

**Cultural Landscapes: the farms comprising the area to be
inundated by the proposed Spring Grove Dam, Nottingham
Road/ Rosetta for Business Enterprises, University of Pretoria
PHASE II REPORT**



Willow trees (and others) along the Mooi River (Photo: Author August 2010)

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1. Introduction

The phase I report noted the following in its conclusion.

The investigations in this report form the proverbial 'tip of the iceberg.' The brief for this phase was to establish the extent of the cultural landscape, and to begin to assess the rescue or mitigatory process.

Where much of the intangible heritage is not likely to be destroyed by the flooding of the dam, the landscape in which the people and personalities and initiatives existed will be. The intention is to establish how this should be carried out and suggest where this could happen. The social and cultural landscape of the area is a rich melange of white settler, San/ Bushman, Nguni and Indian labour, in an area that produced strong political leadership together with progressive farming practise. The tangible heritage should be addressed in terms of value- thus far little information has been found regarding Inchbrakie Falls and the Wagon Road, which passed close by the falls. This route as a conduit for settlement and war would have laid an important historical layer in the region and is intimately connected to the intangible landscape.

The following is needed before these decisions can be made:

- *More in-depth scrutiny of the published works available*
- *Scrutiny of old maps- railway maps, Mair Map/ Masson Map for wagon road*
- *Investigate photographic collection- Campbell Collections/PMB Archives if available*
- *Collation with information from 1944 aerial photographs*

This Phase II report is intended to flesh out the information on the topics that were identified in the original Phase I report and fill in some of the gaps.¹ This version of the report is thus a 'report back' on the above: the extra information required has been elicited, and the identified areas of interesting or relevant intangible heritage, have been somewhat fleshed out.

¹ Note that a separate version of this report was submitted originally, which lays out this information in a format which is suitable for display or interpretive purposes.

2. Methodology

As indicated in the Phase I report conclusions above, closer investigation was recommended which scrutinized a number of general issues, as well as areas where there was not enough information to make any judgment. These issues were then reworked in order to reach a series of themes that would be the hooks for the research to follow. These separate themes investigated not only those events and practises relevant to the farms in question, but are also pertinent to the establishment of farming in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands in general. This means that any eventual interpretation can be both specific and general in nature.

The separate focus areas identified are:

1. San/Bushmen and Iron age residents and farm tenants
2. Servants, indentured Indians and Europeans, white servants and African Labour tenants
3. Political initiatives with the Legislative Assembly and Union
4. Making place and greening the landscape
5. Survival- agriculture, transport riding and the men and women of the time

This identification of separate themes meant that specific questions and lines of enquiry could be followed in order to flesh out the information and to focus on precise thematic lines rather than engaging in generalities when interviewing specific people.

To supplement the primary research, relevant photograph albums at the Killie Campbell Collection were viewed, maps of the region from 1865 onwards were inspected, and a general layout of the lie of the land constructed. In addition, the 1944 aerial photos were also requested and this landscape used to compare with contemporary landscapes. The Howick Museum Collection was consulted to extend the information of the Smythe and Green families. As indicated in the recommendations of the original report, deeper investigation into published sources was also carried out. However, despite this extra investigation into the relevant areas, little evidence was found to substantiate the existence of the wagon road or Inchbrakie Falls.

3. Intangible evidence:

The Phase I report evaluated the following intangible elements thus (italics).

Early inhabitants

significance	<i>Local value</i>	<i>Regional value</i>	<i>National value</i>	<i>International value</i>
<i>Historical</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>Technical</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>Cultural</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>social</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>

Colonial farming initiatives

significance	<i>Local value</i>	<i>Regional value</i>	<i>National value</i>	<i>International value</i>
<i>Historical</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>Technical</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>Cultural</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>social</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>

Seat of early Natal politics

significance	<i>Local value</i>	<i>Regional value</i>	<i>National value</i>	<i>International value</i>
<i>Historical</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>Technical</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>Cultural</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>social</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>

Of the intangible heritage, the presence of early inhabitants, colonial farming initiatives and the unofficial 'seat' of early Natal politics all have local importance. The physical landscape of the farms and their structures is intimately connected to the cultures and personalities that shaped and altered it. The conundrum of intangible heritage is not in protecting a physical item, but in its valourization and interpretation.

