

WELMOED FARM

STELLENBOSCH

INVESTIGATION

OF THE 19TH C. GRAVEYARD
OF THE VAN DER BÿL FAMILY

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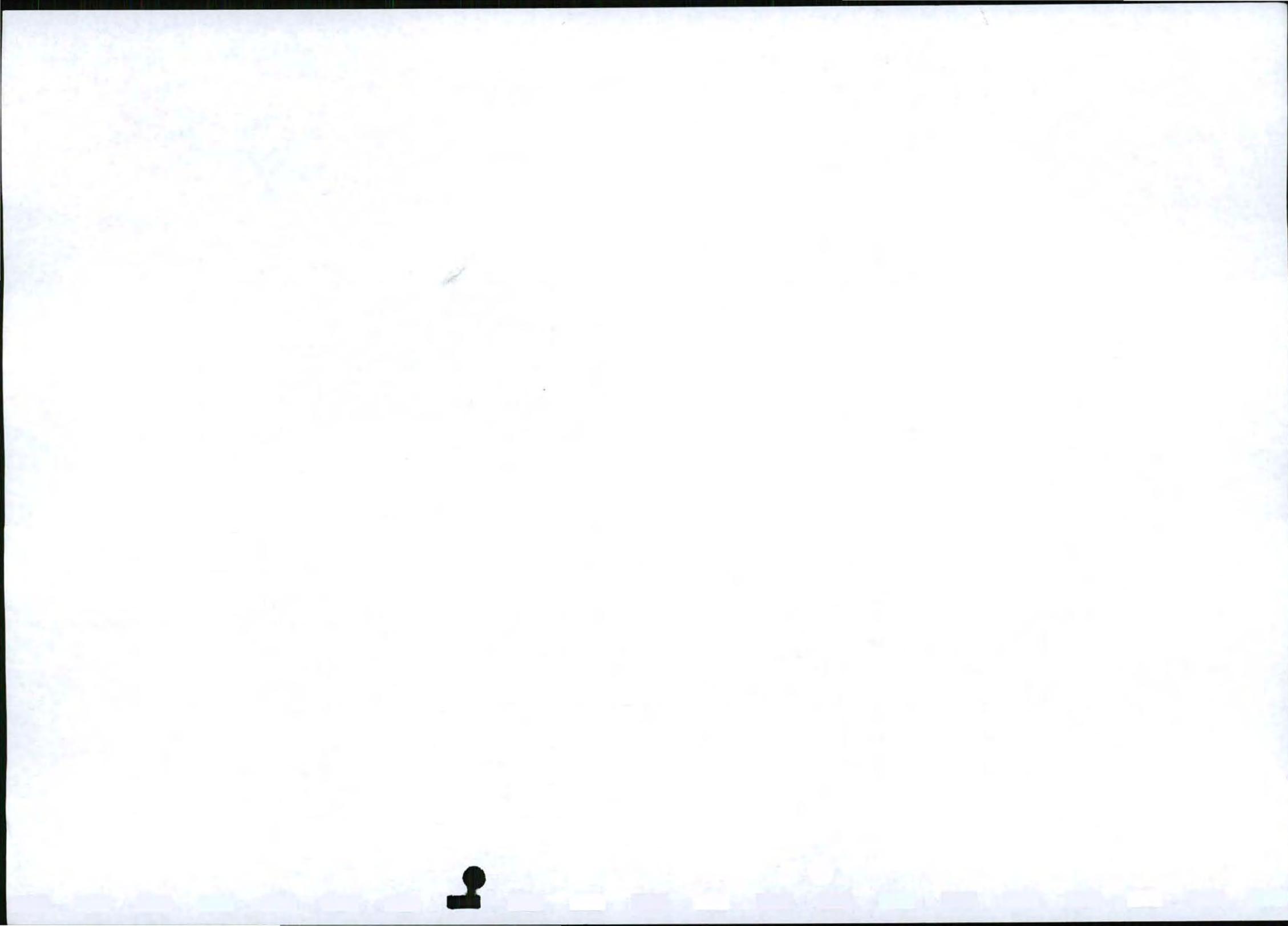
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THE PUZZLE.

Reproduced from a picture published in 1706.

(Andrews 1899: 232)

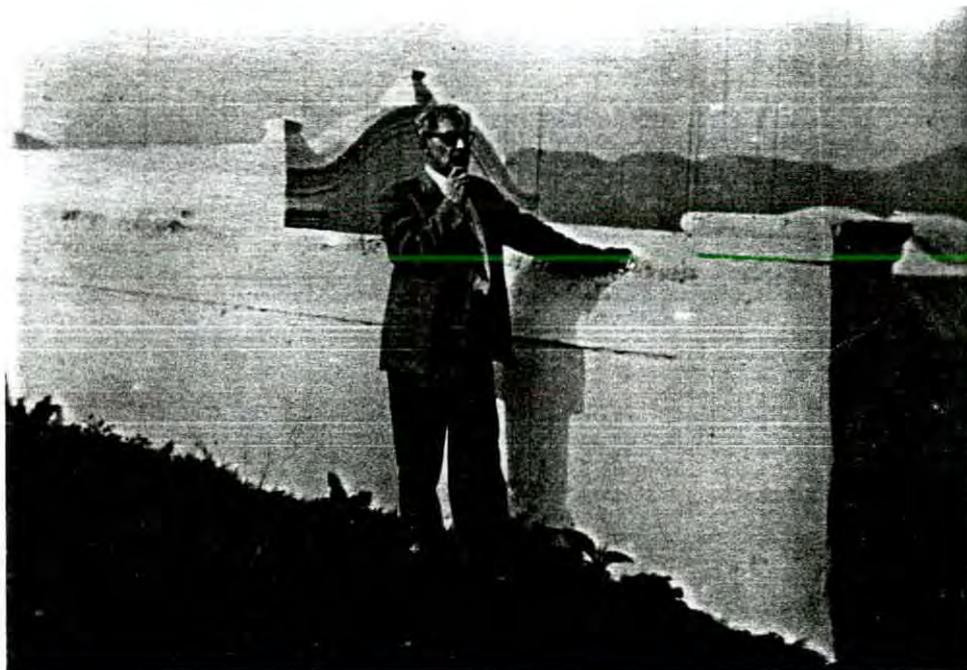


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I should like to thank Stuart Hermansen and Jeremy Spit for the opportunity to assist in the rehabilitation of the Welmoed graveyard. Mrs Macpherson was kind enough to share some of her research with Stellenbosch Museum staff and I am sure she has much to add to (and correct in) this report. Mara Visser of the Stellenbosch Heemkring also dug up some old photographs and information for this report. A special word of thanks to Mr Willem Malherbe who took some early photographs, who helped with finding information and plans, and edited the report.

This is a pioneer study which may contain unintentional errors. The author would therefore appreciate if such mistakes could be brought to his attention. Copyright of the report resides with the author.

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I should like to dedicate this report to the memory of Johannes van der Bÿl, who devoted much of his time to researching the history of the Stellenbosch district (Copy of photograph by Dr. A. Hugo, 1960s).



1. INTRODUCTION

Since early 1997 Mr B. Macpherson and Mrs N. Macpherson (born Van der Bÿl) have been negotiating to have the Van der Bÿl graveyard at Welmoed restored. The *Van der Bÿl Graves Trust* was formed with Mr Meyer de Waal as trustee, and Team Architecture under the direction of Stuart Hermansen was contracted to oversee the work. The Research Centre for Historical Archaeology (RCHA) was appointed on 23 February 1998 to undertake an archaeological investigation of the graveyard.

The state of the graveyard was fair, but in urgent need of repair. The outer boundary wall was in relatively good condition, but one of the entrance pillars had already collapsed. The five burial vaults within were overgrown with weeds, much of which was cleared with herbicide by the end of February. Of the three vaults which still project 140 cm above ground, two were intact, while the roof of the third had partially collapsed, exposing boards and fallen brickwork. All three have inscribed tombstones. The two other, lower, vaults are situated in the northern corners of the graveyard, and project about 20-30 cm above groundlevel. All constructions date from between 1820 and 1880.

Aims of the investigation:

1. To gain a greater understanding of a farm graveyard, including its age, layout and construction techniques.
2. Determining the relationship of the family members buried in the graveyard.
3. The excavation of the collapsed vault and recovery of any visible caskets or skeletal material, which could later be reburied properly.
4. A policy of minimal disturbance of the graves since numerous descendants of those interred are still alive.

A permit dated 26 February 1998 was obtained from the National Monuments Council (**Annexure 1**).

