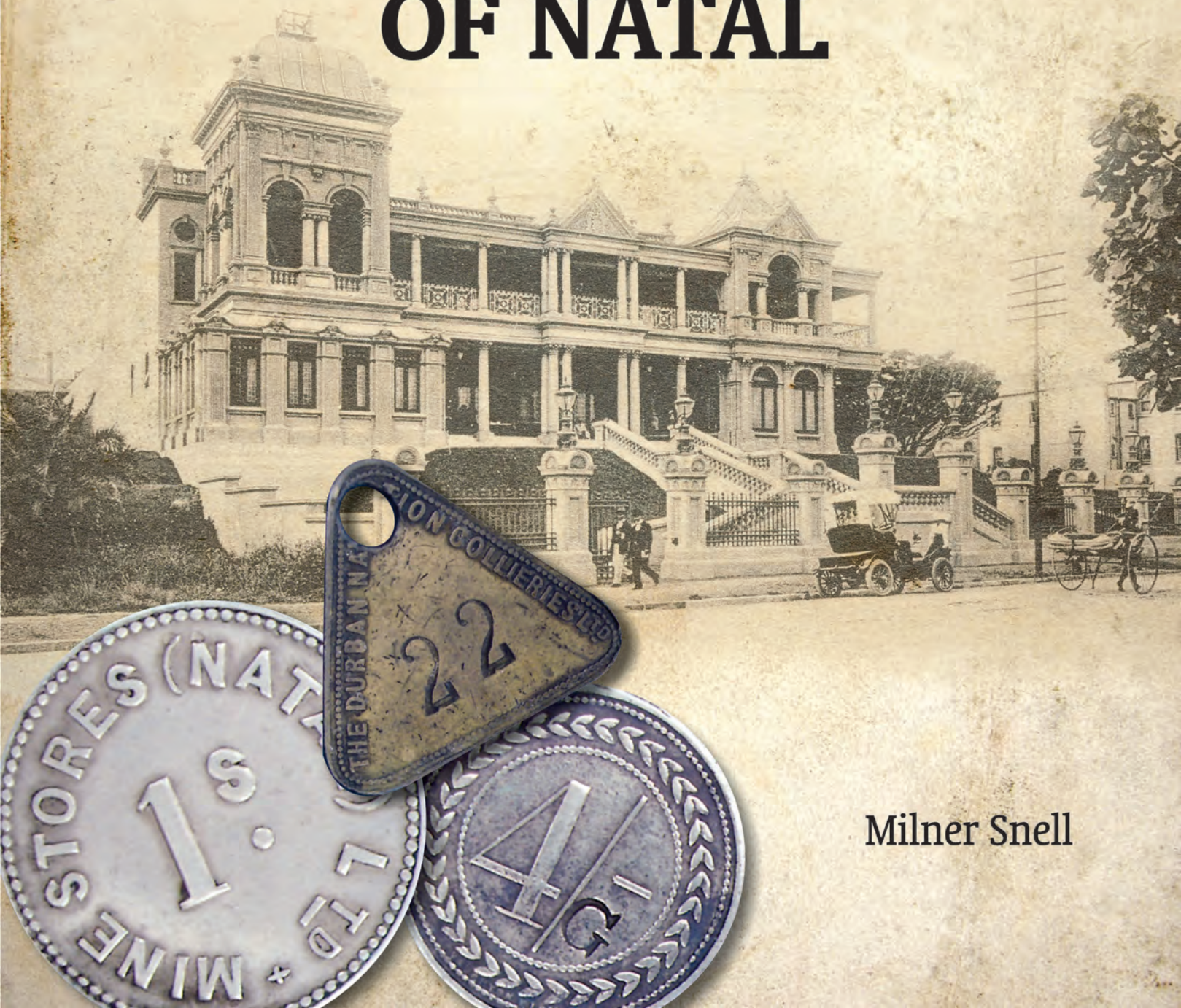


TOKENS OF THE

COLONY & PROVINCE OF NATAL



Milner Snell

**TOKENS OF
THE COLONY AND PROVINCE
OF NATAL**

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Pietermaritzburg 2020

**For
For Allyn Jacobs, Esq.
Cedo Maiori**

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Introduction

The commonly accepted numismatic definition of a token is ‘a piece of metal or plastic, resembling a coin in shape, size and type but issued privately, usually without government authority, that is used as a substitute for official coinage; generally as a pledge to be redeemed either in goods to the value it represents or in corresponding coin of the realm’. This work is an overview of the tokens used in Natal from 1860 to the 1930s.

Natal was annexed on 31 May 1844 as a separate district of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope. It was ‘hardly a welcome addition to the British Empire’.¹ The cost of colonial administration and defence had turned opinion in the 1830s and 1840s against territorial expansion. However, concerned by the activities of the Boers in the region, Britain reluctantly annexed the territory for strategic and humanitarian reasons. On the 12 December 1845 Martin West, the First Lieutenant-Governor, took an oath of office in the old Boer capital of Pietermaritzburg, which would also serve as the seat of government of the new colony. From May 1849 until February 1852 nearly 5000 immigrants from the British Isles arrived in Natal. The severe depression that was gripping Europe, combined with bad weather, poor harvests and the potato blight all encouraged people to leave their homes and settle elsewhere in the empire. A number of settlement schemes, many supported by the British government, were established and offered assisted passages and allotments of land in the colonies to ‘suitable’ settlers. The largest and most ambitious of these schemes, as far as Natal was concerned, was Joseph Byrne’s Emigration and Colonization Company. Byrne, the son of a Dublin cattle dealer, was a plausible speaker, but he had never visited Natal and his knowledge of the colony was based on parliamentary blue books.

Scanty preparations had been made to receive the settlers. The colonial government had leased a plain stone building at the Point for use as a customs house. Durban, which consisted of a few buildings, was two miles away across a sandy waste. The immigrants had to build temporary shelters from material procured from the surrounding bush. Most of the settlers did not take up the allotment and returned to Durban, which was going through a period of rapid expansion with the arrival of the Byrne settlers.

The first tokens issued in Natal, and South Africa for that matter, were by merchants and shopkeepers in Durban, many of whom were Byrne settlers. Tokens used in Natal can be divided into two chronological groupings. Those issued in the Colony of Natal from the 1860s to 1880s, and those used in the Province of Natal in the 1920s and 1930s. (Natal became part of the Union of South Africa in 1910). The use of tokens was made illegal in 1932 but numerous companies continued to make use of them for some years after that date. The tokens issued and used in the Colony and Province of Natal can be divided into eight broad categories: Trade Tokens, Monopoly Tokens, Credit Tokens, Discount Tokens, Commodity Tokens, Machine Tokens, Soliciting Tokens and Advertising Tokens.

Trade Tokens

Trade tokens were usually issued in times of a severe shortage of small change. In Natal Blackwood, Couper & Co., McArthur, Muirhead & Co. and Mark Franklin all issued tokens in the second half of the nineteenth century as there was very little small change available in the colony.

Monopoly Tokens

These tokens were usually used by traders to pay part, or all, of their employee's wages. These tokens could only be redeemed for goods at the stores from which they were issued. The use of these tokens was generally considered to be unfair, and it was the strong opposition to monopoly tokens, which resulted in the abolition of the use of tokens in South Africa in 1932. Tokens issued by H.J. Creighton, Creighton & Dennis and a shopkeeper at St Faith's in the Ixopo area are all examples of monopoly tokens.

Credit Tokens

These tokens were issued to employees to allow them to purchase goods from a specific supplier, the tokens were to be redeemed once the workers had been paid. Like monopoly tokens, the use of credit tokens was often regarded as unfair, with employees being caught in a cycle of debt. The tokens issued by shopkeepers on the collieries in Northern Natal are the best example of credit tokens.

Discount Tokens

Discount tokens were issued by traders or shopkeepers as a discount on cash transactions, and could be used in part or in full payment in later purchases. These were a shrewd business move as customers often returned to the shop from which they were issued. J.F. Baumann in Durban made wide use of discount tokens.

Commodity Tokens

Commodity tokens were usually sold by a supplier of a given commodity to overcome the problems associated with handling small change. Tokens used by the Durban Club and Crown Hotel for the playing of billiards, as well as the milk tokens issued by Model Dairy, were the most obvious examples of this kind of token.

Machine Tokens

These tokens were provided by the owners of slot machines. The Automatic Amusements Co. in Durban provided tokens of this kind to their customers, as did Peter's Lounge.

Soliciting Tokens

Soliciting tokens were issued by brothel owners. Martha's, Jeanette's and Bertha's in Durban all made use of soliciting tokens struck in Paris.

Advertising Tokens

These tokens did not have any monetary value for the customer but were issued to advertise businesses. The well-known department store Payne Brothers in Durban issued advertising tokens, as did Woolfsons.

Part One

DURBAN



Durban

In 1823 the Cape Town merchant Henry Nourse dispatched the brig *Mary* and the sloop *Jane* to search for ivory and gold dust in the vicinity of Delagoa Bay. On board were Henry Maynard and Henry Francis Fynn who discovered during the voyage that the best source of ivory in the area was among the Zulu people to the south of the bay. A short time later another of Nourse's ships, the *Orange Grove*, returned with ivory from Natal. This encouraged two ex-lieutenants of the Royal Navy, John Saunders King and Francis Farewell, to try and make contact with the Zulu King Shaka through St Lucia Bay. After the loss of two boat crews in an attempt to land, they turned south and were forced to take refuge from a sudden gale in the bay at Port Natal. Farewell decided to establish a permanent trading station at Port Natal, and after securing the support of J.R. Thompson & Co. of Cape Town, returned to the port with 26 settlers in July 1824 on the brig *Antelope*. Aboard the *Antelope* was Henry Francis Fynn who a year earlier had been aboard the *Mary*.

The arrival of the traders on the *Antelope* in July 1824 marked the beginning of the city of Durban. It remained a small trading outpost until the arrival of the Byrne settlers in 1850. According to T.V. Bulpin in his work *To The Shores of Natal*:

Durban, at the time of the coming of the British settlers, was little more than a village. Its streets were sandy, its houses shacks; and the green forest crowded all around, patiently seeking to reclaim that which was once its own.

E.H. Brookes and C. de B. Webb leave this charming description of Durban:

Durban in 1849 had one brick house, owned by Tom and Harry Milner. Bricks were being manufactured and other brick buildings had been put up by 1850, but most buildings were of "wattle and daub", even G.C. Cato's famous store being of this material...Cato's store was described as the "centre of our civilisation" and around it were other stores, a smithy, a wagon-builder's shop, McDonald's "Commercial Hotel", John Smith's "Britannica Inn", a Methodist mission house and various other buildings.

Automatic Amusements Company (Wonderland)

One of the personalities associated with the development of the Durban beachfront as a tourist destination was a colourful character named Sam Newton.² Samuel Michael Newton was born in March 1895 in Odessa, Russia.³ An entertainer and connoisseur of fine arts, Sam did as much as he could to make the nightlife on the beach as enticing as possible for up-country holiday makers. He established the Automatic Amusements Company (incorporated on 22 July 1935) which ran the highly popular Wonderland, 'a hall of amusements', on Durban beach. Sam died on 30 March 1969 in Durban. At the time of his death he owned three businesses: Newton's Amusements Corporation, Newton's Sportland and Newton's Speedway.⁴

THE TOKENS:

In 1942 the company issued tokens at 1d each for use in their automatic slot machines. Newton came to an arrangement with the postmaster of Durban that he would honour any of his tokens found in the local stamp machines. It seems that the company was dissolved sometime in the mid-1940s, however, the tokens were used in other slot machines along the beachfront as late as 1949.

Description:

Brass and nickel specimens.

Obverse: *Across centre field in three lines, "AUTOMATIC" "AMUSEMENTS" "CO", with small motif above. Above whole, curved, is: "WONDERLAND", and below, in two curved lines: "OCEAN BEACH" "S.A." Pearled border. Demarcated rim.*

Reverse: *In four lines across field, "THE" "PROPERTY OF" "WONDERLAND" "S.A." Pearled border. Demarcated rim.*

Edge: *Plain.*



J.F. Baumann

John Frederick Baumann was born on 7 May 1824 at Niederstetten, Germany, and came to Natal in 1851 on the barque *John Bright*.⁵ Baumann, who turned 27 the day before he landed in Durban, opened a bakery, in partnership with a Mr Wilson, in West Street. The partnership was dissolved the following year and Baumann took over the business carried out by Mr F. Kermodé, as a baker and flour dealer. In April 1864 he married Mary Ann Cole. Baumann was still in Durban in 1866, as the following advertisement appeared in the Natal Directory of that year:

F. BAUMANN,
BAKER, ETC.,
Smith Street, Durban.
N.B.—BREAD MADE BY MACHINERY.

In the late 1860s Baumann left Natal and spent a few years on the goldfields at Pilgrim's Rest, where he and a Mr Stopforth were in partnership supplying meals to miners. In 1877 he returned to England where, by a strange coincidence, he met his nephew, Johann Baumann. He managed to convince Johann to join him in the bakery business which he still owned in Durban. It is believed that while he was in England he arranged for 'a hundredweight' of tokens to be minted. He returned to Durban and his nephew followed in 1880. Baumann split the business into two operations – a bakery and grocery. Johann focused on the bakery, while his uncle kept an eye on the grocery section. The partnership continued until 1885 when Johann Baumann began trading on his own in Parlour Street. In that year Johann bought a plant to supply biscuits to the sailors on the ships that docked in Durban harbour. These were the first biscuits in South Africa to be made by machine. In 1893 Johann renovated and expanded his business premises and imported further machinery from England.

John Baumann died on 14 January 1897, aged 72 years, at his residence at 83 Pine Street, Durban. Not only was he one of Durban's earliest successful businessmen, but he also contributed to the cultural and civic life of the town as a member of the Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Durban Rangers.

Johann Baumann continued the family tradition as a baker and on 2 November 1908, he registered his company as L. Baumann & Ltd. (His initials were J.M.L.). In the book *Twentieth Century Impressions of Natal*, the following description is given of the Baumann business:

Ship-biscuits and bread, made by hand, were the initial effort, but in 1895 they laid down an up-to-date bread, cake, and biscuit plant, driven by a paraffin motor. Though this did good work, it was soon found inadequate for their requirements, and in 1902 they were obliged to reorganize the factory, enlarge their premises, and introduce steam power. This extension enabled the firm to turn out as many as 6,000 2-lb. loaves in 24 hours, while as much as 60 cwt. of biscuits can be manufactured in the same period. A large variety of fancy biscuits is produced – no less than sixty kinds being on their lists – by Messrs. Baumann & Co., who take care to use only the best ingredients, and these biscuits can be sold at a lower price than the imported article. A very important part of the business is the manufacture of ship-biscuits, of which large stocks are always held. This is the only biscuit factory in Durban. A staff composed of 20 Europeans, 40 natives, and 8 Indians is employed.

In 1915 Baumann's bread bakery at the corner of West Street and Brickhill Road was burnt to the ground in a wave of anti-German feeling after the sinking of the Lusitania. (Ironically two of Johann Baumann's sons were fighting against the Germans in East Africa). The adjacent biscuit factory escaped the rioters and the government sent soldiers the next day to guard it, as the factory was making biscuits for the troops in East and West Africa. A number of Baumann's delivery carts were set alight during anti-German riots in Pietermaritzburg on 13 May 1915. As a result of the fire at the premises, the firm's name was changed to Bakers Ltd, the name it still retains. The change of name, according to Alfred Baumann, was suggested by Mr S Welsford, a close friend of Johann's only daughter, Miss Grace Baumann. Alfred writes:

During the May 1915 riots, when L Baumann & Company was burned down, a Mr S Welsford telephoned Mr Albert Baumann, offering to come on the Board of the new company. He suggested that it be called 'Bakers Ltd'. When a woman wants to buy a loaf of bread she automatically thinks of a baker and this is the first word that arises in her mind. The name could therefore be easily remembered and so easily called to mind.

The Baumann name, however, did not completely disappear. Johann's son William, who was the Managing Director of Bakers during the war, decided after his marriage in 1918 to open a biscuit factory in Cape Town.⁶ With the blessing of his father, William called the new business Baumann's Biscuits. After three years he approached his father to buy Baumanns as a subsidiary to Bakers. This he did and William continued as the Managing Director. William Baumann died in 1946 and his son Desmond became the Managing Director of Baumann's Biscuits. In 1994 Bakers, Baumanns and their greatest rival Pyotts were regrouped as "Associated Biscuits".⁷

THE TOKENS:

The Baumann tokens were issued in 1880 and consisted of a shilling and a five-shilling piece. In a letter to the late Dr Theron from Mr L.G. Baumann, it is mentioned that 3000 of the 5/- pieces and 3000 of the 1/- pieces were struck.⁸ According to Pat Moran, the tokens were to represent the 5% discount which they always paid to customers for purchases made in the shop.⁹ It was a shrewd business move as the customers had to return to spend them in the shop, as they could not be cashed elsewhere. The tokens were not used for very long, but for years afterwards, children would occasionally bring specimens into the shop. Although a large number of these tokens were struck, today they are exceedingly rare. Only three examples of the shilling token are believed to exist. Dr Theron described it as 'one of the rarest South African tokens'.

The following article from the Durban Week-End Advertiser of 2 April 1927 was provided by Mr L.G. Baumann in an e-mail dated 20 May 2013:

WHEN DURBAN WAS SHORT OF CHANGE

We now come to another Durban token which did not make its appearance until nearly a generation after Prince Alfred had sailed away from the port of Durban. It was not issued owing to the lack of small change, for that evil had by this time been remedied, but for a purpose which will presently be explained. This token bears on one side the inscription, "J.F. Baumann's Provision Warehouse" around a large central "1s"; the other side of the coin is blank.

Mr. John Frederick Baumann had been a Durban citizen for many years before the appearance of this token. We find him advertising in the first issue of the Natal Mercury in 1852 inviting public patronage as a caterer, confectionery and general baker. We also find in the Natal Almanack of 1864 the following advertisement:



J.F. Baumann begs to inform his friends and the public generally that he has taken over the business hitherto carried on by Mr. E. Kermode as baker, flour dealer, etc. Times were bad in Durban in the later sixties and in the early seventies, and Mr. Baumann went to the diamond fields and to England. The lure of Durban, however, drew him back, and in 1877 he returned and started business as a wholesale and retail grocer and as a baker in West Street, on the same side but a little lower down than the spot where Messrs. Blackwood, Couper & Co.'s grocery store had once stood. Mr Baumann's previous business had also been in West Street, but in other positions. It was about three years after Mr. Baumann had started here afresh that the idea of the 1s. tokens was carried out by him. A good-sized box of them, the whole weighting perhaps a hundredweight, came from overseas. The use to which they were put was in payment of the popular discounts of those days. Five percent was the rule in Durban. Therefore a customer settling a bill for say £3, with Mr. Baumann, would receive three of his shilling tokens, which were as good as coin of the realm for making further purchases at his store. The scheme, however, was not continued for very long. It was about this time the tokens were issued that Mr. J.M.L. Baumann, of Bakers Limited, a nephew of Mr. J.F. Baumann, came out and joined him, the young man's London training enabling him to bring new and up-to-date methods into the business. A few years later Mr. J.M.L. Baumann took over the bakery section and in 1885 moved it to the corner of West Street and Brickhill Road. Here, as L. Baumann & Co., the business gradually developed as the population of Durban increased, and became well known for the quality of its biscuits, confectionery and bread. Thirty years later the business became Bakers Limited.

The issuer of the tokens has been dead now for many years, but Mr. J.M.L. Baumann remembers them well, and the box they came in. There were some thousands of them. Mr. Baumann also recalls how many years after their use had been discontinued children would occasionally bring specimens to the shop.

Description:

Brass.

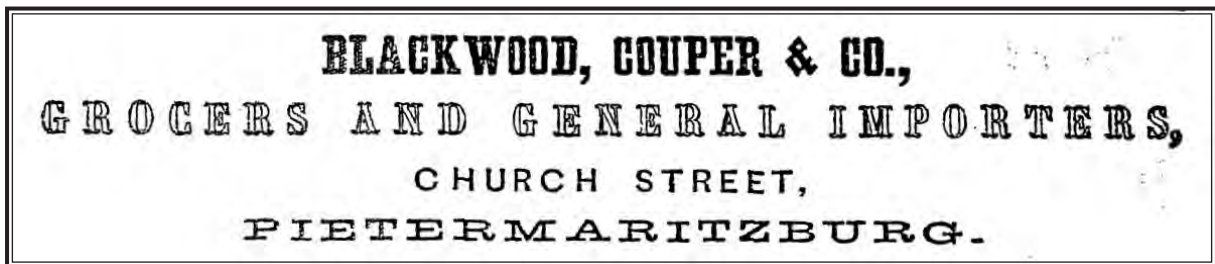
Obverse: *In centre field the value ("5/-"; "1/-"). Legend around: "J.F. BAUMANN'S" "PROVISIONAL WAREHOUSE". Two five-pointed stars. Pearled border. Slightly raised rim.*

Reverse: *The blank reverse has a pearled border and a slightly raised rim.*

Edge: *Milled.*

Blackwood, Couper & Co.

Blackwood, Couper & Co. was a firm of General Merchants and Shipping Agents, the principal partner being James Blackwood. James, his two sisters and a half-brother, came to Natal on the *Dreadnought*.¹⁰ Soon after their arrival, James went into partnership with E. Tomlinson, a fellow passenger on the *Dreadnought*, and opened a shop in Durban. The partnership was terminated by the end of March 1850, and Blackwood continued alone in premises in West Street. By January 1858 he was in partnership with William Palmer as importers, exporters and general merchants. After a few years Blackwood and Palmer brought William Couper of Glasgow into the business as a third partner. The partnership was known in Durban as Palmer & Blackwood and in Glasgow as Couper, Blackwood & Co.* By 1859 they had opened a branch in Pietermaritzburg. In 1861 Palmer left the partnership and the business became known as Blackwood, Couper & Co. In the same year the company erected new headquarters in Durban, building a 'handsome two-storeyed establishment, the front of which would do credit to any English street'. (The building was razed to the ground by fire in May 1864). In December 1862 they extended their interests in the capital with a retail grocery department in Church Street. In May 1864 they opened another shop on the corner of Church and Timber Streets, where they traded until they closed down the Pietermaritzburg operation in April 1867. The following advertisement for Blackwood, Couper & Co. appeared in the Natal Directory in 1866:



Blackwood's partnership with Couper came to an end in 1870 and he then traded under the name Blackwood & Co. By the end of 1878 he was in partnership with Thomas Garland of Verulam. They had a branch in Verulam known as Garland, Blackwood & Co. The Durban branch of the business was known as Blackwood, Garland & Co. Blackwood, after serving as one of the first borough councillors in Durban, settled in London, opening offices at 58 Wool Exchange, Coleman Street, the City of London. He died in 1899 at his home Berea, in Aberdeen Park, Highbury, London.

* James Blackwood and Alex McArthur were both directors of the Commercial and Agricultural Bank of Natal, which was established in 1859. The bank was responsible for issuing its own banknotes.



THE TOKENS:

The Company of Blackwood, Couper & Co. issued tokens in 1861. Mrs Shelagh Spencer writes:

Blackwood, Couper & Co. were one of Durban's earliest issuers of trade tokens. This development resulted from the lack of small change in circulation in Natal. They issued three tokens, viz. 1/-, 6d and 3d. On the reverse appeared an impression of their 'handsome establishment'.

Description:

Brass.

Obverse: *In two lines across centre field, the value ("ONE" "SHILLING"; "6d"; "3d"). Legend around: "BLACKWOOD COUPER & CO." "D'URBAN". Two dots. Pearled border. Slightly raised rim.*

Reverse: *Double-storied building, front. In exergue: "1861". Pearled border. Slightly raised rim.*

Edge: *Milled.*

Brothel Tokens

Pat Moran discusses the brothel tokens, or soliciting tokens, in some detail in his book *The Tokens of Natal*. He writes:

The brothel tokens were made of cardboard with a thin brass outer case. The manufacturers were Carteaux of Paris...the client would receive from the brothel-keeper a token in exchange for his money. This token was duly given to the girl of his choice and at the end of each day she would hand it in together with others she had received in order to be remunerated accordingly. It was believed that the cost of a brothel token was ten shillings or the equivalent of a soldiers pay for 10 days.

Moran identifies three houses of ill-fame that issued tokens: Martha's, Bertha's and Jeanette's.

MARTHA'S

Martha's, the most famous of all the brothels in Durban, was situated at 70 Fountain Lane. It was well run and offered a pleasant and airy room in which clients could sit and wait their turn with the lady of their choice.

