

PINETOWN MARKET SQUARE AND 1983 PINETOWN LIBRARY  
HAZEL ENGLAND PINETOWN MUSEUM 21-08-2000

Pinetown village was planned according to the English Grid System with a central Market Square. Mr Archibald Murray's farm covered some of the land now known as the Market Square. It was sold to Canon Crompton when he purchased Mr Murray's property in the mid 1850s. In 1871 Canon Crompton purchased the remaining portion of the Market Square. As the village developed and gravel roads were named, the Market Square was demarcated as the block of land between Kings Road and Park Lane with School Road and Meller Road on one side of the square and Crompton Street the other boundary.

After the death of Canon Crompton, a Board of Trustees was formed to administer the Market Square area, which was donated to the people of Pinetown for community use in 1910. The second Pinetown Town Hall was built on the corner of Park Lane and Crompton Street in 1912, where it remained until it was demolished in 1969. A memorial park was zoned for the erection of the Pinetown Memorial Cross, for soldiers who died in the First World War of 1914-1918. This portion of the Market Square became known as the Memorial Gardens with the Pinetown Memorial Cross erected in 1925. Names of soldiers killed in the Second World War, 1939-1945 and soldiers of the Bush War, 1980-1988 were added to the Memorial Cross.

To commemorate historical events in Pinetown other memorials were erected in the Memorial Gardens. Opposite the Park Lane Hotel is the Fort Funk Canon unveiled in July 1965 to remind residents of early settlers efforts to defend the town in 1850. A granite memorial stone near the Old Main Road entrance to the present library, commemorates the long serving Sunday School teacher Ms Eliza Scott.

The corner of Old Main Road and Meller Road was the site of the first Pinetown Bowls Club and Croquet Club. Early soccer and cricket matches were played in the Old Main Road until the event of motor cars in the 1920s made it too dangerous. A set of Cricket stamps was cemented into the lawn on the Old Main Road, Crompton Street, Civic Gardens as a reminder of early sporting activities. On the site of the present Civic Centre was the first Pinetown Tennis Club, which made the Market Square the centre of social and sporting life. Once the tennis club moved, the land became available for further use and it was chosen as the site for the Pinetown Municipal Buildings. Opened in 1959, the Pinetown Civic Centre, together with the Airfield Hall which was built on the site of the Reverend Waltons home "Airfield House", became the administrative hub of Pinetown.

Population growth led to increased library membership resulting in the premises of the Pinetown Library in Chancery Lane being overcrowded. Pinetown Town Council elected a site for the new library building in the Memorial Gardens. Cost of the building was funded by the Council and the Natal Provincial Library Service. A competition was held to attract the best architectural designs for a modern, multifunctional library building. Situated on the Market Square the library was integrated into the shopping centre of Hill Street/Crompton Street and the Civic Centre. Mr P.C. Bakker won the architectural award for the new library building which was opened on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1983.

A Museum was included in the new Library, called the Mary MacCartan room. This became too small for the increased school visits and a new home was sought for the Museum.

In 1994 a wing of the Museum was re-designed by the architect Mr Peter Croxon and built by the contractors Harding and Allison. Cost of building funded by Council and the KwaZulu-Natal Museum Service.

The Functions Room used, by various amateur dramatic societies and for public meetings, was converted into a Museum with offices, workshop, storeroom and display area. A new Functions Room was built on the first floor level above the Museum with two outside entrances. Dr Frank Mdlalose, the Premier of Natal, opened the enlarged Pinetown Museum on 23 February 1995.

Demand for a study centre reached crisis proportions in 1995 when library users could not get to the book shelves, due to students doing projects on the floor. Plans to accommodate the new Library users included incorporating the Children's Library into the Adult Library down stairs. A study centre and ready Reference Library was designed to fill the upstairs section, which had previously been the Children's Library. Completed in time for the end of year exams, the study centre opened in October 1996. No building alterations have been carried out since then.

Computerization of the Pinetown Library was linked to other libraries in the Inner West City on the Urica system after the change in Local Government in 1996. All Inner West Libraries are in turn linked to the Durban Metro Libraries for a more efficient, cost effective service. During 2000, a Durban Metro Community Information File called Info Link has expanded public access to Information File. Development of the electronic media through videos, CDs and CD Roms assists with information retrieval and recreation.

List of Head Librarians Mrs Hannah Kaplan 1972-1990, Mrs van der Merwe 1990-1995 and Mrs Whitaker 1995-

After the 2000 Local Elections, Inner West City Libraries and Museums will become part of the Durban Metro Information Resources.