When on this spot affection's downcast eye,
 The lucid tribute shall no more bestow ;
 When friendship's breast no more shall heave a sigh,
 In kind remembrance of the dust below ;
 Should the rude sexton digging near this tomb,
 A place of rest for others to prepare,
 The vault beneath to violate presume ;
 May some opposing Christian cry "Forbear"—
 Forbear! rash mortal, as thou hop'st to rest
 When death shall lodge thee in thy destined bed,
 With ruthless spade, unkindly to molest
 The peaceful slumbers of the kindred dead.

(Andrews 1899: 176-7)



2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 EARLY FARMERS

2.2.1 Henning Hüsing

Since the European settlement of the Cape in 1652, constantly more free-burgers tried their hand at agricultural pursuits. When grazing rights were given to Henning Hüsing and Claas Gerritz across the Eerste River by August 1678, the process of colonization started in earnest (Visagie 1979:67). Hüsing was then a young German of 31 years, still single, but very industrious and ambitious. When Simon van der Stel sought new sheltered land for grain cultivation and chose the Stellenbosch valley in November 1679, Hüsing was one of the first to apply (FIG.1).

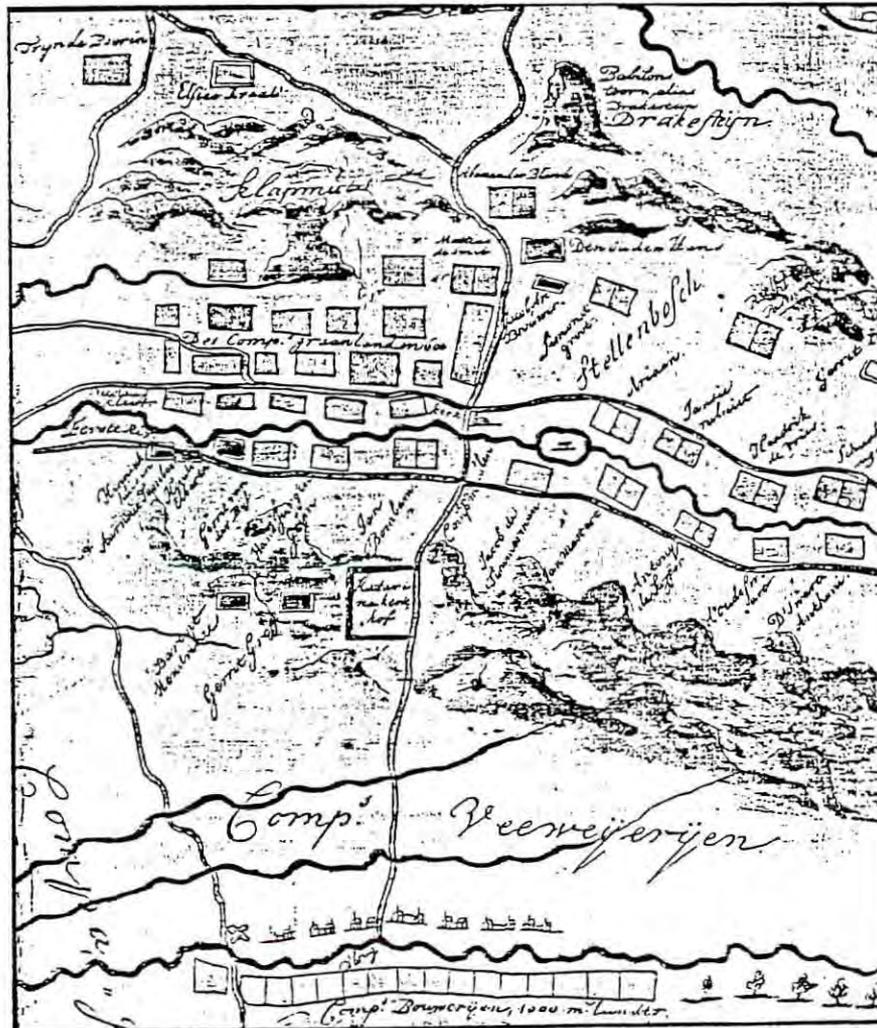


FIG.1 A crude map of c.1690 depicts the farms symbolically as rectangular grants, with that of Huisen (sic) of Welmoed on the far left (Cape Archives M1/273).

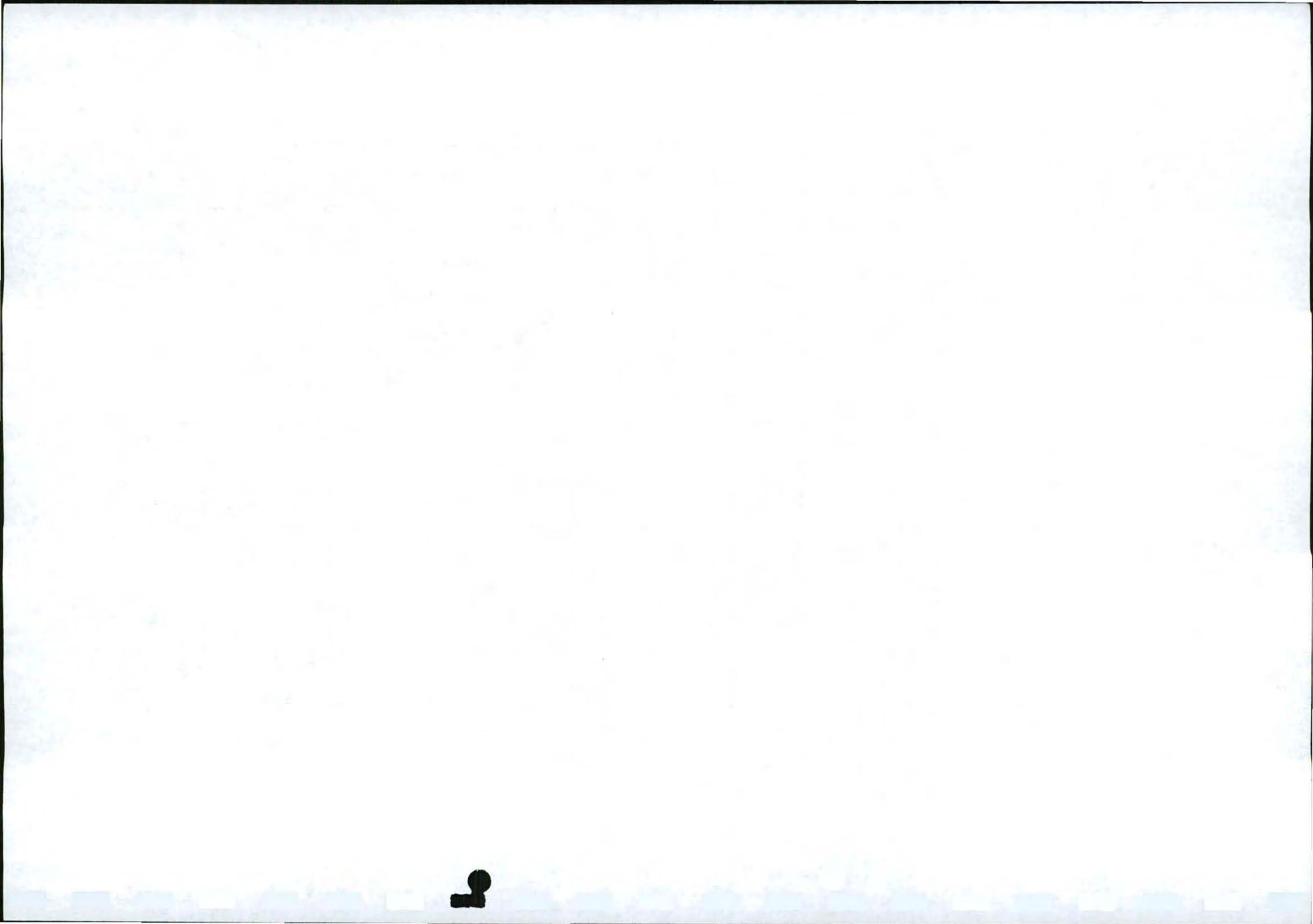
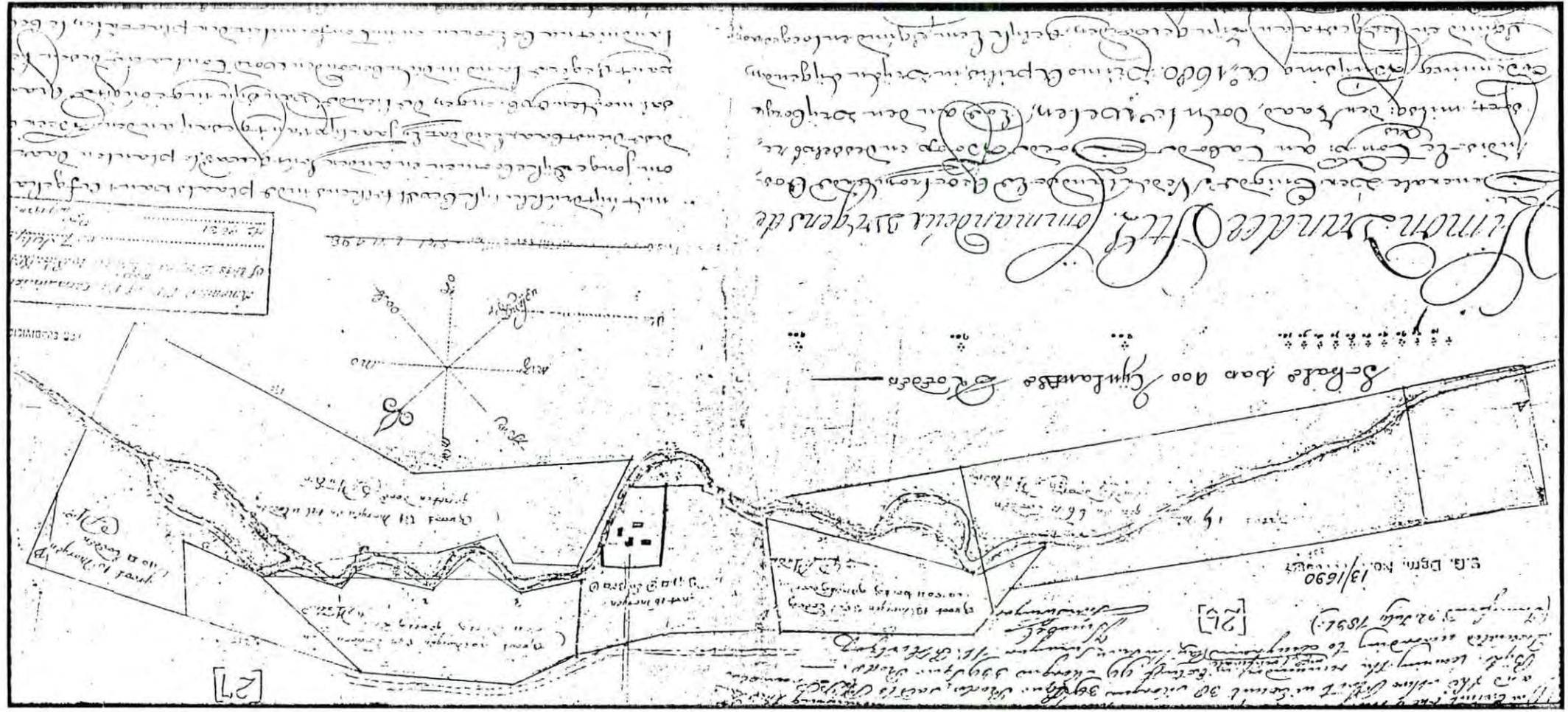