Description:

Obverse: *Horizontally in three lines across centre field "70" "FOUNTAIN – LANE" "PLAISIRS – PLACE". Curved above this "MARTHA" and below "DURBAN".*

Reverse: *A large strutting rooster occupies the whole centre field, standing on a mound. Curved around this "REPUBLIQUE FRANCAIS". Below on the left "20" and on the right "Fcs".*

A pearled border on both sides but coarser on the obverse.



JEANETTE'S

Jeanette operated from 68 Victoria Street. She was extremely attractive and fell in love with a young soldier whose job it was to inspect her premises daily. The soldier did not return her love and she eventually went back to France where she lived in poverty. The soldier and his wife sent her food parcels to sustain her.

Description:

Hollow brass.

Obverse: *Female bust facing to the front with on the left side 'ARTS' and on the right "D' AGREEMENT". Pearled border.*

Reverse: *Across centre field "JEANETTE" with a leaf motif above and below this. Curved above "68 VICTORIA STREET" and curved below "DURBAN".*

BERTHE'S

Berthe, known as Big Fat Berthe, ran a brothel in the Green House in Bond Street.

Description:

Obverse: *Bust of a woman facing half right and reaching right down to the border of the piece. To the right of the bust, curved anti-clockwise in small capital letters "CARTAUX PARIS".*

Reverse: *Blank centre field. Curved above "MELLE BETHE", separated by a dot on each side from "GREEN HOUSE" curved below.*

The edge of the piece is folded over and there is a pearled border of large elongated beads and a raised rim on both sides.

Plain edges.

Cinema Lounge Cafe's Ltd

Recently a token from the Cinema Lounge Cafe's Ltd appeared for sale on the internet, and caused some excitement amongst collectors as it had not been documented before. Cinema-café became the rage in Durban from the late 1930s onwards with nonstop showings and mediocre fare. Patrons could watch the film of their choice while drinking tea, coffee or cold drinks which were placed on a shelf that was built into every seat in all tea-room cinemas. Unfortunately we do not know a great deal about Cinema Lounge Cafés. In the early 1930s entries for the Kenilworth Cinema Lounge, Beach Promenade appear in the Natal directories. By the late 1930s the entry changes to Kenilworth Tea Rooms, Cinema Lounge and Durban Aquarium, Ocean Beach; Phone 2-5447. By 1950 the entry is simply Kenilworth Cinema Lounge, Beach Promenade. Presumably the Kenilworth Cinema Lounge evolved into the Cinema Lounge Café and then later returned to its original name. We do have more information on the Kenilworth Tea Rooms building on Ocean Beach in which the Cinema Lounge Café was situated. Until the 1890s the present Ocean Beach was dismissively called the 'Back Beach' by many Durbanites who generally bathed at Congella. The Back Beach was the haunt of fishermen, lovers in search of privacy and Zulu stick-fighters. With the establishment of permanent communities in Kimberley and Johannesburg after the discovery of diamonds and gold, the demand for holiday resorts along the coast increased and the Back Beach, renamed Ocean Beach, became the focus of Durban's tourism industry. After 1907 the area was developed further with the construction of a promenade, paddling pools, fine residential buildings and a cinema. Among the new buildings constructed were a number of beach tea rooms. The earlier ones were made of corrugated iron on lofty piles and surrounded by verandas on all sides. The following history of the Kenilworth Tea Rooms building, much grander than the corrugated iron variety, comes from the websites "5 Star Durban" and "Facts about Durban". In 1907 an unusual bathing enclosure was erected on the beach outside the Kenilworth Tea Rooms, owned by the Newton family, to protect bathers from shark attacks. (The Newton family also owned the Automatic Amusements Company which made use of tokens. It is not clear whether they owned Cinema Lounge Café as well, but the link is worth noting). In 1928 the bathing enclosure had to be removed due to the high maintenance cost. The construction, however, resulted in the expansion of the Kenilworth Tea Rooms, to include all manner of outdoor and indoor entertainment, and by the 1930's it was the most popular beachfront arcade for locals and visitors alike. The wooden-floored building which housed among other things, little machines which when fed with a small coin and the turn of a handle would flip pages showing 1930's ladies getting undressed. There were bumper cars and distorting mirrors in Kenilworth Arcade and many other activities, including the Cinema Lounge Café.



**THE TOKEN:**

From the entries in the Natal directories the tokens must have been in use in the late 1930s and 1940s. Mr Allyn Jacobs points out that the tokens were probably hung on a hook and handed over to patrons when they entered the cinema. Patrons in turn would hand the token over to the waitress when their beverage order arrived. One must presume that other cinema cafés must have used tokens and that there are more to be 'unearthed'.

Description:

Red plastic, holed at 12 o'clock.

Obverse: *In centre field the value (1/-) and below "DURBAN".*

Legend around: "CINEMA LOUNGE CAFE'S LTD".

Reverse: *Blank.*

The Durban Club

It is generally accepted that the Durban Club was responsible for issuing the first tokens used in South Africa. The Club traces its origins to the formation of the Durban Quoit Club in June 1852.¹¹ The founder of the club seems to have been George Russell who laid out a rough quoit court at the back of Messrs. J. Millar & Co.'s store on the corner of Smith and Gardiner Streets. According to George Russell in his *History of Old Durban*:

Single contests led to matches, matches to sides, sides to contests with "a little money on" and ultimately to the formation of the "Durban Quoit Club," of which all the leading merchants and Officers at the Camp became members – with the privilege of free drinks out of the funds.

In 1854, during a game of quoits, it was suggested by a number of members of the club that a billiard table be purchased as this was a game more 'befitting gentlemen'. A local merchant, Hugh Gillespie, was duly elected Honorary Secretary of the proposed billiard club. (Gillespie served as the mayor of Durban from 1863 to 1865). Two days later the following agreement was drawn up for the formation of the club:

We, the Undersigned, hereby agree to form a Club to be called the D'Urban Club for the purpose of playing at Billiards, Chess and as a Reading and News Room and we agree to import a Billiard Table with everything requisite as List annexed, the cost delivered here to be about seventy-five pounds (£75) but, in any case, not to exceed ninety-five pounds (£95) it being understood that the party who orders it charges no commission for doing so: the table to be sent out by the first good sailing vessel from London or if there is not one ready to sail then to be shipped from Liverpool if the railway carriage is not excessive – also to order three sets of Chessmen, three boards, three sets of Draughts and two sets plain dice and box.

A building to be erected sufficient for the purpose of the Club (say 20 feet by 40 feet) the particulars of which to be agreed upon hereafter – one end of the building to be portioned off to form the Chess, Reading and News Room.

The property to be in 20 shares of ten Pounds (£10) each and saleable like other shares either to the shareholders, or non-shareholders provided however that in the latter case the intending purchaser must be balloted for and if blackballed must relinquish the purchase – the Shareholders to have power to create new shares at such a price as may be agreed upon by them – the Shareholders to pay a deposit of six pounds (£6) each at once to provide funds for buying the table and the remainder as it may be required for expenditure.

The order for the billiard table was made on 16 June 1854 and it arrived in Durban a year later on 3 June 1855. The billiard charges were set as follows: two pence a game for 30 up; three pence a game for 30 up to 50; six pence per game for 50 up to 100. In February 1855 the Club purchased land in Smith Street and a wooden building with a thatched roof was constructed. The club was patronised by 'the gentlemen of Durban, visitors of note and by officers of the 45th Regiment'. By 1858 the Club was in financial trouble and it was clear that it was about to close down.

On 5 November 1860 a group of gentlemen, many of whom were members of the Durban Club, called a meeting for the purpose of establishing a new Club (which became known as the second Durban Club). According to an agreement drawn up at the meeting:

It was proposed to found a club (upon the model of the Victoria in Pietermaritzburg) in Durban and the present is thought to be a favourable time in consequence of a certain piece of land situated in Smith Street opposite Messrs. Acutt & Leslie and the Hugh Gillespie's stores, being on sale for lengthy terms of credit. It is expected that enough ground for the purpose of a good club-house can be bought for a £1,000, probable in equal instalments of six, twelve, eighteen and twenty four months at 6% interest per annum. A suitable building can be erected for £1,500 the balance to be applied towards finishing the new club in a manner and condition which may be arranged at a meeting to be held when sufficient subscribers are received to warrant further proceedings.

In consequence of this agreement, the Durban Club Building Company was formed at a general meeting of the shareholders on 10 December 1860, and on the 17th of that month the first board of directors was created. The Company was unable to buy the land in Smith Street and continued to make use of the clubhouse of the first Durban Club. In 1863 a new clubhouse was completed and was described by the *Natal Mercury* in the following way 'the new Club with its handsome pilastered front is, taken all together, the finest building in the town'. The new building consisted of an entrance hall, a coffee and reading room, a dining saloon, a billiard room and a bedroom. Stabling was also available.

THE TOKENS:

It was originally believed that the club issued tokens to overcome an acute shortage of small change. George Russell wrote in his *History of Old Durban*:

I was long troubled to supply members with silver for gold; while the general difficulty experienced in this direction ultimately induced the Club to issue their own coinage. Nickel tokens with milled edges were accordingly obtained from Birmingham, about the size of a shilling, bearing the name "Durban 6d. Club," and on the obverse the legend "Six Pence Natal 1860." These coins eventually became absorbed in the currency of the Colony.

Pat Moran, however, convincingly argues that the tokens were issued specifically for the purpose of members playing billiards. In *Tokens of Natal* he writes:

Russell states that the purpose of the Durban Club tokens was to supplement the acute shortage of small change. The Crown Billiard Saloon in Pietermaritzburg also issued a sixpenny token. It is extremely difficult to understand why, if there was such a shortage of small change, only a sixpenny token was issued by either of these places. The possible explanation for this might well be found if one bears in mind that both these institutions were ostensibly billiard clubs when the tokens were issued and there might well have been some relationship between the value of the tokens and the fact that billiards was played.

The Durban Club tokens become widely known because many visitors and travellers who visited Durban stayed at the Club. Often the tokens were taken away as mementos to other parts of the world. Dr Theron, author of *The Tokens of Southern Africa and their History*, believed that the mystique attached to these tokens was not entirely justified, and even today they have a value far greater than several scarcer issues.¹²

It is generally believed that the tokens were issued by the first Durban Club and then taken over by the second club, which made use of them for some years afterwards. Although the minutes of the first club ceased in March 1858, it only wound up its affairs on the 27 November 1861. Daphne Strutt in her history of the Durban Club writes:

It is in fact proved that the first Durban Club was still in operation in 1860 because in that year a quantity of metal tokens was ordered from Birmingham to relieve the members of the inconvenience of shortage of change.

Mrs Strutt goes on to write:

Neither can it be said that the tokens were ordered by the second Durban Club. The first meeting to form the second Durban Club took place on 5th November, 1860 and had the tokens been ordered after that time they would not have been dated 1860.

With the lack of documentary evidence this cannot be definitely confirmed, and it is possible that the date 1860 does not indicate when the tokens were ISSUED but when the club was ESTABLISHED. The tokens could well have been ordered by the second club committee and only arrived in Natal from England in 1861. It seems unlikely that a club facing closure because of financial problems, and whose committee clearly had not functioned from 1858, would have the funds or inclination to order tokens from the United Kingdom. It is clear that there were at least two other types of tokens issued at a later time, yet they all have the date 1860 on them, lending veracity to the argument that this was the date when the club was founded, not when the tokens were issued. If any credence is to be given to this argument then it must be asked whether the Durban Club can still be considered the first organization to issue tokens in South Africa, and if not, then who was?

Three other institutions issued tokens in Natal in 1861: McArthur, Muirhead & Co., Blackwood, Couper & Co., both of Durban, and the Crown Hotel in Pietermaritzburg. Is it possible that one of these concerns were the first to issue tokens rather than the Durban Club? Unfortunately, it cannot be confirmed who can claim to be the first organization to issue tokens. What is of some significance is the involvement of Alex McArthur, principal partner in McArthur, Muirhead & Co., in the Durban Club. He was a founder member of the first Durban Club and was the first chairman of the second Durban Club. Although, once again, we do not have definite evidence, it would seem that McArthur, in his capacity as chairman, probably ordered tokens for the Club at the same time that he obtained tokens for his business. Both sets were probably minted in Birmingham and arrived in Natal in 1861.

What will also be of some interest to numismatists is that there are remarkable similarities in design between the tokens issued by McArthur, Muirhead & Co. and Blackwood, Couper & Co. Dr Theron pointed out in his work *The Tokens of Southern Africa* that there was 'a marked similarity between the obverses of the Blackwood, Couper & Co. tokens and those of McArthur, Muirhead & Co.' Both companies issued tokens in the denominations 1/-, 6d and 3d. In both sets of tokens on the obverse in the centre field in two lines are the words "ONE SHILLING". Both companies have their name curved above this written in capital letters. In both cases the word "D'URBAN" is curved below, the two parts separated by two plain dots. All pieces have a pearled border with a slightly raised rim.



Description:

Three types of this token were issued, with minor differences in the size of letters and the shape of the rosettes. There are examples of two tokens in nickel, one with a milled edge and the other with a plain edge. The token with the milled edge has a larger sized rosette than the one with the plain edge. There are also examples of a dull white metal token with a plain edge. There are references to a token in a dull white metal with a milled edge but this has not been confirmed. The following is the description for the nickel token with the milled edge (probably the first type issued):

Nickel.

Obverse: *In centre field: "6d", all horizontally striped. Legend around: "DURBAN" "CLUB" Two small leaf motifs. Pearled border. Slightly raised rim.*

Reverse: *A little below centre field: "NATAL". Legend around: "SIX PENCE" "1860". Two small leaf motifs. Pearled border. Slightly raised rim.*

Edge: *Milled*

Durban Home

In July 1895 a society was formed at Durban ‘for the purpose of establishing a Home for the temporary relief of discharged prisoners’.¹³ The shelter became known as the Durban Home. In addition to providing shelter for discharged prisoners, the Durban Home, situated at 65 Stanger Street, also gave food and found work for the unemployed. According to the home’s regulations, ‘no inmate shall continue to receive privileges or advantages of the home free of cost for a longer period than one month’. Mr Spencer B. Norton, at one time an officer in the Salvation Army, was appointed the Superintendent. The President and Treasurer, and seemingly the leading light in the organization, was Mrs Jonathan (Laura) Peel. Among the home’s patrons were the Prime Minister of Natal, Sir John Robinson, and his wife Lady Robinson. Interestingly, George Payne, who used advertising tokens in his shop in West Street, was also on the committee.

THE TOKENS:

Description:

Dr Theron, based on illustrations in Mr Moran’s work and on a description given by Mr McDay in volume one of the South African Numismatic Journal, gives the following description:

Across centrefield “D H” spaced. Above this “3”, and below is a triangle cut out with the base under “D H” and the apex pointing at 6 o’clock.

(The triangle has a base measuring 9 mm and is 11,2 mm high.)

Dr Theron questions whether this is a token or not. Pat Moran suggested that the number 3 might have been a cubicle number. Theron points out that the piece described in the SAN Journal also has a number three on it. It could be the same piece or Mr Moran’s theory does not hold. The well-known Africana collector Dr Killie Campbell was also doubtful about this token’s connection to Durban Home.¹⁴



A.H. Guy

A.H. Guy was a contractor with the Natal Government Railways and it is believed that he issued tokens to be used in his compound stores. Albert Henry Guy was born on the Isle of Wight on 1 June 1861 and came out to South Africa at the age of 17.¹⁵ He first settled in Kimberley and later moved to Natal. It is not clear exactly when he came to Natal. At the time of his marriage in 1883 to Annie Devries, he was still living in Kimberley. Later he moved down to Natal and worked on the construction of the South Coast Railway Line down to Port Shepstone. Guy was a diabetic and a scratch on his leg led to a severe infection from which he died on 25th April 1919 in the Durban Hospital. At the time of his death he described his place of residence as the 'Railway deviation, Northdene'.¹⁶ Guy left a widow and four children: Elizabeth Holbrook (née Guy), Thomas Guy (on active service at the time), Dora Guy and Maude Clower (née Guy). His estate consisted of land in Umgeni Village, a borough of Durban, as well as land and cottages on the Isle of Wight. His mother and brother, Frank, were given the use of the cottages on the Isle of Wight, and the rentals received from them.

THE TOKENS:

Guy issued a set of seven tokens in the denominations 10/-, 5/-, 4/-, 3/-, 2/- and 1/- and 6d. There is some debate about whether these tokens were issued in Kimberley or Natal. Dr Theron in his Supplement to the Tokens of Southern Africa and their History writes that the tokens were probably issued in Kimberley. As this has not been definitely confirmed, I have included them in this work, although collectors should be aware of the uncertainty of where they were issued.

Description:

Nickel.

Obverse: *Small, four-leafed motif in centre field. Legend around: "A H. GUY" "CONTRACTOR" Two five-pointed stars. Pearled border. Slightly raised rim.*

Reverse: *Within pearled circles, the value ("10/-"; "5/-"; "4/-"; "3/-"; "2/-"; "1/-"; "6d"). Incurse "G" on the horizontal line. Whole encircled by laurel leaf. Pearled border. Slightly raised rim.*

The supposed reason for the counterstamped “G” was to differentiate these tokens from those issued by W.J.W. van Jaarsveld in the Free State. Although van Jaarsveld’s tokens were made of aluminum, the reverses are identical. According to Theron, they were the only South African tokens made by Messrs. Vaughton of Birmingham. Occasionally Guy tokens are found without the “G” counterstamp.





H. Guy

H. Guy was a cousin to A.H. Guy. He came out to Natal from the Isle of Wight, but according to information obtained by Dr Theron, only lived in the Colony for a short period before returning to his native island. He issued a set of brass tokens, 10/-, 5/-, 4/-, 3/-, 2/-, 1/- and 6d. (The same values as A.H. Guy). As with the tokens of A.H. Guy, there is some uncertainty as to whether these tokens were issued in Natal or Kimberley.

Description:

Obverse: Curved above "H. GUY" separated by two motifs from "CONTRACTOR" curved below. Blank centre field.

Reverse: Large "10/-" in centre field with a "S" above the value, and the horizontal bar of the 1/- shilling sign very low down. Pearled border and raised rim on both sides with plain edge.

The shilling has the same obverse, but it has on the Reverse "Wm SMITH" "MAKER" "NEW MEETING ST." "BIRMINGHAM".

The sixpence has also the same obverse, but on reverse it has "SIX" "PENCE" in two lines across the centre field.

McArthur, Muirhead & Co.

McArthur, Muirhead & Co. were General Merchants and Shipping Agents with a shop in Pine Terrace that stocked 'every line under the sun on their ample shelves'. The principal partners were Alexander McArthur and Henry Donaldson Muirhead. Little is known about Henry Muirhead, but Alexander McArthur was a well-known figure in Durban business circles.

McArthur came to Natal aboard the *Conquering Hero* which arrived in Durban on 28 June 1849 from Glasgow. He opened up a shop in Durban and within a few years was a fairly prosperous merchant. He and his wife were prominent members of Durban society. According to George Russell in *History of Old Durban*, the McArthurs attended a ball held by H.J. Mellor, the Resident Magistrate, in June 1853 and in July were guests at a party hosted by Mr and Mrs John Millar. Unfortunately for Mrs McArthur, Mrs John Leyland Feilden, one of the guests at both parties, included this embarrassing paragraph in her book *My African Home*:

Mrs. McArthur took her baby again as at Mrs. Mellor's ball, and I found the poor thing in the midst of a lot of shawls at half-past two in the morning, where it nearly got turned over by the ladies searching for their shawls to go home. Mrs. McArthur, who is quite a young woman, is early-initiating her poor little infant into habits of dissipation.

McArthur became involved in municipal affairs in the mid-1850s. In 1852 he attached his name to a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor of Natal, calling for the introduction of municipal government for Durban. In May 1854 the township of Durban was elevated to the status of a borough. The city was divided into four wards, each of which would be represented by two councillors. In June meetings were held to nominate men for election. In ward one the names of G.C. Cato, Alexander McArthur and James Blackwood were put forward. Cato and Blackwood won the election.¹⁷ At a meeting of the council held in September, McArthur was elected as one of the Borough Auditors. Five years later, in 1859, McArthur was elected to the town council. At the first meeting of the new council a ballot was held to elect the mayor. McArthur received four votes to tie with W. Hartley. The chairman cast his vote in favour of Hartley, however, a year later, on 4 August, McArthur was sworn in as mayor of Durban. The first business of the new council was to make arrangements to entertain Prince Alfred, the second son of Queen Victoria, as well as the Governor of the Cape, Sir George Grey. The Prince and Sir George arrived in Durban on 5th September, having ridden from Pietermaritzburg since 8 o'clock that morning. The Prince's arrival in Durban was described in the *Natal Mercury* as follows:

The royal visitor, who came to Natal from the Free State, entered the borough of Durban on September 5, 1860, passing under a sylvan arch inscribed "Welcome Royal Sir." At this point Mr. McArthur, the Town Councillors, and the Town Clerk, greeted the Prince and shook hands with him.

The royal party was accompanied to the Market Square, where McArthur presented a speech. The mayor was also present at the state dinner given at the Masonic Hotel, and at a ball later that evening. The following account of the ball is also from the *Natal Mercury*:

The Prince expressed his wish to open the ball with the Mayoress, Mrs. McArthur, who was accordingly honoured by the hand of His Royal Highness in the first quadrille. After having thus shown a graceful act of courtesy towards the town, the Prince and Sir George Grey left.

According to George Russell in his *History of Old Durban*:

Mrs McArthur (Mrs. Feilden's "pretty lady") became the most envied woman in the town and country. For years after her name was seldom mentioned in society circles without linking it with this event. Her just pride did not detract from her genial good nature; she was merciful to her subjects.

McArthur was re-elected mayor in August 1862. A number of important developments occurred in these years. A town clerk was appointed, indentured Indian labourers arrived in Natal, Stanger Street and Prince Alfred Street were surveyed and laid down, a sanitary department was inaugurated, extensive drainage works were carried out and new by-laws were passed. Not all the townsmen appreciated what McArthur and the councillors were doing for Durban, and a petition was sent to the mayor by a number of burgesses calling for a public meeting for the purpose of discussing municipal matters, more especially 'the continued wasteful expenditure of the Borough funds in works neither useful nor durable, the increase of salaries of Corporation officials, etc'. McArthur responded by publishing a long and exhaustive minute in defense of the council's actions. A meeting was held in the Masonic Hall on 25 October 1862. After a full explanation regards several works, the burgesses were satisfied. On 8 August 1863 Hugh Gillespie was elected mayor and McArthur was able to spend more of his time on his business dealings.

He was involved in various business enterprises. He was the secretary and general manager of the Natal Railway Company, which was responsible for building the line from the point to the centre of town. Professor A.F. Hattersley in his book *Portrait of a Colony* writes:

In 1860 Durban boasted the smallest railway headquarters in the world. The line itself, which ran from the town to the port, was the first constructed in Southern Africa. Its gauge was the standard 4 ft. 8½ in. of British lines; and it was open for traffic on 26 June 1860, a few months before the arrival of Prince Alfred. The royal midshipman was taken to the Point in what was described as a "special train": but, as the entire rolling stock of the company consisted of only two carriages, it is probable that the 'special' nature of the accommodation had reference merely to cleanliness and decoration... The train ran three times daily each way. Its speed was slow, and Durban folk declared sarcastically that it had brought down His Royal Highness at a speed so great that it seemed never to have recovered itself... At Durban the terminus and headquarters of the private company which owned the line was an iron shed. The entire staff consisted of the general manager, Alexander McArthur, the engine driver, Davidson, and a small boy, named Austin, who was supposed to collect the sixpenny fare at odd moments during the journey. Frequently he had to go into the town to ask for fares which passengers had omitted to pay en route.

On 7 April 1860 McArthur advertised in the *Natal Star* that his business would from henceforth be known as McArthur, Muirhead & Co.¹⁸ Besides the shop in Pine Terrace, McArthur, Muirhead & Co. were also involved in the development of the Natal sugar industry, and were responsible for erecting a sugar mill for James Bell at Bankhead, near Bellair. They had two small steamers, the *Natalie* and *Henrietta*, to transport sugar to Durban from the Umkomanzi River. In March 1861 the following advertisement appeared in the *Natal Mercury*:

“For Port Scott. Umcomas.

The Screw Steamer,

NATALIE

Captain W. Anderson

Will leave for the above Port on Monday the 25th March At 6 a.m. A limited number of passengers only can be accommodated. Return tickets £2. 2s.