Pinetown Veterans Magazine - "Annals of Pinetown"  
1968 - Feb. 1970. Borough of Pinetown  
VII. SPORTS

The history of sport in Pinetown starts when British troops were stationed here during and after the Zulu War of 1879. The British regiment provided cricket teams and with the help of the village players, a Pinetown League was formed, which at the time it was constituted, included more teams than those in the League in Durban. Cricket matches were played on the open veld and the shortage of equipment was never an excuse for the abandonment of a game.

Cricket, football and hockey were played on the Market Square. The football goal posts were erected each season running parallel to the Old Main Road and in front of Airfield House, a private property surrounded by an amatingula hedge. Airfield Hall in the Civic Centre was named after this house. On the East side, after 1908 were three tennis courts and on the West side the New Germany Road. While a game of cricket or soccer was in progress on the Market Square, it was no uncommon event for the game to be held up while cattle or horses were being driven along the Main Road. In 1960 cricket stumps were placed in front of the Civic Centre to mark the position of the old cricket pitch. When motor cars became numerous and dangerous, the playing fields were transferred to the Anderson Sports' Ground which Mr. W.K. Anderson donated to Pinetown in 1926. In 1952 Mr. H. Lahee generously gave to Pinetown the adjoining property of about 52 acres, now known as Lahee Park. Together these two grounds now form a wonderful centre for all the sporting bodies of Pinetown.

(Contributed by Mrs. E. Hooker).

1. CRICKET

The Pinetown Cricket Club is one of the oldest in Natal, having been founded in 1878 by the Rev. E.H. Shears, assisted by Messrs. C.J. Hill, W.K. Anderson, C. Henwood and T.P. James and others.

In the Natal Mercury of July 20th 1882 is an account of a meeting held at Ratsey's Hotel, Pinetown when it was "thought advisable to form a proper club". The Rev. E.H. Shears was in the chair and by a vote of 16 to 3 an amendment was carried that the club be called "The Pinetown Cricket and Football Club". Captain of the cricket team was Mr. Daly and captain of the football team, E.W. Evans.

X With the exception of breaks during war years the Cricket Club has functioned continuously since those early days, first on the Market Square X and then at the Anderson's Sports ground. The Club was prominent in starting the County Cricket Association in 1906, and won the County League many times from 1906 to 1951, when the members decided to affiliate with the Durban Cricket Union. Since its affiliation to the Durban Cricket Union, the Club has attained first division status which was a great achievement. The Club administers five teams in the Durban League and this offers all local cricketers the opportunity of playing for the town.

Over the 90 years of the Club's existence very many people have been associated with the Club but those who should be remembered are the late Hewlett Trotter who was captain from 1906 to 1926, his sons Lawrence and Ken, the late George Dales who was secretary for 25 years, W.K. Anderson, C.J. Offord (Father of Nuffield Cricket), J.W. Easterbrook, an ex-Natal player, Ernest Bradley, present Patron and Life Members the late Justin Dales and youthful Athol McLeod who has been associated with the Club for over thirty years and has served in every capacity. He was made a Life member two years ago for his untiring efforts. He is at present President of the Club.

passengers reported dead, a third passenger and Mr George Murray hurt. For some time afterwards Mr Murray came to St. Andrew's (Mr Walton's little church) with his jaw broken held together by a night green bandage.

Sometimes fresh horses for the Post-cart could be seen being broken at the side of Murray's Hotel.

see note trees.

### CAMP BUILT FOR RELEASED SLAVES

Up near the Field's Hill end of the main road on North side was the camp for released slaves brought from the East Coast where they had been rescued from Arab dhows by gun boats.

Mr McRoberts who lived at Westville and had charge of the Main Road also was responsible for the slaves — of course they could speak neither Zulu nor English at first. Mrs Meller had one female from the Camp for many years, and her descendants still live on the Bluff.

At the beginning of the Zulu War I was sent away to school in England where fortunately there were two Australian boys

When they left Australia their boat was wrecked somewhere on the South African Coast and they were carried by wagon for days before reaching a town.

At the beginning of the Zulu War there was a small hospital on Field's Hill near the little Waterfall below the road. There is a tea room near that place now. It was in charge of an Indian dispenser and my father made frequent visits.

One day we rode to Murray's Hotel and sold two horses to Col. Pilleyn, Col. of 24th Regiment who was many of his men never returned from Mandhswana, his regiment was camped out in white tents around Murray's Hotel.