FIG. 2 A copy of the original 1690 grant to Henning Hüsing of Welmoed. As irrigation played a major part in agriculture, all the lands were situated along the Erste River (Deeds Office).





Welmoed was apparently the first land given in promise on 1-4-1680. This promisory note forms part of the permanent grant of 6-10-1690 (OSF 1 17) (FIG.2). It consisted of 6 pieces of land totalling 139 morgen 324 r² 65 ft². Of great interest are the extensive building operations as revealed by the grant (FIG.3). Already four structures are indicated, exceeding the one or at most two buildings on farms generally found during this period. We know that in 1692 Hüsing had at least 11 slaves (Smuts 1979:178). The four structures probably represent a dwelling, a slave lodge/workshop, a wine-cellar/coachhouse, and grain store/stable. These structures are inferred from the 50 000 vines and the bumper crops of grain reflected in Hüsing's tax returns of 1682-1695. The spacious yard was probably surrounded by a channel, represented by double-lines on the grant. Similar channels (or possibly walls) enclose large portions to the north (20+ morgen) and south (13+ morgen) of the farm yard. Portions of Hüsing's extensive flocks and herds were presumably kept at Welmoed. These substantial structures were probably all built of local stone over a period of 5-10 years.

It is of interest that the tight concentration of buildings, the enclosed werf and the considerable lengths of boundary walls or ditches for the stock, can all be traced to Commissioner Adrian van Reede's recommendations of 1685 to Simon van der Stel. The name *Welmoed* can be translated as Genial, and perhaps reflects Hüsing's initial state of mind. By 1683 he had also acquired a large portion of the adjacent farm Meerlust, which is descriptive of him, since he always "lusted" for "more" land, money, grazing, stock or buildings! (Vos 1996:15).

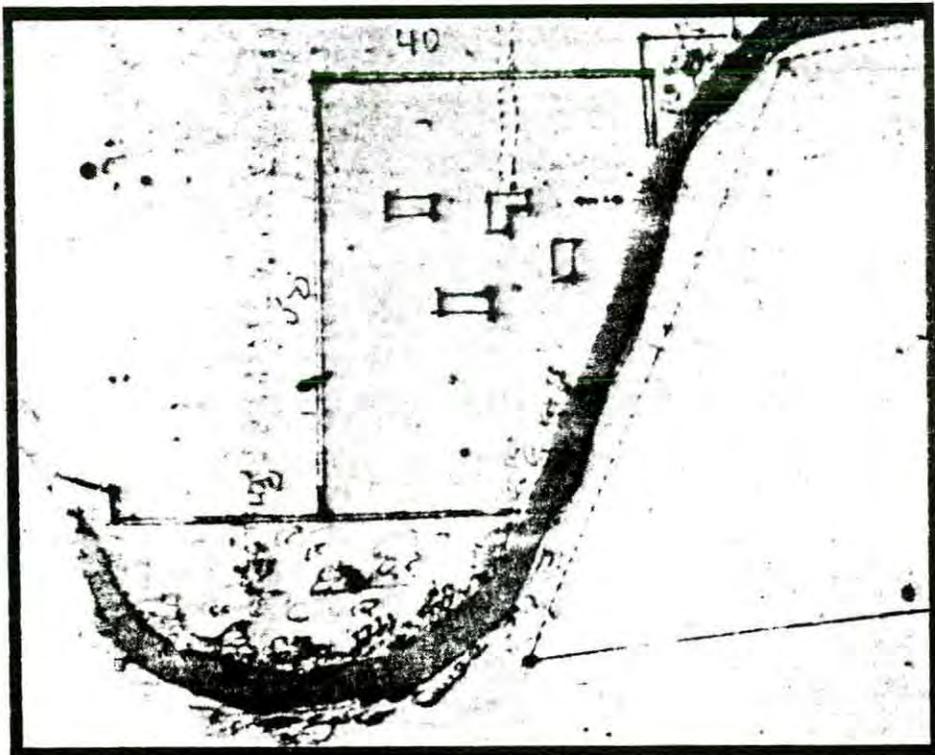


FIG.3 By 1690 four buildings had been erected, presumably enclosed by a ditch.



2.1.2 Jacobus van der Heÿden

In February 1696 the farm Welmoed (also called *Welgemoed* in Valentyn I 1971:136) was transferred to Hüsing's good friend, Jacobus van der Heÿden, who was himself a man of means, as can be gleaned from his *opgaafrolle* (Tax returns) (Table 1).

YEAR	MAN	WOMAN	SONS	DAUGHTERS	KNECHTS	SLAVES	MEN	SLAVERS	WOMEN	SLAVES	SONS	SLAVERS	DAUGHTERS	HORSES	CATT	SHEEP	PIG	VINES	WINE LEAGUERS	CORN	WHEAT	CORN	WHEAT
1700	1	1	3	1	2	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	92	600	30	18000	20	17	170		
1709	1	1	3	1	0	22	2	1	6	40	200	1500	-	240000	100	40	600						
1712	1	1	2	1	4	31	2	3	4	36	150	1000	10	100000	40	25	350						

TABLE 1 The tax rolls for Van der Heÿden of Welmoed show that he was quite prosperous in respect of labourers, horses, cattle, wine leaguers and cereals.

Jacobus owned numerous farms e.g. Overveen (Drakenstein), De Voorspoed, De Zeekoejagt, Uitwyk and Ongegund (Böeseken 1981:724). He was a respected man in the Stellenbosch community and served as deacon, elder and councillor (*heemraad*). Nonetheless, he seemed to have been indirectly involved in some underhand barter transactions with the Khoikhoi in 1702 and 1723. In the latter case some of his bartering crew were accused of plundering a tribe and killing innocent women and children in Drakenstein (Ibid.:725; Fouché & Böeseken 1970:366,368).