It is expected that the vessel will return on Wednesday, the 28th inst.

For freight or passage apply

M'ARTHUR, MUIRHEAD & CO.”

The arrival of the ship caused great excitement and a crowd gathered for the occasion. The *Natalie* arrived at low tide and had to wait for the bar to deepen with the change of the tide. Captain Anderson then turned the craft into the breakers and crossed the bar into the mouth of the river. On 11 August 1861 the *Natalie*, laden with 800 bags of sugar, struck the north-east spit at the river mouth, veered over against some rocks and sank.

On 31 August 1863 McArthur and Muirhead dissolved their partnership. Henry Muirhead then took T.W. Findlay as a partner in a new business under the style Muirhead, Findlay & Co. In 1866 T.F. Muirhead joined the firm, which still continued under the same name. Henry Muirhead retired in about March 1867, leaving T.W. Findlay and T.F. Muirhead as sole partners.

Alexander McArthur continued to undertake numerous business activities in Durban. In 1875 he applied for permission to erect an iron store adjoining the wharf in Durban.¹⁹ In the same year he was declared insolvent.²⁰ In 1878 he applied to be appointed wharf master at the Point.²¹ By the late 1870s he was farming on *The Chestnuts* at the Dargle. His wife Jane Tweed McArthur (née Spiers) became Dargle's postmistress in 1877.²² Alexander died in 1884 and Jane in May 1908.

THE TOKENS:

The company issued a set of tokens in 1861 as the result of a shortage of small change. The reverse of the token has the star of Bethlehem, which commemorates the sighting of Natal on Christmas Day. These tokens were used at the shop in Durban. McArthur, Muirhead and Co. existed for just less than three years (7 April 1860 – 31 August 1863) and so the tokens were in circulation for a very short period of time.



Description:

1/- brass, 6d dull white metal, 3d brass.

Obverse: In two lines across centre field the value ("ONE" "SHILLING"; "6d") Legend around: "MCARTHUR MUIRHEAD & CO" "D'URBAN" Two dots. Pearled border. Slightly raised rim.

Reverse: In centre field, five-pointed star radiating rays towards the rim. Pearled border. Slightly raised rim.


Edge: Plain.

Model Dairy

Model Dairy was established and developed by the well-known businessman and politician Joseph Baynes. His vast estate Baynesfield, also the name of a railway station between Thornville and Richmond, is still a popular tourist attraction in Natal.²³ Joseph Baynes was born in 1842 at Settle in Yorkshire, where his father, Richard, worked as a corn-dealer.²⁴ At the age of eight he accompanied his father to Natal aboard the *Devonian*. Richard took up an allotment at Harmony, ten kilometres south east of the village of Richmond. The family did not spend much time at Harmony, before moving to York where Richard bought a farm he named *Lawkland*. In about 1855 the Baynes family moved from York to Durban so that Richard could open a butcher shop. While in Durban Joseph's brother William, who had initially stayed on in England, joined the family in Natal.²⁵ In January 1863 William bought lot C (1592 acres) of the farm *Nel's Rust* in the valley of the Umlaas River. His father bought part of the adjoining property. William then sold 1 368 acres of his land to Joseph, and so father and both sons were farming adjoining properties. Joseph transformed his farm into a model agricultural establishment, and by buying up surrounding properties enlarged the farm until it was close to 24 000 acres in extent.

On 14 September 1899 Joseph opened a dairy, creamery and butter factory on *Nel's Rust* (later known as Baynesfield). He made a sizeable fortune over the next two years supplying 550 gallons of milk a day to British troops fighting in Natal during the Anglo-Boer War. Joseph, ever the astute businessman, realised that the war would not go on indefinitely and that he would have to find an alternate outlet for his milk. He decided that Durban, Natal's largest and most populous city, was the answer. He decided that he would market his milk in Durban through a shop to be called Model Dairy. R.O. Pearse in his biography of Joseph, entitled *Joseph Baynes: Pioneer*, leaves the following description of the opening of Model Dairy:

He chose the site for his first Model Dairy with great care. It adjoined the premises of Messrs Sloan & Sons in West Street, and was directly opposite the great shopping emporium of Messrs Harvey, Greenacre & Co. The front portion of the building was a truly magnificent room. Durban had never seen anything like it. Everything, needless to say, was spotlessly clean and hygienic. The room was well lit by large windows, and was provided with huge, gleaming marble tables. The floor was tiled, and the walls and ceiling covered with ornamental steel plating, which was flat-painted in cool tints. Palms and ferns were to be seen around the room, and these added still further to the cool effect of the décor. The counter was also made of marble, with a base of polished teak. On this were three large show refrigerators, made almost wholly of glass, and intended for the display of butter and other dairy products.



Nel's Rust Dairy, Natal.

JOSEPH BAYNES, LTD.
The Premier Dairies, Bacon Factory, Tea Rooms, etc

Chairman and Managing Director: JOSEPH BAYNES, C.M.G.
Head Office: NEL'S RUST, NATAL. TELEPHONE 269.
TELEGRAMS and CABLES: "JOSEBA," NEL'S RUST.
Durban Branches: Model Dairy Co., West Street, Gardiner Street, Ocean Beach, Queen Street (Depot). Telegrams: "Model."
Model Dairy Bakery: SMITH STREET.
Ice Cream Soda Fountains: GARDINER ST. and FIELD ST.

<p><small>Also makers of BACON and HAMS, P.Q.C. Brand and ACOBN Brand. Lard, Bath Chops, German Sausage, Pork Sausage, Polonies, Cambridge Sausage, Yorkshire Polonies, and all varieties of Small Goods in Glass and Tins. BACON FACTORY: Nel's Rust, Natal.</small></p>	<p><small>PIG FARM: Nel's Rust Pig Farm, Harrismith. BUTTER FACTORIES:— Nel's Rust Dairy, Nel's Rust, Natal; Nel's Rust Dairy, Harrismith, O.F.S.; Nel's Rust Dairy, Kroonstad, O.F.S.; Nel's Rust Butter Factory, Johannesburg, Transvaal; Nel's Rust Dairy, Franklin, East Griqualand.</small></p>
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CREAM DEPOTS:
Durban, Ginghamlova, Greytown, Dundee, Estcourt, Natal Reitz, O.F.S.; Cloccolan, O.F.S. Kierksböör, Piet Retief, Transvaal.

BRANCHES: Johannesburg, Nel's Rust Dairies— Corner Joubert & President St.— "Crosby Hall," Joubert St.— Hospital Hill, Marshall St. & Braamfontein.

Telegrams: "FERNLEAF."
Nel's Rust Milk Depot: Wolmarana St., Johannesburg.



Ocean Beach, Durban.

Natal Directory, 1918.



Here rich country milk was served by the glass, together with butter, eggs, new-milk cheese, Gervais or Continental cream cheese, ice-creams, milk-shakes, egg and milk cream, Devonshire cream and junket. The milk was sold at 4d per pint, and butter at 2s 6d per pound. Orders for regular supplies were accepted. Natal had never before seen such a dairy establishment, and it was no wonder that the opening caused a commercial sensation at the port, and was commented on in the Natal press of the time.

Milk from Model Dairy was sent to all parts of Durban in insulated cans and transported by light vehicles. The delivery vans were fitted with insulated boxes so that even on the hottest Natal day, the milk remained fresh. With the success of his first dairy, Joseph began expanding his operations. He opened up two additional shops in Durban and then spread his wings to the Johannesburg market where he opened no less than six associated tearooms and creameries. By 1918 he had established butter factories and creameries in Dundee, Eshowe, Estcourt, Greytown, Vryheid, Franklin, Kroonstad, Clocolan, Reitz, Klerksdorp, Pietersburg and Piet Retief.

From August 1903 to June 1904 Joseph served as Minister of Lands and Works in the Natal Colonial Government. For his services to Natal he was awarded the C.M.G. in 1902. On 3 August 1923 Joseph's wife, Sarah, died on her husband's estate. He was inconsolable and became almost a recluse. He seldom left the house and the running of his vast estate was left in the hands of managers. The only thing he took interest in was the building of an impressive mausoleum in which he would be buried next to his wife. He died on 16 July 1925.

THE TOKENS:

Description:

Brass, pierced at 12 o'clock.

Obverse: *In centre field in four horizontal lines "MODEL" "DAIRY Ltd" "GOOD FOR" "½ GAL" or "1GAL" or "5 GAL".*

Reverse: *The pressed mirror image of the obverse.*

Mowat's Quarry

In 1922 C.J. Mowat established a quarry in Clairwood, near to the present main road to Chatsworth. Charles John Mowat, son of William and Margaret Mowat, was born in Estcourt, Natal.²⁶ On 21 September 1912 he married Bertha Edith Winfield. At the time of his marriage he was described as a contractor of Amatikulu, Zululand. By the early 1920s he was leasing the Clairwood Quarry from the Durban Municipality. According to the terms of the lease, 'the rental payable consists of royalties of 3d and 4d per cubic yard dependent upon the nature of the stone and also a royalty of 3d per yard in respect of red sand, and a royalty also of 1½d per yard in respect of river and building sand'.²⁷ In addition Mowat had to pay a rental of £1 per acre per annum. He also leased 8.2 acres of land adjoining the quarry on which he constructed a compound for his workers. His offices were at number 137 National Mutual Buildings, Smith Street, Durban. The telegraphic address for the business was "crusher". The office telephone number was 22520 and the number at the quarry 81328. Mowat was a well-known figure in Durban, both as a businessman and sportsman.²⁸ For a number of years he served as President of the Wanderers Club which later named its headquarters Mowat Park. Mowat died on 16 February 1948. At the time of his death he still had the lease for the quarry. His eldest son, Charles, bought the assets of the company and then tried to take over the lease of Clairwood from the Durban Municipality in order to establish his own business.

THE TOKENS:

A set of five tokens with the name Mowat's Quarry was issued. According to Moran, the tokens were probably issued as a result of an agreement between Mowat and E.M.P. Limalia, who established a business next to the quarry in 1931. Most of Mr Limalia's customers were African workers living in the compound next to the quarry, and in 1935 he arranged with the Union Enamel Company to produce the tokens. It seems that Mowat paid a portion of his staff wages in tokens which could be cashed at the store. At the end of the month the tokens were returned to Mr Mowat, and Mr Limalia was paid in cash for the goods purchased by the quarry workers. Each worker's token had a specific number stamped on the reverse and so there could be no doubt about who made use of the token.

Description:

The value in centre field eg. "2/-", "2/6", "1/-". Curved above "MOWATS" and below "QUARRY". Mr Moran also says that the workman's number was stamped on the reverse which was otherwise blank.



Payne Brothers

Payne Brothers, for well over a century a Durban institution, issued aluminum advertising tokens. The store was opened in 1870 by the brothers George and John Payne. Their father, John Payne, was a miller in the market town of Alford in Lincolnshire. An ardent follower of the Wesleyan faith, John supplied the loaves and cakes for Love Feasts and Holy Sacraments.²⁹ In 1863, at the age of nineteen, George sailed to Natal. By March of that year he was living in Pietermaritzburg. A short time later he moved down to Durban and entered the service of a retail business owned by Mr (later Sir) Benjamin Greenacre. He worked for Greenacre for a number of years, before deciding to go into business for himself. By this stage his brother John had also settled in Natal and they became partners in an 'outfitting establishment' in West Street, 'opposite R.W. Dickensons Iron Store'. The following notice appeared in the Natal Mercury on 4 January 1870:

NEW CLOTHING AND OUTFITTING ESTABLISHMENT

Messrs. Payne Brothers beg to announce that their business premises are now open with one of the most complete stocks of Outfits in the Colony. A choice selection of Tweeds, Bedford Cords and Broadcloth, from which garments of any description will be made by a first-class hand, on the shortest notice.

TERMS – CASH ONLY

The new business prospered and in a short period of time their premises proved inadequate. In April 1876 the brothers moved the business to a bigger building on the opposite side of the street. They leased the premises from Emma Williams until May 1877 when they bought the property from her.

The founder of the business George Payne was elected to the Durban Town Council in 1884. He served as Mayor of the city from 1893 to 1897. He represented Natal at the Inter-Colonial Conference of 1903 at Bloemfontein. In February 1902 he was elected to the Legislative Assembly and became Treasurer in the ministry of A. Hime. He resigned after a disagreement about the need for a second railway line for Natal, and withdrew from politics to focus on his business interests until his death in 1910. After the death of George Payne, his two eldest sons Harold and Arthur took over the running of the family business.

In 1938 Payne Brother's Department Store (as it was then called) was completely rebuilt. The new building was in art décor style, and the impressive building at 298 West Street is still a landmark in the city. The store reached the height of its popularity and success in the 1950s and 1960s. The store 'did a nice tea' and society ladies would visit at least once a week to shop and have refreshments. Payne's had its own gallery and shoppers could buy works from South African artists who are now highly sought after and respected. From 1940 to 1959 Gerard Bhengu was under contract to the store and it was possible soon after the war to buy one of his works at 2s 6d. Tretchikoff, considered the king of kitsch by some and adored by others, sold his art at Payne's Store, and people queued down West Street to get his signature. The store also boasted that international cricket player Barry Richards worked in their sporting equipment department.

Peter's Lounge

S.M. Naidoo started his career as a waiter in the Public House Trust on the Bluff.³⁰ The Public House was popular among railway workers and local fishermen on their way to and from the South Pier. Most of the waiters were Indian, including S.M. Naidoo. From the Public House Trust he went to work at the Anzac Lounge. When the owner of the Anzac Lounge returned to England he gave Naidoo £100 as well as the furniture from the business. This enabled Mr Naidoo to open his own restaurant called Mysole Café in Queen Street in 1919. He later opened two other restaurants, Peter's Café in 1923 and Peter's Lounge in 1927.

THE TOKENS:

There were pinball tables for the entertainment of the customers in all his restaurants. It was perhaps for this purpose that in 1935 Naidoo had tokens minted in America.

Description:

TYPE A: Brass.

Obverse: Plain centre field. Legend around edge: "PETER'S LOUNGE TEA ROOM AND RESTAURANT". A small plain dot separates the beginning and end of the legend. The "AND" is in smaller capitals and written horizontally, not curving with the rest of the legend. Milled border and raised rim.

Reverse: Again a plain centre field. Curved around, 'GOOD FOR 1 PENNY AT PETER'S LOUNGE' with again a plain dot to separate and finish. Plain border and a raised rim.
Edge plain.

TYPE B: Same as type A but with a small dot in the centre on the reverse.

TYPE C: Also brass, with the same measurements, but this one has a large centre hole.

Obverse: Curved around near rim, "PETER'S LOUNGE TEA ROOM", and between this and the centre hole "& RESTAURANT" with a diamond-shape motif below. Heavily milled border and a raised rim.

Reverse: Curved around near rim, "GOOD FOR 1 PENNY" and between this and the hole in smaller capitals, "AT PETER'S LOUNGE". Again the diamond-shape motif at the bottom. Lighter milling of border and also a raised rim.
Edge plain.





Woolfsons

The Woolfson tokens, like those of Payne Brothers, were advertising tokens. Woolfsons was a well-known gentlemen's outfitter that had a number of branch stores in Natal, although the company's headquarters were in Durban. The business was established by the brothers A. and M. Woolfson in the 1930s. In the 1917 Natal Directory A. Woolfson & Co. are described as the proprietors of the Union Furniture and Clothing Exchange at 180 West Street, Durban. In the 1918 and 1919 Directories A. Woolfson is listed as a General Dealer, but in 1920 he was described as an outfitter. In the 1918 Directory, Mannie Woolfson is listed as a clothier at 523 West Street. Until 1923 the brothers ran separate businesses and then combined resources to form Woolfson Brothers, tailors and outfitters. By 1932 Woolfson brothers had their headquarters at 523 West Street (Mannie's former shop), and had branch stores at 180 West Street (A. Woolfson's old shop), 149–151 Field Street and 106 Field Street. In the mid-1930s Mannie took over the business and Woolfson Brothers became part of Mannie Woolfson Pty. (Ltd). By 1940 the business was called Woolfsons, the name it retained for the rest of its history. Mannie Woolfson, interestingly, is credited for introducing to South Africa in 1947 the idea of celebrating father's day.³¹

Part Two

IXOPO



Ixopo

Ixopo, the setting for Alan Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country*, is a rural farming and trading area in southern KwaZulu-Natal. Until the late 1860s 'it was said that Natal's respectability ended at Richmond' (although most of the gunrunners came from this respectable frontier town) and it was considered foolhardy to venture beyond the Umkomaas Valley. The country south of Richmond was said to be inhabited by renegades, cattle rustlers and cut-throats. Many stories, most unsubstantiated, made the rounds about men travelling in the area disappearing never to be heard of again. An often-told story concerns a young man named Edgar Bucknell who was murdered while trading for mealies. The first English family to live permanently in the Ixopo area was the Hancock brothers who were granted farms in 1857 across the river from the present village of Umzimkulu. Charles Green, who settled half a day's journey towards Richmond, joined them the following year. In the 1860s and 1870s with the increase of the population in the Colony, more families began settling in the Ixopo district. Besides a few professional men in the village of Ixopo, most of the settlers who lived in the area were farmers and traders. All of the tokens, except the Larkan Tokens, used in this area were issued by owners of trading stores.

H.J. Creighton

Henry John Creighton was born in Suffolk in about 1865.³² It is not clear when he came to South Africa but the first reference to him living in Natal dates to 1882, when he is described in the Natal Directory as a clerk living at 26 Church Street in Pietermaritzburg. He would have been 17 years old at the time. From 1882 until 1892 Creighton is described in the Natal Directory as a clerk. In 1893 he is referred to as an auctioneer working for Holliday & Co. of Church Street, Pietermaritzburg. In 1894 Creighton moved up to the Ixopo district and until the end of 1895 farmed on the farm *Claybrook*. In 1896 Creighton bought the farm *Fairfield* in the Rockvale area of Ixopo. There was a trading store on the farm and Creighton combined the professions of farmer and storekeeper. Rockvale was described in the Directory as 'a prosperous stock-farming district between Stuartstown [Ixopo] and Highflats'. In 1901 Creighton bought a trading store on a portion of a farm called *East Stranges*. (The store site was a 20-acre sub-division of the farm *East Stranges*).

Almost nothing is known about Creighton's early life or his time as a trader. It seems that he was from a well-connected English family. He donated two trophies to the Springvale Mission Station to be used as communion cups. The cups are about 30 cms high and are heavily engraved with flowers and scrolls with the words Creighton Rowing Club engraved across the centre. They were never used as communion cups as they were too embellished with engravings, which were believed to be unhygienic. The cups, therefore, were kept in the safe at Springvale and never used. They were later donated to the Ixopo Historical Society.³³

By 1923 H.J. Creighton was living at 117 Alexandra Road in Pietermaritzburg. Creighton, who never married, died on 16 March 1930 at his home in Alexandra Road. In his death notice he was described as a retired farmer.

In 1917 Creighton sold *Fairfield* to Strachan & Co. of Umzimkulu for £2.15.0 per acre. At the same time as buying *Fairfield*, Strachan & Co. leased the store on *East Stranges* which they bought from Creighton on 16 May 1929.³⁴ In 1936 Archibald & Co. leased the store on *Fairfield* from Strachan & Co. with the option to purchase, which they did in 1942.³⁵ At the time when they bought *Fairfield*, Archibald & Co. entered into an agreement to purchase *East Stranges* from Strachan & Co. Strachan & Co., however, did not honour the agreement, which led to a protracted legal battle in the Natal Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg. Archibald & Co. lost the case and in 1943 Strachan & Co. sold *East Stranges* to Edmund Watling, who had been leasing the store from 1939.³⁶

FOR SALE

Farm East Shangis,
Ixopo Division.

Acreage: 2,100 acres. Excellent for cattle and mealies; home-stead, shed and dipping tank
Approx. 140 acres wattle now ready for shipping.

For price and terms apply
H. T. CREIGHTON,
P.O. Umzimkulu.

Kokstad Advertiser, 1917



THE TOKENS:

Mr Allyn Jacobs owns a Creighton shilling as well as a 6d and a shilling counterstamped with the letters “ES”, which obviously stands for East Stranges.³⁷ When Creighton bought the store on *East Stranges* he must have taken part of the token stock from *Fairfield* and counterstamped them with the name of his new store. Thus there are Creighton tokens with “E S” stamped on them and those without. The tokens were issued between 1896 and 1912 and saw use in the stores on *Fairfield* and *East Stranges*. Those counterstamped “ES” were probably used only on *East Stranges*. Dr. G.P. Theron in the *Tokens of Southern Africa and their History* and the *Supplement to the Tokens of Southern Africa and their History* mentions that he had seen H.J. Creighton tokens in the denominations 1/- and 2/-. Mr Brian Hern in his *Handbook of Southern African Tokens* mentions a 3d token. If such a piece exists, it has yet to surface.

Description:

Obverse: Pierced at 12 o'clock and from that, anti-clockwise: “H.J. CREIGHTON” “IXOPO”. Below centre field a thin horizontal line with “136” stamped above this.

Reverse: A large “1/-”, the downstroke to the right of the piercing. The other two are the same, with reverses exactly the same.

Creighton & Dennis

Creighton and Dennis, it seems, was a business run by H.J. Creighton and E.E. Dennis. Edward Ernest Dennis was born in England.³⁸ From 1906 until approximately 1910 he was a storekeeper on the farm *Finchley* in the Ixopo area. By 1912 Dennis owned the Brooklands trading store in the Highflats area of Ixopo. The Brooklands store site included a butchery and bakery and was on the road from Highflats to Port Shepstone. On 18 September 1912 Dennis married Bertha Jane, the daughter of James Gold. In 1918 Dennis sold Brooklands for £1,500 to Strachan & Co. of Umzimkulu.³⁹ A year earlier Strachan & Co. had bought two stores belonging to H.J. Creighton in the same area. Strachan & Co. owned the Brooklands store until 1980 when it was sold to a Mr Goba. After selling the store Dennis moved down to Port Shepstone where he lived in a house called Riverview. He died in 1945 at Riverview at the age of 65. He left an estate just shy of £20 000, which was an impressive amount for the time.

There are no references to Creighton and Dennis on the database of the Natal Archives. This is unusual because if they had entered into an official agreement or bought or leased property they should have left a paper trail. There is also no reference to a Creighton and Dennis in the Natal Directory. This leads me to believe that H.J. Creighton and E.E. Dennis entered into a verbal agreement to combine their resources but never registered the company. It seems that both men retained their individual stores, Creighton on *Fairfield* and *East Stranges* and Dennis at Brooklands, and that they agreed to co-operate with each other in the buying, transporting and storing of stock.

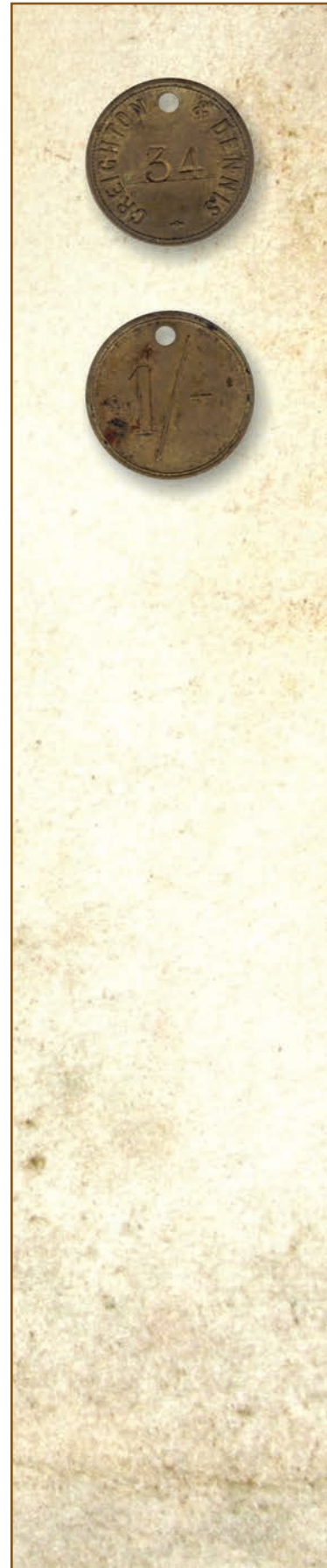
THE TOKENS:

The tokens were probably used at the stores on *Fairfield* and *East Stranges* and at Brooklands and superseded H.J. Creighton's tokens and were used between 1912 and 1917.

Description:

Obverse: A number, "34" on this piece struck incusely in the centre, just above a horizontal line. The token is pierced at 12 o'clock with, curved on the left side, "CREIGHTON" and on the right: "& DENNIS". A motif at 6 o'clock.

