

## INNOCENT VICTIM OF THE ANGLO BOER WAR

Many of our Vermeulen ancestors fought for the Boer forces during the Anglo Boer War (ABO). In our 2020 commemorative edition, we reported extensively on the Vermeulens' involvement in battles and their deaths as well as Vermeulen women's and children's hardships and deaths in the concentration camps.

The poignant and tragic story of Martha Cornelia Maria Vermeulen <D1167> is also recorded in our genealogy, but we have now succeeded, thanks to Barend Cornelius (Bennie) Vermeulen <D 3910>, to obtain pictures of her and her grave. I like recording the story here.

Martha Cornelia Maria Vermeulen \*Daniëlskuil 20.08.1879, ~Daniëlskuil 02.11.1879, †Daniëlskuil 16.06.1900, Ω Daniëlskuil, was the eldest daughter of Johannes VERMEULEN <D377>, \* 17.09.1854, ~Richmond 03.12.1854, †Barkly-West 8.12.1922, x Philipstown 07.10.1878 Petronella Bernardus DE KLERK <D370>, \*27.10.1856, †Daniëlskuil 25.06.1953.

During the ABO, a group of British soldiers opened fire on the home of Martha's father on suspicion of hiding rebels in the house. Martha was fatally wounded by the soldiers in this attack, on 16.06.1900. In fact, there were no rebels hiding in the house. Her tomb is part of memorials preserved in Daniëlskuil.

The following was also recorded regarding this incident: "During the Anglo Boer War (1899-1902) most of the farmers in the Daniëlskuil area joined the rebel forces. British High Commissioner, Sir Alfred Milner, realized the danger these rebels posed for the western flank of the British troops. In May 1900 he sent a task force under command of Sir Charles Warren to clean Griqualand West of rebels. This force occupied Daniëlskuil on 8 June 1900. Most of the rebels surrendered. Those who didn't were tried for treason. On 16 June 1900, some English soldiers suspected that the Vermeulen family were hiding rebels and fired on their house. The mother and son fled to safety, but young Martha Vermeulen was shot to death in her parents' home. This incident led to a lot of bitterness in the community".

With recognition of reports that appeared in FAMNEA Year 9 Issue 2 February 2012, under the heading "Innocent Victims" by Simon du Plooy where the following was said: "According to The Memorial Book of the Great Trek (P 511), she was buried in close adjacency to Waterboer's Kuil, a few steps from where she was shot dead in the residence when she tried to flee through a back door. During the 1938 Great Trek anniversary, a wreath was laid on her grave. During the event, Rev. Luckhoff comforted her mother with the thought that *"her daughter was sacrificed in the battle of Nation building"* ".

On a Commemorative plaque affixed by the Rapportryers at her grave the following words were engraved: The last resting place of a Boer daughter. Cold-bloodedly shot dead by an enemy soldier. Rapportryerskorps, Daniëlskuil. 1985.



Foto van Martha



Foto van graf



DIE LAASTE RUSPLAAS VAN 'n  
BOEREDOGTER, KOELBLOEDIG DOODGESKIET  
DEUR 'n VYANDELIKE SOLDAAT  
RAPPORTRYERSKORPS  
DANIELSKUIL  
1995

Gedenkplaat Rapportryerskorps



Graf



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