It is of interest that the retired Secretary of the Political Council, the bachelor Johannes Grevenbroek, lived and farmed at Welmoed from c.1695 until his death in 1725. He was considered to be one of the most learned men in the district and a good friend of Hüsing and Van der Heÿden (Fouché & Böeseken 1970:63, n70). The intellectual Grevenbroek was well versed in Latin and wrote an extensive work on the Khoikhoi (*Hottentotte*), which was later unscrupulously copied by Peter Kolb (Smuts (ed.) 1979:372-3). It seems that after c.1708 Van der Heÿden and his second wife lived on a farm at Rondebosch. Grevenbroek would thus have continued farming operations at Welmoed on behalf of Van der Heÿden.

Hüsing, Adam Tas and Van der Heÿden were the chief instigators of the revolt against the corrupt practices and monopolies of governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel during 1705-7. The reason was that, financially, they personally suffered the most from the governor's measures!

In March 1706, Van der Heÿden stubbornly refused to submit to the aggressive examination by the Stellenbosch Landdrost Starrenburg at the castle. Whereupon he was thrown into a dark dungeon (*donker verwulf*) of the castle for 15 days, together with a black slave awaiting trial for murder and arson. When he still refused to co-



operate, he was incarcerated for 27 days in the infamous Black Hole (*Donker Gat*), a sub-terranean dungeon with no light and little ventilation. This was considered to be "the most evil hole, from which no man has ever emerged, save only to the scaffold"! (Fouché & Böeseken 1970:272-282). When he appeared on the 7th of April he was so weak and sickly that he was immediately released (on doctor's orders) for fear the he should die.

For this unjust and punitive treatment, Van der Heÿden in 1712 with Tas wrote a well-documented rebuttal to Willem van der Stel's defence from Holland. It must have given Van der Heÿden great pleasure to buy a portion of his old enemy's farm Vergelegen in 1711. It seems that he stayed there from then onwards and also died there, in January 1727. He was at that time considered to be one of the richest men in the country (Böeseken 1981:724-5).

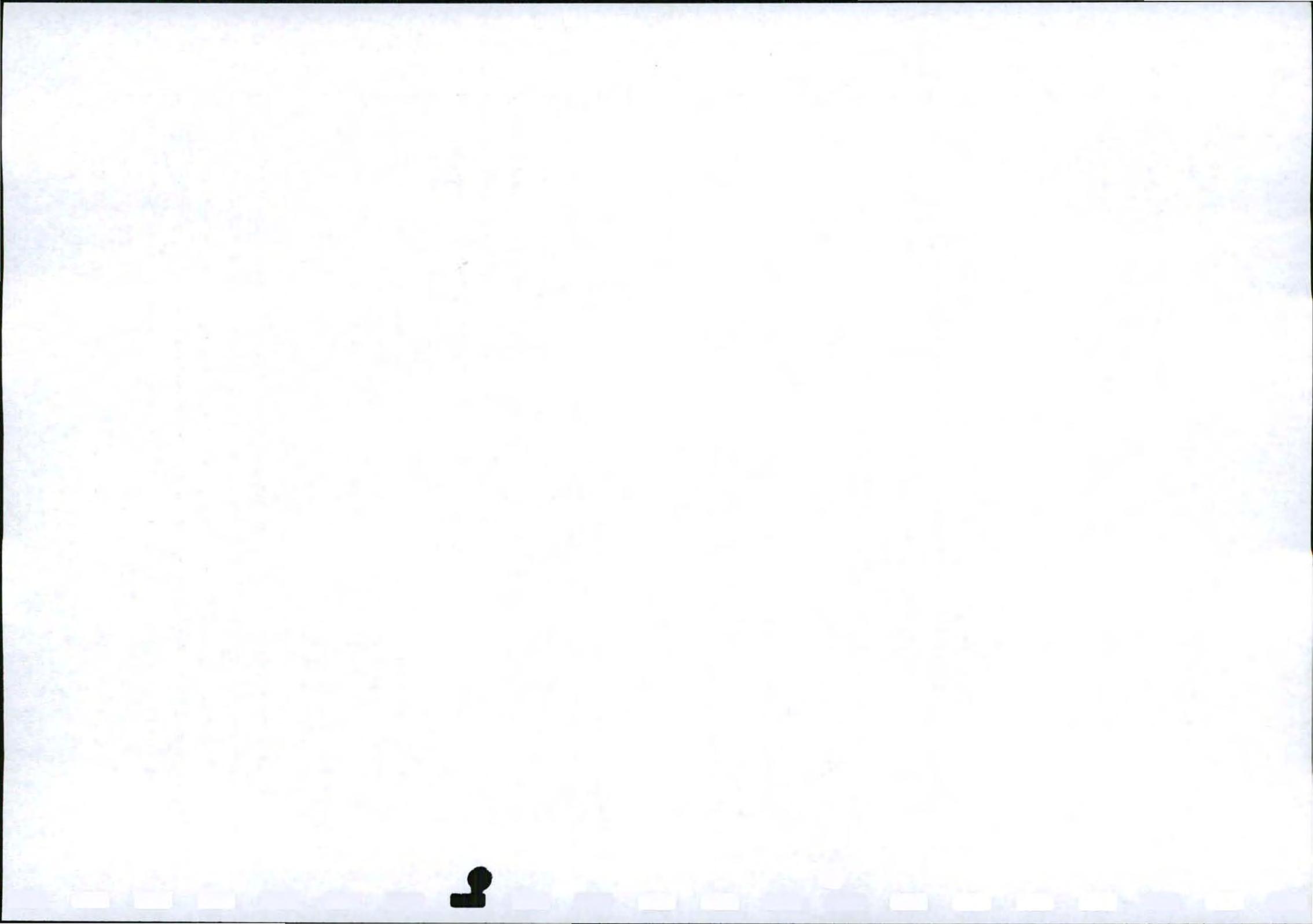
2.1.3 Andries Schutte

The German Andreas Schütte arrived at the Cape in 1721 and was appointed one of the four chief gardeners by the Company. Already in 1723 he recommended that the 24 m high dunes of the Cape flats be stabilized by the planting of indigenous vegetation (De Vos 1981:579).

J. van der Heÿden had 4 children. Hester, his daughter and 3rd child first married Izaak Scheepers, and after his death (c.1720s) married Andries Schutte on 13 May 1725. Suddenly Andries was the owner of three farms: Laaste Gift; a portion of Vergelegen; and Welmoed! The next year he left the service of the Company to manage these farms. He sold off the two former farms in 1752 and stayed with his wife on Welmoed. They had no children (Ibid.:580). Shortly before he sold Welmoed in 1759, he retired to the thatched dwelling known as Saxenhof in Dorp Street, Stellenbosch, where he died six years later. He was buried in grave 53 inside the DR Church (dated 1722) on 4-4-1765. His wife (who probably died in 1769) was buried in grave 59 (Hugo & Van der Bÿl 1963:225,233).

2.1.4 Jan de Villiers JP zn

The Huguenot Pierre de Villiers was the progenitor of this family in S.A. His second son Jan or Jean, farmed at La Brie, Paarl and Jan's second son Jan or J.P. was born in 1739. Jan zn married Magdalena de Villiers a month before he took ownership of Welmoed in 1759. After having borne him three children, she died c.1770. Jan zn married again, this time in 1771 with Johanna van Dÿk who



gave him another 10 children (Pama & De Villiers 1981:1029,1039-1041). Johanna died on 20 June 1794 and was buried three days later in the DR Church (Hugo & Van der Bÿl 1963:238). Her husband soon followed her who died on 10.9.1796, and was interred three days later in the same Church (Ibid.:239).

2.2 VAN DER BÿL FAMILY

2.2.1 EARLY PROGENITORS

The Progenitor Gerhard Pieter zn hailed from Holland and arrived at the Cape, probably by 1666. He was termed "*a fine, suitable and well conducted man*" which tends to describe the character of most of this early Cape stock (Quote from Van der Bÿl 1968:1. Most of the information in much greater detail is available in Van der Bÿl's booklet). Gerhard, his wife, and only son Pieter zn, established themselves in Cape Town as upstanding citizens. When the new colony of Stellenbosch was created by commander Simon van der Stel in December 1679, they were one of the first families to settle there by April 1680. The family farm was Vredenburg (*Bastion of Peace*) (1680-1779), from which three other branches spread out, viz. to Malmesbury and to the adjacent Stellenbosch farm, Spier (1781-1919) and Welmoed (1797-1877) (Van der Bÿl 1963:64, 65A, 66A, 66).

