

Author's Note & Introduction

This book is being published to commemorate the 25 years since the end of Apartheid in South Africa in 1994 and the events affecting this country as time was running out for its possible survival. It is an important reminder to our readers of the damage that racism and prejudice can create. We all hope and pray that such an atrocity will never happen again.

South Africa (Dutch: Zuid Afrika) today is best remembered for its strategic position in the shipping lanes of world trade. The major ports of Cape Town in the Western Cape and Durban in Natal are prominent on the trade routes to the Far East, Australasia and the East India Company dating back to the 16th century.

Located on the shore of Table Bay, Cape Town, is the oldest urban area in South Africa, which was developed by the Dutch East India Company as a supply station for Dutch ships sailing to East Africa, India, and the Far East. Jan van Riebeeck's arrival on 6 April, 1652 established the Dutch Cape Colony, the first permanent European settlement in South Africa with the garrisoned trading station at Table Bay. On that day, Riebeeck arrived with three ships and a company of 90 men, women and children.

In 1820, several groups or parties of white British colonists settled by the British government and the Cape authorities arrived in the South African Eastern Cape. Grahamstown was named in 1812 after Colonel John Graham (1778-1821), a British army officer, born in Dundee, Scotland, who led the corps sent to forcibly move about 20,000 local Xhosa tribesmen from the area that had lived there for centuries. Was this the start of the forced removals by the British that was later adopted by the white supremacist Afrikaans government and who called it Apartheid or separate development? You

decide! The campaign to clear the Xhosa residents from the Eastern frontier was defined by John Graham's plan to use "a proper degree of terror" according to the research of anti-apartheid activist and historian Ben MacLennan in his book *A Proper Degree of Terror* (1986). During the campaign, scorched earth tactics, including the burning of Xhosa farms were used to clear them from the Eastern frontier.

The town's name was later changed from Grahamstown to Makhanda and was officially gazetted on 29 June, 2018, the government claiming that the changing of the name was in line with the letter and spirit of the new Constitution of South Africa. The renaming was in memory of a Xhosa warrior and prophet Makhanda ka Nxele. The corps' new headquarters is located on the site of the present Church Square. Grahamstown went on to become a military, administrative, judicial, and educational centre for the surrounding region.

These settlers are commemorated today in Makhanda, Eastern Cape, by the 1820 Settlers National Monument, which opened in 1974. A living monument, it hosts plays, musical performances and cultural events. This special day, Settlers Day, was recognized as a public holiday from 1952-1979. It was then replaced on the calendar by Heritage Day when the new black Parliament and the ANC reached a compromise and the day was given its present title, when South Africans celebrate the diverse cultural heritage that makes up a 'rainbow nation'. The term was intended to encapsulate the unity of multi-culturalism and the coming-together of people of many different nations, in a country once identified with the strict division of white and black under the Apartheid regime. It is now a day to celebrate the contribution of all South Africans to the building of South Africa, according to Stephen Lowery in his book, *A Guide to South Africa's New National Holidays* (1999).



Painting by Charles Bell (1813-1882) depicting Riebeeck and the local inhabitants Hottentots' (Khoikhoi) of the Cape in 1652 (note Devil's Peak in the background), courtesy of Creative Commons.



Cape Town, South Africa from Blouberg Strand, courtesy of Wikipedia and Matthias Kniese

Little is known of the history of Durban and Natal regarding the first residents, as there is no written history of the area until it was sighted by Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama, who sailed parallel to the KwaZulu-Natal coast at Christmastide in 1497 while searching for a route from Europe to India. He named the area 'Natal', being Christmas in Portuguese.

In 1822 Lieutenant James King, captain of the ship *Salisbury*,¹ with Lt. Francis George Farewell, ex-Royal Navy officers from the Napoleonic Wars, were engaged in trade between the Cape and Delagoa Bay on the southeast coast of Mozambique, East Africa. On a return trip to the Cape in 1823 they were caught in a very bad storm and decided to risk the Bar and anchor in the Bay of Natal. The crossing went off well and they found safe anchor from the storm. Lt. King decided to map the Bay and named it the "Salisbury and

¹ On the 14 August, 1821 Captain James King sailed from London with 20 settlers from England to South Africa. These were a private party and not under the auspices of the Government Settler Scheme. Salisbury reached Table Bay, Cape Town on 8 December and arrived at Algoa Bay, Port Elizabeth, on 15 January, 1822 and then along the coast of the then Zululand.

Farewell Islands". In 1824 Lt. Farewell together with a trading company called J.R.Thompson & Co., based in England, decided to open trade relations with Shaka the Zulu King and establish a trading station at the Bay.

On 7 August, 1824, they concluded negotiations with King Shaka for a cession of land, including the Bay of Natal and land extending ten miles south of the Bay, twenty-five miles north of the Bay and one hundred miles inland. Lt. Francis Farewell took possession of this grant and raised the Union Jack with a Royal Salute, which consisted of four cannon shots and 20 musket shots. Of the original 18 would-be settlers, only six remained, who can be regarded as the founding members of Port Natal as a British colony. These six were later joined by Lt. James Saunders King and Nathaniel Isaacs in 1825. During a meeting of 35 European residents in Fynn's territory on 23 June, 1835, it was decided to build a capital town and name it d'Urban after Sir Benjamin d'Urban, then governor of the Cape Colony.

More details of these two major cities will be covered in Chapter 1, History and Foundations of Southern Africa. Additional outstanding moments in the history of Southern Africa will also be highlighted throughout our narrative, for example the Anglo-Boer wars, the Zulu wars and, later in the 20th century, the threat of a major black uprising in opposition to the atrocious apartheid system, which had been developed and implemented by the white supremacist government of the day. In Chapter 2 we have used the extensive material and archives of the Anti-Slavery International, founded as the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society in 1839 and an international non-governmental organization, registered charity and advocacy group, based in London, UK. It is the world's oldest international human rights organization, and works exclusively against slavery and related abuses.

This book is not so much a history but rather a personal view: observations and recollections of what I experienced along with my family and friends as we saw South Africa slowly deteriorate under the strict sanctions imposed by the rest of the world and which eventually forced the collapse