

BRIC-A-BRAC: Letter relating to the South African Pathfinder Movement

For the record, presented is a copy of a handwritten letter in the author's possession from BARON H VON RAPACKI-WARNIA of Bloemfontein to the Rev. Mr. Stansfeld with regard to the Pathfinder Movement in Lady Brand, Orange Free State, 1934 ¹.

Bloemfontein
75 Murray Avenue

16.10.34

Dear Mr Stansfeld

Your letter of the 11th inst. I have received. Unluckily no previous one reached me, which may be due to some disorder that was caused by a secretary that has now left us.

I have talked with Mr Kuscke, who told me that you are very interested. I am very glad and also grateful, as the movement needs every possible support.

I would like to saddle you with a rather delicate job. It seems to me that between the new principal of your Bantu school and his Pathfinder Matsipa is not all as it should be. Would you get me some information there! I have written to Monyobo (the principal) and proposed that he should take the Teachers in hand personally and leave the Pathfinders to Matsipa. I flattered him a bit. I also told him that I would give him the Group Pathfinder mastership in case he will follow my proposition. I cannot very well take the P.M. away from Matsipa that would be bad politics.

¹ Free State Archives Repository. SAB. ARH. Vol.No.41 Ref. Accessions. Private Individuals. J. Stansfeld. 1933

I would be very pleased if you could undertake a most important piece of work in Lady Brand, i.e. the formation of a Group Committee that consists of yourself as Chairman; ask Mr Kelsey Hall on to it, the local Scoutmaster, one or two really sympathetic and influential men, about 3 really useful, generally liked Bantu members of good standing. They must definitely be sympathetic and must understand that such position does not mean right of influence with the actual running of the group. Please get a P.O.R. from Mrs Langman Box 384 Bfx. All officers are automatically members of the Committee. Please inform Monyobo if you accept my proposition, officially that these are my definite wishes, also Matsipa.

I would feel very much better if I would know that such committee exists in Lady Brand, and I would be grateful if you would accept the Chairmanship of such.

I am Sir
Yours sincerely

BARON H VON RAPACKI-WARNIA
DIVISIONAL PATHFINDER

(NATIVE BOY SCOUTS)

SOUTH AFRICAN PATHFINDER MOVEMENT

"From the time Scouting was contemplated by the Missionaries in 1911, it became clear that racial prejudice would be the dominating factor in the implementation of the Boy Scout Movement in South Africa ²". Pathfinding, as part of the Boy Scout Movement, was established at *Grace Dieu* College by S P Woodfield in 1922 ³. It was the English Missionary teachers' adaptation of the (White) Boy Scout Movement for Black people. " the missionary ideal of the English Missionary educational institutions in South Africa, namely, (was) not merely just imparting knowledge, but more importantly, training the whole personality; body, mind and spirit but racial prejudice in the country happened to be in the way of achieving this ideal". The name, Pathfinder, was first used in 1915 at the Lovedale Presbyterian Missionary Institution. Accepted into the World Boy Scout Movement in 1936, the group name changed to African Boy Scouts in 1950 and Boy Scouts (African) in 1961. The South African Boy Scout Movement was integrated in 1977.

BARON H VON RAPACKI-WARNIA

² A.P.P.Mokwele. The Pedagogy of Pathfinding and the Boy Scout Movement in South Africa 1911-1977. Unpublished D.Ed thesis. University of the North, Sovenga, 1992

³ The first registered Pathfinder troop in South Africa was the I Pietersburg of Grace Dieu College, established 29 September 1922 by Rev FR Samuel Percy Woodfield



Baron Herbert Von Rapacki-Warnia

Baron Herbert Von Rapacki-Warnia appears to have been of Polish aristocratic descent ⁴. Born circa 1890 in Görlitz ⁵, Germany he "surrendered/(was)captured" at Cape Town on 28 September 1914. At that time, he held the rank of Lieutenant in the German Army. He was separated from his wife and interned by the South African authorities in the Officers' Prisoners of War Camp in Durban. A letter dated 13 November 1914 and addressed to the Commissioner of Enemy Subjects requests an explanation as to why his wife, a non-combatant and former resident of Cape Town, had been "interred and transferred to Pietermaritzburg detention camp on November 2nd".

