

## PETER STUART

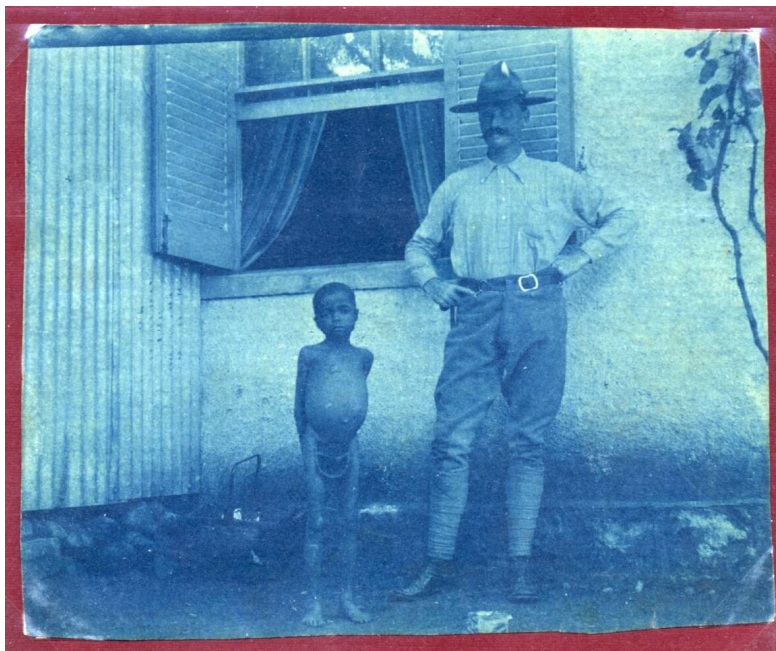
The CORRESPONDENCE SERIES is an investigation into the background of recipients of British pre-stamped postal stationery. The "collection" was purchased in South Africa in 1999 as a job lot, the which took me six months to sort and mount, creating a collection spanning 140 years. I have no idea of the provenance.

The Reference work is British Postal Stationery, A K Huggins.1970. The first date with catalogue number refers to the year when the pre-stamped envelope was first issued; the second, the year when the envelope was actually used.

### **Philatelic Description of the item of Postal Stationery:**

1902 (RP24Gba)\_Mr Peter Stuart, Cape Police, Woodstock Station, Cape Colony, South Africa 1902 (actually used from Edinburgh NO 22 04)

## PETER STUART



Peter Stuart with child suffering from Kwashiorkor.  
The photograph is produced Croxley paper bearing the Oceana Fine watermark

Peter Stuart was born in Kirkmichael, Bonffshire, Scotland in 1868. His father was Alexander Stuart, a labourer (dead by 1892), his mother, Jane Mc Pherson. He had two brothers : John Stuart, who at one time worked on the Imperial Military Railways, Johannesburg, and William Stuart, who lived in Glasgow. The family belonged to the Presbyterian church.

Peter Stuart, a labourer, joined the Linlithgow County Constabulary on 28 December 1888; being sworn in the next day by Lt. Col. A Borthwick, the then Chief Constable. Later he joined the Bechuanaland Protectorate Police; and transferred into post no. 107 of the Cape Police Corp No.2 Regiment, Kimberley in 1 February 1892 for “a minimum of 3 years”.

On intake, his visual appearance was given as follows : “height : 5 foot 10½ inches, blue eyes, red hair and pale, freckled complexion. No identifying marks”. Very few other details regarding his service record have been discovered, and these are summarised (**Table I**).

**Table I : Details of Service History**

Rank from	Rank to	Date	Pay	Reference
appointed	III cl. Constab.	1/2/1892 <sup>1</sup>	5/- pd	CMP Vol. 92:28
III cl. Constab	II cl. Constab	1/7/94	9/- pd	
II cl. Constab	I cl. Constab	1/7/97	10/- pd	
I cl. Constab	III cl. Sgt	1/2/98	12/- pd	CMP Vol.97: 49
III cl. Sgt	I cl. Sgt	1/8/00 <sup>2</sup>	12/- pd	CMP Vol.98: 62
I cl. Sgt	Sub.Insp	30/1/02 <sup>3</sup>	£275 pm	CMP Vol.111:14
Sub.Insp	Insp	18/9/03	£350 pm	
Insp		1/7/04 <sup>4</sup>	£375 pm	

Peter Stuart attended the famous Field General Court Martial of 9<sup>th</sup> November 1899 onward held in Mafeking indicting Lieutenant G M Murchison of the Protectorate Regiment who shot dead the Special

<sup>1</sup> On 27 January 1893, he was charged with being insolent to his superior officer, Sgt. Hennessy and consequently fined £2 .