It is strongly recommended that further information be collated in order to sufficiently address this physical landscape that will be lost, and on it, to interpret the intangible factors.

The themes of the intangible evidence are explored further in section 5 of this report under the titles of (1) San/Bushmen- Iron age peoples resident on the land and farm tenants, (2) Survival- agriculture, transport riding and the men and women of the time, (3) Political initiatives with the Legislative Assembly and Union, and (4) Servants including indentured Indians and Europeans, white servants and African Labour tenants.



Fig 1: Colonel Edward Greene Second row left (from Denham 2011:61)

4. Tangible evidence:

The Phase I report evaluated the following tangible elements thus (italics):

Original homesteads and associated structures

<i>significance</i>	<i>Local value</i>	<i>Regional value</i>	<i>National value</i>	<i>International value</i>
<i>Historical</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>Technical</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>Cultural</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>social</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>

The wagon road

<i>significance</i>	<i>Local value</i>	<i>Regional value</i>	<i>National value</i>	<i>International value</i>
<i>Historical</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>medium</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>Technical</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>Cultural</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>social</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>medium</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>

Inchbrakie Falls

<i>significance</i>	<i>Local value</i>	<i>Regional value</i>	<i>National value</i>	<i>International value</i>
<i>Historical</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>Technical</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>Cultural</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>social</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>

Rock art: Adjudicated by appropriate professional

Willow trees:

<i>significance</i>	<i>Local value</i>	<i>Regional value</i>	<i>National value</i>	<i>International value</i>
<i>Historical</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>Technical</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>Cultural</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>
<i>social</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>	<i>low</i>

Of the tangible heritage, all of the above have local importance but little in terms of regional, national or international. However, they are all components of a greater provincial story, and elements such as the wagon road served to convey people to war, to the mines and into the interior. Facts such as this have to be substantiated and assessed in the light of greater research.

It is strongly recommended that further research be carried out in order to locate more firmly the value of these tangible elements in the cultural landscape, and to establish more closely the fate of historic structures closer to Rosetta, before any preservation or mitigatory statements can be made.

The theme covered in section 5 of this report titled 'Making place and greening the landscape' discusses the issues above in a conflated manner.

5. Focus Areas

As noted in the introduction, it was imperative to organize the tangible and the intangible into themes which could then be separately investigated.

Most importantly, the boundaries of the study must be reiterated. The detail of the grants and the property transfers form the bulk of the first phase report, thus they shall not be discussed here.

In essence, there are five separate parent farms that form the basis of this report and its research. The boundaries of these parent farms were chosen as the limits in order to not lose sight of events which occurred at the outset of white settlement, as well as previous societies who had used and marked the land.

Springvale 2170 is least affected by the inundation. It lies to the east of the group and straddles the old road and the rail line. This property was most affected by the expropriations for road and rail, and parts of it form the village of Rosetta.

The farm **Rosetta 2893** has relatively little to do with the hamlet of Rosetta itself, being located with one corner close to the

The farm **Vaalekop 3297**, together with **Eberberg 2210** formed the Smythe landholdings. Whilst the farmhouse Strathearn fell on the Eberberg property, Vaalekop was renamed by Smythe as 'Inchbrakie'.

The neighbouring farm to Eberberg is **Spring Grove 2169**, the 7000 acre landholding of the Greene family.

Figure 2 below shows the layout of the properties in 1904. Note that the alignment of the Rosetta-Kamberg Road is not affected by any deviation across the farm Vaalekop.