⁴ Warnia: is a Polish Coat of Arms. It was used by several szlachta families in the times of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

⁵ With a history dating from 1071, Görlitz was situated in the Prussian province of Silesia from 1815 to 1945
<http://en.wikipedia.org>

His wife, Mona Von Rapacki-Warnia (née Imboden)⁶, was interned in the Women's Camp, Fort Napier, Pietermaritzburg on the instruction of the South African Police Deputy-Commissioner, Cape Town. She was released on her own cognisances by the camp Commandant and went to live on a farm, "Dalton" in the Durban district. Thereafter, she applied for, and received permission to be granted, a passport to travel to Italy. However, when Italy entered the war, she declined to do so.

Herbert and Mona Von Rapacki-Warnia appear to have boarded with W van Zyl at "Montblanc", Ladybrand in 1919.

In 1934, Baron H Von Rapacki-Warnia is listed ⁷ as being of the Orange Free State Pathfinder Division, and Divisional Pathfinder. At the time, there were 33 troops in the province of which five were in the Ladybrand district.

G Matsipa, to whom reference is made in the latter (above), was an Assistant District Pathfinder Master of the 1st Ladybrand Troop.

⁶ Pretoria Archives Repository. SAB.Vol.No.91 Ref.ES 70/1728/14. This file contained her sworn affidavit dated 26 November 1914 as to the events surrounding internment; correspondence from the Commandant, Fort Napier; Deputy-Commissioner, Western Cape Division of the South African Police; Secretary for the Interior, Pretoria.

⁷ The Pathfinder (Vol 1 No. 13) Johannesburg: CR Press, October 1932 quoted by A.P.P.Mokwele. Ibid



Groepfoto ⁸: Vrystaatse Departement van Onderwys se Kampkomitee gedurende die Onderwysweek, 1932.

⁸ Free State Archives Repository. Photo: VA07452. Group Photograph: Free State's Department of Education Camp Committee during Education Week (1932).

Heel voor, v.l.n.r. is JD Theron (Voorsitter: Kafeekomitee) en AJJ Wessels (Sekretaris: Uitvoerende Komitee). Tweede ry (sittende): mev. HW Kammeyer (Voor-sitter: Koskomitee), LJ van Zyl (Departement van Onderwys), kol. AJP Prins, dr. SH Pellissier (Direkteur van Onderwys), T Blok (Voorsitter: Oranje-Vrystaatse Onderwysvereniging), HW Kammeyer (Voorsitter: Uitvoerende Komitee), mev. H Veen en W Honicke.

von Rapacki-Warnia Family Name

The following letter was lodged with the Master of the Supreme Court, Bloemfontein in 1947, and is to be found with the estate papers of von Rapacki-Warnia:

Bloemfontein,
71 Murray Ave.
10th March 1947

Master of the Supreme Court
Bloemfontein.

Re: The Surname of the Family: von Rapacki-Warnia

To avoid any possible difficulties that might arise after death in connection with my surname I propose to put the swing facts on record. My name in full is:

Baron Herbert-Maria, Victor, Bruno, Bolko, Kunibert von Rapacki-Warnia. Rapacki-Warnia is the family surname, with which are associated the titles of a baron and the "von".

My wife's name in full is: Baroness Alma Loyalina von Rapacka-Warnia (nee: Saayman)

The names of my two daughters are:

1) Baroness Ursula, Beatrix, Godofreda, Kunigunde, von Rapacka-Warnia (born on the 15th February 1923).