<sup>2</sup> In the *Mafeking Mail Special Siege Slip* No.107 dated 2 April 1900, Major Lord Edward Cecil for Baden-Powell appointed by proclamation Peter Stuart “Chief Constable, Mafeking; all the Civil Police being under his control”.....and “entitled to draw Extra Duty Pay from Imperial Funds at a rate of 7/6 per diem from the 13<sup>th</sup> October inclusive”. The Cape Military Police (CMP record vol. 98:62) shows that Stuart was “complimented by the Commandant of Mafeking for the valuable service rendered by him as Military Chief Constable during and subsequent to the siege”.

<sup>3</sup> He transferred to CP 3 : Woodstock Police Station on 31 October 1901.

<sup>4</sup> AG 1500 No.9422 (circa. 4 July 1904) is a collection of documents which relates to this pay increase. In them, it is noted that he had been an inspector for one year, having been thus promoted on 17 September 1903. Since that time, his salary had remained the same (@£350 plus forage for two horses) despite his talent and worthy service, allowance having been made in the divisional budget for an increase, and his being promised and recommended for an increase by the Acting Commissioner Crawford. The sum of £400 is recommended based on the salaries of others : S Lorimer £550, G Easton £450, T J Wayne £350 plus quarters. Peter Stuart at this time was single, without service quarters or house. After some correspondence written in a rather underhand tone by various (faceless) officials, an amount of £375 per annum was begrudgingly awarded Stuart.

Correspondent for the London “*Daily Chronicle*” and the “*South African News*”, Ernest G Parslow, in the lobby of Dixon’s Hotel on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1899 <sup>5</sup>. Murchison was sentenced to death but this was commuted to life imprisonment by Lord Roberts after the siege was lifted.

Stuart appears to have been hospitalised in 1902 under a Sister Victor, in what he called Bolling (sic) Ward, New Somerset Hospital, Moullie Point ~ someone whom he called “a bright cheerful and painstaking nurse”. I have a cartoon of a doctor, nurses and their headdress. The condition must have been quite severe as he was granted paid sick leave for 72 days between 28 June 1902 and 7 September 1902 <sup>6</sup>.

In 1904, Sister Victor, accompanied a patient, Bobby Markham to England. *S.S.Durham Castle* leaving Cape Town 3 May 1904 arriving Southampton 26 May 1904. Amongst other paraphernalia, I have a luncheon menu : “S.S.Durham Castle 14 May 1904”. She visited Las Palmas and Tenerife *en route*. From June to September 1904, Sister Victor stayed with the “invalid” at the home of his brother, H(enry) W(illiam) Markham (“Harry”), “Hillside”, 56 Crystal Palace Park Rd, Sydenham. She returned to Cape Town October 1904. Whilst in London, she was thrilled to attend what a cutting from the *Daily Mail* of 26 September 1904 called the “Greatest Garden Party on Record : 176,000 guests” .

In 2 February 1905, Insp. Peter Stuart of “B” Division took 42 days leave between 6 February 1905 and 19 March 1905 ~ “the first ever” <sup>7</sup> ~ drawing pay for forage and farriery for two horses, and thereafter travelling “to East London and elsewhere”. He had married in community of property Sr. Ella Sophia Victor, the nursing sister, at New Somerset Hospital, Moullie Point, Cape Town on 6 February 1905 (telgrammes are dated thus and addressed thereto) <sup>8</sup>. Present were many of the medical luminaries of the day.

On 5 April 1905, Mrs P Stuart of 33 Walmer Road, Woodstock took delivery from *H W Markham - Gentlemen’s Juvenile Outfitter* of various items of furniture, crockery and the likes, to the value of £155.6.8 and linen (“paid for in England”) to the value of £16.10.6. In an accompanying note, Bobby Markham refers to being on crutches still with not much sign of improvement. The married couple attended the Police Annual Ball in the Good Hope Hall, 10 August 1905. The invitation card states: “Dancing commences at 9 P.M. Supper at 10.45”.

The 1909 edition of Juta’s Cape Town Dictionary lists Capt. P Stuart as living in Court Road, Wynberg. Amongst Stuart’s possessions was a *Cape Times* dated 14 January 1914 with an headline “The Railway Crisis in Cape Town” accompanied by photographs of police guarding the entrance to the Salt River Works. I suspect that he took part in this activity.