Reverse: Large "1/-" or "3d". It has a pearled border and raised rim on both sides.



The Larkan Family

From 1940 to 1955 Mr Percy Larkan made use of tokens on his farm *Thorninghurst* in the Donnybrook area to pay labour on his farm. The tokens have an interesting history as they were first used by his mother, Mrs Frances Larkan, in her trading stores in the Glengarry area of Umzimkulu. Frances's grandson, the late Mr Aubrey Larkan, has written the following account of the family:

On 31st October 1876 the Larkan family consisting of John Robert William Larkan, his wife and five children and accompanied by his half-brother George and his sisters Emma and Susan Larkan left Kilkenny (Ireland) and travelled via Waterford to South Hampton. There they boarded the ship named Syria bound for Durban, South Africa. They arrived at their destination on 11th December 1876.

John Robert William Larkan then bought a portion of the farm Cyrilford in the Ifafa River Valley and George bought a farm in the same valley which he called Larkfield after their original home near Athlone in Ireland.

In September 1879 John Robert William Larkan went to live temporarily with his half-brother George after selling his farm back to the previous owner at a loss.

John Robert William Larkan then bought the farm Bont Rand in the Ibisi River Valley between Umzimkulu and Harding (named after a multi-coloured cliff overlooking the farm). He outbid a syndicate of Donald Strachan and Stafford at an auction held in a hotel in Kokstad. John Robert William Larkan paid £640 for the farm. The farm was 3 200 acres in extent thus costing 4/- per acre. All the Larkans went to live on Bont Rand and arrived there on 6th July 1880.

George Larkan subsequently bought the farm Ravenhill at Nquabeni near Harding.

In 1884 J.R.W. Larkan sold half his farm Bont Rand to the Venerable Archdeacon Button for £550 and in 1885 bought Ravenhill from George who bought the adjoining farm Antioc.

John Robert William Larkan and his wife Mannie had a son who had been born on 22nd April 1870 in Ireland and baptised John Robert.

When John Robert left school in 1887 he went to work for a Civil Engineering Contractor by the name of Robert S.W. Barnes. He worked on railway construction contracts in Northern Natal and Durban's first waterworks on the Umbilo River followed by tunnels for the second waterworks which was in the Umlaas River Valley.

His supervisor on these contracts had been Abraham Baytopp. In 1894 he resigned from his job, married Abraham Baytopp's daughter Frances Charlotte, and leased his father's remaining portion of Bont Rand of 1700 acres for £25 per year. On 1st November 1897 he bought the farm from his father for £250.

Children born to Bob and Frances were as follows:- 1895 – Robert Percival (Percy), 1896 – John Francis (Frank), 1898 – Arthur Albert (Taffy), 1907 – Clifford Garriock (Cliff). On 26th September 1906 Bob Larkan died of pneumonia in Addington Hospital, Durban, after a minor operation. He was only 36 years of age. Clifford was born after his father had died.

With the help of her brothers, William and Arthur Baytopp, Frances continued to run *Bont Rand*. In 1910 John Reed took over the management of the stores from the Baytopps. He was not a very good businessman and his opening of two stores at Cancele and Pikinini during a time of depression put the Larkans into financial trouble. Reed was dismissed but the Larkans never recovered from the financial loss and were forced to sell all their stores to Strachan & Co. in 1930.

After the trading stores were sold to Strachan & Co., Frances's son Percy took over the tokens. In 1939 he sold his farm *Protea* at Glengarry and moved to the farm *Thoringhurst* in the Ixopo district. The farm was in close proximity to an African location and Percy made use of casual (Togt) labour, mainly young women who did light duties on the farm. Mr Larkan faced the problem of obtaining large amounts of petty cash to pay his labourers as the closest bank was 20 miles away.⁴⁰ He then remembered his mother's tokens which had not been used for 16 years. He arranged with three local trading store owners (Mr Laurie Pennefather, Messrs Frangs Bros. and Mr Dawood Asmall) to accept the tokens from his labourers. At the end of the month, Mr Larkan paid the shopkeepers in cash for the tokens when he settled his account. In order to control the handing over of tokens, Percy Larkan had a new set of tokens in the form of a bobbin struck in aluminum. There were two sets of the bobbin tokens. The one set bore the initials RPL (Robert Percy Larkan) and the other NFL (Natalie Larkan). Each bobbin had a unique number. The RPL tokens were numbered 1 to 70, and the NFL tokens 1 to 40. These were used as identification tokens. Labourers handed these bobbins over to the Larkans to prove their identity and were then given the Frances Larkan tokens as payment for their work.

THE TOKENS

In 1906 Mrs Larkan issued cardboard tokens in the denominations 5/-, 4/-, 3/-, 2/-, 1/-, 9d and 6d. In 1907 the cardboard tokens were withdrawn as customers were beginning to alter the figures and replaced by aluminium tokens that were minted by a firm in Durban. It is presumed that the cardboard tokens were destroyed and no specimens are known to exist. The aluminium tokens became known as Amakence after Strachan & Co.'s Kence. The tokens were issued in the denominations 2/-, 1/-, 6d and 3d, although there were five different reverses depending on the store at which the tokens were used.

Theron gives the following description of the tokens:

A full set of these tokens consisted of 2/-, 1/-, 6d and 3d. The obverse remains the same on all tokens, but there are four different reverses indicating at which one of the four stores they were used.

- a) Plain blank reverse – Bont Rand store.
- b) ○ – a circle – Cupar store.
- c) C – a capital C – Cancele store
- d) △ – a triangle – Pikinini store.

These symbols were brought on by the issuer and not the firm who made them. Note also that all the letters, figures and symbols on obverse and reverse are incuse. Some of the pieces have small central holes, usually the 2/-, obviously made after they were issued.

Description for all obverses:

In centre field e.g. "2/-" Curved above "GOODS" and curved below "F.C. LARKAN".

Mr Scott Balson in his research on the tokens discovered a fifth type which had a cross printed on it and could be used at the store at Staffords Post, which the Larkans leased.

Henry Oldfield

The brothers Henry William and Thomas Frederick Oldfield owned a trading store in the Ixopo district of Natal. The brothers hailed from Islington in Middlesex, where their father, Henry, worked as a publican. More is known of Henry's earlier life than that of Thomas's.⁴¹ Henry was born on 23 January 1873. On 11 March 1893, at the age of 21, he married the 18 year-old Amy Florence, daughter of Henry James Heapy, at the Parish Church in Islington. At the time of their marriage Henry lived at 29 Newington Road and Amy at 59 Newington Road. They must have grown up on the same street and could have been childhood sweethearts. Thomas arrived in Natal in 1901 and presumably Henry followed soon afterwards. In the 1906 Natal Directory Thomas is described as a member of the Natal Police stationed at St Faith's. By the 1907 he is listed as a farmer of Highflats. Presumably he had left the police and taken up farming and trading. By 1909 Henry is listed in the directory as a storekeeper and farmer at Highflats. (He seems to have been at Highflats at least a year or two earlier). The brothers were in partnership in a trading store on the farm *Ivanhoe*. In 1908 the brothers decided to extend their trading operations and buy a store from H.A. Taylor at Brooklands. (Brooklands was near to St Faith's). They had trouble raising capital and E.E. Dennis, another trader in the district, agreed to provide the finance on condition that the store and land be ceded to him. He agreed to in turn cede Brooklands to the brothers once they had paid him back.

On 10 August 1908 F.L. Thring, a solicitor of Ixopo, wrote to the Surveyor General on behalf of the Oldfields:

Mr H.A. Taylor the purchaser of Brooklands Ixopo Division requests me to write and state that he is now making a start to erect a stone building on the land 41 x 15 feet and verandah all roofed with iron for a store and dwelling house...Mr Taylor further desires to know if you will approve of Messrs Oldfield Bros farmers and storekeepers occupying the land one of the brothers will permanently reside thereon. Messrs Oldfield Bros are a respectable firm of young European Britishers (English).⁴²

Thring again wrote to the Surveyor General on 17 September:

Mr Taylor who resides in this village carrying on the business of a Butcher and Baker purchased the land at the last Government land sale with the then intention of residing thereon but as he subsequently acquired business here he gave up the idea. He now desires to sell the land to Mr W.H. Oldfield but Mr Oldfield having sunk most of his capital in store-keeping with his brother has not sufficient to purchase the land and carry out farming operations as he should like but he can borrow the necessary funds from Mr E.E. Dennis but only Mr Dennis declines to advance the money excepting on condition that the land is ceded to him as he does not like Bonds and an agreement would be drawn between Dennis and Oldfield re cession to Oldfield when he repays Dennis. This is a round about way of Mr Dennis holding security but it is the only way he will do it.⁴³

The Surveyor General agreed to the deal, however, shortly afterwards the brothers dissolved their partnership. Henry retained *Ivanhoe* and Thomas took over Brooklands. Thomas soon ran into trouble at Brooklands when he was refused a trading licence. In a detailed letter to the Colonial Secretary written from Brooklands on 9 March 1909 he complained that the licence had been refused as the Roystons, who owned the neighbouring store St Faith's, had objected.⁴⁴ (The Roystons made use of tokens at St Faith's). Thomas insisted that the magistrate declined the licence as he was a close friend to the Royston family. It is not clear if the issue was resolved but in 1911 Thomas was arrested for 'falsity and theft'. According to the warrant of apprehension, upon or about 17 January 1910 Thomas 'unlawfully, knowingly, designedly,

fraudently, and falsely' told a Chief named Bhekameva that he was the owner of *Ivanhoe* and borrowed £300 from the chief using *Ivanhoe* as collateral.⁴⁵ The charge of theft occurred 'at some time or times between the first day of July, in the Year of Our Lord One thousand Nine Hundred and Six, and the thirteenth day of April, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Nine' when Thomas did 'wrongfully and unlawfully steal moneys amounting to the sum of three hundred and sixty-eight pounds and fourteen shillings sterling, or there abouts, the property or in the lawful possession of Mate and Ntando, Natives'. On 22 July 1910 he was alleged to have stolen a further 28 pounds ten shillings and ten pence from Mate and Ntando. It is not clear what the outcome of the trial was, but he disappears from the Natal Directory and one presumes he was living as a guest of His Majesty in the Pietermaritzburg gaol. E.E. Dennis took over Brooklands and was successful in obtaining a licence as he traded there until 1918 when he sold the store to Strachan & Co. (Dennis and Strachan & Co. made use of tokens at Brooklands. See the chapter on Creighton & Dennis and Strachan & Co.).

Henry Oldfield farmed and traded at *Ivanhoe* until his death, at the age of 86, at Christ the King Hospital in Ixopo on 5 July 1959. (Amy Oldfield had died in 1951). Henry was buried next to Amy in the cemetery of St. James's Church, Highflats. According to his death notice, his parents were living at 9 Grovelands Road, Palmers Green, Holmleigh. One presumes this is where they had lived and were deceased, unless they were both well over a hundred! *Ivanhoe* was inherited by Henry's three sons: Percy, Reginald and Leonard.⁴⁶

THE TOKEN:

It is most likely that the token was issued for use at the store on *Ivanhoe*. Considering the problems faced by Thomas at Brooklands it is unlikely that he made use of tokens there. One presumes that if it had been used in the 1907 to 1909 period when the Oldfields were in partnership they would have put Oldfield Brothers on the token. It seems therefore that Henry Oldfield issued the token when he was trading by himself at *Ivanhoe*, some time between 1909 and 1932. There are two known examples of the token in the collection of Mr Allyn Jacobs.

Description:

Obverse: Pierced at 12 o'clock. In centre field on two lines:
"OLDFIELD" "HIGH FLATS".

Reverse: Large "1/S" only. A line under the "S". Pearled border and raised rim on both sides.



**In the Supreme Court of South Africa
Natal Provincial Division.**

JAMES WILLIAM FAIRBRIDGE BIRD, Attorney-General of Our Sovereign Lord the King within the Province of Natal, who prosecutes for and on behalf of His Majesty, presents and gives the Court to be informed:—

That THOMAS FREDERICK OLDFIELD, now or lately a prisoner in the Central Gaol at Pietermaritzburg, in the County of Pietermaritzburg, in the Province of Natal, is guilty of the crime of *Falsity* :

In that, upon or about the Seventeenth day of January, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ten, and at or near Native Location No. 8, in the Division of Ixopo, in the Province of Natal, he, the said *Thomas Frederick Oldfield*, did wrongfully, unlawfully, knowingly, designedly, fraudulently, and falsely represent and pretend to one Bhekameva, a Native chief, that he was then the owner of certain two farms, to wit "Ivanhoe" and "Keswick," and that he had authority to pledge the said farms as security for a loan of three hundred pounds sterling, by means of which false representations and pretences, he, the said *Thomas Frederick Oldfield*, wrongfully and unlawfully obtained from the said Bhekameva moneys amounting to the sum of three hundred pounds sterling, with intent thereby then to defraud; whereas in truth and in fact he, the said *Thomas Frederick Oldfield*, was not then the owner of the said farms, nor had he authority to pledge them as security or in any manner whatsoever, as he, the said *Thomas Frederick Oldfield*, then well knew.

AND ALSO :

That the said THOMAS FREDERICK OLDFIELD is guilty of the crime of *Theft* :

1. In that, at some time or times which the prosecutor is unable to set forth with certainty, but between the first day of July, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Six, and the thirteenth day of April, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Nine, and at or near the farm "Ivanhoe," in the Division of Ixopo, in the Province of Natal, he, the said *Thomas Frederick Oldfield*, did wrongfully and unlawfully steal moneys amounting to the sum of three hundred and sixty-eight pounds and fourteen shillings sterling, or thereabouts, the property or in the lawful possession of Mate and Ntando, Natives.

2. In that, upon or about the twenty-second day of July, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ten, and at or near the farm "Ivanhoe" aforesaid, he, the said *Thomas Frederick Oldfield*, did wrongfully and unlawfully steal moneys amounting to the sum of twenty-eight pounds ten shillings and ten pence sterling, the property or in the lawful possession of Mate and Ntando aforesaid.

Wherefore, upon due proof and conviction thereof, the said Attorney-General prays the judgment of the Court against the said *Thomas Frederick Oldfield*, according to law.

(Signed) J. W. F. Bird.

Attorney-General.

A True Copy.

E. W. Baxter
For Attorney-General.

RECEIVED
1909

Brooklands
St. Faiths
9th March 09.

1916
09

The Colonial Secretary
Maritzburg

Dear Sir,

I have recently dissolved partnership with my brother, at "Ivanhoe Store" as the business was not large enough to support two families. I have since taken this farm and built a store, which buildings have been passed by the Natal Police as in every way suitable for the business, & have bought nearly £500 stock for store, not expecting the license to be refused being only one other in the whole District the stock I had to pay cash for having imported it direct myself, and now I am refused a license. The Chief Licensing Officer appeared here at Ixopo on 4th March to hear objections, the only one being that of Messrs Royston Bros who have a store at St. Faiths which is the only one there, the next nearest stores are at Mchlongunyama 16 miles where Royston Bros have two more, Ixopo 25 miles, Umhlabatyrna 18 miles, Umzimkulwana 35 miles.

Their objection as stated before the licensing Officer was that if my license was granted they would have to close down as they could not compete with me as I imported some of my goods direct

and they were supported by Durban Merchants, I brought forward 5 witnesses, 2 representatives of the largest tribes in the district, who stated before the Chief Licensing Officer the need of another store, Sgt Tomo & Sgt. Kethbridge of Natal Police also spoke in my support, & yet in the face of this my license has been refused.

I have been in this colony 7 years, I am of excellent character & I have brought a lot of money into this colony & now I am refused the right of a "Retail license" which is now my living & into which I have put all my capital. I am refused because a firm plead I will close them down, a firm like Royston P^{os} who own 4 stores & about 20,000 acres of land, they have the whole monopoly of one end of this Division unopposed all their stores except one are managed by natives, & yet I who am willing to start a business & manage it personally am refused. I am an Englishman and am refused a license while hundreds are held by coolies & Polish Jews. I am of the opinion my license was refused because it was not recommended by the Magistrate who is a great personal friend of Mr Royston's and who has a store on the Magistrate's farm, therefore he is prejudice against my license. Mr. Royston was allowed to remove one of his stores nearer to my brother's store at Ivanhoe to take away his trade, he was granted a new license at Mehlomyama

where he already had one store & there was two others besides & yet it is a district not half the size of St. Faiths.

The Magistrate posted notices signed by himself all over the Ixopo village even in the Hotel Bar asking for objections against my license, but no one objected, this was done after my application had been sent to Maritzburg so he must have known it was going to be refused.

Before erecting my buildings I did not know I should be going against such a strong combination as the Magistrate & Royston P^{rs}, now I am told I can appeal by paying £12-10-0, what chance do I stand of getting a license whilst the Magistrate is Chairman of the licensing Board & if it is then refused I have no further appeal, it will mean I am ruined & all my capital is now tied up & I have a wife a family to keep, whilst one firm have the whole trading rights over a radius of over 20 miles where they keep my little stock and charge big prices, the result is most of the trade is done from this District by the Port Shepstone coolie stores where the natives go to, I will be very greatly obliged if you will kindly investigate this matter as I am not in the financial position to throw away any more money on "appeals" when I see very little chance of getting either my rights, license or justice unless this matter is looked into by higher authority.

I am, dear Sir
Yours faithfully
J. H. Oldfield

St Faith's

The St Faith's trading store was leased in the 1880s from the Native Trust by Dering Lee Warner Stainbank, trading as Stainbank Brothers.⁴⁷ Dering came to Natal in 1857 to join his older brother Henry Ellerton Stainbank. He travelled aboard *The Lady of the Lake*, which was owned by the Stainbank family.⁴⁸ Henry was a coffee farmer who became known as the Coffee King of Natal. He was elected to the Natal Legislative Council in 1886 and served as the speaker from 1892 to 1897 when he was defeated in an election.⁴⁹ Henry and his wife Eliza Munro occasionally sent plants to Kew, and Eliza served on the committee of the Durban Botanic Gardens. The plant *stainbankiae blepharis* is named after Eliza. Their son H.M. Stainbank, Magistrate of Mahlabatini, was killed during the Bambatha Rebellion while collecting tax at Nolela Drift on the White Umfolozi.⁵⁰

Dering was a prosperous trader and by 1882 had accumulated enough wealth to employ two Scottish stonemasons to build him an impressive home at Bellair in the form of a castle which was called Coedmore. A few years later he married Ethel Lyne in Pietermaritzburg. Ethel had grown up in Pietermaritzburg and had travelled down to Durban with the Fannar family to spend some time at the beach. On their way back to Pietermaritzburg, Dering Stainbank, a friend of Mrs Fannars, invited them to spend a few days at his recently completed house. Just before they left, he asked Ethel to go up to the tower with him to see the view. While up there he proposed, however, she refused as he was much older than her. Dering would not take no for an answer and often rode up to Pietermaritzburg to court Ethel. Eventually she gave in and they were married in October 1889.⁵¹ Ethel, presumably, was not aware that Dering had had seven children out of wedlock with Mary Joyce and at least three children from Ndayi Bhengu Ngcolozu. Dering died in July 1907 of pneumonia.⁵² Coedmore was left to his eldest son, William. During the First World War William served in German South West Africa in the Natal Mounted Rifles and at the end of that campaign travelled to England and joined the Royal Field Artillery. He died in 1916 at the age of 24 in Broughton, Lancashire, of meningitis. (According to family tradition, one evening in 1916 the family was having dinner when Ethel's son Edward began crying and left the table. When he returned he said he had seen his brother William standing next to the sideboard looking at his mother. The family was informed the next day of William's death).⁵³ The estate then passed to Dering's second son Arthur who had also served in the South West Africa Campaign before joining the Royal Field Artillery. He was killed in 1917 at the battle of Passchendale. Coedmore then became the property of Dering's third son, Kenneth.⁵⁴ Coedmore is now a popular wedding venue and is in the Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve.

The best known of Dering's children was his daughter Mary, a well-known artist and sculptor. Mary began her career in 1916 when she entered the Durban School of Art. In 1922 she enrolled at the Royal School of Art in London, receiving her diploma in 1925. In her last year she was awarded a scholarship but was not allowed to take it as it was supposedly only for students from London. It was given instead to Henry Moore. Mary's subjects were mainly Zulu men and women and were generally not well received in colonial Natal, although today she is considered one of South Africa's great sculptors.⁵⁵

Besides the St Faith's store, Stainbank Brothers also leased the neighbouring stores of Pungatshe and Umbumbulu. In 1903 all three stores were transferred from Stainbank Brothers to John Robinson Royston, 'each at an annual rental of £12'.⁵⁶ Royston, known as Zithulele (the silent one) by the Africans and generally called 'General', made a name for himself as a skilled soldier.⁵⁷ Born in 1860, Royston was the fourth son of William Royston, a civil engineer of Durban. When the Anglo-Zulu War broke out in

1879, Royston, not yet sixteen, absconded from Durban High School and joined the Isipingo Mounted Rifles. Because of his young age, he was supposed to restrict his activities to defence duties on the Zululand border. Royston, however, defied authority and worked as a scout for the Natal Volunteer Guides. He took part in the battles of Inyezane, Gingindhlovu and the Relief of Eshowe.

After the war he turned his hand to farming and trading. From about 1886 he managed the St Faith's store for Stainbank Brothers.⁵⁸ (Dering Stainbank had been his commanding officer in the Isipingo Mounted Rifles). Royston eventually bought a farm at St Faith's. There are references in the Pietermaritzburg Archives to Royston having a farm surveyed at St Faith's in 1893⁵⁹, but according to Napier Devitt he was there by the mid-1880s. Devitt in his biography on Royston, *Galloping Jack*, writes:

*At that time [1884] Royston's headquarters were at his farm, "St. Faith", and from here he set forward some of his trading ventures. Here, young as he was, he was consulted by this headman and that, and not infrequently visited by government authorities who seemed to place store by his influence among the tribes of north-west Natal. Colonel Dartnell in particular, commanding the Natal Police, was a not infrequent visitor, and welcomed Royston's advice as to local conditions.*⁶⁰



J.R. Royston

Royston's brother, Thomas, managed the Umbumbulu store for Stainbank Brothers from 1896. For many years Royston was in partnership with Thomas at St Faith's. Thomas Royston died in 1906 and John took over the trading store leases from his insolvent estate.

By 1895 Royston was living on the farm *Lochinvar* at Highflats. At the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War he was a Sergeant-Major in the Highflats squadron of the Border Mounted Rifles. He was caught in the Siege of Ladysmith. He was involved in the capture of a Boer field-piece and was mentioned twice in dispatches. Once Ladysmith had been relieved, Royston joined the Volunteer Composite Regiment. At a later stage he was placed in command of the Western Australian Mounted Infantry. He was mentioned in dispatches three times and was awarded the D.S.O. for his services, as well as the Queen's Medal and four clasps. After the Anglo-Boer War he went back to farming but this time on the farm *Kingston* in the Port Shepstone area. The store at St Faith's was looked after by managers.

In 1906, during the Bambatha Rebellion, Royston raised a regiment called Royston's Horse and for his services was appointed Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel in the British Army.⁶¹ In colonial Natal Royston was lauded for his excellent service during the rebellion, although more recently the actions of Royston's Horse during the uprising have been questioned. Professor Jeff Guy in *Remembering the Rebellion* writes:

...a volunteer force of similar size under Colonel John Royston had experience of fighting in the South African War of 1899-1902. But a considerable number of them were also unemployed, resentful and ill-disciplined – a dangerous combination for the people in whose territory they were to operate.