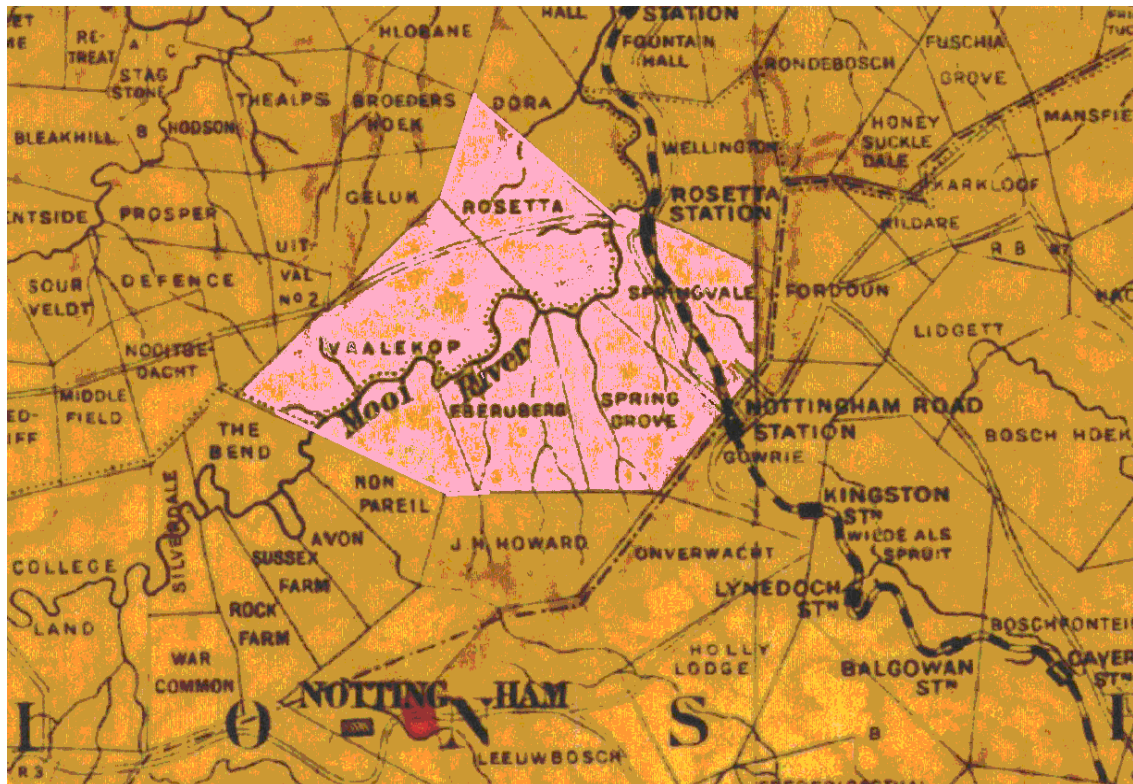


Fig 2: 1904 Masson Map showing the farms covered by Spring Grove Dam in pink

5.1 San/Bushmen and Iron age residents and farm tenants

Aboriginal inhabitants in the district are represented by the San/ Bushman. They left their traces not only in the material landscape, in the form of paintings on the rock below Inchbrakie Falls,² but also in the historical record. By the time the white settler penetration of this area had reached any significant level, the effects of San/ Bushman raids on livestock were serious enough to merit the establishment of a garrison at Fort Nottingham as early as 1851. The Sherwood Foresters (45th Regiment) were stationed there in 1856 and Dorning describes that the 'faint trail made by the soldiers on the steep hillside they followed the little marauders can still be seen' (Dorning: 1997:63).

The presence of the San/Bushmen meant that Iron Age farmers were also threatened by San/ Bushman raids. They relied on cattle for their wealth and livelihood, and this factor perhaps explains the dearth of material remains of the pastoral Southern Nguni people, suggesting that, historically, they were reticent to live in the area. Documents left by the first white settlers in the area describe how few people there were living here. In 1860, the 'Report on the Land Measured' which accompanied the original farm surveys, describes the *status quo*: On Spring Grove 2169 the original grant to Michael Short noted that the carrying capacity of the land was about 200 head of horned cattle, and that there were 'no natives' living on the farm. Similarly on Ebernberg, 200 head were recommended and the property recorded as being vacant of people, in addition to the observation that the land was supplied by the Mooi River and a spruit.

Furthermore King notes that 'there were no blacks in the Nottingham Road area when the King/ Ellis family first moved into Lynedoch' (King: 1985:11) and other records support this. However, certainly, by 1878, Smythe mentions African people living on his farms Vaalekop and Howard as rent paying tenants, who were obliged to offer their services as labourers (Child; 1973:87). These people were possibly immigrants, perhaps encouraged by the security offered by the military garrison at Fort Nottingham and residing as tenants paying hut rents to the previous owner, Pieter van der Byl. He was a partner in the notorious land speculation company known as the Natal Lands and Colonization Company. The NLCC were well-known for letting out the lands to black tenant farmers.

