

34 PRIVATE STEPHANUS ANNANDALE

Stephanus Annandale was the son of George Annandale who arrived in the Eastern Cape from London in May 1820. George Annandale, a smith by trade, had been recruited to a party of emigrants under the leadership of one Christopher Thornhill, a merchant from a landowning family of Sutherland, Durham..

The Thornhill Party, which formed part of the government-assisted emigration scheme to the eastern border of the Cape of Good Hope, appears as No. 57 on the Colonial Department list (ref.1) . The group was originally planned as being a part of a bigger consortium (Dyason, Thornhill & Wait). Labourers were recruited in Buckinghamshire in October 1819 and signed on at a meeting attended by parish officers at the Greyhound Inn, Marlow. In December the prospective settlers were assembled at Marlow and journeyed on foot with the baggage wagons to Deptford from where they were to embark.

Thornhill's party at first comprised 16 men, including two of his nephews, Adam Gilfillan and Phillip Camm. His labourers signed a service agreement binding them to six years of service at a daily wage equivalent to the value of half a bushel of wheat. Working hours were to be from eight in the morning to four in the afternoon, and each man would be entitled to habitation and half an acre of garden ground. Three of Thornhill's party deserted before the *Zoroaster* sailed, but a late replacement, William Stokes, was allowed to board the ship while she lay over in the Gravesend Downs awaiting a favorable wind.

The *Zoroaster*¹ left the Gravesend on 12 February 1820 and reached Simon's Bay at the Cape of Good Hope on 30 April 1820. Here, the charter terminated, the settlers were trans-shipped to the H.M. Transport *Albury* (members of the Dyason party trans-shipped to the *Brilliant*) for the voyage to Algoa Bay. This they reached on 15 May 1820 / 26th of June 1820 (ref.4).

Thornhill was granted a plot of land at Algoa Bay for the erection of a prefabricated wooden house which he had brought with him, as its size made it difficult to transport to his location in Albany. Thornhill's party, described by one of the colonial officials as the "best regulated of any yet landed here", was located between the Kowie and Rufane Rivers, and to this day is named Thornhill Village.

Syfergat (Cyfergat) lies 8 km. southeast of Molteno, 18 km. northwest of Sterkstroom in the Eastern Cape. The origin of the name is unknown. From the 1850's onwards, communities formed syndicates - and from 1861 onwards limited liability companies - to mine the local mineral wealth. In 1882, the citizens of Burgersdorp created the Cyphergat Coal Mining Company Limited, the purpose being to develop and exploit the coal deposits in the Stormberg Mountains, that is in the neighborhood of Molteno, Cyphergat to the southeast and at Indwe to the east. Whether to import coal from Wales or rely on coal deposits mainly in the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek was the subject of a Cape Colony government enquiry in 1893. Whatever decisions flowed from this, it is evident from today's perspective, that Cape coal mining had a limited life.

Military actions during the Anglo-Boer War in the vicinity of Syfergat / Cyphergat

Late in 1899, the first British reinforcements were arriving in South Africa. The general military intention at that time became that General Sir Redvers Buller would relieve Ladysmith; Lord Methuen would proceed over the Orange River along the western railway line to relieve Kimberley; and Major-General

¹ The Persian teacher and founder of the Persian religion, Zoroaster, lived between 630-553 BC. One of the profound sayings attributed to him was that the whole world was a battleground between good and evil. In 641, Islam finally replaced the religion of Zoroaster when invading Arabs destroyed Alexandria.

The *Zoroaster*, aboard which George Annandale traveled to the Cape of Good Hope was owned by Josiah Holmes (1779-1859), a shipbuilder from Mattapoisett, Massachusetts. Between the years 1816 and 1823 Holmes was in partnership with Benjamin Barstow, and together "Barstow and Holmes" built several ships and sloops. There are fragmentary records of the Holmes' Shipyard relating to the *Zoroaster* in the G. W. Blunt White Library, USA.