Professor Guy goes on to write that Royston's militia of volunteers 'gained a reputation for exceptional violence'.⁶²

In 1911 Royston commanded 2000 troops who attended the coronation of George V. While in London, the King conferred the Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George on him. At the outbreak of World War One Royston again recruited his own special service unit, which became known as the Natal Light Horse. In February 1915 he was attached to the staff of Brigadier General Sir Duncan McKenzie in the German South West Africa Campaign. McKenzie hoped to round up the entire German strength in the south of the country at a short and decisive battle at the Gibeon railway station at which the retreating German forces had halted. The Germans knew that McKenzie's mounted troops were rapidly closing on Gibeon, 'but no particular alarm was felt since it was believed that a force which had accomplished so arduous an advance would be in no fit condition to attack a disciplined foe'.⁶³ At the battle of Gibeon Royston made one of the few tactical blunders of his career. Royston, who was by now in command of the 9th Mounted Brigade, was given verbal orders by McKenzie to outflank the enemy position at Gibeon Siding in order to cut off the German retreat. His men arrived at a point on the railway some 4 kilometres north of Gibeon station at 1 am. The position Royston chose was flat and bare and afforded no cover. Despite it being a bright moonlit night, Royston's men did not see a culvert across the line about 72 metres from their position. A German patrol discovered Royston's men and an engagement followed in the pre-dawn hours of the 27th April. The enemy made good use of the culvert from which they raked Royston's men with gunfire. The 9th Brigade lost 23 men and 64 were wounded. Approximately 200 NLH were taken prisoner, but 70 were soon released by elements of the 1st Carbineers and the remnants of the NLH. Royston sent a dispatch to McKenzie informing him:

*On reaching the railway line last night, the enemy surrounded us in large numbers and having no cover, we had a number of casualties. I was obliged to withdraw a couple of miles to save our horses, my position on the railway was completely enfiladed with machine guns. Am now moving to co-operate with you.*⁶⁴

McKenzie continued with his attack at daybreak at Gibeon. The Germans were compelled to retreat and Royston and his remaining men rejoined the other troops as they harried the enemy.

Royston was later appointed by the Imperial Army to command the Australian 12th Light Horse Regiment, which fought in the Palestine Campaign. He obtained the nickname 'Gallop Jack' at the Battle of Romani on 4th and 5th August 1916 when he rode up and down the lines shouting 'No surrender' and 'we have the Turks on the run'. Late in the first day of the battle a bullet lodged in Royston's calf. Major General Harry Chauvel ordered him to have the wound treated but he galloped off before the dressing was completed. On the second day Chauvel ordered him to hospital to have the bullet removed. Royston left after a few hours and returned to the battlefield. (The bullet stayed in his leg until his death). On 5th August the 1st Light Horse Brigade was put under his command and on 9th August he took command of the 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade. At the Battle of Magdhaba in December he allegedly confronted several Turkish soldiers, flourished his riding cane and shouted "Hands up" in Zulu. Supposedly the startled Turks surrendered.⁶⁵

Among the men under Royston's command was Major A.B. 'Banjo' Paterson, the Australian poet and journalist who wrote *Waltzing Matilda* and *The Man from Snowy River*. Paterson wrote of Royston that he was 'by instinct a bandit chief and by temperament a hero'.⁶⁶ He goes on to say he was warm, generous, impatient of protocol, impetuous and stubborn. After the First and Second Battles of Gaza, Royston abruptly left the Light Horse in October 1917. Officially he left because of 'urgent personal business'; however, Paterson claimed Royston deliberately inhaled poison gas so he could recognize its presence on the battlefield.



Royston reviewing the Natal Light Horse before the South West Africa Campaign.

In 1919 he took formal title of a property near Port Shepstone which he called Mount Romani after the battle he fought at in the Gaza Strip in August 1917. Despite all of his success, Royston's family life was tragic. He and his first wife Lillian Earle Heugh had three children: John, Marjorie and Vivienne. John, who never married, spent most of his life in Burma. He died of a heart attack in 1972. Marjorie was killed in a car accident in Pietermaritzburg in 1929. Vivienne married John Stranack. Their son Seth was Royston's only grandchild. Royston left Mount Romani to Seth and his male offspring in perpetuity. Seth had his grandfather's will overturned on the grounds, being homosexual, he would never marry and there would be no offspring. Royston's second wife was Mildred Wright. She was supposedly a novice Nun when she met Royston. He died in 1942, at the age of 82, and accordance with his wishes was buried at Mount Romani so that he could be near Mildred and protect her. Sadly, she was murdered in the 1950s.

Having discussed the history of the Royston family in some detail, we need to go back to the 1920s to see what happened to the St Faith's trading store. In the early 1920s Royston leased the St Faith's store to Ronald Reuben Hill. Hill was born in Qumbu in East Griqualand in 1897 and at some stage worked as a storekeeper in Matatiele.⁶⁷ Hill spent 24 years trading at St Faith's. In about 1937 he bought the store from Royston. The store was registered as belonging to RR Hill and Company. Hill was still at St Faith's in 1946, but by 1947 had sold the shop to a company called Collins & Boffa. (Besides the store at St Faith's, Collins & Boffa also owned stores at Highflats, Hlokozi, Pungatshe and Forest Hills). Hill then worked for the Native Affairs Department in Durban until his death in 1970.

23rd December 1903.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 20th ult, I have the honour to inform you that, at a meeting of the Natal Native Trust Board held yesterday, it was resolved that the store sites leased to Messrs Stainbank Bros at Pungatshe, Umbumbulu and St Faith's Location be transferred to you, each at an annual rental of £12, and with effect from the 1st January 1903.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

Clerk Natal Native Trust.

J.R. Royston Esqr,
St Faith's.
Highflats.
Via Ixopo.

Copy

To the Natal Native Trust Board.

I admit that I ^{do} hold one acre of land ^{in St. John's} from the Natal Native Trust on the following conditions viz:-

- (a) That such land is to be used for the purposes of a general store only.
- (b) That I ~~am~~ ^{am} to pay an annual rental, in advance, of Twelve Pounds Sixpence - and
- (c) That ~~my~~ ^{my} tenancy thereof is terminable at any time without compensation or reason assigned.

Given at Durban this 20th day of September 1901

Stainbank Prer

As witness
H. H. G. G.
H. H. G.



Part Two: IXOFO

Tokens of the Colony and Province of Natal

It is hereby certified that I hold one acre of land in the St Faith's Location, on the following conditions viz:-

- (1) That such site is to be used for store purposes only.
- (2) That I am to pay, in advance, an annual rental of £12 therefor.
- (3) That I will not place anyone, other than an European, in charge of such store without first having obtained the sanction of the Secretary of the Natal Native Trust.
- (4) That my tenancy hereof is liable to termination at any time by the Natal Native Trust without compensation or reason assigned.

Signed at *St Faith's* this *27th* day of *June* 1904.

John R. Ray

WITNESS. *Thomas Jones*

THE TOKENS:

It is not clear if Royston or Hill issued the tokens for the St Faith's store. Royston would have been aware of the tokens issued by Strachan & Co. in the adjoining territory of East Griqualand. Hill, on the other hand, would have known about the tokens issued by the Moore family in the Qumbu district and those issued by James Cole and Strachan & Co. when he worked in Matatiele. The most likely explanation is that Royston issued the tokens and that Hill continued using them after he had bought the store. It is interesting to note that Brooklands, owned by Dennis of Creighton and Dennis, was a neighbouring store to St Faith's and thus the storeowners were trading rivals. The tokens could well have been issued as part of the competition between the various storeowners in the Highflats area. The only known specimen was offered on auction in 2010 and changed hands for R40,500.

Description:

Brass.

Obverse: *Pierced at 12 o'clock. "ST FAITH'S" slightly curved over the lower half of the piece.*

Reverse: *Large "6d" only. Two dots under the "D". Pearled border and raised rim on both sides.*



Strachan & Co.

Strachan & Co. was founded in 1858 when Thomas and Donald Strachan, two young immigrants in their late teens, settled at a drift on the upper reaches of the Umzimkulu River, and opened a small wattle and daub trading store. Much has been written about Donald Strachan, the company that he founded and the trade tokens of Strachan & Co. Donald's granddaughter Margaret Rainier has written a comprehensive biography of her grandfather entitled *Madonela: Donald Strachan, Autocrat of Umzimkulu*. Milner Snell has written a history of the company, *Strachan & Co. (Pty) Ltd: Merchants and Importers*, and Scott Balson has discussed the tokens in great detail in his books *The Trade Tokens of Strachan & Co.* and *The Griqua of South Africa and their Money*.

In January 1874 Thomas and Donald Strachan entered into a partnership with another local trader, Charles Brisley, to form Strachan & Co. Brisley was a wealthy trader in his own right and was politically influential, serving as secretary to the Griqua government. There is no documented evidence as to why the brothers decided after trading alone for 12 years to take on a partner. The explanation, however, lies quite obviously in the political developments taking place in East Griqualand. Donald Strachan and Charles Brisley, both powerful officials in the Griqua government, had been aware from at least 1872 that the Cape colonial government intended assuming the administration of East Griqualand (which they did in November 1874). Both men must have realised that once the Cape annexed the territory there would be more opportunities to trade than there had been in the Griqua state. There would be an influx of settlers which would result in a growth in the size of towns, an improvement in the infrastructure and capital would be more readily available. This boded well for the Strachan brothers and Brisley, however, there would be a rapid influx of traders into the territory and much greater competition. The men were also aware that their 'ascendancy in Griqua affairs would greatly diminish', which would affect their trading operations. By combining their resources the Strachans and Brisley would be in a better position to take advantage of the opportunities that would emerge after 1874 and would be able to compete more successfully with other traders. On 13 January 1874 Thomas Strachan and Charles Brisley entered into a partnership as 'Storekeepers and Traders under the style or firm of Strachan & Company'. Donald Strachan only legally became a partner in the business in 1879, although he was involved in the company from 1874.

Strachan & Co., and the tokens they used, thus came into being in response to the end of Griqua independence. Strachan and Brisley were both astute and pragmatic men who knew that regardless of their feelings towards Adam Kok and the Griqua, power and profit lay in the new colonial state. The minting of the tokens was a shrewd and sensible business decision. The partners knew that there would be a transitional period, which could last years, from the predominantly barter economy of the Griqua to the free-market, money-based economy of the Cape colony. With thousands of tokens on hand they would have the upper hand over the other traders while the imperial currency became established in East Griqualand.

The first tokens issued were not popular, as they did not have a hole at the top. The company then issued new tokens with a hole. The coins became known as Kence. The tokens were worn on a piece of string around the owners' neck and often knocked together emitting a noise. It is from this noise that the name was derived. In Reverend Albert Kropf's *A Kaffir-English Dictionary*, *i-KenceKence* is defined as 'a small tinkling bell' and *uku-kenceza*, as 'to tinkle, jingle, ring like a small bell'.

It is well documented that Donald Strachan decided to issue tokens after he had 'seen how well the Durban Club tokens had been accepted by the community'. Strachan was not a member of the club but stayed as a guest of Harry Escombe, then Harbour Engineer of Durban and later Prime Minister of Natal. The first documented evidence of a close friendship between Donald and Escombe dates back to 1866, although they were probably well-acquainted long before this time. In 1887 when Donald and his partner Charles Brisley decided to end their commercial association, it was Harry Escombe who signed as a witness on the deed stating the terms on which the partnership was dissolved.

Harry Escombe was a prominent, and at times controversial, member of the Committee of the Durban Club. According to Daphne Strutt in her history of the Club, *Bafta to Baroque*:

The inclusion of Mr. Harry Escombe (the famous Harbour Engineer) among the committee members gave him an opportunity to display the initiative and drive in the interests of the Club that he showed in harbour matters. He was full of ideas, some of them good and some of them too ambitious but all were given respectful attention.

Mrs Strutt also writes

In 1874 a quarrel between two members and the consequent decision of the Committee against the more popular of the two resulted in a Special Meeting rescinding the Committee's relevant resolution, whereupon the committee resigned in a body! Fireworks indeed! The popular member referred to was the redoubtable and outspoken Mr. Harry Escombe.

Strachan was also influenced in his decision to issue tokens by those used by McArthur, Muirhead & Co. When Strachan first began trading at the Umzimkulu Drift, McArthur, Muirhead & Co. was one of the wholesalers from which he bought goods. Strachan must also have been aware of the tokens used by the Crown Hotel in Pietermaritzburg. As Strachan & Co. had its headquarters in Umzimkulu, its tokens are generally listed as a Transkei issue, however, the business did own four trading stores in the Highflats area of Natal: Plain Hill, Fairfield, East Stranges and Brooklands.

Plain Hill

Plain Hill, on the road from Ixopo to Highflats, was purchased from H.J. Creighton in 1917.

Fairfield

The farm *Fairfield* and the store on it were bought from Mr Creighton in 1917 for £2.15.0 per acre. In 1936 the store was leased to Archibald and Company for four years, with the option to buy. In 1941 Archibald & Co. exercised their option to buy the store, which was sold to them in 1942.

East Stranges

At the same time as buying the *Fairfield* store in 1917 from Mr Creighton, the company leased a store from him on the farm *East Stranges* at £100 per annum. Later they bought the store. In 1918 W. Van Dyk was at this store. In 1933 the board agreed to lease the store to W. Estley with the option to buy. The store was later leased to Archibald & Co., probably at the time that they leased *Fairfield* in 1936.

Brooklands

The farm and store at Brooklands was purchased in 1918 from Mr E.E. Dennis for the sum of £1,500 plus the £120 that was due in instalments to the government. Brooklands was a Natal store and was situated on the road from Highflats to Port Shepstone. The first manager was Mr A. Vosloo, who shot himself in November 1920. In 1942 Milner and Grace Pedlar took over the management of the store.

They were replaced at the beginning of 1945 by Sonny Wright. Sonny was replaced by a Mr Van Rooyen followed by Jock Brown and Mr Gillcrest. In 1963 the company offered the farm and store, with stock, to the manager Mr E. Wright for R50 000. He, however, could not raise the capital and the store was finally sold in 1980 to a Mr Goba.

THE TOKENS:

Description:

There were four types of tokens issued in the denominations 3d, 6d, 1/- and 2/-:

Type A was made of brass with a raised rim and was pierced at the top. The words S and CO were printed on the coin with the value, 3d, 6d, 1/- and 2/- printed below.

Type B was similar to type A except that it had the letters MH printed between the words S and CO and the value. MH stood for Mountain Home, which was a store 9 miles from Umzimkulu.

Type C was similar to A but had the words IN GOODS printed at the bottom of the coin.

Type D was similar to C but the lettering and spacing were slightly different.

Part Three

NORTHERN NATAL



Northern Natal

Most of the tokens of Northern Natal were issued to be used on stores situated on coal mines. The first attempt to mine coal in the region went back to the early 1860s when Peter Smith of Talana, near to the present town of Dundee, was mining surface deposits of coal on his farm and sending wagon-loads to the market in Pietermaritzburg. In 1880 a geological survey was done of the coal-fields of Northern Natal, and a workable surface of 2 073 000 000 tons was discovered. In January 1889 the Dundee Coal and Estate Company, the first commercial coal producing company, was established with a capital of £50,000. Within a few years numerous other companies were established to exploit the coal-fields.

As the companies opened new collieries, shopkeepers established stores on the mines to provide goods to the miners. The collieries generally did not run their own stores but issued a limited number of licences to individual shopkeepers. It was these traders who issued and made wide use of tokens.⁶⁸ The use of tokens at mine stores has been criticized as a way of trapping recruits into a cycle of debt from which they battled to escape. When a recruit arrived at the mines he was normally already in debt as he had been advanced cash before he left home for his rail fare. He then had to buy a blanket, a billycan and boots. Storekeepers on the mine would issue him with tokens to pay for these goods. Tokens were also used to buy soap, matches, tobacco and beer. The advances were recovered when the recruit had completed his ticket of thirty shifts and was paid. (Miners could be advanced tokens amounting to 70% of their wages). Normally very little money remained and so the miner had to obtain more tokens. Soon he was in a cycle of debt and was unable to save money to send home to his family. Mine owners and managers supported the use of the token system as it forced workers to spend longer periods on the mines. Many miners became so in debt that they seldom went home and their wives became 'widows when their husbands are alive' and their children 'orphans while their fathers are yet alive'.⁶⁹

According to Professor Ruth Edgecombe, in her work *The Constancy of Change: A History of Hlobane Colliery, 1898-1998*, the tokens were called *Skillivaans* (trash money). The meaning of *Skillivaan* is ambiguous. It could mean trash as in 'not real or worthwhile' money, but it also has an emotive connotation which reflects the feelings of the miners towards the tokens. Mr M. Jacobson, who managed the mine at one stage, in a letter to Mrs Maynard in 1966, wrote that the tokens were called *Scrivana*, from the Afrikaans word *Skryf* and referred to the writing of an entry in a debit book. By the 1920s and 1930s tokens had become a medium of exchange. They were used in church collections and offered as admission fees at concerts. There were even cases of convicts trying to pay their fines in tokens.

The criticism of the use of tokens increased during the depression and this led to a court ruling in 1932 making the use of trading in metal discs illegal. Most storeowners then replaced the discs with embossed paper tokens. These were in turn declared illegal in 1935, but many storeowners defied the authorities and continued to use them afterwards. According to Maynard the token system on the mines was only entirely discontinued at the commencement of the Second World War.

Ballengeich Trading Co.

The Ballengeich Trading Company's store was on the Ballengeich Colliery, ten miles south of Newcastle. The mine took its name from the ship *Ballengeich* that brought settlers to Natal in 1850. The company appears for the first time in the Natal Directory in 1926. (Mrs Maynard places the date of the establishment of the company as 1924). L. Sher is listed as the first proprietor. Besides the stores on the colliery, the business also had a hotel. Sher was the owner until the late 1930s and so it must have been he who issued the tokens. By 1940 E. Elison owned the business. He sold it in 1942 to T. Jacobson. By the mid-1940s the business was owned by Jacob Kleiman and H. Robinson. This was long after the use of tokens had stopped, but Kleiman's connection to the company is interesting considering his relationship to Duchon & Kleiman and other businesses that issued tokens. Jacob died in the Newcastle Hospital on 17 July 1953 at the age of 67 years. The bulk of his estate consisted of 'capital in a business known as Ballengeich Trading Company of Ballengeich'. His portion of the business was valued at £7000.

<p>COAL 32a</p> <p>NATAL DIRECTORY SUPPLEMENT</p> <hr/> <h2 style="text-align: center;">The Ballengeich Collieries Ltd.</h2> <hr/> <p>Managing Director: W. E. J. HALLETT, Esq., J.P., Ballengeich, Natal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖</p> <p>Durban Office: Triton Buildings, Point, Natal Telephone No. 1914, Durban.</p> <p>Colliery Office: Ballengeich, Natal Telephone No. 1, Ingagane Siding No. 283, Natal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Mine Manager</td> <td>Mr. W. NASH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Durban Manager</td> <td>Mr. F. J. AFFORD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mine Accountant</td> <td>Mr. W. J. JONES</td> </tr> </table>	Mine Manager	Mr. W. NASH	Durban Manager	Mr. F. J. AFFORD	Mine Accountant	Mr. W. J. JONES	<p>INDUSTRIAL SECTION</p> <p>COAL 33a</p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <h3 style="text-align: center;">The Ballengeich Collieries, Limited</h3> </div> <p>The Ballengeich Colliery is situated in Northern Natal, and is served by Ballengeich Halt and Siding No. 283 Natal, lying mid-way between Alcock Spruit and Ingagane.</p> <p>The Colliery is prettily laid out with gums and fancy trees, among which the staff and employees' houses are built, forming an attractive picture, as viewed by the traveller on the South African Railway, the main Durban to Johannesburg line running more or less alongside the property.</p> <p>The Ingagane River traverses the farm from east to west, with the Horne River running north to south.</p> <p>Ballengeich Mine is noted for its fine quality of coal, which for household purposes cannot be beaten. It is also used largely on the Government Railways, and for industrial and other purposes.</p> <p>The Native and Indian Labourers are well fed and comfortably housed, the Colliery in consequence enjoying a first-class reputation amongst the Natives of Natal and Zululand.</p> <p>The property is also well provided with business premises, there being a well-stocked general store thereon, where European comestibles and Native and Indian goods can always be obtained at reasonable rates. A hotel is adjacent to the store.</p> <p>A Recreation Hall, Library, Billiard Room and Tennis Court offer attractions after working hours, and are greatly appreciated and patronised by the employees.</p> <p>A large cultivated tract of land supplies vegetables, mealies, etc., for consumption by the European residents, and the Native Compound, while a herd of cattle can always be seen grazing on the slopes, the milch cows providing much appreciated dairy produce.</p> <p>The Colliery is one of the busy mines at the Natal Coal Fields, and, with the development of the S.A. Carbide and By-Product Co.'s works, which are situated on the property, big increases in production, buildings, and numbers of European and coloured workmen are probable, and the property bids fair to become one of the most important industrial centres of the Union of South Africa.</p>
Mine Manager	Mr. W. NASH						
Durban Manager	Mr. F. J. AFFORD						
Mine Accountant	Mr. W. J. JONES						



THE TOKENS:

According to a letter to Mrs Maynard in 1966, the then owners of the company said that the tokens were issued in the early 1900s. Mr Gardner, the Secretary and Acting Manager in 1957, told Mrs Maynard that he had put a stop to the use of tokens at the store in 1935.

Description:

Three uniface celluloid pieces. They have no value, but were used as 1/-, 6d & 3d tokens.

- (a) *Blue, uniface Celluloid. (1/-)*
Diameter 28,4mm. Thickness 3mm.
A large Monogram "B T C" slightly mottled, fills the whole field.
Raised rim and pearled border.
- (b) *Yellow, uniface, Celluloid (6d)*
Diameter 23,3mm. Thickness, 2,8mm.
Same description as (a)
- (c) *Yellow, uniface, celluloid (3d)*
Diameter 19,1mm. Thickness 3mm.
Same description as (a) & (b).

C.B. Downes



C.B. Downes
(Courtesy of The Witness)

A 6d trade token issued by C.B. Downes of Blood River recently fetched R19 250 on an Internet auction site. Charles Bertram Downes, son of Horace Charles and Margaret Jessie Downes, was born on 28 October 1892 in the village of Harding. A Londoner, Horace Downes was living in Harding by 1878 as he appears as a resident of the village in the census for that year. (There was also an A. Downes listed as a resident of the village. This was possibly Horace's brother). In 1882 Horace and his first wife Phoebe built the Central Hotel in Harding. (Phoebe laid the corner stone).⁷⁰ A description of the early years of the hotel (which later became known as the Southern Cross) is found in the book *In the Shadow of the Ingeli*:

The oldest rooms are the rooms parallel to the side street, the walls are very thick stone and many of the ceilings were made of wood. The Southern Cross is etched on one of the concrete blocks at the end of the building – with the date 1883, the birth date of one of the Downes children. Another birth date is on the old stone paintshop. Many stories are told of the early days*

of garrison soldiers riding their horses into the bar; jumping their horses over the dining room tables; early customers before motor transport, tethering their horses to the hitching post outside the hotel.

Phoebe died in 1888, leaving Horace a widower with three young children: Theo, Gertrude and May. Two years later, on 28 October 1890, Horace married Margaret Jessie McKenzie, daughter of Donald and Margaret McKenzie.⁷¹ Donald McKenzie was the messenger of the court for Harding. A son named Percy Donald was born to Horace and Margaret on 4 September 1891. Charles Bertram, known as Bertie to the family, was born in the following year. Bertie never knew his father. Horace Downes died on 6 October 1893 when his youngest son was just 11 months old.⁷² His death is described as follows in the book *In the Shadow of the Ingeli*:

Mr Downes had an untimely end, as he accidentally stumbled over his gun while running through the hotel in order to shoot a wild cat. The gun went off and Mr Downes was shot. The nearest surgeon was at Umzimkulu and Mr Downes died before the doctor could get to him riding on horseback from Umzimkulu.

Horace's estate consisted of:

Lots 2,4, and 6 Hawkins Street, Harding, and lots 1,3 and 5 Musgrave Street, Harding, on which is built the Central Hotel, and outbuildings. Lots 1 and 3 Hawkins Street, Harding, on which is built a small cottage.

* Probably Horace George Theobald Downes, known to the family as Theo, who died in 1962.

The Central Hotel comprised of a

Dining Room, Sitting Room, Billiard Room (with Billiard Table in first class order by Thurston & Fittings), Bar, Smoking Room, Carriage House, Native Servants Room, the usual outbuildings, Stabling for 30 Horses, and 6 Acres of land 4 of which are fenced into a Paddock.

Margaret was pregnant at the time of Horace's death and a daughter named Kathleen Beryl was born on 22 April 1894. Margaret leased the hotel out and moved with her three young children to Pietermaritzburg where they lived in a house in Longmarket Street. Bertie, thus, spent his early childhood in the colony's capital. It was not idyllic, as his mother died on 18 March 1905 when he was just 13 years old.⁷³ His elder half-brother Theo, then aged 26 and working as a carpenter in Pietermaritzburg, wanted Percy⁷⁴, Bertie and Kathleen to live with him in Pietermaritzburg. However, the executors of Margaret's estate, C.M. Etheridge and Edward Larkan, felt that he was not earning enough money and that the only way he would be able to keep the children would be to take in boarders.⁷⁵ They felt it would be inappropriate for two teenage boys to be in the same house as female boarders and so Bertie and Percy returned to Harding to be looked after by their uncle, J. Hooper. Hooper was married to Margaret's sister and worked as a law agent in Harding. Kathleen became the ward of her aunt Mrs Brady. The hotel was leased out until Kathleen obtained her majority on 22 April 1915, at which stage it was put up for auction.