Daphne Child describes the tenants that were living on Ebernberg. She notes that Charles Smythe found them problematic. One kraal paid him four pounds a year and ran herds of around 70 head of cattle, 200 goats and around 25 horses. On top of this, this kraal needed firewood to supply four huts in an area where there was little wood to be found.³ A level of labour tenancy existed in this relationship as Smythe paid the homestead head 11 shillings a month (Child 1973:99). He was frustrated that there were all these people living on his property and yet he still had to use Indian and white labour. In a desperate effort to release some labour, he raised his rental on the land, with an option to provide more labour instead. Child notes that this tension meant that some of the kraals on Ebernberg moved off to live on Crown Land where they only had to pay the 14/- Crown Land Hut Tax (Child 1973:100). She notes 'He and his tenants were the victims of a thoroughly bad system under which both sides were insecure; the farmer because he never knew from month to month how many helpers he could count on, and the Zulus because they did not own the land they lived on and could be uprooted and moved at short notice' (Child 1973: 100). Despite the stated lack of availability of local labour, a general dearth of indigenous inhabitants is supported by the importation of not only Indian Indentured labour, but also white labourers from England and Scotland. By 1892 he had let part of his land to his indentured labourer Malloch, and the black labour tenants still remaining now paid 25 pounds and provided a certain amount of labour (Child 1973 ;139).

² The paintings were removed for storage in a safe place, so that they were not lost forever by the flooding of the dam.

³ The firewood situation was so dire that Smythe had been reduced to buying a plot of land in Nottingham village in order to be able to fell timber for firewood.

5.2 Servants, indentured Indians and Europeans, white servants and African Labour tenants

This part of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands was occupied by settlers of English descent relatively soon after the original land grants were given out, and actively farmed as land allocation moved farther into the interior. Many of these early farmers also worked as transport riders, as for many years their lack of expertise of working these unknown lands meant that farming did not pay. Robert King describes the toil of these early settlers as a life of constant work (King: 1985:36). He notes that 'Margaret and Charles Smythe led lives of almost incessant toil in the first years of their marriage....In October 1880 Charles Smythe was so short of labour, he had only three farm hands to milk thirty- three cows and do all the farm work....In July 1881 two farm hands, Mallock⁴ and Fly, arrived from Scotland. They came from his home district, and were indentured for a three year period during which time they had to work exclusively for him. Emily Smythe, Charles's mother in Scotland, also sent out a woman, Susannah Hamilton, to help Margaret Smythe with the children.

Besides a host of nursemaids, governesses and assistants imported from their home districts, it is known that many early settlers employed young Zulu boys to help look after children and act as their companions.

As noted, Charles Smythe and Robert King were constantly desperately short of labour, and thus they were sent as a deputation to meet with the indentured Indian labourers that moved up to work in the Nottingham Road area in 1880. The Indians had arrived in a blind condition- "Moonstruck" as it was known as a result of sleeping out on the open decks on the ships" (Ibid: 35). These Indentured Indians had travelled to Pietermaritzburg by goods train in the first week that the line was open. Child describes in detail the arrival of the Indentured Indians to Gowrie and Strathearn, and, quoting Smythe, describes their diet.

'I left them at the depot till Thursday and then took them to Durban and clothed them [the men arrived wearing the Hindu dhoti or loin cloth, and had to be provided with a coat and a pair of trousers each; their wives continued to dress in the sari]. I got them into a truck and up to Pietermaritzburg at 7 o'clock that night. [they went on by ox-waggon] I think they will be all right in a month or two, but they are not much use at present....,it is very difficult not being able to understand a word they say.' [They spoke Tamil or Telegu]. Charles found the Indians' food his biggest problem: 'they have to get rations of rice, dhol, salt fish, mealies etc. and they will not cook together, each man has to have his separate pot, and if one dies on your hands without medical attention you are heavily fined (Child 1973: 101-102). 'For a time Charles had two foreigners- a Norwegian and an American, probably runaway sailors- working for him; he gave them 1/6d per hour and their food, and put them to digging a big ditch six feet wide and four feet deep through the swamp' (Child 1973:112)

Bill Bizley and Pat MacKenzie note that Smythe was protective of these Indian immigrants: 'and made it plain that they saved the agricultural economy not only on the coast but- on a smaller scale- in the Midlands' (Bizley & MacKenzie; 2007: 79). Nevertheless, despite their indenture lasting five years, Indentured Indians remained working in the area for many years to come.