Another day we went up the Main Road near the top of Cowie's Hill with Mrs Ayres, who wished to say goodbye to her nephew Col. Shepstone, who was riding down the hill at the head of the Durban Mounted Rifles. He too did not come back. Mrs Ayres lived on a spur of Cowie's Hill high up, and was very proud of a large leopard's head which her son Bertie Ayres, had shot.

Probably all the whipsticks used in South Africa by the thousand came from either Mr Davidson's plantation back of Sarnia, or from Mrs Down's in Pinetown, the property between the present Bamboo Lane and the Railway now owned by Mr Hirst. There was a demand for these whipsticks until comparatively lately. Thirty years ago the Market Square in East London was filled on market days by a

double row of ox-wagons with piles of fruit and vegetables etc., from the farms beyond the Nahoon, and a big bundle of whipsticks could be seen outside the saddlers on Caxton Street marked from either Sarnia or Pinetown.

Every year we got a large case from England, some saddlery, dubbin, rock salt, boots and leggings, riding breeches, all kinds of things. Also a box of books for the little Library in the Hall about where Mrs Hegele's house is now on the Main Road, and which Miss Horton looked after at one time.

Forty or more years ago a New York daily paper mentioned that Sir Benjamin Pine, a former Governor in the West Indies, a cadet, had died in Scotland, his Estate valued at five thousand pounds being left to his housekeeper.

Sir Benjamin Pine was Governor in various places between his two terms of office in South Africa.

Old residents have said that towards the end of the 19th century Pinetown was a dull and lifeless village. Farming was still important in the area and under the auspices of the Pinetown Political Association residents were concerned with Free Trade, and the control of rinderpest and locusts.

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 was honoured in the village by all day celebrations for all ages and races.

### MARIANHILL MONASTERY

Some years later, with school left behind, I was riding down from a farm in the Ixopo District, and taking a short-cut branching off the Kokstad-Richmond Road just top of the rise out of the deep Umkomaas Valley. Riding and leading two horses, I reached a pile of buildings sprung up since 1878 — Mariannahill Monastery. It was dark and midnight reaching home. Going through the brick fields below the Monastery one horse was bitten in the belly by a long black snake tangled in the horses' legs. No Vet was available and the horse suffered so much that it had to be shot.

There was one noticeable change in Pinetown — a whole street of detached houses sprung up — Hill Street nearly doubling the number of houses towards the Railway Station. Mr Hill had left his farm at Hill Crest, overlooking the present Delville Wood Station and moved into the corner house 'Hough House'. The Rev. Phil Burgess and Miss Burgess, Mr Hill's daughter and son-in-law Tom James, Dr Jackson and a widow lady (Mrs Wood) resided in the rest of the houses built and belonging to Mr Hill.

There was a butcher and baker shop kept by two young brothers from Lancashire — E.W. and Morris Evans, E.W. Evans married Miss Nellie Evans who played the organ at St. Andrew's. Both brothers did well with their store and you then no longer had to get meat carried on a native's head from Durban to Pinetown, once or twice a week! Later the Evans Bros. went to Johannesburg.

One sad change was the decrease in birds and bright plumage, and one missed the ox-wagons on the white dusty Main Road. The ox-wagons carried all the goods to the interior — the average load being three or four tons, drawn by 16 to 18 oxen generally several wagons belonging to one owner who accompanied his wagons, each wagon having a Zulu boy voor-looper leading the two front oxen, and a native driver to each wagon carried a long thin bamboo stick. This whipstick had a long lash of plaited hide; which was wielded with two hands and cracked louder than a pistol shot. The driver and the voor-looper knew the name of each ox — 'Witboy', 'Zwartboy' and so on you would hear the driver yell. The wagons going up-country followed the present road to Kloof, but coming back, if empty, the wagons took the short cut down the face of Field's Hill. The cuttings made by this short cut are still visible in a garden next to Dr Moberley's at Kloof and between the Govt. School and the butcher's shop.

Along this short cut there were many skeletons of oxen and often hundreds of vultures. When twenty or thirty wagons at a time were coming down the hill it was a stirring sight. Nearly every farmer did transport riding — travelling right up to the Free State and Transvaal and being away for months at a time on the long journeys, 15 miles a day was good travelling.

