhelm Heinrich (1819–1909) had a brick-and-tile-yard at the foot of Pietermaritzburg's Town Hill. Friedrich seems to have lived at or near the brick-yard, while by the end of 1852, Carl was resident on Erf 13 Berg Street. With Pietermaritzburg's small population in 1847, either location could possibly be considered as 'just beyond the Town'.
62. Henry Cooper, 45th Regiment, who took over as Commandant at Natal when Col. Boys left in June 1853, and as Administrator of the Government during the interregnum March 1855 to October 1856 between the departure of Lt-Governor B.C.C. Pine and the arrival of Lt-Governor John Scott.
63. William Swan Field (1821–1865), Natal's Collector of Customs and, at this time, also Magistrate at Durban.
64. Theophilus and Maria.
65. Revd James Allison (1805–1875) had established the Indaleni Mission Station early in 1847. In 1850 the J.C. Byrne & Co. settler village of Beaulieu (later renamed Richmond) was established nearby.
66. Alice and Harry were the Stanger children. Presumably Lilly and Talerta were family servants.
67. Camp Drift (or Camp's Drift, as it is now known) is the crossing of the Msunduzi river below Fort Napier.
68. William Warner (1827–1911), Dr Stanger's personal servant.
69. A flat-topped mountain to the east of Pietermaritzburg.
70. G.P. Moodie and Charlotte Mary (Lolotte) Moodie (1832–1888), later wife of Revd James Green (1821–1906), Dean of Pietermaritzburg.
71. *Doorn Hoek*, the farm of Jan Thomas Martens (1800–1877).

72. The eldest Cloete girl appears to have been Catherine Maria.
73. John Evelyn Gordon Cloete (1834–1909).
74. Robert Graham Cloete (1838–1882).
75. Lt Stephen Bilton Gordon, 45th Regiment, later while still in the army, to become Lt-Governor B.C.C. Pine's private secretary.
76. G.P. Moodie.
77. W.J.D. Moodie.
78. D.H.M. Moodie.
79. i.e. maize.
80. Charles Piers, government surveyor, had come to Natal from the Cape Colony in Mar. 1845.
81. In February 1848 a larger force was despatched under Major Cooper, consisting of 140 men of the 45th (including Capt. Parish's mounted infantry), a Cape Mounted Rifles detachment, and one of the RA, with two guns. A fort was erected where the town of Estcourt now stands.
82. Presumably the Mess Garden.
83. James Michiel Gristock Howell (1810–1872), Pietermaritzburg attorney. In 1849 was appointed lieutenant of the Natal Native Police.
84. Presumably Karel Pieter Landman (1796–1875), one of the Boer leaders.
85. Henry Ogle (c.1800–1860), one of the original party of hunter/traders who came to Natal in 1824.
86. P.A.R. Otto.
87. This, Pietermaritzburg's second bridge, was completed towards the end of 1847 with a 50% subsidy from the Government. It was known as the Jargal Bridge after the Pietermaritzburg merchant, Hypolite Jargal, who contributed almost half the privately-raised funds. It crossed the Msunduzi more or less where the Victoria Bridge now stands. It was washed away in April 1848.
88. Presumably a mistake for Anne.
89. This was Alice Shepstone's second birthday!
90. The Misses Cloete – presumably Catherine and Charlotte.
91. Presumably Hannah Stephenson Smith.
92. From school in the Cape.
93. i.e. the total mileage for the expedition.
94. Uys Doorns, in the present Ashburton district, was the first stopping-point on the road from Pietermaritzburg to Durban.
95. Benjamin Charles Moodie (1833–1858), John Bell Moodie (1836–1876) and Duncan Campbell Francis Moodie (1838–1891).
96. Sir Harry Smith (1787–1860), Governor of the Cape and High Commissioner, came to Natal to try and dissuade the dissatisfied Boers from leaving Natal for the interior.
97. Charles Duncan Cameron (died 1870) 45th Regiment. Entered the army in May 1846. Cameron seems to have left the 45th early, as in December 1851 he was appointed Assistant Magistrate in Klip River Division. By June 1852 he had left Natal, and possibly South Africa. He is next encountered in 1853 as a member of staff of Sir W. Fenwick Williams, HM's Commissioner with the Turkish Army, and while so engaged, carrying the local rank of captain. It appears that he was in prolonged siege of the Turkish fortress of Kars during the Crimean War. Kars capitulated to the Russians in November 1855. Special service to Trebisond on the Black Sea followed until September 1856. He later became a British Vice-Consul in the Black Sea region, first at Redout Kaleh (1858), then at Poti (1859). In November 1861 he left the area to take up the position of British Consul in Abyssinia, arriving in January 1862. Not long after, the King of Abyssinia, Theodore, became displeased with the British Government and Cameron himself, and in January 1864 imprisoned him and his suite. They were briefly released in August 1865, but *en route* to the coast and freedom, were apprehended once more. Until June 1866 captivity was bearable, but then they were imprisoned in the fort at Magdala, where they were subjected to hunger and cold and, for a time, were kept in chains. In July 1867 the British Government decided to send a force from India (totalling in all 32 000) under Sir Robert Napier. Included in the force was the 45th Regiment commanded by Cameron's former fellow officer Henry Woodbine Parish (see Note 54). The captives were liberated on 11 April, and Magdala was stormed and taken two days later. Cameron returned to England in July, and was pensioned in the following December. He died in Geneva less than eighteen months later.
98. Towns in Suffolk, near the boundary between Norfolk and Suffolk.
99. The Waveney river, which forms the border between these two counties.