⁴ Mallock was still working for Smythe in 1885 when the railway reached Nottingham Road. King notes 'Some of the local farmers like Charles Smythe earned extra money by helping with the construction work. Smythe agree to drive stone for the railway contractors at 2/6 per load. He drove one cart and his assistant, Mallock, the other and he managed to make £3 a day in this manner' (King: 1985: 40).

5.3 Political initiatives with the Natal Legislative Assembly and Union

With the advent of Responsible Government, and secession from the rule of the Cape Colony, Robert King describes Nottingham Road as a 'political centre which was hardly surprising with CAS Yonge, CJ Smythe, James King, Col Greene and TP O'Meara residing in the district' (King; 1985: 55). Two of these luminaries Smythe and Greene deserve extra mention, as both accomplished farmers as well as contributors to the growth of Natal Colony and the early Union of South Africa.

Charles John Smythe was born in Edinburgh in 1852. He was the grandson of Lord Methven, and first came to South Africa joining Cecil and Frank Rhodes in their endeavours. His path to South Africa was not an illustrious one: known as 'Tobacco Smythe' during his schooldays at Glenalmond, after finishing school he drifted, learning German on the continent, failing the entrance examination for the Indian Forestry Service, and eventually sailing for Natal with the Rhodes brothers (Herbert and Frank) in 1872. Initially he lived on the Sea Cow lake Farm with the Kennedy family, studying sugar cultivation which was lacking in prospects at the time so he went diamond digging in Kimberley. After a short return to Methven, he returned to Natal to go gold digging, ending up at Pilgrim's Rest. Almost ready to return home, he found himself at John King, of Lynedoch in the Nottingham Road district. King was originally a factor or farm manager on the Methven property in Scotland. This resulted in a business agreement to breed horses on the farm Gowrie which was owned by John King. He then married the King's younger daughter, in October 1875. He initially settled on Gowrie, and married Elizabeth Margaret King who was to largely run their main farm and bear him 14 children.

Smythe entered politics as an additional source of revenue. He was first appointed as Justice of the Peace in 1888 and served the Colony, and then the Province, until close to his death in 1918. At the time of the declaration of Responsible Government in 1893, he was appointed Member of the Legislative Assembly for Lions River. Four years later he was appointed as Speaker in the Natal Parliament and in 1899 he became Colonial Secretary in the Hime Administration, which lasted until 1903 when this government was defeated (Carlisle 1993:2). He was, however, allowed to retain the nomenclature 'Honourable'.

In 1905 Smythe was appointed Prime Minister and Colonial Secretary. This was at a time when Natal was reeling financially, and new measures had to be taken to deal with revenue collection. He tried to impose new taxation measures and these were not met with enthusiasm. In fact, the institution of the Poll Tax under his watch was a factor in the Bambatha Rebellion, which had far reaching consequences (Carlisle 1993:6). Smythe resigned from office in 1906. He remained in politics, serving as Leader of the Opposition and was elected as one of the Natal Delegates to the National Convention, which negotiated the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910. He was not enthusiastic about accepting this post: he wrote to his sister 'I expect I shall have to be one of the delegates...and I do not like the job' (Carlisle 1993:16). His neighbour, Colonel EM Greene was also part of this Convention, serving at the time as Minister of Railways and Harbours.

After Union, Smythe continued to serve in politics, this time nationally. Union Prime Minister Louis Botha asked him to serve as Administrator of Natal, and accepting this office, he served in this position until a few months before his death in 1918. Pearl Scotney describes through the words of George Sutton that Smythe had a reputation for attending Parliament in his kilt (1902) (Scotney 2010:284). On his death the home farm Strathearn was fragmented amongst the children. 'His political appointments, not his farm, had kept us' according to Quentin's tall, genial father who was made aware of agriculture's small contribution to the family livelihood when he took over his legacy "Dwallen" (Zulu word for "rocky foundation") at Nottingham Road.' (Duffus: 1947: 89)

A more recent notable member of the Smythe family was Charles Smythe's grandson, Quentin Smythe VC, who achieved distinction fighting with the Natal Carbineers at Gazala. He arrived back in South Africa to a heroes welcome. After being feted around Natal, Duffus describes his reception in the Midlands, where he was 'garlanded by the Indian Community' as well as being offered the freedom of Durban (Duffus 1947;100).