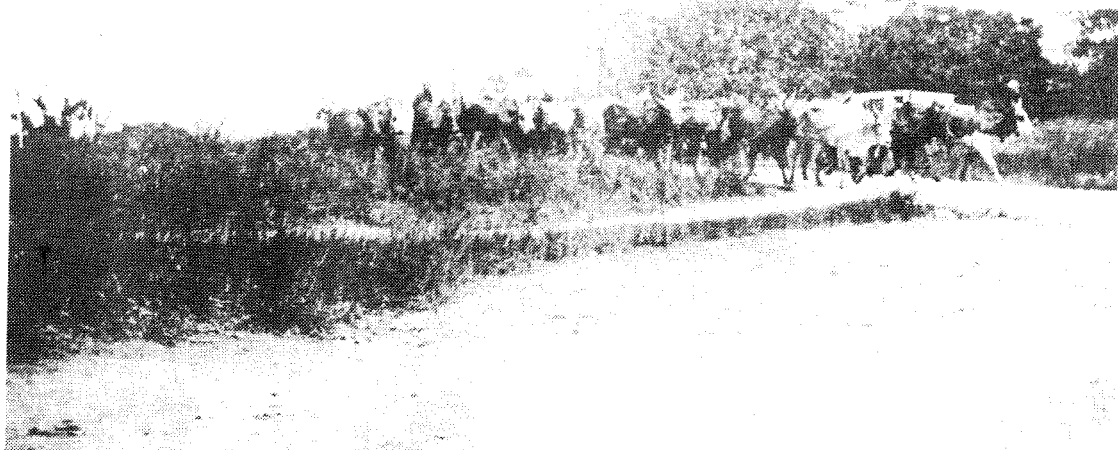
The drivers and voor-loopers had wonderful control over their oxen and the speed and

skill with which they drew to one side for the post-cart were wonderful. Along the road there were public outspans where the oxen were unyoked so that they could graze.

The dissel-boom from the front of the wagon was supported by the two front oxen, then the 14 or 16 front oxen were connected with the wagon by a long chain connected with the yokes of the oxen — the trek chain.

Long after the train superseded the post-cart in carrying the mail from Durban to P.M. Burg, there was a post-cart service from Verulam to Zululand, from Richmond Road (now called Thorneville Junction) to Ixopo, upper Umzimkulu and Kokstad and other inland towns.

Another time riding to Pinetown from Ixopo to Griqualand East soon after dark between Comrie Bros'. Store at Comrie's Drift, now called Mid-Ilovo, I found shelter with an outspanned wagon in charge of a Trappist monk. We went to sleep on top of the goods in the wagon. When a heavy storm broke we had to join the driver and voor-looper under the wagon and pull the tarpaulin down over all. An hour before dawn the Trappist quickly inspanned the oxen and started on the last lap but one to Mariannahill. With help from a neighbouring Kraal in finding my grazing horse, the Trappist wagon was passed by daybreak.



An ox wagon arrives at the Market Square situated where the Civic Centre now stands.

X



Dumb-bells: 30 pairs £2. 0.0  
 = 180 lbs @ 2½d. per lb  
 Mattresses £7.10.0  
 (McNamee's quotation:  
 4 @ 37/6)  
 Horizontal bar £6. 0.0  
 (Hunt, Leuchars & Hepburn)  
 Vaulting Table £7. 0.0  
 Springboard £4. 0.0  
 1 set parallel bars £4. 5.0  
 Clock 5.0  
 2 hat-rails each 12 10.0  
 hooks

Badges were imported from England and sold at 1/6d each.

The *Natal Advertiser* of 8.8.1898 reported a display given by members of the Pinetown Gymnastic Club in the Town Hall when —

"... all Pinetown and his wife and children turned out for the occasion, the hall being crowded to its utmost capacity. Directly the sun sets the whole of the great straggling village is plunged in darkness. If people wish to visit each other at night, they follow the example of the historical five wise virgins. On Saturday night lantern lights were to be seen glinting in all directions like veritable will-o-wisps. Every pater or mater familias carried a lantern, which they did not relinquish even when inside the hall ... The performance was a very creditable one indeed, reflecting credit on Mr A.C. Crane the hon. instructor, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the large assembly."

After existing for four years the club was forced to close down for lack of members. The apparatus was sold to the Natal Naval Volunteers.

(Contributed by Mrs E. Hooker)

## SHOOTING

Towards the end of the last century and the beginning of the present one there were Rifle Clubs in Pinetown, one range being at the foot of Field's Hill and another at the end of Butts Road — hence the name — Butts.

About the time of World War I there was also an Air Rifle Club, members practising in the Old Town Hall, targets being placed at the foot of the stage. Mr W. Kirk still has spoons marked P.A.R.C. which he won in club competitions.