Bertie's earlier career is sketchy. He returned to Harding after his mother's death and by 1910, or even earlier, was probably ready to work. In the 1913 Natal Directory he was listed as a store assistant in the Himeville district. He is not listed in the directory again until 1918 when he was described as a draper in Dundee. On 9 June 1919 he married Alys Stimpson Gregory at Blood River. Alys was born in Sheffield on 28 January 1890 but was living in Durban at the time of the marriage. Bertie was described in the marriage contract as a storekeeper of Blood River. In the marriage contract it is stated:⁷⁶

THAT the said CHARLES BERTRAM DOWNES in consideration of the said intended marriage hereby gives, makes over and settles upon the said ALYS STIMPSON GREGORY, the following:-

- (a) The whole of the Household furniture, Cutlery, Silver, Linen, of whatsoever nature together with all replenishments thereof nothing excepted and at present situated in the Dwelling-House at BLOOD RIVER aforesaid.
- (b) Three cows and Two calves.

The marriage contract was witnessed, by among others, his sister Kathleen, who seems to have been staying with him at the time.⁷⁷ The above clause from the marriage contract is quoted to show that Bertie was at the Blood River Store by 1919. Bertie is not listed in the Natal Directory at Blood River until 1922, however, the partners Harwin & Downes are listed as traders from 1919. Bertie must have been in partnership with Harwin for at least three years. (This was probably A.A. Harwin who also had a trading store at 116 Victoria Road, Dundee). Bertie and Alys lived in a home called Eyani Cottage.

Before continuing with Bertie's career, let's look briefly at the history of the Blood River Trading Store. The store is situated in the Utrecht area of Northern Natal, between Vryheid and Dundee. The first references to the Blood River Trading Store dates to 1900. The owner was then Edwin James Strachan. The following references to Strachan, and his wife Minnie, appear in the Pietermaritzburg Archives:

- 1900 – Mr. E.J. Strachan, Nqutu, offers his house at Nqutu for sale to the government for the sum of £2000.
- 1904 – E.J. Strachan submits a petition on behalf of the inhabitants of Nqutu district, complaining about the state of the road from Nqutu Magistracy to the Blood River Station.
- 1905 – Mrs Strachan applies for the land on which her store is situated.
- 1906 – Mrs M.G. Strachan of the Blood River Station complains about the action of one Rensburg who retained her horse and mails and assaulted the Native bearer.
- 1907 – Mrs M.G. Strachan protests against the issuing of a licence to a Mr Lurring for a store near Telezi.

Edwin Strachan died in 1904. His wife Minnie married Harry Wilkins and they continued to run the shop. It seems that Harwin & Downes bought the store from Mrs Wilkins.

From 1922 until 1941 Bertie is described in the Natal Directory as a storekeeper. After that he is described as a farmer, which seems to indicate that he had sold the store in the early 1940s. It seems that from about 1942 until 1946 the store was owned by Frank Etherington Wilmot. (Bertie might have sold the store slightly earlier, as there is a reference to F.E. Wilmot & Co. at the Blood River trading station in 1937). Wilmot sold the store to Middleton Stewart who shortly afterwards sold the property to G.C. Coley & Sons. G.C. Coley & Sons comprised of George Cecil Coley and his son George Lawrence Coley.⁷⁸ They were in existence by at least 1946. George Cecil was born on 12 June 1886 in Grantham, England. The partnership was dissolved in 1969.⁷⁹ At the time of George Cecil's death in 1971 he was described as a retired storekeeper of Blood River.

Bertie continued to farm in the Blood River area until the 1950s (He was on a subdivision of the farm *Welgelegen* in 1956). In the late 1950s he moved to 60 Villiers Drive in Clarendon in Pietermaritzburg. By 1960 he was the mayor of the city and a street is named in his honour. By 1970 he and Alys were living at Hyde Park Mansions in Roberts Road. Alys died in 1970 in Pietermaritzburg. Bertie's date of death is not known at this time, but was probably a few years later.

An interesting anecdote about C.B. Downes is that he was a dedicated Freemason and served as the Grand Master of the Pietermaritzburg District Grand Lodge. Mr Allyn Jacobs of Johannesburg has a book in his library entitled *Freemasonry and its Etiquette*, published in London in 1927 by A. Lewis. On the front page is the inscription:

*C.B. Downes
Blood River
Natal
Feb. 28th, 1929.*

Below this is written:

*To Bro. Alf,
With best wishes for a happy & successful Masonic career,
From C.B. Downes
P.M. P.D.G.L.
"Haddon Hall" 14-12-49.*



THE TOKEN

C.B. Downes was trading for himself at the Blood River Trading Store by 1922. The use of tokens was prohibited by law in 1932, which would indicate that the token must have been issued some time in the 1920s.

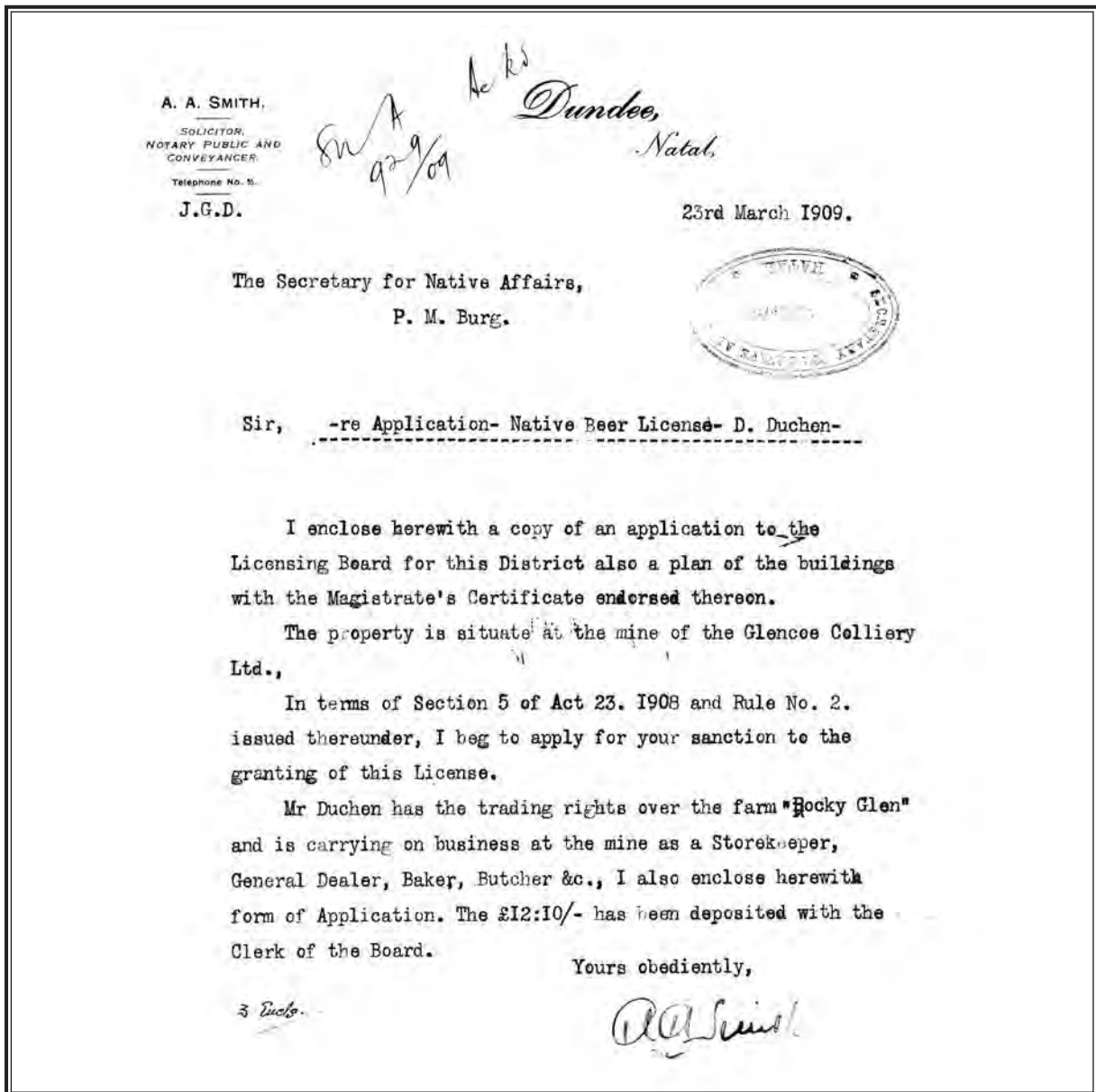
Description:

A uniface token, 22 mm in diameter.

Obverse: *In centre field on three lines "GOOD" "6d" "FOR", curved above "C.B. DOWNES" and below "BLOOD RIVER".*

Dan Duchen

The Duchens were well-known shopkeepers on the mines in Northern Natal, with a number of family members (and relations by marriage) running successful stores at numerous collieries. The progenitors of the Duchen family in Natal were David and Rosa Duchen.⁸⁰ David and Rosa were both born in Russia and were married on 12 July 1883 in Telsh. The Duchens were Jews who came to South Africa to escape anti-Semitism in Russia. Waves of large-scale anti-Jewish pogroms swept southern Russia from 1881 to 1884. Thousands of Jewish homes were destroyed and many Jews were killed and injured. From 1880 to 1920 two million Jews left Russia, the Duchens being one such family. They settled in Natal shortly before the Union of South Africa and David secured the trading rights for the farm *Rocky Glen* in the Glencoe area. He also carried out business on the Glencoe Colliery as a 'Storekeeper, General Dealer, Baker, Butcher &c'. David initially made his money selling beer on various collieries in Northern Natal.





In 1909 Mr A.A. Smith, of Dundee, applied on behalf of David Duchen for a Native beer licence on the Glencoe Colliery.⁸¹ In the same year David applied for a licence on the Cambrian Mine.⁸² In 1912 David applied for a beer licence at the Durban Navigational Colliery at Dannhauser.⁸³ A number of Jewish immigrants opened stores on the mines in Northern Natal. Besides the Duchan family there was also Jacob Kleiman, Samuel Lazarus, L. Sher and Robert Shapiro.

All of David Duchen's sons opened stores at mines in Northern Natal. Dan, Solomon, Ben and Harry all opened shops at the Durban Navigation Collieries in the Dannhauser district, while Max had a store at the Natal Navigation Collieries & Estate Co. Ltd. at Hatting Spruit.

Dan Duchen was born in 1894. His baptismal name was Gedalie Duchen. In an affidavit submitted to the court, when his brother Max died, he wrote:

I have always been called by the deceased and by the other members of our family "DAN DUCHEN" by which name I am always known in business and amongst my friends. My true and correct name is however, GEDALIE DUCHEN.⁸⁴

In about 1913 (at the age of 19) Dan opened a store at the Durban Navigation Collieries at Dannhauser, which is approximately halfway between Dundee and Newcastle. From 1913 until 1919 the business was known as Dan Duchen. Dan's older brother Solomon was a manager in the business. Dan was also in partnership with a Mr Brenner as a cattle dealer.

THE TOKENS:

Description:

The tokens were issued in the denominations: 5/-, 3/-, 6d and 3d.

Obverse: *Large "D.D" in centre field. Curved above "D.N.C." and below "GOOD FOR", the two separated by a plain dot on each side.*

Reverse: *Value ("5/-", "3/-", "6d" and "3d") in centre field. On both sides a pearled border and slightly raised rim.*

Edge plain.

The "D.N.C." on these tokens stand for "Durban Navigation Collieries".

The holed specimens were used in later years on the Duchen farms as cattle tags. This possibly accounts for the holes being so large.

Duchen Brothers

In 1919 Solomon Duchen became a partner in the store owned by Dan and the name of the business was changed to Duchen Brothers.

Description:

Obverse: Right in centre a small dot and on its left "D" and "B" on right. ("D.B"). Like the others "D.N.C." Curved above, and "GOOD FOR" below, separated by a Maltese cross on each side.

Reverse: Value ("6D" or "3d") in centre field.

Both sides a pearled border, coarse like the "D & K" pieces and slightly raised rim. Edge plain.

Duchen Brothers also issued a second set of celluloid tokens, and the value was determined by the size and colour. 2/- (Indigo), 1/- (Red), 6d (Green), 3d (Black).

2/- (Indigo) In centre field a Monogram "DB" the letters big and rather fancy. Pearled border, raised rim and plain edge.

1/- (Red) Same description as for 2/-, but two varieties are seen of the monogram. In some the letters DB are smooth and shiny and in other rough and duller.

6d (Green) The green piece is more transparent than the others. Also the monogram is different. Where the 2/- and 1/- had rather fancy letters, these are straight and plain and not as broad as the first two. Rest of the description is the same.

3d (Black) Same type of monogram as the 6d and the same description.



Duchen & Kleiman

In 1921 the Duchen brothers entered into a partnership with their brother-in-law Jacob Kleiman and the firm became known as Duchen & Kleiman. It must be noted that according to information collected by Dr Theron, Duchen & Kleiman became Duchen brothers. The entries in the Natal Directory indicate that Duchen brothers became Duchen & Kleiman. The partnership broke up in 1927 and the business reverted to the name Duchen Brothers. It was still in existence in 1975.

Jacob, known also as Jack, was the son of Morris and Leah Kleiman.⁸⁵ He was born in Lithuania and immigrated to South Africa in the early 1900s. When he applied for naturalization in 1907 he was living in the Transvaal. The first reference to Jacob in the Natal Directory is in 1918 when he is described as a store and hotel-keeper at Elandslaagte. Elandslaagte was situated on the main line 16 miles beyond Ladysmith. The Elandslaagte Colliery was described as 'one of the largest of the Natal Mines'. In 1919 he was in partnership with the Duchen Brothers (Jacob married Bessie Duchen) at Dannhauser.

THE TOKENS:

Description:

The tokens were issued in the denominations: 5/-, 3/-, 2/, 1/, 6d and 3d. Duchen & Kleiman also issued a celluloid set with no values on the pieces but determined by the size and colour of the piece, and it consists of 3/- (indigo), 2/- (black), 1/- (red), 6d (green) and 3d (black).

All these tokens are uniface with a completely flat reverse. On obverse a "D K" monogram, pearled border and slightly raised rim.

Max Duchen

Max Duchen, brother of Dan Duchen, was born in Lithuania.⁸⁶ Max had a store at the Natal Navigation Collieries & Estate Co. Ltd. at Hatting Spruit. Hatting Spruit is the principal coal-mining centre in Natal and is situated 12 miles from Dundee. After his retirement he lived at 66 Sir Arthur Road, Durban. He died while on holiday in Newton, Sydney, in Australia on 17 October 1939 at the age of 51 years and 7 months. His body was brought back to South Africa and he was buried in Durban.

THE TOKEN:

Description:

A Maroon uniface celluloid token. No value but said to be 6d. On a plain, sunken field the monogram "M.D." Pearled border.

Perhaps the only known specimen was in the Knobel Collection which was acquired by the old Africana Musuem (Museum Afrika).

Durban Navigation Collieries, Ltd.

Durban Navigation Collieries Ltd. was founded in 1903 and began the mining of stocking coal in that year. A few years later the Union-Castle shipping line acquired controlling shares in the company. In 1907 Union-Castle had investigated the idea of using Natal coal on their vessels, and after elaborate trials the *Kenilworth Castle* sailed from Durban to England using coal from Northern Natal. This trial voyage was so successful that the company bought the majority shares in the business so that they could use the coal to power their ships. Sir Owen Phillips, the chairman and managing director of Union Castle, also served as the chairman of Durban Navigation Collieries. Philips was also the director of the White Star and was known as the Napoleon of the Seas. He was knighted in 1909 and in 1923 was raised to the peerage as Baron Kysant. In August 1913 he was tried for fraud at the Old Bailey for issuing a misleading stock prospectus. He was found guilty and sentenced to one year imprisonment at Wormwood Scrubs. At its height Durban Navigation Collieries employed 500 people. The mine's staff village became known as Durnacol. The colliery closed in 2000.

<p style="text-align: center;">COAL 29a</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NATAL DIRECTORY SUPPLEMENT</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <h1 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Durban Navigation Collieries, Limited</h1> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">DIRECTORS: Sir Owen Phillips, C.M.G., M.P. (Chairman), A. Hunt, Esq., C.B.E., R. F. Gibb, Esq.</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">GENERAL MANAGER: George Sneddon.</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">□□</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">SOLE SELLING AGENTS: Hull, Blyth & Co. (S.A.), Ltd. Royal Exchange Building DURBAN in association with HULL, BLYTH & COMPANY, LIMITED, 1 Lloyd's Avenue, London.</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">□□</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">And at Cardiff, Glasgow, Liverpool, Newcastle, etc., etc.</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>	<p style="text-align: center;">INDUSTRIAL SECTION</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COAL 29a</p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Durban Navigation Collieries, Limited.</p> <p>A magnificently equipped property working two high-grade Collieries.</p> </div> <p>This is one of the most important and progressive Coal Companies in Natal, and owns very extensive coal-bearing areas close to Dannhauser Station on the Main Line, with as far two of the most modern Collieries, fully equipped and capable of producing 60,000 tons per month.</p> <p>The general characteristics of the coal throughout the two mines are of a most favourable nature and uniform in quality. The seams worked are as follows—</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Top Seam</td> <td>3' 10"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bottom Seam</td> <td>5' 3"</td> </tr> </table> <p>The depths of the seams are 495 feet at No. 1 Colliery and 567 feet at No. 2 Colliery.</p> <p>Analysis of this Company's coal made recently by Mr. Billbrough, of Johannesburg, gives the following results—</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Moisture</td> <td>1.61</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Volatile</td> <td>27.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fixed Carbon</td> <td>62.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ash</td> <td>8.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black;">100.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Combustible</td> <td>89.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Specific Gravity</td> <td>1.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Calor. Value Lbs/lb.</td> <td>14.32</td> </tr> </table> <p>Coke—hard, strong swelling and an excellent bituminous and strong coking coal.</p> <p>The Mines are worked on the pillar and stall system, and the general layout of the workings, both as regards ability to handle a large tonnage economically and efficiently, and also in respect of ventilation, is wholly admirable.</p> <p>The Washing and Screening Plants are thoroughly efficient and modern, whilst the coal is also carefully hand-picked by men specially trained for the work.</p> <p>In the past, foreign markets have had little opportunity of becoming acquainted with the exceptional value of D.N.C. Coal, for the reason that the major portion of the output has been required for the use of the Union-Castle mail and passenger steamers, but with the enlarged output capacity due to the completion of the equipment of the No. 2 Colliery, the Company's Sales Agents are devoting serious attention to the development of an extensive export trade, and there can be little doubt that in the near future "D.N.C." Coal will be as well known and as highly esteemed in foreign markets as it has long been in Natal.</p>	Top Seam	3' 10"	Bottom Seam	5' 3"	Moisture	1.61	Volatile	27.20	Fixed Carbon	62.24	Ash	8.95		100.00	Combustible	89.44	Specific Gravity	1.32	Calor. Value Lbs/lb.	14.32
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THE TOKENS:

The Durban Navigation tokens, which were manufactured by Marsh & Son, Edgware, Middlesex, were lamp checks or tallies. When a miner went to work he was issued with a lamp check or token that had a number on it. The number was personal to each miner and before going under ground he would exchange the tally for a lamp. At the end of the shift when he handed back his lamp the token would be returned to him.

Description:

There are three shapes, each blank on the reverse.

Obverse: Circular with "THE DURBAN NAVIGATION COLLIERIES LTD" around the slightly raised rim.

Triangular, pierced at 12 o'clock, with "THE DURBAN NAVIGATION COLLIERIES" on two sides, and a number in the centre field. A pearled border and a slightly raised rim.

Oval, pierced at 3 o'clock, with "THE DURBAN NAVIGATION COLLIERIES LTD" around the rim, and a number in the centre field.

A slightly raised rim.



J.N. Glutz

Gillian Berning in her article on Natal tokens in volume three of the Association of South African Numismatic Dealers' Handbooks refers to a token used by J.N. Glutt, but gives no other information about the token or the man who issued it. It seems that the man in question was J.N. Glutz. John Nicolas Glutz was born in Dundee in Natal in about 1896. He married May Amelia Mortimer on 12 April 1921 in Dundee. On his marriage certificate he is described as a shopkeeper at Hattingspruit. By the 1930s he was involved in the Hlobane Trading Company. In 1931 he wrote a letter to the Governor General asking if the government intended interfering in the token system on Natal coal mines. He died on 18 November 1966 at his residence 283 Chelmsford Road in Durban. He was described on his death notice as a retired director of companies and left a substantial estate. Considering that there is no record in the Pietermaritzburg Archives of a man named Glutt and that J.N. Glutz owned trading stores near coal mines where a number of other traders (in particular the Duchen family) made use of tokens, we can tentatively conclude the tokens in question were issued by John Nicolas Glutz.

THE TOKENS:

Description:

There are examples of Glutz tokens in the denominations 1/- and 3d, but he probably issued a 6d token as well. The tokens are uniface brass with a smooth edge. Above the centre field "J.N.G." and below "1/-" or "3d". The size of the 1/- piece is 29.3mm and the 3d is smaller at 23.0mm.

Dr Theron in his work *Tokens of Southern Africa and their History* lists 5 celluloid pieces with the monogram JNC on them. Allyn Jacobs when assisting in compiling the 2009 edition of Hern's *Handbook on Southern African Tokens* realised that the monogram was actually JNG. These pieces are generally listed as Mine Store tokens and are so in this work as well, but we need to be aware that they were probably issued by J.N. Glutz. The description for the celluloid tokens is as follows:

- a) "J.N.G." Monogram. Diameter 28,5 mm. Of this size there are three, a brown, a black and a blue piece.
- b) "J.N.G." Monogram. Diameter 23,6 mm. Yellow and transparent brown.

Kleiman & Finchen

It is not clear when Kleiman & Finchen were in business. If Jacob Kleiman ended his partnership with the Duchon brothers in 1927 and bought the Ballengeich Trading Company in the mid-1940s, it would indicate that Kleiman & Finchen probably did business from the late 1920s to early 1940s. The business seems to have had a store on the Durban Navigation Collieries in the Dannhauser district.

THE TOKENS:

Kleiman & Finchen issued a set of brass tokens consisting of 5/-, 3/-, 2/-, 1/-, 6d and 3d. In addition to the set of six tokens, old collectors also ascribed a tickey marked F & K to this set.

Description:

Uniface Brass with completely flat reverse. In two lines across the field "K & F" "5/-". The same for all the other values. They all have a pearled border and slightly raised rim, with plain edges. Measurements for all values.





Mine Stores (Natal) Ltd

Mine Stores (Natal) Ltd. was founded in 1911 by Samuel Lazarus, who is credited with devising the token system on Natal collieries. In 1919 Robert Shapiro bought the company. Mine Stores was by far the biggest company that ran stores on the mines in Northern Natal. They were retail merchants, bakers, confectioners, maize millers, malt manufacturers and butchers. Their head office was in Glencoe but they had branch stores at Burnside, Dannhauser, Dundee, Enyoti, Grootvlei, Hlobane, Northfield and Van Wyk's Drift.

THE TOKENS:

Description:

1. *Uniface Nickel 1/- token*
In centre field "1 s". Curved around "MINE STORES (NATAL) LTD" with a cross motif at 6 o'clock. Pearled border, raised rim and plain edge.
2. *Uniface Brass 3d token*
Same description as 1, but "3d" in centre field.
3. *Another Uniface Brass 3d with a hole made through it in centre field.*
4. *Nickel with no value.*
The same size as the previous ones but a blank obverse centre field and no value. They have a six-petalled florette at 6 o'clock.
5. *Brass with no value.*
Same as 4, with the six-petalled florette at 6 o'clock.
6. *Another brass with no value.*
Same as 5, but an incuse "F" stamped on both sides.
7. *Copper with no value.*
Same as previous three described.
8. *Nickel with no value.*
Same as described for 4 to 7 but with a five petalled florette at 6 o'clock.
9. *Brass with no value.*
Same description as for 8.
10. *Copper with no value.*
Same description as for 8 & 9.

The celluloid pieces are all uniface and have a monogram on the obverse. They are usually only two sizes, the bigger ones represented a 1/- and the smaller ones a 6d.