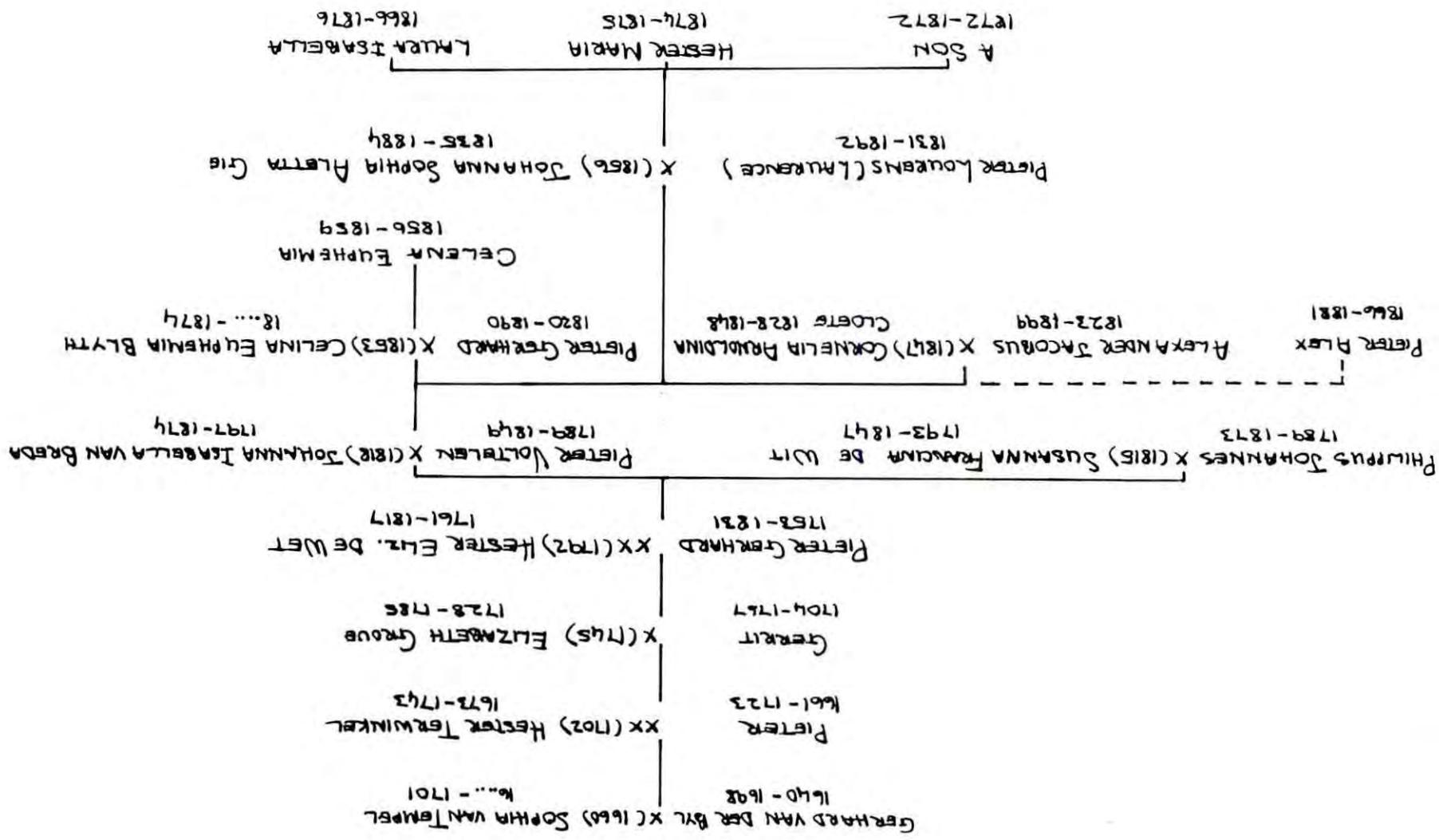
There are many interesting facts about the doings and farms of father and son, but only one or two will suffice (Van der Bÿl 1968; Böeseken 1981 and Fouché & Böeseken 1970 (see index)). A church and graveyard was erected at Stellenbosch by 1687 where Gerhard and his family must have regularly attended the services. He was also a *heemraad* and had the honour to be chosen as the first elder of the congregation in 1686. After his death in 1698 Gerhard was most likely buried inside the church because of his high position, or else in the cemetery surrounding the church. Sadly this church and most of Stellenbosch was destroyed by a fire in December 1710 (see section 4.3).

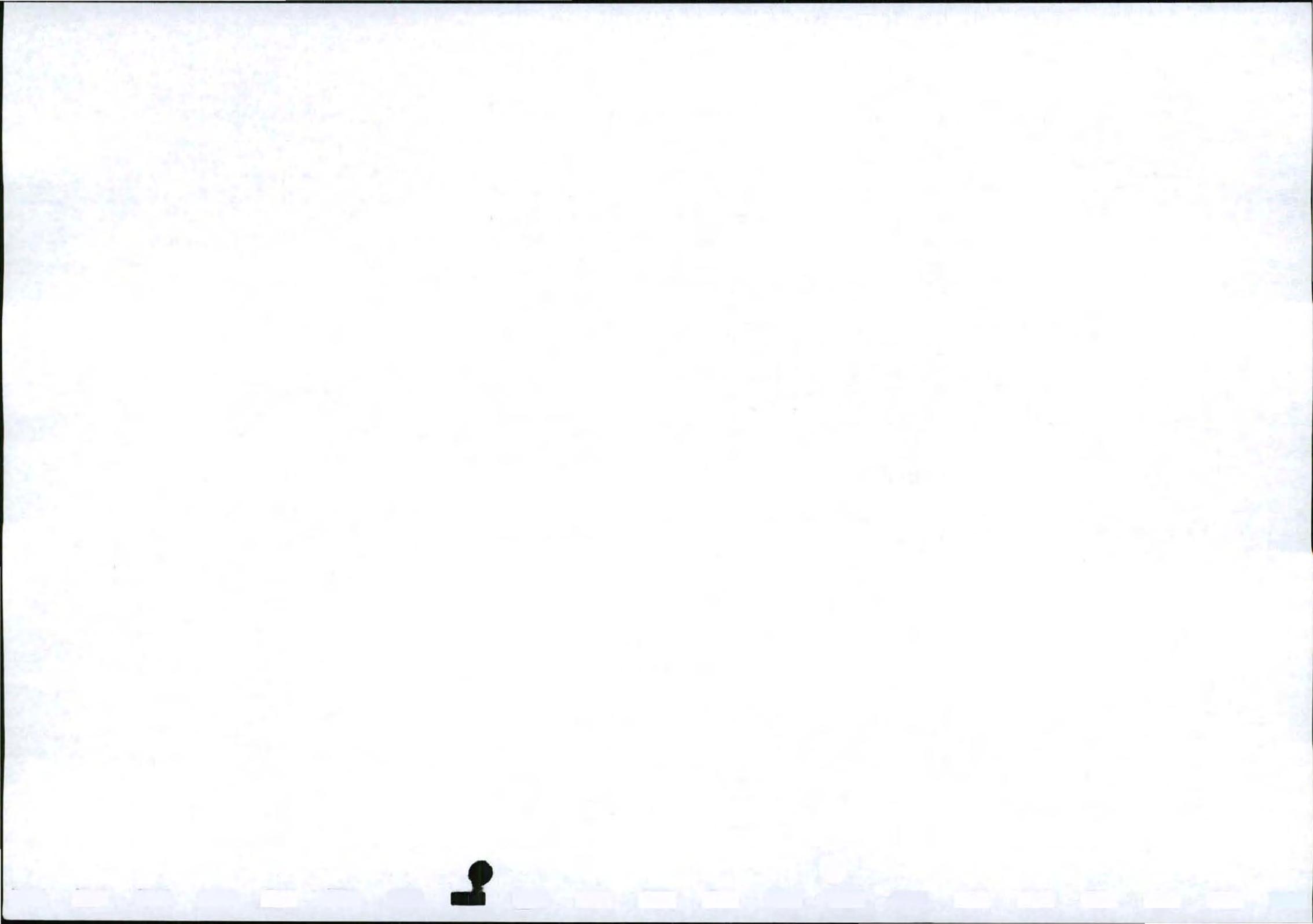
His son Pieter (1.1.1661-9.10.1723) first married Anna S. Bosch in 1688 and, after her death, Hester Terwinkel in 1702. He lived at Vredenburg with his wife and his mother from 1698 onwards and had seven daughters and three sons, of which Gerrit (1704-1767) (by his second marriage) eventually inherited Vredenburg in 1723.