Charles Smythe, 1897



Margaret Smythe, 1890

Fig 3: Charles and Margaret Smythe (King; 1985)

Colonel Edward McKenzie Greene KC VC was as significant a personage, yet more modest and certainly has not had as much biographical attention. Born in Pietermaritzburg he was sent abroad to school at Lancing College. He was the son of Very Reverend James Green of Pietermaritzburg, who was the Dean at St. Saviours Church. The 'e' found at the end of his surname was derived from a flourish in his signature. He practised as an advocate and was appointed Kings Counsel in 1902. As an active member of the Natal Carbineers he saw action in the Anglo-Zulu War, the Second Anglo- Boer War and was one of those besieged at Ladysmith. As a progressive farmer he was well noted in the area, and, together with the Karkloof MacKenzies and Sir George Leuchars, started the noted Clan Syndicate, a major forestry concern, at the beginning of the twentieth century. His own farming endeavours were also noted: the writer in the publication 'Twentieth Century Impressions of Natal' noted that 'In 1904 Colonel Greene took the prize for a champion bull of his own rearing, and in 1905 secured Mrs Thresh's prize for the best family group of cattle on show, and also a ten-guinea cup for the best heifer on show' (Lloyds: 1906: 580). The same publication described the farm as consisting of 7000 acres and running a good herd of 450 head of South Devon cattle.

Besides political activity at the time of Union, being one of the delegates to the National Convention for Union, he represented the Lions River Division in the Legislative Assembly for many years.

5.4 Making place and greening the landscape

Marking the landscape can be both physical and memorial. Physically the remains of these marks are seen in roads, homesteads, tree planting and gardens. However, for these early settlers they were also evocative of their places of origin, and with this they transferred memories. Many of the contemporary place names in the area owe their existence to these early settlers.

Charles Smythe came from Methven in Perthshire in Scotland, and John King, his neighbour and father-in-law, was originally also from Methven Estate. King's farm was named Lynedoch, after the lord of Balgowan Estate in Perthshire. The district known as Balgowan is said to resemble its counterpart in Perthshire. Strathearn, the name Smythe gave the farm Ebernberg, means 'by the Banks of the Earn', the home of Smythes paternal grandmother. Inchbrakie, on the other hand is the name given to the farm Vaalekop. 'Inch' is Scots meaning pasture or field and brakie is a small stream.

Other marks are representative, such as the creation of boundaries, which do sometimes become material especially with the introduction of fences and walls, as well as different approaches to agriculture. Thus the early settlers physically marked out the extent of their farms. Miss Smythe notes in her reminiscences that to mark out the original boundaries of his farm Charles Smythe rode his horse at a walk from point to point.

Different farm properties grew specifically according to the demands of their owners. Spring Grove farm is connected with the Greene family, and much of the place-making is connected with this tenure. It was originally surveyed in 1859, and was a Natal Lands and Colonisation Company speculative farm for many years, being only registered in 'Greene' ownership in 1890. Its proximity to the hamlet of Nottingham Road would have been beneficial, but also a reason for it being rapidly subdivided. In 1905 the Remainder of 2944 acres was registered to Hon Edward M Greene. As noted in a previous section, Colonel Greene was a soldier, politician and farmer. His house on Spring Grove was well considered. Lloyd's *Twentieth Century Impressions of Natal* (1911) said: 'The homestead, built entirely of stone and surrounded by an orchard and garden with ornamental trees, is both architecturally and in respect of its interior appointments one of the finest and most comfortable edifices of its class in the colony'. This was incorporated into Clifton Preparatory School in 1951. The Remainder is still owned by the Greene family. It is said that the ghost of Colonel Greene haunts the old homestead at the school (<http://www.raski.co.za/2011/06/mysteries-of-the-midlands>).



Fig 4: Spring Grove House ca 1911 (Lloyds: 1911: 581)

Spring Vale was also originally surveyed in 1859. This farm broke into many small subdivisions since it was close to Rosetta and its civic requirements. Spring Vale also straddles the road and railway line, meaning that land was expropriated in small chunks as the colony expanded. It was also Natal Lands and Colonisation Company land, eventually being transferred to Christopher Groom in 1890, the family with whom the land is chiefly associated, together with the Acutts.