- a) "MS" Monogram. Diameter 28,3 mm. Of the size there are black, green and red pieces.
"MS" Monogram. Diameter 22 mm. Of the size there are black, green and red pieces.

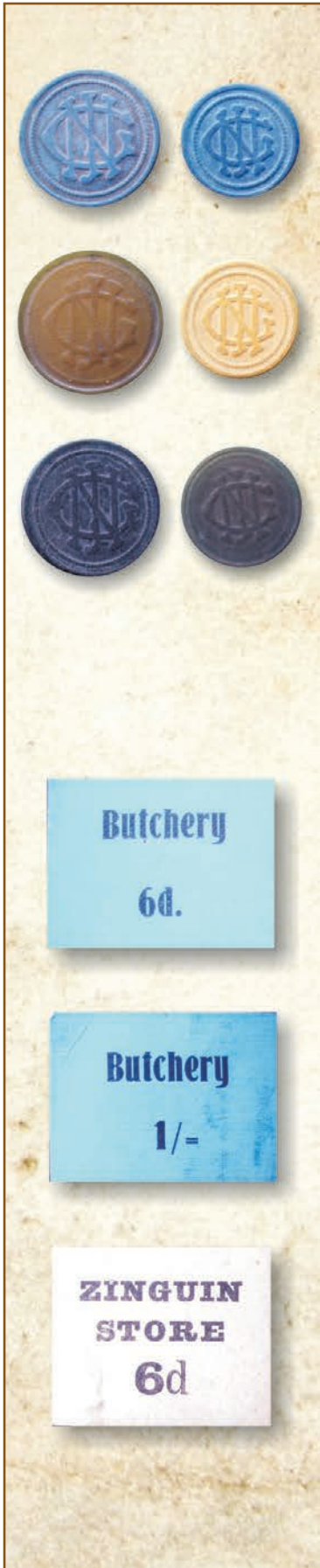


- b) "MSN" Monogram. Diameter 28,5 mm. Of the size there are black, dark green, red and brown pieces.
"MSN" Monogram. Diameter 22 mm. Here also brown, black and red pieces , but no green.



- c) "ZNC" Monogram. Diameter 28,4 mm. Only the one type, a red piece is known.
"ZNC" Monogram. Diameter 23,5 mm. Only the one, a red piece.





- d) "J.N.G." Monogram. Diameter 28,5 mm. Of this size there are three, a brown, a black and a blue piece.
"J.N.G." Monogram. Diameter 23,6 mm. Yellow and transparent brown.

These stores also later issued rectangular cardboard pieces eg. Zinguin Store 6d and a blue one with Butchery 1/- printed on it.

Part Four

PIETERMARITZBURG



Pietermaritzburg

Pietermaritzburg, with its lingering reputation as the last outpost of the British Empire, ironically started as the capital of the Boer Republic of the Free Province of New Holland in South East Africa. The settlement, laid out by Piet Greyling at the Boesmansrand during March 1839, was no more than a camp of pallisades, mud huts and wagons. During 1840 J.A. Wahlberg surveyed the town in detail and a powder magazine and prison were built. The village remained a small, rural settlement until the arrival of the Byrne settlers in 1849 and 1850, when it went through a phase of expansion. T.V. Bulpin, in his work *To the Shores of Natal*, gives this elegant description of the capital in the early 1850s:

It was a neatly built little town; an outpost where civilization merged with the wilderness; a last stepping stone to the interior, where prim traders and conservative civil servants sought to lead conventional white-collared lives; while all around them bustled the noisy, colourful panoply of the Africa of the hunters and adventurers.

If Pietermaritzburg was the political centre of Natal, then its market square was the centre for the adventurers. Every wagon was entitled to outspan there and disgorge its cargo of produce, hunting trophies and sunbronzed humanity, while all around stood the stores and business establishments, primly watching the agitation on the square like ladies at a boxing match – not quite approving, but nevertheless hoping that a portion of the excitement might come their way in the form of trade.

Each day started with the shrill crowing of hundreds of roosters, for every wagon carried a hencoop slung between its wheels. The African camp servants would then crawl out of bed, and the crackling of wood would announce that the fires were alight. Coffee and morning toilets would then occupy the Europeans, while their servants rolled up the bedding and their wagon-drivers collected the oxen and horses and drove them off in long files to graze on the commonage.

By 1852 there was a population of 1,588 Europeans and 443 dwelling houses, mostly attractive little places with thatch or tile roofs, 'although some had already been inflicted with hideous corrugated iron'.

The Crown Hotel

The Crown was the first hotel established in Pietermaritzburg, and was opened in February 1849 by William Platts. Professor Allan Hattersley writes in his book *Portrait of a City*:

*Visitors reaching Pietermaritzburg might be obliged to seek public accommodation. In this respect also they might have reason for gratitude that Pietermaritzburg was a garrison town. For William Platts, who opened the first hotel, a brick cottage in upper Church Street near Government House, was messman to the regimental officers. Platt became insolvent, decided to rejoin the army and lost his life in the Crimean war.**

Dr Ruth Gordon in her work *The Place of the Elephant* writes that:

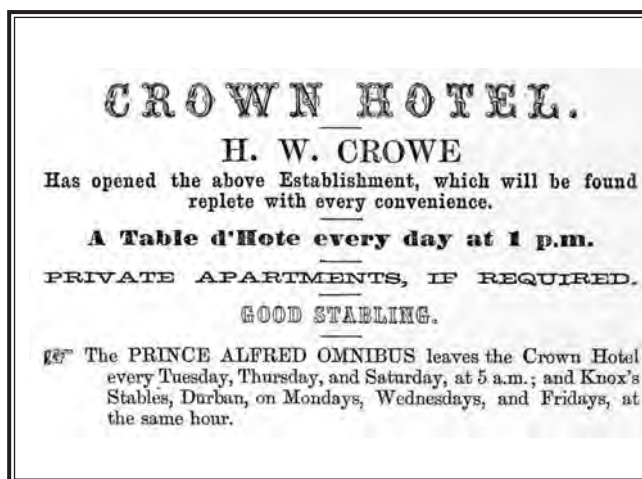
The first hotel, the Crown, opened by William Platts in upper Church Street in February 1849, was the only one for many a year but by 1854 there were three lodging houses for travellers.

Mrs Shelagh Spencer comments that:

One cannot state with certainty where the Crown was at that time. It had been started on the Church Street frontage of Erf 3 Longmarket Street, but after a few months Platts had moved to larger premises.

Possibly it was on erf 25 Loop Street, on the commercial Road side of the erf, which was certainly its site by the end of 1852 (and where the establishment is to this day but now under the name Liberty Tavern).

The Hotel was taken over by William McLeod who renamed it the Crown (until then it was called Platt's Family Hotel). McCleod was insolvent by April 1851 and was forced to sell the lease for the Crown to Charles Florey. Florey, a Byrne settler, came to Natal on the *Dreadnought*. He was appointed ferryman at the Mooi River in January 1850, but was transferred a few months later to the ferry at the Bushman's River. In the vicinity of the pont was a small military garrison and in addition to manning the ferry, Florey opened a shop to supply the military with spirits and groceries. Florey, according to one passerby, was 'as spruce a shopkeeper as ever stood behind a London counter'. In June 1851 he resigned as the Bushman's River ferryman and a little while later took over the lease of the Crown. Besides the hotel, Florey also kept fine livery stables. In July 1855 Florey sold the Crown to William Wood. It was Wood who was responsible for issuing the tokens in 1861. In 1863 Wood in turn sold the property to H.W. Crowe. Besides rooms, Crowe offered good stabling and private apartments, as can be seen from this advertisement of 1863:



* Platts did not immediately rejoin the army, but opened a hotel in Durban called the Trafalgar. By October 1853 he had sold the Trafalgar to Thomas Arnold.

By 1866 Emma Watson was the proprietress. She seems to have been responsible for making use of the crown in advertising, as can be seen in this advertisement from the Natal Directory of 1871.

CROWN  HOTEL,
PIETERMARITZBURG.
 EMMA WATSON, Proprietress.

Watson retained the Crown until 1874 when W.D.S. Doig became the proprietor. The ownership of the hotel after this time is sketchy but it remained open until the 1980s.

CROWN  **HOTEL,**
COMMERCIAL ROAD,
PIETERMARITZBURG, NATAL.
PRIVATE SUITES OF APARTMENTS.
From January, 1874, a Wholesale Wine and Spirit Business
will be conducted in addition to the Hotel.
VISITORS WILL FIND THIS HOTEL REplete IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.
THE ONLY PLUNGE BATH IN THE CITY ON THE PREMISES.
GOOD STABLING.
Horses and Carriages on Hire by the Hour or Day.
HORSES BOUGHT AND SOLD.
THE BEST OF WINES AND SPIRITS ALWAYS ON HAND.
WEDDING TRAPS ALWAYS READY.
W. D. S. DOIG, Proprietor.

*Advertisement for the Crown Hotel
 (Natal Directory 1874)*

THE TOKENS:

The Crown Hotel, like the Durban Club, issued tokens to be used in its Billiard Room.

Description:

Obverse: In centre field "6d", surrounded by a plain circle. Curved above, "CROWN BILLIARD", and below, "CLUB", the two parts separated by a plain dot on each side.

Reverse: In centre field "1861", surrounded by a plain circle. Curved above "P.M.BURG" and below "SIXPENCE", the two parts separated by a dot on each side. Pearled border and slightly raised rim, with a milled edge.



The Crown Hotel
(From A.F. Hattersley, Pietermaritzburg Panorama)



Mark Franklin of Melbourne House

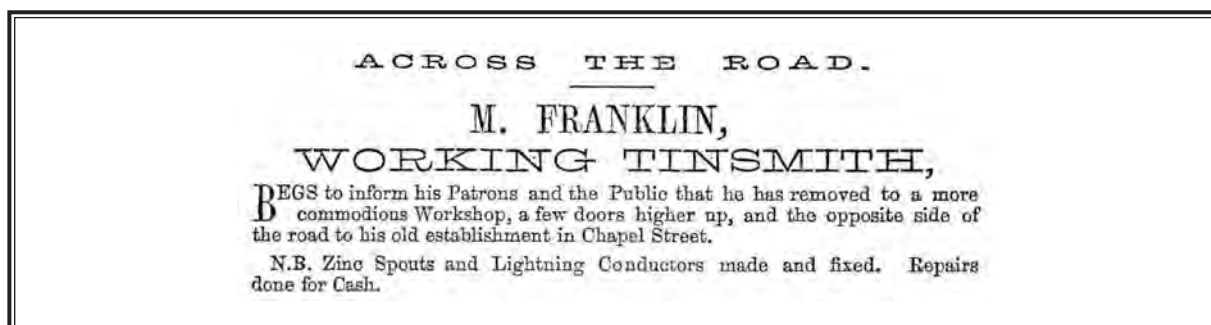
Mark Franklin was born on 21 February 1833 at Laugharne. At the age of seventeen he accompanied his parents George Franklin and Mary Thomas to Natal aboard the *Nile*. George Franklin, a builder by trade, farmed at Lidgetton. In addition to farming he opened the Castle Hotel. Mark accompanied the family to Lidgetton and first worked for a Mr Richardson. He later worked on a neighbouring farm, *Mooifontein*.

In September 1852 Mark left Natal for the Australian Goldfields. He sailed to Melbourne on the *Hannah* in the company of his former employers Mr and Mrs John Richardson and Mr Arthur Richardson. After four months at the gold diggings at Fryer's Creek, Castlemaine District, he settled in Melbourne where he first worked as a gardener and then set up business as a carter. On 8 November 1853 Mark married Sarah Whatman at St Paul's Church, Melbourne. Although he 'did fairly well', he returned to Africa in 1859 aboard the *William Jackson*. The *William Jackson* called at Cape Town and Mark's family transferred to the steamer *Waldenstein* for the trip to Natal. They arrived in Durban in May.

While he had been in Australia, Mark's father George had left Lidgetton for Pietermaritzburg and by 1857 was making a living as 'a tin plate worker' in a workshop in Chapel Street. On his return to Natal, Mark also worked as a tinsmith at the same premises on which his father had his workshop. By the end of 1862 Mark was also working as a storekeeper. His shop was called Melbourne House. In 1866 George Franklin went insolvent and in September his property in Chapel Street was advertised for auction. Mark, probably aware of his father's financial troubles, had moved to new premises a year earlier. This is clear from the following advertisement that appeared in the Natal Directory in 1865:



Mark Franklin



Melbourne House remained on the corner of Pietermaritz and Chapel Streets until the early 1880s. Mark was in England from 1881 until 1883. Soon after his return he moved Melbourne House to new premises in Chapel Street between Berg Street and Boom Street. (In the 1895 Directory there is an entry for his City Coffee Mills at 91 Chapel Street).

By the late 1890s Mark was becoming increasingly ill and he took a trip to Wales hoping to improve his health. He died on 19 May 1899, three months after his return to Pietermaritzburg from Wales. He left a number of properties in Pietermaritzburg, including his business premises, his own dwelling, and five other houses in Berg Street. According to his granddaughter 'his sons did not inherit Mark's business acumen and there was no further expansion of Franklin interests in Maritzburg after his death'.

THE TOKENS:

Mark issued tokens for use at his shop Melbourne House in Pietermaritzburg. They were minted to overcome a shortage of small change. The tokens were issued in the denominations one penny and halfpenny. When the tokens were first issued they did not have the words "A CARD" "NO VALUE" stamped on them. These were added later because people were confusing the tokens for coins of the realm. According to Esmé Franklin Hennessy in her work *Early Natal Settlers: The Franklin Family*:

In 1876 Mark had a number of brass token coins struck for use in his shop. At that time copper pennies were in very short supply in Maritzburg and the brass tokens were intended to represent a value of one penny. The tokens could only be tendered in Mark's shop, and to avoid any possible confusion with coin of the realm the coins were counter stamped, "A card – No value" by Mark himself. This must have been very necessary as the tokens were very similar in general appearance to a penny piece. Each token coin also carried Mark's name and address – useful advertisement!

Description:

Obverse: Horizontally across centre field there is "MELBOURNE HOUSE". Curved above this "GENERAL STORE" and horizontally below "CHAPEL ST". Around all this curved above "M.F. FRANKLIN", and below, "P.M.B.U.R.G."

Reverse: The figure of Britannia seated, facing right. In exergue the date "1876". On the left of Britannia stamped incusely, "A CARD", and on the right side "NO VALUE".



J.U.A. Pottow of Furth

Since the publication of the booklet in 2010 a new Natal token has come to light. It was issued by J.U.A. Pottow for use on his farm *Furth*.



John Uriah Aubrey Pottow, one of nine children of Robert Pottow and Sarah Hooper, was born on 26 May 1880. After their arrival in Natal from England, Robert and Sarah first settled in York. Later they moved to a farm near Nel's Rust (now known as Baynesfield). Robert drowned in the Umlaas River, above Sinclair's Drift near Richmond Road, on the evening of 1 February 1890. Charmian Coulson in her book *Beaulieu-on-Illovo: Richmond, Natal: Its People and History* writes:

Another accident took the life of Robert Pottow, who farmed at Nel's Rust. He was returning home on horseback to his wife whose baby was due, when he was caught in a flash storm which brought the Umlaas River down in flood. As he was crossing the river he and his horse was swept away and drowned.

In the records of the Attorney General's Office there is a slightly different account of what occurred. In this account Robert and his wife had gone to the station at Richmond Road (Thornville) to load oxen. As their children were alone at home Robert felt he should return to the farm, despite the river being in flood. Sarah decided to stay in Richmond for the night. Robert was washed away crossing the river and his body was found the next day. Mr Alan Pottow was told that Robert was coming from the direction of Pietermaritzburg when he stopped at a hotel a few kilometers from Thornville. The owners suggested he stay the night as the Umlaas was in flood. Robert, however, insisted on continuing with his journey and drowned while crossing the river. In June 1891 Sarah married Lancelot Holmes, a farmer of Nel's Rust.

John, known as Aubrey or JUA, was just nine when his father died and had to leave school to run the farm and help educate his younger siblings. He later worked as a farm manager for J.W. Arnold of Arnold's Hill. He planted extensive wattle plantations for the Arnold family, and would travel by train to Creighton and Umzimkulu to inspect the farms owned by Arnold in those areas. Aubrey served in the Natal Carbineers in the Bambatha Rebellion and was awarded the Natal 1906 Medal. He moved to Umhlongo Nek (described as a railway halt on the Cape-Natal line, 44 miles from Pietermaritzburg) to manage a farm named *Furth*. On 2 January 1915 Aubrey, at the age of 34, married Mildred Kumm, daughter of Ferdinand Kumm and Maria Karg, at St Saviours' Cathedral in Pietermaritzburg. Ferdinand Kumm was born in Germany and came out with his parents in 1857 to the Cape and settled at Stutterheim. Ferdinand later settled on the farm *Seven Fountains* near Kokstad. When Aubrey and his new bride alighted from the train he had 2/6 in his pocket. He eventually owned four farms, including *Furth* which he purchased from the estate of Berkley Buckingham Talbot in about 1920. Aubrey's sister Sarah Alice married Theodore Holmes (her step-father's brother) and they farmed on *Londesborough*, a property near to *Furth*. Sarah was widowed at a young age and left to bring up three children. Aubrey's mother and step-father farmed *Wilberfoss*, a sub-division of *Furth*.

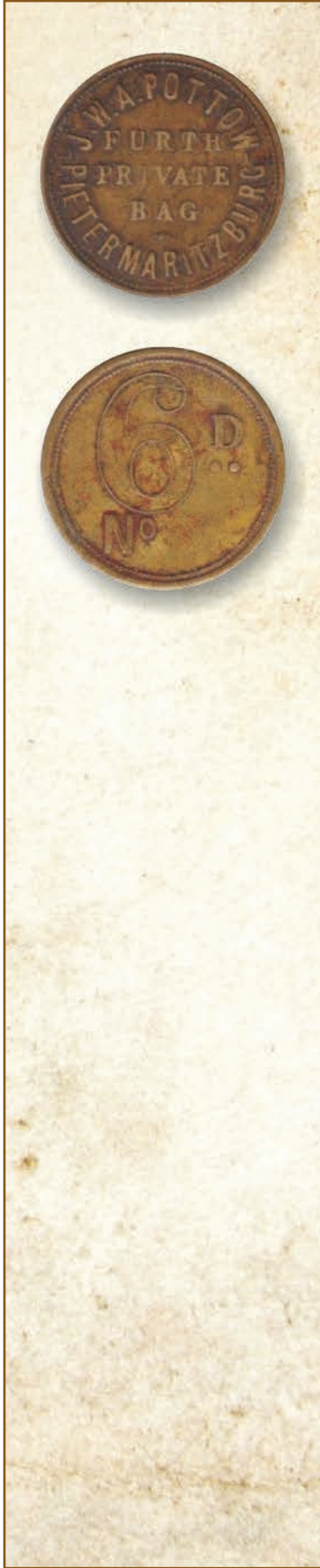


Aubrey and Mildred at the marriage of their son Norman

The Pottows often held tennis parties on Furth and were renowned for their hospitality. John and Mildred had three children: Lionel, Shirley and Norman. Lionel, who was born in 1919, bought *Furth* just before the war from his father who settled on another of his farms named *Glencairn*, where he was a successful beef farmer. The Pottow family farmed on *Furth* until 1984 when it was expropriated for African occupation. The historian Brian Spencer, who knew Aubrey from 1941 to 1960, writes 'JUA and his sister were two of the most upright, hard working and decent people it has ever been my good fortune to know'.

THE TOKENS

The tokens were used on *Furth* until about 1932 when J.U.A. Pottow moved to *Glencairn* where he carried on using the tokens. After his death his son Norman continued with the tokens until about 1965 when he changed the pay system. Aubrey first paid his labour partly in tokens to be used at local trading stores owned by the Kajee family. Later they were used to pay *togt* labour who were paid at the end of the month. The tokens were probably struck in Pietermaritzburg or Durban. It must be noted that there was a mistake made when the tokens were struck and the initials J.W.A. appear on the tokens and not J.U.A. J.W. Arnold, Aubrey's first employer, made use of tokens to pay his labour on the farm Blackwood and that probably influenced his use of tokens after he had bought *Furth*.



Description:

Obverse: Across centre field in three lines, "FURTH" "PRIVATE" "BAG". Above, curved, is "J.W.A. POTTOW". Below, curved, is "PIETERMARITZBURG". Pearled border.

Reverse: In centre field "6d". There are two dots below the d. Below is "NO". Raised rim.

Part Five

PORT SHEPSTONE



Port Shepstone

The old harbour at Port Shepstone and the village that developed around it were largely a result of the efforts of the Aiken brothers and William Bazley. In 1877 James, William and David Aiken moved from Ifafa to the Umzimkulu and settled on the estate *Ruthville*. They were concerned about transporting the products of the district to Durban and in 1879 invited William Bazley to remove the rocks from the entrance to the Umzimkulu River so that a harbour could be established. Bazley was successful and small ships began visiting the mouth of the Umzimkulu River. A small settlement, consisting of about eight houses and a ramshackle hotel called The Enterprise, developed at the drift. This later developed into the town of Port Shepstone.

White House

White House (Pty) Ltd. was a wholesaler and retail merchant at 38 Reynolds Street in Port Shepstone. In 1955 Colonel Knobel interviewed the owner Mr M.E. Desai who did not know anything about the tokens. He did mention that he had sold the business in 1928 to Moosa Ltd. In 1932 the premises burnt down and later that year Mr Desai again took over the business.

THE TOKENS:

It seems that the tokens were thus issued in 1928 and used until 1932. It is believed that most of the tokens were destroyed in the fire of 1932 and thus are very scarce.

Description:

Brass.

In centre field, "1/-" or "6d", all horizontally striped. Legend around: "WHITE HOUSE DISCOUNT CHECK". Motif – small, four petalled flower flanked by two short horizontal lines. Pearled border. Slightly raised rim.

Edge: Plain.





Umzimkulu River near Port Shepstone

Part Six

RICHMOND



Richmond

The town of Richmond is situated 38 kilometres south south-west of Pietermaritzburg on the national road from Natal to the Cape. The area was sparsely inhabited until the late 1830s when a handful of Boer families settled in the area and called it Tafelberg. When Natal was annexed the only remaining families in the area were W.H. and J.J. Uys, G. Rudolph, the widow Schalwijk and the Maritz family. In May 1850 Joseph Byrne's agent in Natal, John Moreland, bought 31 000 acres of land along the Illovo River on which to settle the British immigrants who were coming out to Natal. He surveyed and laid out a town in 66 six-acre blocks on lot 2 of the lands and called it Beaulieu-on-Illovo in deference to the Duke of Buccleuch whose estate in Hampshire was called Beaulieu. The Duke had bought a thousand acres for a party of settlers from his estate. When other settlers arrived who were not from the Duke's party they petitioned the colonial government to change the name to Richmond. It is not clear whether the name was derived from Richmond in Yorkshire or the Duke's town residence at Richmond-on-Thames. The new name was sanctioned by the legislature on 27 September 1850. Two men who lived in the Richmond magisterial district were known to have made use of tokens: J.W. Arnold and B.B. Evans. Tokens were also used on the Baynesfield Estate. All these tokens were used to pay labour.

J.W. Arnold

J.W. Arnold of Arnold's Hill in the Richmond district made use of tokens on his farm to pay labour. Arnold's Hill is the name of a railway siding on the farm *Blackwood*. Among the Byrne settlers to be allocated land at Richmond was the Arnold family who were granted a property that became known as *Blackwood*. When the railway was extended from Thornville to Richmond, a siding was built on the line passing through *Blackwood*, and it became known as Arnold's Hill.

J.W. Arnold's grandparents, Henry (sometimes spelt Henery) and Hannah Arnold, came to Natal in 1850 on the ship *Emily*.⁸⁷ Henry, who was born in Lincolnshire but was living in Yorkshire before he came to Natal, described himself as a carpenter, joiner and farmer. He claimed his 80-acre allotment near to Richmond but did not live on it. He moved to Pietermaritzburg where he established a business as a carpenter and joiner on erf 33 of Pietermaritz Street. Henry sold his allotment at Richmond to his eldest son Charles in 1855. The farm was referred to as *Blackwood Grove* and later simply as *Blackwood*. There was a stable on *Blackwood* for the post carts, which ran between Pietermaritzburg and Richmond. There was also an outspan on the farm for transport riders on their way to East Griqualand. Charles's only son, John William, worked as a transport rider between Durban and the goldfields, before taking over *Blackwood* from his father. John William's son Oliver served as a company Sergeant Major in the Natal Cardineers in North Africa and was taken prisoner at the fall of Tobruk. On returning from the war, he bought a section of the farm *Inzingosi* which adjoined *Blackwood* on the banks of the Umkomaas River. This was attached to *Blackwood* and the farm was renamed *Riverbank*.