Gerrit followed in his father's footsteps as *heemraad* and elder, and was accorded the singular privilege of laying the foundation stone of the new DR Church facing Drostdy Street in 1719 (Van der Bÿl 1968:2). Here a number of the Van der Bÿls (mainly women) of Vredenburg and Spier were interred in graves under the church floor during the late 18th century (Hugo & Van der Bÿl 1963:225, 231, 232, 236, 237). In the churchyard to the south, a buried vault (sealed in 1919) of A.C. van der Bÿl of Spier, probably contains additional family members (Ibid.:217).



TABLE 2 Summary of the Van der Byl members who are buried at Welmoed.





2.2.2 THE VAN DER BÿLS OF WELMOED

On 22nd December 1797, two years after Britain occupied the Cape, Pieter Gerhard van der Bÿl Gerrit zn bought Welmoed (Van der Bÿl 1963:66A). The ownership of the Van der Bÿls lasted somewhat less than a century, but they added a number of buildings to the farm, including a sizable graveyard, the subject of this report. A very select genealogy of members interred here have been drawn up (TABLE 2).

The Van der Bÿl sons and daughters are dominant figures of the farms along the Eerste River, from Vredenburg through Spier and Welmoed to Meerlust (FIG.4). At the latter farm of the Myburghs, another walled graveyard has existed since the late 18th century. Here a fair number of Van der Bÿls are also interred, both male and female (see section 4.1).

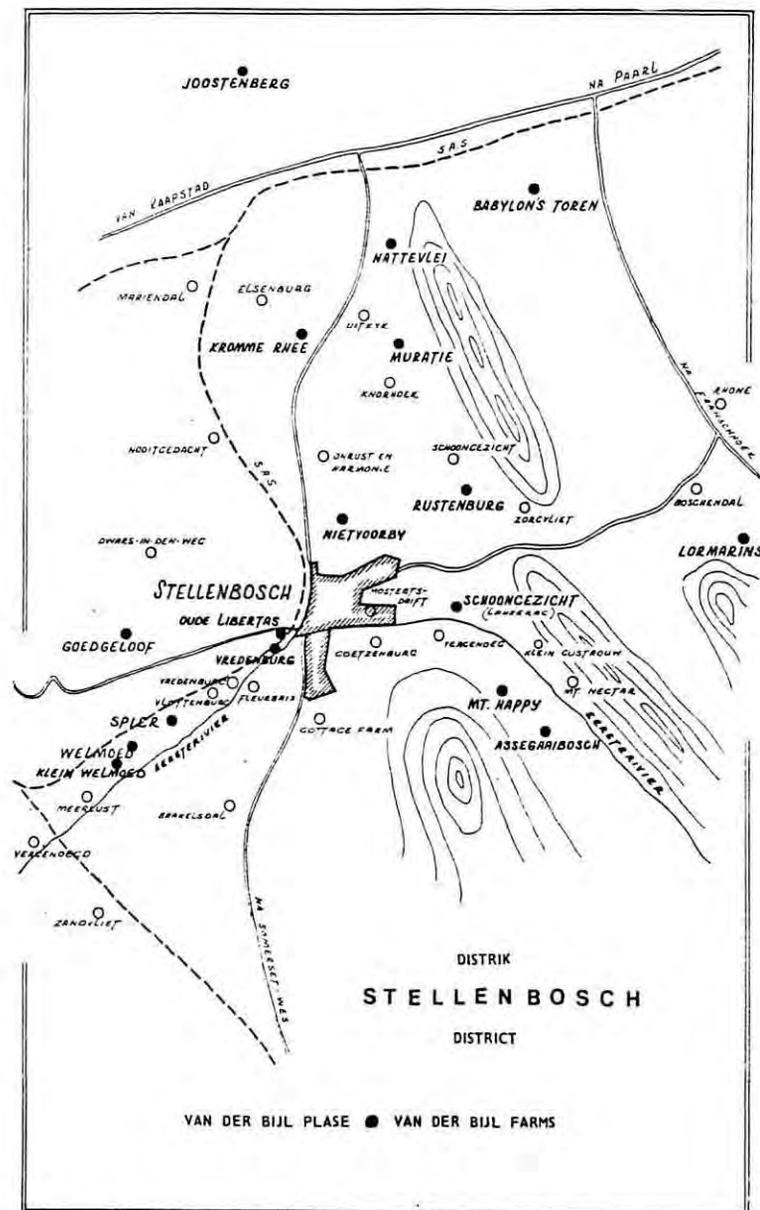
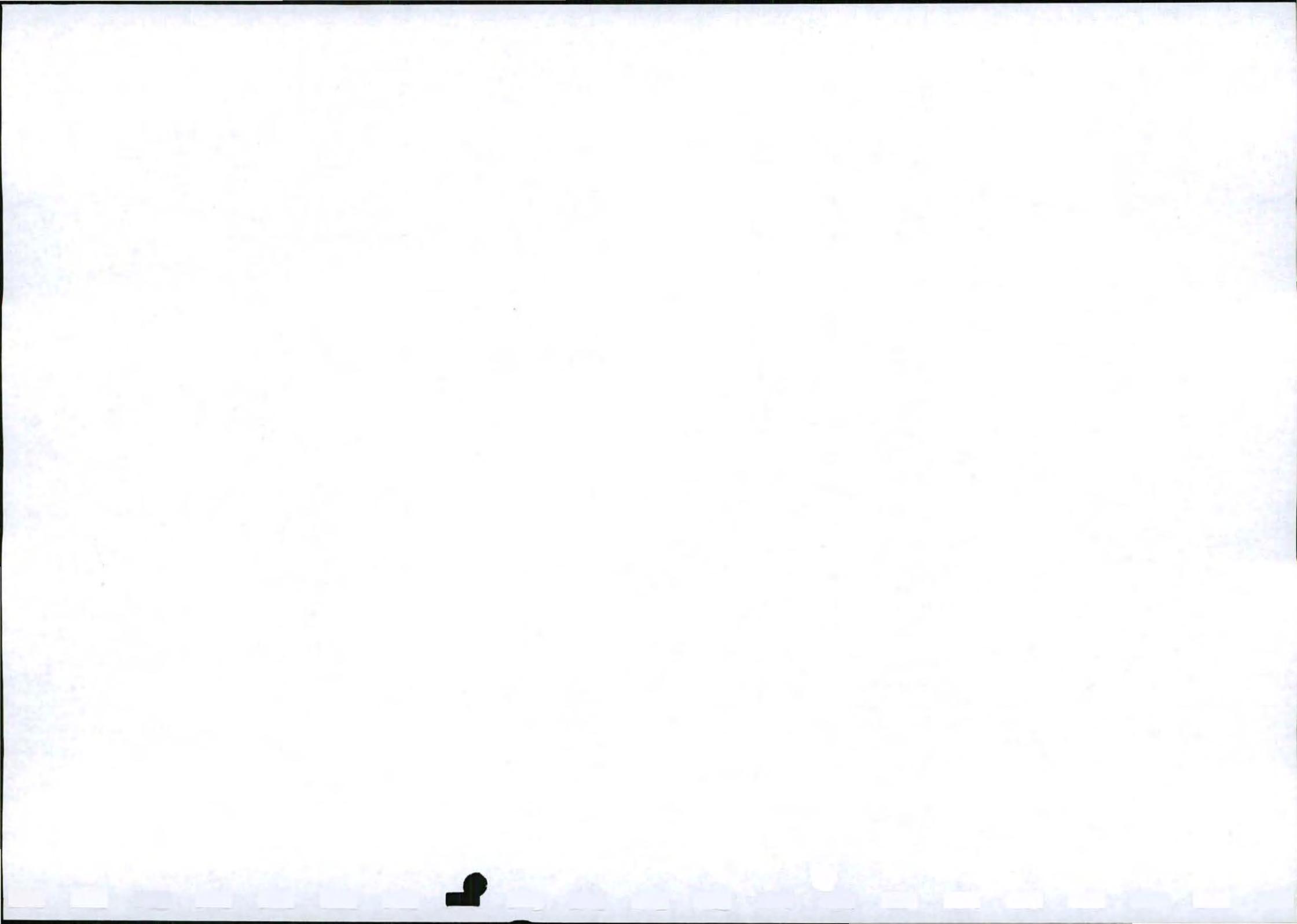
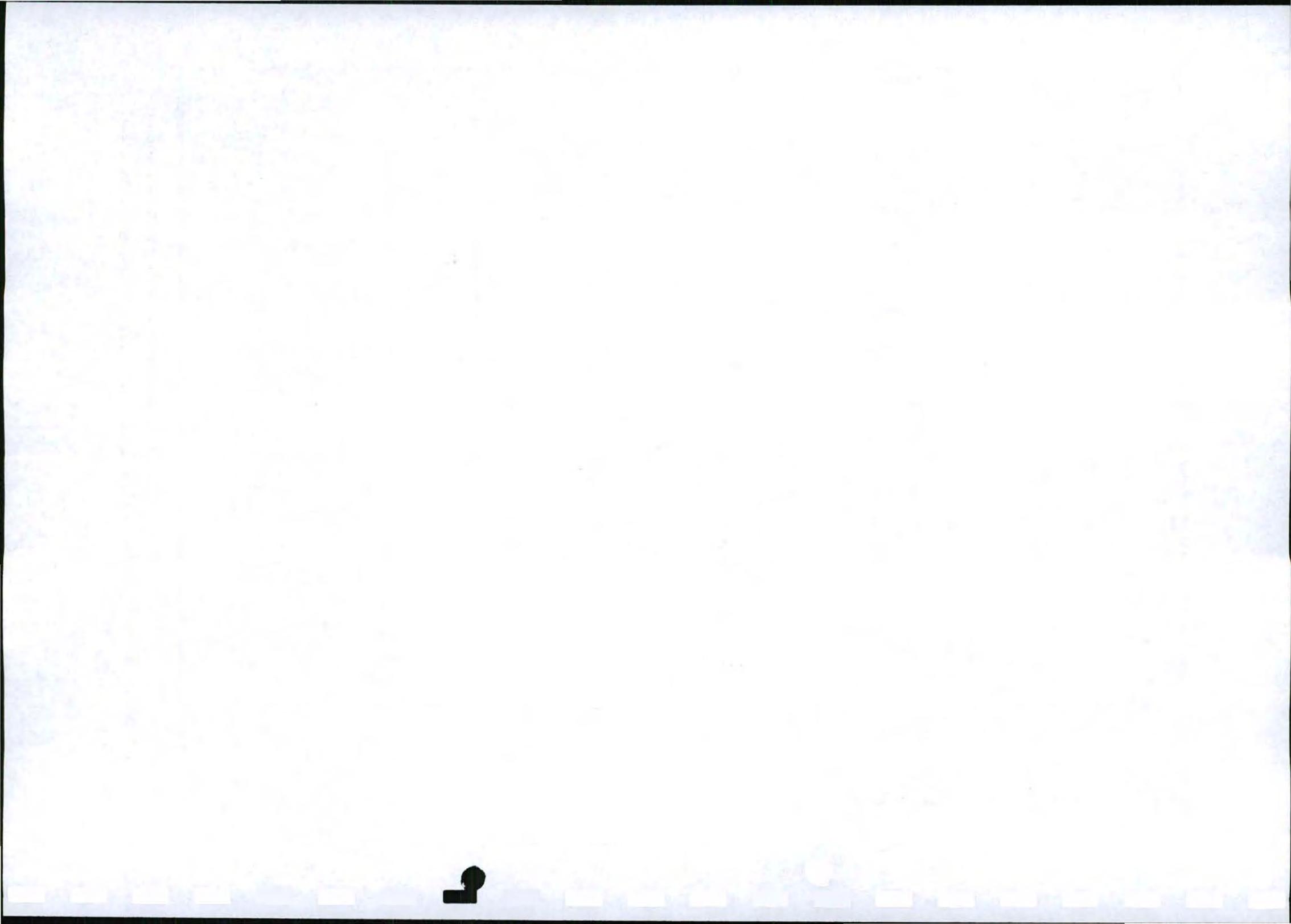