JDP French and Lieutenant-General Sir William Gatacre would repulse the Boer invasion of the Cape Colony in the vicinity of Colesberg.

British troops unnecessarily evacuated Burgersdorp and Stormberg Junction for Queenstown on 3rd November 1899; but the next day invaded the Cape Colony near Norval's Pont. In the Northern Cape, a Boer Force of 700 burghers under Chief Commandant ER Grobler (OFS) and General HJ Schoeman occupied Colesberg on 14th November 1899 while Commandant FJ du Plooy entered Burgersdorp on 15th November 1899. The Boers, however, failed to occupy the railway junctions at De Aar and Naauwpoort.

General Sir William Gatacre landed in East London on 16th November 1899. Republican forces meanwhile were overrunning eastern Cape Towns, Lady Grey (19th November 1899), Barclay East (23rd November 1899) and, whilst Gatacre moved from Queenstown to Putter's Kraal, Stormberg Junction was finally occupied by Boer forces (26th November 1899), followed by Dordrecht and Rhodes (2nd December 1899).

On the southern front many Cape colonists expressed solidarity with the Boers by joining their army in substantial numbers. To quell this rebelliousness and to restore British morale, Gatacre decided to attack the Boers at Stormberg with a force of approximately 270 men with 12 field-guns. On 10th December 1899 Gatacre came up against the Boers under General JH Olivier at Stormberg (BATTLE OF STORMBERG). Here 25 British soldiers were killed and 102 wounded whilst the Boers lost a mere 5 killed and 16 wounded. Worse still though was Gatacre inadvertently leaving 672 of his troops behind against the slopes of Kissieberg to be taken prisoner.

Hereafter, a number of battles were to take place on the Central front:, around Colesberg, Arundel Siding, Rensburg Siding and Dordrecht, On 3rd January 1900 at Syfergat a 1000-man patrol of Chief Commandant JH Olivier (ZAR) and an armoured train with no casualties on either side but resulting in the Boer forces retaking Dordrecht.

On 6th January 1900 General JDP French unsuccessfully attempted to retake Colesberg (BATTLE OF GRASKOP), whereafter there followed the assault on Keeromskop (12th February 1900), Molteno is reoccupied (23rd February 1900) followed by a skirmish in and around Schoemanskop (home of Commandant Danie Schoeman), Molteno and Arundel (Kuilfontein) with the loss of 88 British killed, wounded or missing against 3 killed and 7 wounded. However, the strength of the Boer forces was waning steadily, and over the next couple of weeks, there followed a steady withdrawal of republican forces from the Cape Colony.

STEPHANUS ANNANDALE GENEALOGY

1. John Annandale m. Mary

1.1 George Annandale b. 20 June 1801 ~ 18 August 1801 St. Paul's Church (Indigo Jones, 1631, "The Actors' Church"), Covent Garden, Westminster d. 24 December 1879 [MOOC 7/1/334.54&55, 13/1/384.48](#)
m. Somerset East, Cape 3 September 1826 Susanna Jacoba [Catharina Susanna] DE BEER [MOOC 7/1/334.54&55, 13/1/311.73](#)

The Liquidation and Distribution Acct. of Susanna Jacoba DE BEER filed 12 February 1875 estimated the joint estate to be valued at £463/10/0. That of George Annandale later was valued at £630/0/0.