(Contributed by Mrs M. Macartan)

## FOOTBALL

After the Anglo-Boer War a football club existed in Pinetown when Mr C.B. Currie, Mr Jimmy Munro and Mr Ted Hooker were active members. The club continued until World War I. After the war the club was revived when Mr George

Munro, Mr Albert Gillitt and others were prominent players and encouraged the younger men including the Kirk, Davidson and the Milne boys to play in the County League matches.

## TENNIS

The Rev. E.H. Shears in Hill Street and Mr John Payn at Roselle on the Old Main Road were among the first to introduce tennis to Pinetown in the 1880's. Later "social tennis" was played on courts in gardens of other residents.

In 1902 Mr E. Askham founded the "Pinetown Tennis Club". The courts were near to Mrs Crompton's residence "Brightmet", and in 1908 because the noise made by players disturbed the Crompton family, new courts were built on the opposite side of the Old Main Road.

The surface of tennis courts was made from ant-heap, very different from the bitumen surfaces of today. The pavilion was built of wattle and daub, but about 1926 it was replaced by one of brick and tile. Later, two additional courts were laid, making five in all.

On 2nd June, 1908 at a meeting held at Malvern, the Durban County Lawn Tennis Association was officially formed, Pinetown being the second oldest club in the County. At that meeting, Mr Padley Field of Pinetown was elected a Vice-President; other Pinetown names which appear in the first year's records are

Mr D. Cope, Mr Ted Hooker, Mr H. Lee and Mr C. Ponting.

From about the year 1906 to 1926 the names of Hewlett Trotter, George and Laddie Dales were synonymous with all sport in Pinetown. Mr Hewlett Trotter was known as the "Father of Sport"; he was an excellent sportsman, fostering and helping the younger players especially in cricket and tennis.

The Tennis Club has produced many notable players and outstanding in the early years were:-

Miss Nora St. James (Dales) — Natal Singles Champion (1910)

Mr T. Hewlett Trotter & Miss St. James — Natal Mixed Doubles Champions (1910)

Mr T. Hewlett Trotter & Rev. J. Richardson — Natal Men's Doubles Champions (1910)

Miss Vivienne Hill (Wise) — Natal Singles Champion (1915)

Mr Ted Upton & Miss V. Hill — Natal Mixed Doubles Champions (1915)

County Champions have been:-

Men

1910 — T.H. Trotter

1911 — T.H. Trotter

1954 — P.K. Evans

Women

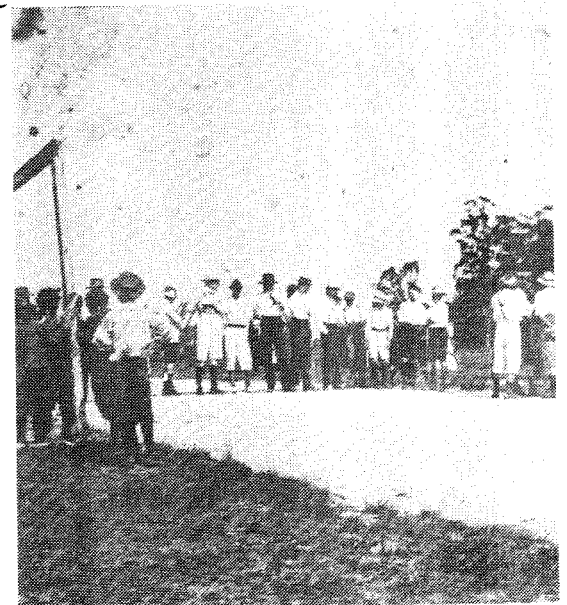
1910 — Miss N. St. James

1911 — Miss V.C. Hill

1912 — Miss V.C. Hill

## BOWLS

The Pinetown Bowling Club was formed in 1921, the first President being the late Mr W.



The above photograph recorded a most unusual incident. It would appear that during a soccer match on the Market Square in 1905 the referee made a very questionable decision. Instead of the present day tendency for the hurling of half-bricks, bottles, and the ref having to leave the field under police protection, the two teams, at a meeting on the Old Main Rd., settled the argument as to whether the ref was right or wrong.

Adam. The green was situated on part of the Market Square on Old Main Road.

The women's section was not formed until 1932 with Mrs "Birdie" McDonald the prime mover; originally there were 7 members. Mrs McDonald has played a large part in the establishment of women's

bowls throughout South Africa, having been President of the District, Natal and South Africa. Her husband, the late Archie McDonald was also a foundation of the mens section and also worked very hard in executive positions for both Durban District and Natal.



An early Football Team. Standing: ??, Charlie Offord, Hewlett Trotter, ?, Harry Ransden, Alan Downs, ?, ?, Seated: ?, ?, ?, Herbert Lee, ?.