Ebernberg and Vaalekop were both properties purchased by Charles Smythe. Vaalekop was surveyed in 1865, and consisted of 3000 acres which were purchased by Charles Smythe in 1878. He renamed this property Inchbrakie. Ebernberg was surveyed in 1860 and was also a speculative purchase, being connected with the Natal Lands and Colonization company who owned it until Charles Smythe bought it in 1880. With these two adjacent properties he owned nearly 8000 acres of continuous land.

Ebernberg was the main farm on which the Smythe family settled. Here the Smythes built their homestead known as Strathearn. It was named Strathearn 'by the Banks of the Earn' (Child 1973: 109), the home of his paternal grandmother. They chose the position of the house as the land was level 'below which the hillside sloped fifty feet to a marshy valley through which a stream meandered for two miles to meet the Mooi'. Charles Smythe began by setting up a cow byre, constructed of stone and large enough to hold 60 cows. When this was complete he began work on the main house. He made the bricks himself, together with indentured Indian labourers. The 25000 internal bricks remained green, whilst the 35000 external bricks were kiln fired. The roof was originally thatched but was replaced with corrugated iron. Completed in 1879 it accommodated the Smythe family, which numbered 14 children at its peak.

Rosetta farm was surveyed in 1863, and was granted to DHM Moodie the same year. It also borders onto Rosetta. 'Noo' Dorning also describes the main house on Rosetta Farm. William Henwood was the builder, and what was the original farmhouse is now a manager's cottage. It was completed in 1880. Henwood was an accomplished carpenter, and Dorning describes mahogany furniture on a nearby farm as having been made by Henwood from timber from the wreck of the *Minerva*.

These farmlands were initially bare of trees. Charles Smythe was forced to purchase a plot of land in Nottingham Road Village, which allowed for the cutting on timber on the town common (King: 36: 1985). Early photographs of Strathearn show how completely bare the veld was in the past. The Smythes gradually treed the valley. The Mooi River, until recently edged with willows, was not always so. Janet King is known to have taken a cutting of a willow from Napoleon's grave on St Helena Island, on their way to Durban. This cutting is the parent of all the willow trees that grew. Charles Smythe also planted many varieties of other trees: a thousand *Pinus insignis* seedlings purchased in Pietermaritzburg around the Strathearn homestead, and notably an avenue nicknamed 'the Cathedral'. He also planted oaks, cypress, black wattle, blue gums and weeping willows in the swamp assisting in its drainage (Dorning: 1997:).

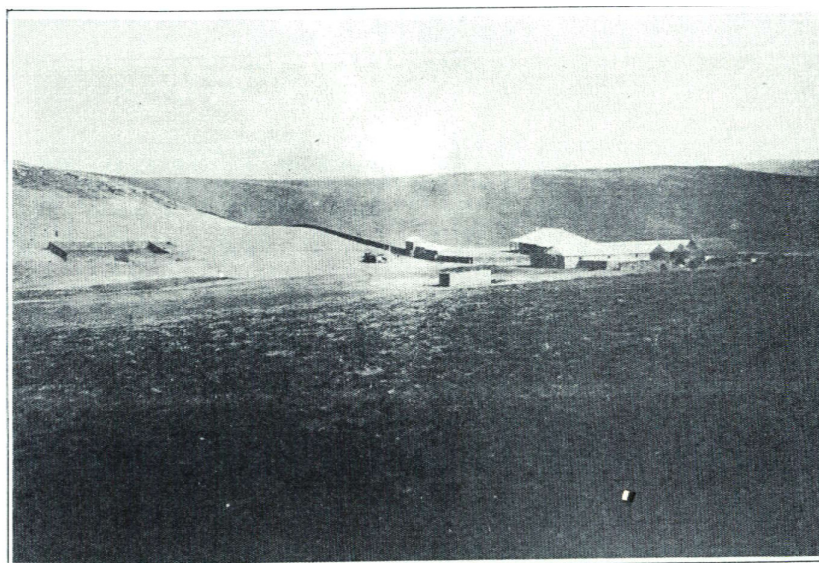


Fig 5: Strathearn homestead in 1884. Note dearth of trees (King: 1985)

Colonel Greene too is described in *'Twentieth Century Impressions of Natal'* that 'An abundant water-supply is laid on to the homestead and garden from a reservoir in the hills, and trees from all parts of the world have been imported, and are thriving on the estate'.