The couple went on to produced two children : Victor Stuart and Violet Stuart. Peter Stuart died at 30 Clee Road, Observatory on 2 May 1938, leaving his wife and two children, Victor and Violet. His estate was valued at £.827/16/10. The possessions of his that I own first came onto the market following the death of Violet Stuart in January 1953.

Ella Sophia Stuart neé Victor was of Pearston, Eastern Cape and born February 1870, to died 30 Clee Road, Observatory on 18 January 1948 [MOOC 1479/48](#), leaving an estate of £.1144/3/10. Her son, Victor Stuart born March 1906 died 11 July 1944 [MOOC 6/9/11095 No.93618](#) of an anaphylactic reaction to tetanus toxoid. Divorced with three children, he was No.13584 (V) WS/Sgt of the 8<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery,

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<sup>5</sup> *Mafeking Mail Special Siege Slip* : MSS No.2 ; No.13,15.

<sup>6</sup> Sadly, all the Admissions Registers of New Somerset Hospital, Greenpoint, were summarily destroyed by a clerk two years ago (2000).

<sup>7</sup> Cape Archives : AG 1566 No.1100

<sup>8</sup> In 1905, Sr. Ella Sophia Victor was one of 11 ward sisters and 39 nurses employed by New Somerset Hospital and working under the famous Matron J C Child (1903-1907).

Saldahna Bay at the time. In civilian life he was a traffic constable. His children, Majorie Jean Stuart (born 24 December 1930), Peter Robert Stuart (born 4 July 1932) and Victor John Stuart (born 20 September 1933) were to become wards of their aunt Violet Stuart<sup>9 10</sup>. He left an estate of £397/6/6 of which the major portion was a judiciously purchased life insurance policy. His sister, Violet Stuart, born in September 1907 died December 1952, leaving an estate of £.1813/10/5 [MSC No.15, January 1953]. Her possessions were purchased in part at that time by Joseph Hurwitz, and in turn by me in 1998.

#### References:

- Inventory of the Archive of the Commissioner, Cape Mounted Police, 1882-1913. Compilers : C C Albertus (1982), D B McLennan (1984). Vols. 92, 97, 98, 110, 131, 133
- National Archives, Cape Town. Documents : AG1500 No.9422 ; AG1560 No.489 ; AG1566 No.1100.
- Peter Stuart : his personal papers, in the possession of the author.
- “The Status of the Mafeking Siege Stamps : Facts about a Fascinating and Classic Issue” : Freund K. S A Philatelist December 1947 and sequential issues
- “The Mafeking Blues” : Goldblatt R. S A Philatelist March 1978
- “The Mafeking Special Siege Slips” : R M Pelteret. SA Philatelist 1999:75(5); 132-36.
- The Mafeking Mail Special Siege Slip [MSS] 1 November 1899-31 May 1900.
- The Somerset Hospital Celebrates its Hundredth Birthday. Col. C. Graham Botha. 1959. National Commercial Printers.
- National Archives, Cape Town. Documents : MOOC 6/9/13318 no.5231/46, MOOC 1479/48, MOOC 6/9/11095 No.93618
- Master of Supreme Court, [MSC] Cape Town Documents : MSC No.15, January 1953

<sup>9</sup> Victor Stuart was divorced from Irene Elise Wheelwright on 8 April 1943, he the plaintiff and she the defendant. He was given custody of Marjorie Jean and she of the two boys. However, it appears that all three children lived with their father and aunt Violet at 30 Cleve Road, and that he provided for their maintenance.

<sup>10</sup> The Wheelwright Family Tree

1. John Bollard Wheelwright born Bradford, Yorkshire c. February 1856 died “Hurstville”, Wessels Rd, Kenilworth 10 October 1946 [MOOC 6/9/13318 no.5231/46] married Charlotte (died 22 December 1945), 11 June 1883 in [St. Mary’s ?] Woodstock, Cape
  - 1.1 Francis Ivy du Preez neé Wheelwright
  - 1.2 Edith Winifred Phillips, later Whale neé Wheelwright
  - 1.3 Viola Millicent Apperley neé Wheelwright
  - 1.4 Ruby Gwendoline Apperley neé Wheelwright
  - 1.5 Sydney Charles Wheelwright, 6 Constantia Rd, Gardens
  - 1.6 Gertrude Iris Hartley neé Wheelwright
  - 1.7 Florence Maud Maasch neé Wheelwright
  - 1.8 Irene Elise Stuart neé Wheelwright