2) Baroness Alma, Renate, Yole, Kunigunde, von Rapacka-Warnia. (born on the 11th August 1931)

Derde ry: mej. M Fourie, P Woodward (Vervoerkomitee), mev. IA Jamieson, **H van Rapacki: Warnia (Scouts)**, mev. AN Cordiner (Hoofkommandant OVS en Hoofopsigter: Kamphospitaal), JM Buys (Voortrekkers), mev. Van Aswegen, mev. P Doyle, mev. D Smith, GH Dawson (Verkeersbestuurder: Suid-Afrikaanse Spoorwee.
Heel agter: F de C Good, mej. E Attree, JG Westphal (Kamp-kommandant), PA Laesecke, Mej. N Morgan (Kampkommandant), AH Button, mev. A de Jongh, SJ Slabbert en mej. J Lubbe.

It will be noted that there is a difference in the spelling of the Rapacki-part of the surname. I herewith therefore declare that:

- a) All female members of the family have the right to call themselves, and sign as Baroness von Rapacka-Warnia
- b) All female members of the family may also use the male version of the surname and call themselves, and sign as Baroness von Rapacki-Warnia

This difference arises out of the Polish language where such differentiation with surnames is made, at least with those surnames belonging to the nobility which are ending on "ki" (The "ki" originally indicating a knight who, in times of war, had to serve the king of Poland with a certain following.

The family is originally a Hungarian one. The oldest authentic version of the family name was Raq which later changed to Racek, also spelled Raqcek. In 1522 the elder Branch of the family moved into Poland where it remained until 1672. The Cadet branch removed into Moravia. During the period that my family, i.e. the elder branch, lived in Poland the surname Racek changed into Rapacki.

By this Polonization of the surname the habit of letting "a" appear at the end of the name in the case of the fe-males became customary. This habit has been retained by the family also after the family removed again out of Poland.

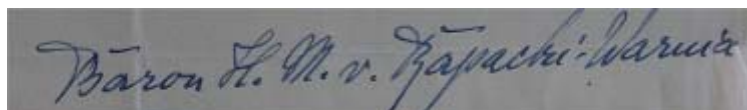
The change of the letter is not always strictly adhered too (sic), chiefly owing to the name being used in other languages other than Polish, but this does not detract from the fact that it may as the one or other individual of the family may choose to do.

As such alterations of the surname do not take place with surnames other than Slavic surnames I consider it advisable

to put the matter on record. To my knowledge our country recognizes the usages of other countries in such matters. The fact that my wife and my two daughters are born in South Africa should not alter the case.

I consider this explanation necessary to avoid the possibility that after my death queries may arise in connection with inheritances or other matters.

I have the honour, Sir,
to be,
Yours faithfully



Baron L. M. v. Kapacki-Warwitz

von Rapacki-Warnia Family History

1 Bruno-Maria von Rapacki-Warnia d. 15 September 1904 ⁹ m/divorced Wilhelmine (Wilhelmina) Julia Kunigunde Helene (Helena) KYAW ¹⁰



Photographs of Helena Plumb
submitted to SA Government in terms of Aliens Act, 1937.

⁹ The Last Will & Testament of Wilhelmina Julia Kunigunde Helena PLUM (aka. Helena Plum) states that Bruno-Maria von Rapacki-Warnia was of Pützchen bei Beuel am Rhein, Germany. She confirms that Herbert-Maria Victor Bruno Bolko Kunibert von Rapacki-Warnia was her only offspring.

¹⁰ Wilhelmine (Wilhelmina) Julia Kunigunde Helene (Helena) KYAW b. 6 May 1869 Neuhaus, Silesia d. Cape Town 1 March 1953 aged 84 years. She divorced her first husband and married one Karl Plum in Germany. He died in 1942. She was admitted to South Africa in 1948, having arrived from Berlin via Amsterdam by ship (unnamed).