THE TOKENS:

In 1900 John William Arnold 'introduced tokens to pay the labourers on his farm for the purpose of keeping check on native wages'.⁸⁸ The brass token was the equivalent of 1 day's pay (6d) and the white metal 30 days' pay. (15/-)'.⁸⁹



Description:

Obverse: *In centre field, two lines: "ARNOLD" "HILL". Legend around: "J.W. ARNOLD" "NATAL". Two five-petalled florettes. Pearled border. Slightly raised rim.*

Reverse: *On plain field, two lines: "6d" "No." The figure is horizontally striped. Pearled border. Slightly raised rim.*

Edge: *Plain*

The 15/- piece has a similar obverse but uniface white metal. This piece has a milled edge.

Baynesfield Estate

The career of Joseph Baynes has already been discussed in the chapter on the Model Dairy in Durban. Besides the tokens used at the dairy, Baynes also made use of tokens on his estate, Baynesfield. According to Reg Pearse in his biography of Joseph Baynes, 'Baynesfield was probably at its best in that year of 1922, the year of Baynes's 80th birthday'.⁸⁹ Pearse goes on to write

*It stood for all that was best in enterprise, in scientific agriculture and in stock breeding. It had the largest and finest dairy herd of pedigree and grade Friesland cattle in the whole of Africa, and one of the most successful pig farms.*⁹⁰

By the early years of the 1900s the estate was attracting many visitors from South Africa and abroad. Among the illustrious guests to make their way to Baynesfield were H. Rider Haggard, Lord Milner, Louis Botha and Agnes and Harriet Colenso. Baroness Karen Blixen, author of *Out of Africa*, visited the estate in December 1916, and wrote to her mother that Baynesfield was

*like a whole little kingdom on its own, with hundreds of fine animals and of natives, who for the most part are second generation and born there, and who appear to love old Baynes. He was a great character, lives for his farm, but very well up in the Bible and Shakespeare. He knew everybody in England and had been a guest in the highest places, and had taken part in the coronation of both King Edward and King George, but he would not leave Nel's Rust for anything in the world.*⁹¹

The kingdom when Karen Blixen visited 'comprised four farms, all in one block, in extent 23 128 acres, with 40 large paddocks'.

In 1920 Nel's Rust Dairies was bought by Natal Creamery, which changed its name later to National Co-operative Dairies and made use of milk tokens in the 1960s and 1970s. The company is now known as Clover.

THE TOKENS:

Baynes made use of wage tokens to pay *togt* labourers who worked on his estate. He employed 167 African labourers to work on Baynesfield. In addition women and girls were regularly employed as daily-paid *togt* labourers, for weeding, harvesting etc. This *togt* labour averaged out at roughly 35 people per day throughout the year.⁹² They were given tokens at the end of the day which were handed in at the end of the month and exchanged for money.

Description:

The tokens are all rather crude and are made out of tin cut into shapes and painted different colours. All are pierced at 12 o'clock. All have in the centre field on two lines "B." "E." and below the denomination. Tokens in the denomination 3d, 6d, 9d and 1/- are on display in the museum on Baynesfield. There are two different shapes of the 3d token. A diamond shape painted blue and a circular token painted yellow. The 6d token is circular in shape and green in colour. There are two shapes of the 9d tokens. A red rectangular shape and a yellow octagonal. The one shilling also comes in two shapes: a brown octagonal and a green triangle.

B.B. Evans

In an article on Natal Tokens by Miss Gillian Berning in Journal Number 3 of the Association of Numismatic Societies, mention is made of an Evans token. Miss Berning describes the token as coming from the Mid-Illovo. No other details are given regarding who issued the token or how it was used. In the Natal Directories from the 1880s to 1930s only one family by the name of Evans is mentioned living in Mid-Illovo. The patriarch of the family, and most likely the man who had the tokens minted, was Benjamin Bateman Evans. Benjamin, the son of John Bateman Evans, was born on 19 January 1852 at Berkeley in Gloucestershire.⁹³ His mother descended from William Tyndale who was responsible for translating the Bible into Early Modern English.* A talented sportsman, Benjamin excelled in the 100 yard sprint, was a member of Alfred Grace's Cricket Club and played in a Colts 22 side against the English team. He was a particularly good horseman, often participating in steeplechases and hunting with the Barkley Badminton and Vale-of-White-Horse Fox Hounds. He farmed sheep on Cotswold Hills and later assisted Sir Ashton Lister of Dursley in his Engineering and Foundry Works. (Robert Ashton Lister founded the firm of R.A. Lister & Co. in 1867 to produce diesel engines and agricultural machinery). Benjamin came to South Africa in the British Army during the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879.⁹⁴ After the war he returned briefly to England before coming back to South Africa aboard the *Africana* and landed in Durban on 18 May, 1880. In the 1883 Natal Directory he is listed as farming on *Stertreimfontein*, Richmond. On 18 January 1883 at St Saviours Cathedral in Pietermaritzburg he married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Sheppard Large of *Stertreimfontein*. *Stertreimfontein* was obviously Benjamin's father-in-law's farm. Elizabeth was the adopted daughter of George Jackson of Greenwood Park. Jackson was reputed to be the first person to plant tea and coffee in Natal. By 1884 Benjamin was on the farm *The Gums* in Mid-Illovo. He is listed as being on *The Gums* until 1903 when he is described as being on Diepe Kloof, Mid-Illovo. *Diepe Kloof* (sometimes spelt *Deep Kloof*) was a neighbouring farm to *The Gums*. Benjamin remained on *Diepe Kloof* until his death. In the 1933 *Who's Who of Natal* it is mentioned that Benjamin spent some time at the Barberton Goldfields and that he was a member of the Natal Carbineers. It is also mentioned that his Zulu name was 'Bohosa'.



B.B. Evans

In the 1880s Benjamin purchased farm FP 61 for £1186 5s 3d at the foot of the Hlogama Mountain in what would become the Underberg district.⁹⁵ The property was named *Woodford*, probably after *Woodford* on the Avon near Bristol. Benjamin was granted a site for the post cart terminus and the rights to establish a trading store, hostelry and stables. As he was living at Mid-Illovo, the hotel and store were built and managed by two Frenchmen, Michel and Benest. By 1902 a wood and ironbuilding had been erected which served as a general store. The village of Underberg developed around the store and hotel.⁹⁶ Benjamin sold the farm in 1915 to J.A.V. Vanderplank for £2819 18s.

* William Tyndale (c. 1494-1536) was a Protestant reformer who translated the Bible into Early Modern English, drawing directly from Hebrew and Greek texts. In 1535 he was arrested on orders from Henry VIII and jailed in the Castle of Vilvoorde outside Brussels for over a year. He was tried for heresy and burnt at the stake. Much of his work was eventually included in the King James version of the Bible published in 1611.

Benjamin, according to his entry in the 1933 *Who's Who of Natal*, was the first man in Natal to grow wattles for export on a large scale.⁹⁷ By the early years of the nineteenth century he was farming 7000 acres, many of which were under wattle. In 1864 John Vanderplank planted the first wattle seeds from Australia on his farm at Camperdown. In the early 1880s wattle plantations had been successfully established in Natal with the aim of producing bark for tannin. At first silver wattles were planted but it was later discovered that the black variety produced more tannin. By the early years of the twentieth century 60 000 acres of wattles had been planted, and by 1910 bark to the value of £213 000 was being exported.

Benjamin made use of indentured Indian labourers to work in the wattle plantations on Diepe Kloof. The first indentured Indian labourers arrived in Natal in November 1860. In 1866 an economic depression brought the indentured immigration system to a halt, but in 1874 it resumed again. Employers in the colony applied for labourers to the Protector who then allocated workers as ships arrived. Males were required to work nine hours daily for six days a week. In the first year they were to receive a wage of ten shillings and employers were expected to provide food. Often labourers were forced to work much longer hours and housing was generally poor.

There were numerous complaints of ill-treatment made against Benjamin by Indian workers. In 1893 a man named Ragaven complained that Benjamin assaulted him.⁹⁸ In the same year the Magistrate of Richmond held branch court at Mid-Illovo to investigate allegations by two female Indian workers that they had been assaulted.⁹⁹ In 1894 three indentured labourers applied to be released from their original contract with Benjamin because of 'continued ill-treatment by their employer, irregular payment of wages and insufficient rations'.¹⁰⁰ In 1898 an Indian employer complained that he had been assaulted.¹⁰¹ In the following year workers complained that they had not been paid.¹⁰² Similar complaints of assault and unpaid wages were made in 1900, 1911 and 1912.

Benjamin became a respected member of the Natal farming community. He was a noted breeder of pigs and fox terriers. He was the second Chairman of the Mid-Illovo Farmers' Association and President of the Mid-Illovo show for many years. He was called on to judge at the agricultural shows held in Natal.

Benjamin died on 17 April 1935. Besides *Diepe Kloof*, he also owned lots 273 and 274 in Market Street, Johannesburg. Benjamin bequeathed to his adopted daughter Ellen Cantlay 'that portion of my farm known as Diepe Kloof lying to the southeast of the main road running from Fairview Hotel and Store to the Mid Illovo railway station'.¹⁰³ His son Guy Bateman Evens was given the option to purchase the top part of the farm 'being the portion down to the boundary fence of the old road running from the old Gums House through Milford to Maritzburg'.¹⁰⁴

**THE TOKEN:**

It is not clear why the token was minted or how it was used in practise. Considering the number of indentured labourers Benjamin employed to work in his wattle plantations, they were probably used to pay workers.

Description:

The tokens are brass in two different sizes. One set is pierced at 12 o'clock.

Obverse: *In one line across the centre field "EVANS".*

Reverse: *Blank.*

Notes and References

- 1 E.H. Brookes and C. de B. Webb, *A History of Natal*.
- 2 Information on Automatic Amusement Company comes from P. Moran, *The Tokens of Natal*.
- 3 Pietermaritzburg Archives (henceforth PA), Death Notice for Samuel Michael Newton (MSCE 1151/1969).
- 4 Sam instructed his executors to continue with the businesses under the management of Walter Maisey.
- 5 Information on J.F. Baumann comes from Moran, *The Tokens of Natal and G.P. Theron, Tokens of Southern Africa and Their History and Supplement to Tokens of Southern Africa and Their History*.
- 6 Early Biscuit Manufacturers: Baumanns Biscuits (<http://teriton.co.za>)
- 7 *Ibid.*
- 8 Theron, *The Tokens of Southern Africa and their History*.
- 9 Moran, *The Tokens of Natal*.
- 10 The information about Blackwood comes from S. Spencer's *British Settlers in Natal, 1824–1857* (vol. 1).
- 11 D. Strutt, *The Story of the Durban Club: From Bafta to Baroque*.
- 12 E-mail from Mr Allyn Jacobs (12.6.2008).
- 13 PA, CSO 1518 1897/2324.
- 14 E-mail from Mr Allyn Jacobs (12.6.2008).
- 15 Details of Guy's life come from Dr Theron's *Tokens of Southern Africa and their History*.
- 16 PA, Death Notice for Albert Henry Guy (MSCE 4097/1919).
- 17 For a discussion of McArthur's time as mayor see *Durban: Fifty Years Municipal History* and George Russell's *History of Old Durban*.
- 18 Information in an e-mail from Mrs Shelagh Spencer (16.11.2008).
- 19 PA, CSO 519 1875/1803.
- 20 PA, MSC 1/99 55.
- 21 PA, CSO 661 1878/3662.
- 22 Alexander and Jane's children were: Charles McArthur (living in Adelaide, Australia in 1950), Eveline Speirs (d. 1911), Norah Richards (d. 1918), Kenneth McArthur (d. 1913, Portuguese East Africa), Catherine McKenzie (d. 1939), Jeannie Mitchell (living on *The Chestnuts* in 1950), Margaret Warren, Mary McArthur (d. 1928), Douglas McArthur, Alice Shooter, Annie Lee and Jessie McArthur (d. 1950). Alexander's daughter Catherine married Sir Duncan McKenzie. McKenzie was a prosperous farmer and well-known soldier. He was educated at Hilton College, where he was a foundation pupil. After leaving school in 1876 he farmed and then took up transport riding. He later built up a successful farm in the Natal Midlands. During the Second Anglo-Boer War he commanded a unit of the Imperial Light Horse and was in command of all field forces in Zululand during the Bambatha Rebellion. (The actions of his troops have more recently come under severe criticism). During the First World War he was a commander of the First Division in German South West Africa.
- 23 D. Stayt, *Where on earth? A Guide to the Place Names of Natal and Zululand*.
- 24 Information on Baynes comes from R.O. Pearse's biography *Joseph Baynes: Pioneer*, and his entry in the *Dictionary of South African Biography*, vol. 2.
- 25 William Baynes later bought a farm near Pietermaritzburg which he called *Settle* after his birthplace. William was a member of the Natal Legislature. (D. Stayt, *Where on earth?*)
- 26 PA, Death Notice for Charles John Mowat (MSCE 348/1948).
- 27 Details of the lease agreement come from Mowat's estate file in the Pietermaritzburg Archives (MSCE 348/1948).
- 28 Moran, *Tokens of Natal*.
- 29 Information on George Payne and Payne Brothers comes from D. Cook, *The Paynes of Overdale* and George Payne's entry in the *Dictionary of South African Biography* (vol. 3).
- 30 P. Moran, *Tokens of Natal*.
- 31 Die Burger (15 June 1988 & 11 May 2002).
- 32 Information on Creighton comes from his Death Notice in the Pietermaritzburg Archives.

- 33 Mrs Marie-Anne Mingay of Donnybrook provided the information about the cups in a letter dated 29 June 2006. Mrs Mingay points out that there might well be a connection between H.J. Creighton and Lady McCallun (nee Creighton) who was the wife of the Governor and after whom the village of Creighton is named. A Mr T. Creighton traded briefly in the Matatiele district. He was a member of the Cape Mounted Rifles and was stationed at Kokstad. After taking his discharge he traded at Matatiele for the years 1903 and 1904 and then left the area. It is not known if he was any relation to H.J. Creighton.
- 34 M. Snell, *Strachan & Co. (PTY) Limited: Merchants and Importers*. The following references to *East Stranges* appear in the Pietermaritzburg Archives: 1899 – W.J. Dooley takes over farm *East Stranges*; 1901 – Occupation of the farm *East Stranges* by H.J. Creighton; 1901 – Occupation of *East Stranges* by H.K. White; 1919 – H.E. Garbutt applies for a portion of *East Stranges* and 1937 – E.J.D. Watling – resident on *East Stranges*.
- 35 In October 1882 James Ross, originally of Perthshire in Scotland, bought a trading store at Highflats from the Gold Brothers and renamed it Archibald & Co. Ross later sold the business to William Thompson and William Arnott. Arnott also came from Perthshire and had worked for Ross. Arnott had an illustrious career in the Border Mounted Rifles and the Natal Mounted Rifles and retired in 1921 with the rank of Brigadier General. He represented the Natal Coast in the Legislative Assembly. Archibald & Co. owned stores at Umzinto, Ixopo and Highflats. They also had two hotels down at the coast.
- 36 Edmund Jonas Down Watling was born in England. By 1907 he was described as a 'farmer, poundkeeper and storekeeper' on the farm *Kingston* in the Highflats area of Ixopo. By 1932 he was farming on a portion of *Glengariff* (a sub division of *East Stranges*). E.S. McCormack owned *Glengariff* and thus Watling must have been leasing a portion of the farm. It was while at *Glengariff* that Watling became aware of the *East Stranges* store, which he first leased and later bought from Strachan & Co. He was at the store in 1950 but must have sold it soon afterwards for when he made out his will in 1956 he was living at Tsawanda, Bizana, Pondoland. He died on 7 August 1957 at the age of 83 in Ladysmith. (Information on Watling from his Death Notice in the Pietermaritzburg Archives (MSCE 1844/57) and his entries in the Natal Directory 1907 to 1950).
- 37 Information provided by Mr Jacobs in an e-mail dated 31 July 2006.
- 38 Information on Dennis comes from his Death Notice in the Pietermaritzburg Archives (MSCE 2176/45) and his entries in the Natal Directory from 1906 to 1918.
- 39 M. Snell, *Strachan & Co. (PTY) Limited: Merchants and Traders*.
- 40 For a detailed discussion of the tokens see S. Balson, *The Griqua of South Africa and their Money*.
- 41 Information on Henry's early life comes from his estate file in the Pietermaritzburg Archives (MSCE 2010/1959).
- 42 PA, SGO III/1/252 SG4178/1908.
- 43 *Ibid.*
- 44 PA, CSO 1868 1909/1516.
- 45 PA, RSC 1/1/110 7/1911.
- 46 Percy William Oldfield (10.2.1901-3.1.1980); Reginald Stanley Oldfield (18.7.1904-5.11.1992) and Leonard Frank Oldfield (9.8.1909-2.6.2001). The brothers are all buried at St. James Parish Cemetery, Highflats.
- 47 In the 2010 booklet *The Tokens of the Colony and Province of Natal* I wrote that Royston was the first owner of the store. Shortly after it was printed, Mr Brian Frankson phoned and informed me that his grandfather Dering Lee Warner Stainbank traded at St Faith's before Royston.
- 48 The ship probably took its name from Sir Walter Scott's poem, *The Lady of the Lake*. The following entry appears in *The Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping* for 1853/4: *Lady of the Lake*: Master: Captain R. Scott; Rigging: Barque, sheathed in felt and yellow metal in 1853, partly fastened with iron bolts; Tonnage: 337 tons using old measurements and 329 tons using new measurements; Construction: 1820 in Chittagong, vessel lengthened in 1848; Owners: Stainbank; Port of Registry: London; Port of Survey: London.
- 49 For details of Henry Ellerton's life see the *Dictionary of South African Biography*, vol. 3, p. 751-752.
- 50 H.C. Lugg, *A Natal Family Looks Back*, p. 100.
- 51 R. Gordon (ed.), *Petticoat Pioneers: Women of Distinction* (Pietermaritzburg, Shuter & Shooter, 1988), p. 40.
- 52 PA, MSCE 30/66, Death Notice for Dering Lee Warner Stainbank.
- 53 Gordon, *Petticoat Pioneers*, p. 42.
- 54 The Stainbank children were: William (1891-1916), Arthur (1893-1917), Kenneth (b. 1895), Christopher (b. 1897), Mary (b. 1899), Edith (b. 1902) and Edward (b. 1907).
- 55 For an overview of Mary's career see M. Hillebrand, 'Mary Stainbank: Sculptress of Natal', *Natalia* 17 (1987).

- 56 PA, SNA I/1/292 1649/1901.
- 57 Information on Royston from Eric Goetzsche, *'Rough But Ready': An Official History of the Natal Mounted Rifles*; Napier Devitt's *Galloping Jack: Being the Reminiscences of Brigadier-General John Robinson Royston C.M.G., D.S.O., V.O. Order of Stanislaus, of Natal, South Africa*; *Dictionary of South African Biography* (vol. 3) and *South African Who's Who* (1906).
- 58 Mr Frankson insisted Royston first worked for Stainbank Brothers. This is supported by an entry in the *Natal Directory* for 1886 which lists Royston as a shopkeeper at St. Faith's.
- 59 PA, SGO III/1/92 SG4620/1893.
- 60 Major-General Sir John Dartnell, a Canadian by birth but of Irish parentage, was the founder of the Natal Mounted Police. He was known as 'Hell Fire Jack'. The meetings between Galloping Jack and Hell Fire Jack must have been something to behold!
- 61 Ornithologists will be interested to know that the famed Dr Austin Roberts served in Royston's Horse during the Bambatha Rebellion. (*Dictionary of South African Biography*, vol. 2).
- 62 In 1905 the Bishop of Zululand complained that Royston's men shot five African prisoners on 5 July near their camp at Rorke's Drift. (Royston was in the camp at the time and did not witness the killings). The members of Royston's Horse claimed they were trying to escape. Justice William Beaumont conducted an enquiry in 1906. Although he had some doubts about the testimony of Royston's men, he concluded 'that the allegations made by the Bishop of Zululand have not been proved'.
- 63 A.F. Hattersley, *Carbineer: The History of the Royal Natal Carbineers*, p. 55.
- 64 Quoted in M. Coghlan, 'Out of the Retirement and into the Fire', in *A Man of His Time: Brigadier General Sir Duncan McKenzie*, pp. 124-125.
- 65 Ian Jones, 'Royston, John Robinson (1860-1942)', in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. 11, pp. 472-473.
- 66 Ibid.
- 67 Information on Hill comes from his Death Notice in the Pietermaritzburg Archives (MSCE 1464/1949).
- 68 Information on the use of tokens on the mines comes from Ruth Edgecombe, *The Constancy of Change: A History of Hlobane Colliery, 1898-1998*.
- 69 Quoted in Edgecombe, *The Constancy of Change*.
- 70 An interesting piece of history came to light in the 1940's, when the owner at that time decided to rebuild the hotel. When he got down to the foundation stone, he found that the centre of it had been chiselled out and in the cavity was a miniature treasure chest covered with glass – a handful of maize, three acorns, the skeleton of a frog, two Natal penny stamps, a peach pip, a Crown sixpence, a pocket knife, a five shilling piece and a selection of African beads and bangles. There were also two strips of parchment, one of which contained the names of the builder and signatures of those present at the laying of the foundation stone. On the other were written the names of the people living in Harding and the land they occupied. There was also mention that Victoria was Queen of Great Britain, the Governor of Natal was Sir Henry Bulwer and the local Magistrate was Major J. Miles.
- 71 P.A., Death Notice for Margaret Jessie Downes (MSCE 22/244).
- 72 P.A., Death Notice for Horace Charles Downes (MSCE 9/10).
- 73 P.A., Death Notice for Margaret Jessie Downes (MSCE 22/244).
- 74 Percy died in 1970.
- 75 C.M. Etheridge came to Harding as a young boy of 16 in 1879 to join his sister who had married Wesley Darby, the man responsible for issuing the famous Mount Currie Express Stamp. Etheridge qualified as a lawyer and practised in Harding until his death in 1951. Edward Larkan was the brother-in-law to Frances Larkan who made use of trade tokens at her stores in the Umzimkulu area of the Transkei.
- 76 The marriage contract is with Alys's Death Notice in the Pietermaritzburg Archives (MSCE 3905/1970)
- 77 Kathleen did not marry. She died on 8 January 1966, at the age of 77. Bertie signed her death notice.
- 78 Details of the partnership come from George Cecil Coley's Death Notice, P.A. (MSCE 1329/1971).
- 79 At the time of the dissolution of the partnership the property in the company was 'Subdivision B of Lot A of the farm *Roodekoppie* no. 119, situate in the district of Utrecht, Province of Natal, in extent seven comma two naught three five (7.203 5) hectares'. This property had been transferred to the company in 1946.
- 80 PA, Death Notice for Rosa Duchon, (MSCE 46/4).
- 81 PA, SNA I/1/ 427 1909/929.
- 82 PA, SNA I/1/435 1909/1868.

- 83 PA, CNC 97 cnc2236/1912.
- 84 PA, Death Notice for Max Duchen, MSCE 29833/1939.
- 85 PA, Death Notice for Jacob Kleiman, MSCE 1939/1953.
- 86 PA, Death Notice for Max Duchen, MSCE 29833/1939.
- 87 Information on the Arnold family comes from C. Coulson, *Beaulieu-on-Illovo: Richmond, Natal: Its People and History* and S. Spencer, *British Settlers in Natal, 1824–1857* (volume one).
- 88 E. Maynard, *Tokens of Southern Africa*.
- 89 R.O. Pearse, *Joseph Baynes: Pioneer*.
- 90 *Ibid.*
- 91 *Ibid.*
- 92 *Ibid.*
- 93 Details of Benjamin's early life come from his entry in the 1933 *Who's Who in Natal*.
- 94 *The First Hundred Years of the Underberg-Himeville District, 1887–1987*.
- 95 *Ibid.*
- 96 *Ibid.*
- 97 *Who's Who in Natal, 1933*.
- 98 PA, II 1/71 I1553/1893.
- 99 PA, II 1/69 I708/1893.
- 100 PA, II 1/76 I1528/1894.
- 101 PA, CSO 1553 1898/1665.
- 102 PA, II I/92 1223/1899.
- 103 PA, Death Notice for Benjamin Bateman Evans (MSCE 22234/1935).
- 104 *Ibid.*