- 1.1.1 John George
- 1.1.2 Henry [Henric] Peter [Pieter] m. Getruida M GREYLING
- 1.1.3 Johannes Matthys [Mattys] m. Maria Petroella VENTER
- 1.1.4 Charles James [Carel Jacobus]
- 1.1.5 Mary Ann m. Cornelius Stephanes DU PLESIES

- 1.1.6 Stephen [Stephannes / Stephanus] Annandale b. 2 November 1836 Bivaans Rivier, Cape ~ 9 November 1836 Glen Lynden d. 30 May 1908 Dordrecht, Cape [MOOC 6/9/597.1580](#) m. (first) 24 January 1859 Queenstown S Gesina Johanna D VAN DEVENTER [intra-or post-partum?]
- 1.1.6.1 Gesina Johanna Dorothea d<1908
- 1.1.6 Stephen (Stephanus) Annandale b. 2 November 1836 Bivaans Rivier, Cape ~ 22 January 1837 Glen Lynden d. 30 May 1908 Dordrecht, Cape [MOOC 6/9/597.1580](#) m. (second) 7 May 1860 Anna Aletta Sophÿa COETZEN b. 20 December 1844 Cradock, Cape d. 11 May 1894 [20 April 1893] Cyphergat, Cape (do. Willem Helm Johannes COETZEN and Maria Francina Magdalena WENTZEL)
- 1.1.6.2 Maria Francina Magdlena Annandale b. 17 December 1862 Cradock, Cape d. Apr 1941
- 1.1.6.3 George Pieter Annandale b. 12 July 1864 Cradock, Cape
- 1.1.6.4 Susanna Jacoba Annandale b. 23 May 1866 Queenstown, Cape
- 1.1.6.5 Johanna Hendrina Sophÿa Annandale b. 18 October 1867 Queenstown, Cape d. 20 May 1949 Shangani, Southern Rhodesia
- 1.1.6.6 Wilhelmina Fransina Annandale b. 3 September 1869 Queenstown, Cape d. 17 October 1953
- 1.1.6.7 Anna Aletta Sophÿa Annandale b. 3 April 1871 Cradock, Cape d. 24 October 1968
- 1.1.6.8 Wilhelmus Johannes Annandale b. 30 April 1873 Cradock, Cape d. 15 January 1947
- 1.1.6.9 Jacoba Peternella [Pieternela] Annandale b. 25 July 1874 Cradock, Cape d. 1956
- 1.1.6.10 Elizabeth Catrina Annandale b. 22 April 1877 Cradock, Cape / Broughton, Burgersdorp d. 5 December 1969 Durban Natal.
- 1.1.6.11 Stephanus Albertus Annandale b. 20 August 1879 Cradock, Cape d. 27 September 1955
- 1.1.6.12 Sarah Jacoba Annandale b. 12 May 1883 Cradock, Cape
- 1.1.6.13 Chloridina Wenselina Annandale b. 29 March 1885 Cradock, Cape
- 1.1.6.14 Cornelia Aletha Sophÿa Annandale b. 16 October 1881 Cradock, Cape [minor in 1908]
- 1.1.6 Stephen [Stephannes / Stephanus] Annandale b. 2 November 1836 Bivaans Rivier, Cape ~ 9 November 1836 Glen Lynden d. 30 May 1908 Dordrecht, Cape [MOOC 6/9/597.1580](#) m. (third) Elizabeth C MULLER



For his service in the Cyphergat Town Guard during the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, 34 Private S Annandale was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal: no bar.

The medal is inscribed 34 PTE S. ANNANDALE. CYPHERGAT T.G.

- 1.1.7 Christiaan Frederik [Christian Fredrick]
 1.1.8 David
 1.1.9. Susanna Jacoba

1.1.10 Elizabeth Lydia d<1875

1.1.11 Johanna Hendrina Sophia m. Samuel DICKS

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5. Cyphergat. Dickason,G. gdic@global.co.za quoted in RootsWeb SOUTH-AFRICA-L Archives
6. Gilfillan. Hilton-Taylor, C. craig.hilton-taylor@ssc-uk.org quoted in RootsWeb SOUTH-AFRICA-L Archives
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9. Blue Guide: London. French, Y. A&C Black, London, 1988
10. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints : <http://www.familysearch.org> [inaccurate information corrected]
11. Cloete, Pieter G. The Anglo-Boer War: A Chronology. J P v d Walt & Son, 2000

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