FIG.4 On this map the numerous farms owned by the Van der Bÿl family are clearly indicated (Van der Bÿl 1968: plate 4).





A. Pieter Gerhard van der Bÿl (28.6.1753-25.1.1831)

An adequate summary is provided by Johannes van der Bÿl (1968:37):

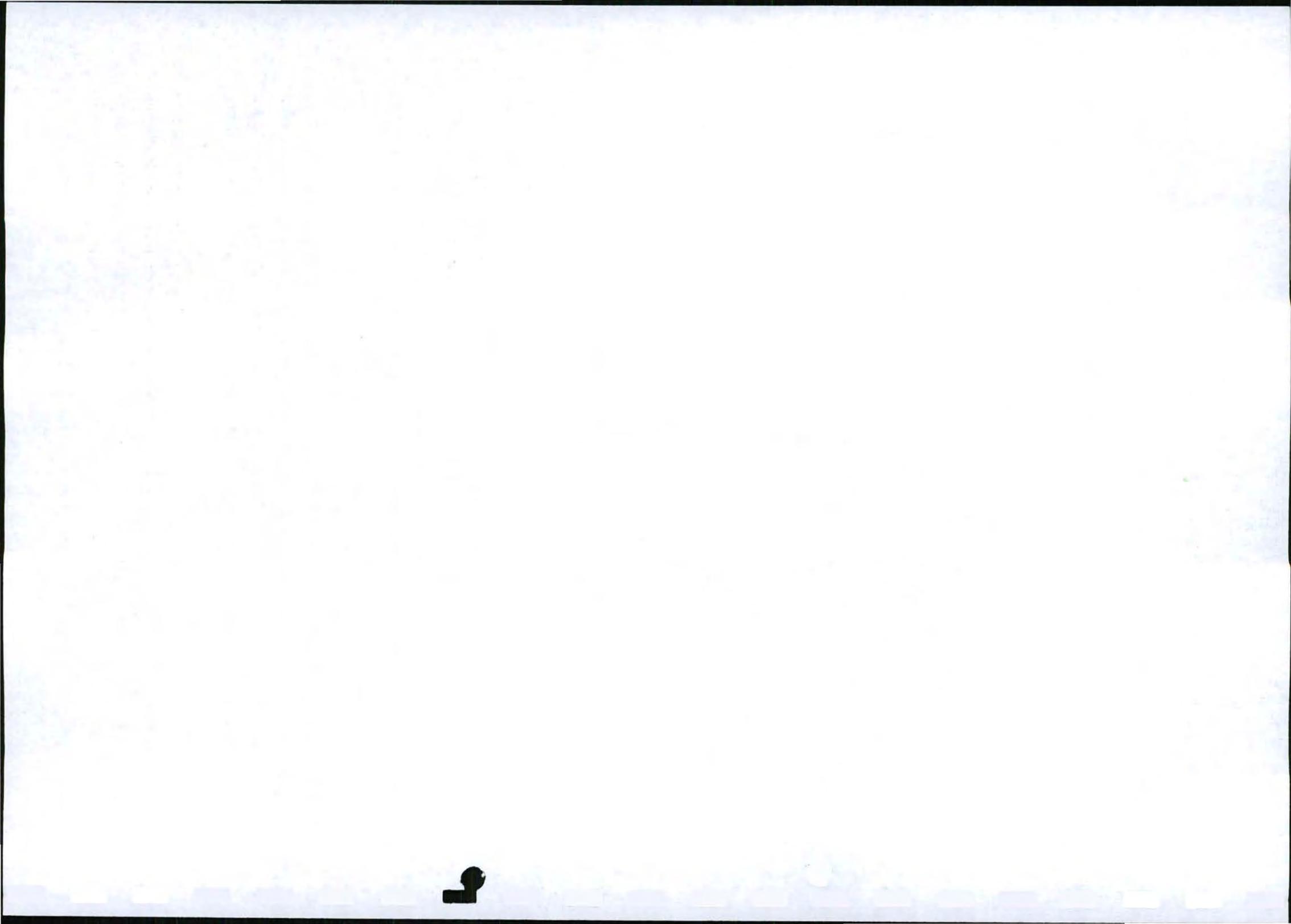
Pieter was born on the ancestral farm Vredenburg, near Libertas, and died at Welmoed where he was buried in his own vault (which is still standing but in need of repair). He was baptized on the 15th July in the church at Stellenbosch and confirmed in 1771. At the age of 23 he married at Stellenbosch on 29.9.1776 Sophia Margaretha Myburgh (12.2.1754-20.10.1789) born Meerlust, died and buried Meerlust, d/o Johannes Albertus Myburgh of Meerlust and Sophia Margaretha Mörkel.