1.1 (Baron ¹¹) Herbert-Maria Victor Bruno Bolko Kunibert von Rapacki-Warnia, Roman Catholic b. Görlitz 19 December 1891 (so. Bruno-Maria von Rapacki-Warnia and Wilhelmina Julia Kunigunde Helena PLUM ¹²) d. Groote Schuur Hospital 2 September 1952 m. (first) 16 December 1913 at Vegesack, Bremen in the magistracy of Aumund II (later "Wegensoh" sic. Vegesack), Elisabeth Auguste Sophie (aka. Mona Lisa) IMBODEN, Lutheran b. Lemwerde, Oldenburg 10 December 1892 (do. Friedrich Philipp Imboden and Friederike Katharine Henriette Schäfer). No offspring.

On 28th May 1923, Victor Bruno Herbert von Rapacki-Warnia applied to the Supreme Court of South Africa (O.F.S. Provincial Division) for an order to sue for divorce *informa pauperis* on the grounds of desertion in January 1921. He was resident in Heilbron at the time. This was granted; and a decree of divorce was granted on 15th September 1923. She lost all rights to community of property. At that time he was eaking out a living as a school teacher. There were no offspring. Mr C R Swart, later State President of the Republic of South Africa, acted *pro deo* for the plaintiff VAB HG Vol. No 4/2/1/1/266 Ref: 361/1923

1.1 (Baron) Herbert-Maria Victor Bruno Bolko Kunibert von Rapacki-Warnia born in Görlitz 19th December 1891 (so. Bruno-Maria von Rapacki-Warnia and Wilhelmina Julia Kunigunde Helena PLUM) d. Groote Schuur Hospital 2nd September 1952 ¹³ m. (second) Bloemfontein (Baroness ¹⁴) Alma Loyalina (Loyallina) von Rapacka-Warnia (née SAAYMAN) b. 1901 d. 6th November 1988 ¹⁵

¹¹ Title: Edler von Haynewalde, Herr von Spitzkundersdorf und Sosnitz

¹² She was living together with her son at 267 Long Street, Cape Town in September 1952. Immigration Papers PIO 971.41866E ; Death Notice Wilhelmina Julia Kunigunde Helena PLUM MOOC 6/9/21083.2967/53

¹³ Death Notice Herbert-Maria Victor Bruno Bolko Kunibert von Rapacki-Warnia MOOC 6/9/20068. 4887/52

¹⁴ Title: Edle von Haynewalde, Herrin von Spitzkundersdorf und Sosnitz

¹⁵Death Notice Alma Loyalina (Loyallina) von Rapacka-Warnia d. 6 November 1988 MSC 9421/1988
Between 1962 and 1968, she authored several books in English and Afrikaans on the subject of Typewriting Skills. These went to 3 editions between 1962 and 1988.

1.1.1 Baroness Ursula Beatrix Godofreda Kunigunde von Rapacka-Warnia b. 13 February 1928 m/div
1967 Leonard Hendrik BEKKER ¹⁶ ¹⁷

1.1.2 Baroness Alma Renate Yole Kunigunde von Rapacka-Warnia b. 11 August 1931 ¹⁸

My thanks to Garnet de la Hunt of Durbanville, Cape and Luke van der Laan, Chief Executive of the South African Scout Association, Claremont, for facilitating my access to Dr. Alfred Percy Phuti Mokwele's thesis; and to the Chief Archivist, Free State Archives Repository for the photographic gift; and to Mrs Margaret Nowak for visiting the Pretoria Archives Repository on my behalf.

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Thursday, 12 July 2007

¹⁶ Illiquid Case. Divorce. Leonard Hendrik BEKKER versus Ursula Godofreda Beatrix Kunigunda (née Von Rapacka-Warnia) TAB WLD
2745/1967

¹⁷ Death Notice Leonard Hendrik BEKKER d. 14 August 1988 MSC 8600/1988

¹⁸ A number of books around the subject of typewriting were authored by Alma L von Rapacka-Warnia between 1941 - 1966, and are housed in the SA National Library, Pretoria campus.