Fig 6: View of Spring Grove ca 1911 (Lloyds: 1911: 581)

Other placemaking was more publicly determined. Given the proximity to the main wagon road to the interior, this area was also strongly affected by the effects of the Langalibalale Rebellion, the Anglo- Zulu War, the Anglo- Boer War and the Bambatha Rebellion, with the movement of troops and their support into the interior (King: 1985). The advent of the railway line reinforced the position of the road. As per recommendations, the remnant of what was considered to be an old wagon road leading down from the main Rosetta Kamberg Road was further investigated. No evidence of its existence was found on any old maps (See Masson Map, as an example). It is suspected that this was a later or localized access point.



Fig 7: Showing descent of the old wagon road (Photo: Author: August 2010)

The naming of Inchbrakie and Tunga Falls falls into the realm of memory and recognition as noted earlier in this report. This was also dealt with in more detail in the original Phase I report. No further information on these natural sites has been found. Although these sites are not man-made, they certainly inform the manner in which man utilised the land. The former, particularly, is the site of San/ Bushman rock art, which is described more closely in the archaeological report, and the appropriate measures to be taken are to be found in that document.

5.5 Survival- agriculture, transport riding and the men and women of the time

This part of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands was occupied by settlers of English descent relatively soon after the original land grants were given out, and actively farmed as land allocation moved farther into the interior. Many of these early farmers also worked as transport riders, as for many years their lack of expertise of working these unknown lands meant that farming did not pay. Robert King describes the toil of these early settlers as a life of constant work.

Charles Smythe turned his hands to many pursuits, in addition to farming and politics. Robert King writes 'Some of the local farmers like Charles Smythe earned extra money by helping with the construction work. Smythe agree to drive stone for the railway contractors at 2/6 per load. He drove one cart and his assistant, Mallock, the other and he managed to make £3 a day in this manner'. His wife Margaret is noted for her production of vast numbers of kips of butter which were sent to the young town of Pietermaritzburg for sale. Even when she was eight months pregnant, she was remembered to have churning butter! She bore 14 children, and ran the farm during the long periods of his absence at the Legislature in Pietermaritzburg. Once the Strathearn house was established, Smythe needed to address farming issues; access to water, improved farming methods in the light of the lack of labour. He notes that farmhands Malloch and Fly were of great use: he could now employ the use of horse-drawn ploughs rather than oxen and also use horse-drawn hoes (Child 1973).

As previously noted, the multi-faceted Colonel Edward Greene has been mentioned as being both eminent politician and competent soldier. He was also a noted experimental farmer, with descriptions in 1906 referring to the Spring Grove farm as consisting of 7000 acres and running a good herd of 450 head of South Devon (cattle). In addition he was a partner in Clan Syndicate farming timber, together with the Karkloof MacKenzies and Sir Gordon Leuchars.

6. Conclusions

The expanded evidence in Phase II has evaluated the cultural and social landscapes of the area to be inundated by the proposed Spring Grove Dam in order to establish the contribution of this district to the provincial historic record. Although the material cultural resources are strongly managed according to the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Heritage Resources Act no 4 of 2008, interpreting the cultural landscape is much more ephemeral.

NOTE: The archaeology of the area, and the impact on the rock art, has been dealt with by separate cultural heritage practitioners. This report deals with the historical and social aspects which are largely intangible, as well as discrete elements of the material landscape which fall within the ambits of historical, and not archaeological, research.

Of the intangible landscape, the layers of residents of different cultures is noted, as well as the movement of people of the Southern Nguni into the area in the late 1870s. The dearth of labour, a constant issue amongst the early farmers, prompted the importation of servants from the home country, as well as white and Indian labourers who arrived through as system of indenture or debt. The position of these early farmers as local politicians is described, which is connected closely to the multi-faceted nature of farming at this time, since politics was a way of supplementing income from farming which, at the time, was not a lucrative endeavour.

Of the tangible, the manner in which the more recent white settlers made indelible and transient marks on the landscape and changed the natural vegetation to resemble 'home' is also discussed. Little evidence was found to substantiate a wagon road across Vaalekop.

It is strongly recommended that these stories form part of a local interpretation, most probably at the junction, in order to memorialize the cultural landscape in its complexity. In addition, it is strongly recommended that a montage of 'before' and 'after' inundation be erected at the viewpoint close to the 'wagon road' on the Rosetta Karloof Road.

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Howick Museum:

- Smythe file
Greene file

Contact: Robert King
Sue Smythe
Derek Greene (no reply)