In 1780 Pieter moved to Drakenstein where their children e3 to e10 were born. After presenting Pieter with 10 children, including two pairs of twins, Sophia died and two years later Pieter married again at Tulbagh on 1.1.1792 Hester Elizabeth de Wet (4.5.1761-22.9.1817) born Tulbagh, died and buried at Welmoed, d/o Jacobus de Wet and Martha du Toit. Five years after his second marriage Pieter bought the farm Welmoed on the Eerste River between the farm Spier, where his brother Andries lived, and the farm Meerlust, where his brother-in-law Philip Albertus Myburgh lived. In 1825 he built a house (still standing) at Welmoed; he was Captain of the Burger Cavalry and a member of the College of Heemraden. He was the father of 15 children - 7 sons and 8 daughters of whom only 3 sons and 6 daughters lived to adulthood. Two sons (e10 and e13) left descendants in the male line. After his death Welmoed was divided between his two sons, Philippus J. (e10) who received the western portion now called Klein Welmoed with the old opstal and Pieter V. (e13) who received the eastern portion which retained the name Welmoed. The family vaults as well as the house which Pieter G. built in 1825 are situated on the Klein Welmoed portion.

Pieter Gerhard started a horse-breeding tradition by 1800 (George 1981:723). Was it for this reason that he expanded the land considerably with a quitrent grant on 25 June 1818? The original grants and the expanded version can be viewed on an old map of 1892 (FIG.5). Note how the farm was subdivided in 1831 into Welmoed (north) and Klein Welmoed (south).

A rather general description of the buildings on these two portions is to be found in Fransen & Cook (1965:85-86; 1980:177-6). This awaits a proper analysis, which falls outside the scope of this report (Annexure 2), although it should be made clear that Welmoed, not Klein Welmoed, was the site of the original 17th century buildings, as well as the graveyard under discussion.

Pieter Gerhard and his second wife Hester E. de Wet who died in 1817, are buried in vault no.2 according to the inscription on the gravestone. Its central position makes it the focal point of the cemetery. It is well built with a solid stone footing which extends around it. Certainly the patriarchal father's grave dominates the graveyard.



B. Philipus Johannes Albertus van der Bÿl (26.10.1789-5.12.1873)

Pieter Gerhard had nine children by his first wife Margaretha Myburgh, and most if not all were buried in the Meerlust graveyard. She died during childbirth with a stillborn child on 20.10.1789 (Van der Bÿl 1968:37, 38). There is an anomaly here, for Philipus (P.J.A.) is recorded as having been born 6 days later on 26.10.1789! Was he the twin that survived and was baptised 6 days later?

At 26, P.J.A. married the 22 year old Susanna Francina de Wit in the Lutheran Church in Cape Town on 19 March 1815 (Van der Bÿl 1968:38). They had 11 children of which at least 3 or 4 died in infancy. It was their 8th child, Johannes Albertus (1824-1883) who carried on the farming activities at Klein Welmoed till 1872, when his father was already in his eighties (Ibid.:43). In that year P.J.A. sold Klein Welmoed to Pieter Lourens van der Bÿl PV zn.

P.J.A.'s wife Susanna passed away on Klein Welmoed in 1847, leaving him a widower for 26 years. After he sold the farm in 1872 he probably stayed on, and died a year later in 1873. Both of them are interred in vault no.3.

C. Pieter Voltelen van der Bÿl (4.10.1798-5.7.1849)

Pieter Gerhard's (1753-1831) first son, by his second wife Hester, was **Pieter Voltelen [Voltelin]**, born at Welmoed where he grew up. He married at a mere 20 years of age, on 7 Nov. 1818, the nearly 21 year old Johanna Isabella van Breda (1797-1874). Pieter V. took to horses and in 1833 obtained a large quitrent grant of over 2700 morgen at Nachtwacht near Bredasdorp (Fransen & Cook 1965:221). He seems to have spent most of his time there, rather than at Welmoed. He played a leading role in the 1838-founding of a town, between Caledon and Swellendam, which parishioners wanted to name *Van der Bÿlsdorp*. This was declined in favour of *Napier*, after the acting governor (George 1981:723-4). He acquired numerous farms (about 17 in all) and being an influential farmer served on the Cape Legislative Council, but for little more than a year from 1847 (Ibid.:724).

According to the Brink map (see FIG.5), he also obtained three adjacent quitrent grants, labelled A, B and C. He appears to have had an insatiable desire for land! He died at the age of 51 in the Tygerberg, but was buried at Welmoed.

Pieter Gerhard's wife remained a widow for more than 25 years, and preferred to stay at Welmoed. In 1860 the son of Queen Victoria, Prince Alfred Ernest Albert, visited SA for a few months, including Stellenbosch and vicinity (**Annexure 3**). After staying over at the Neethling parsonage in Upper Dorp Street, the royal party



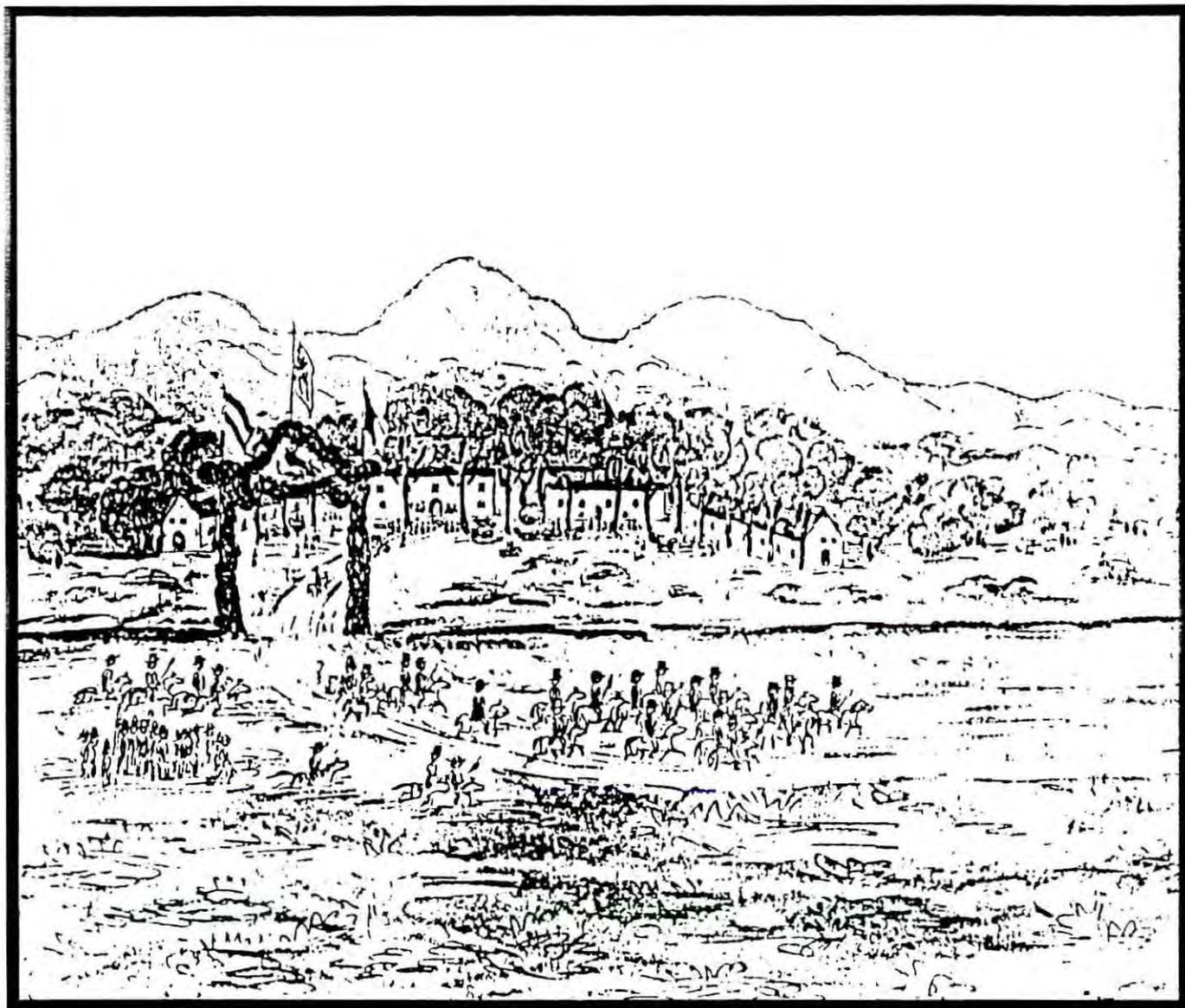
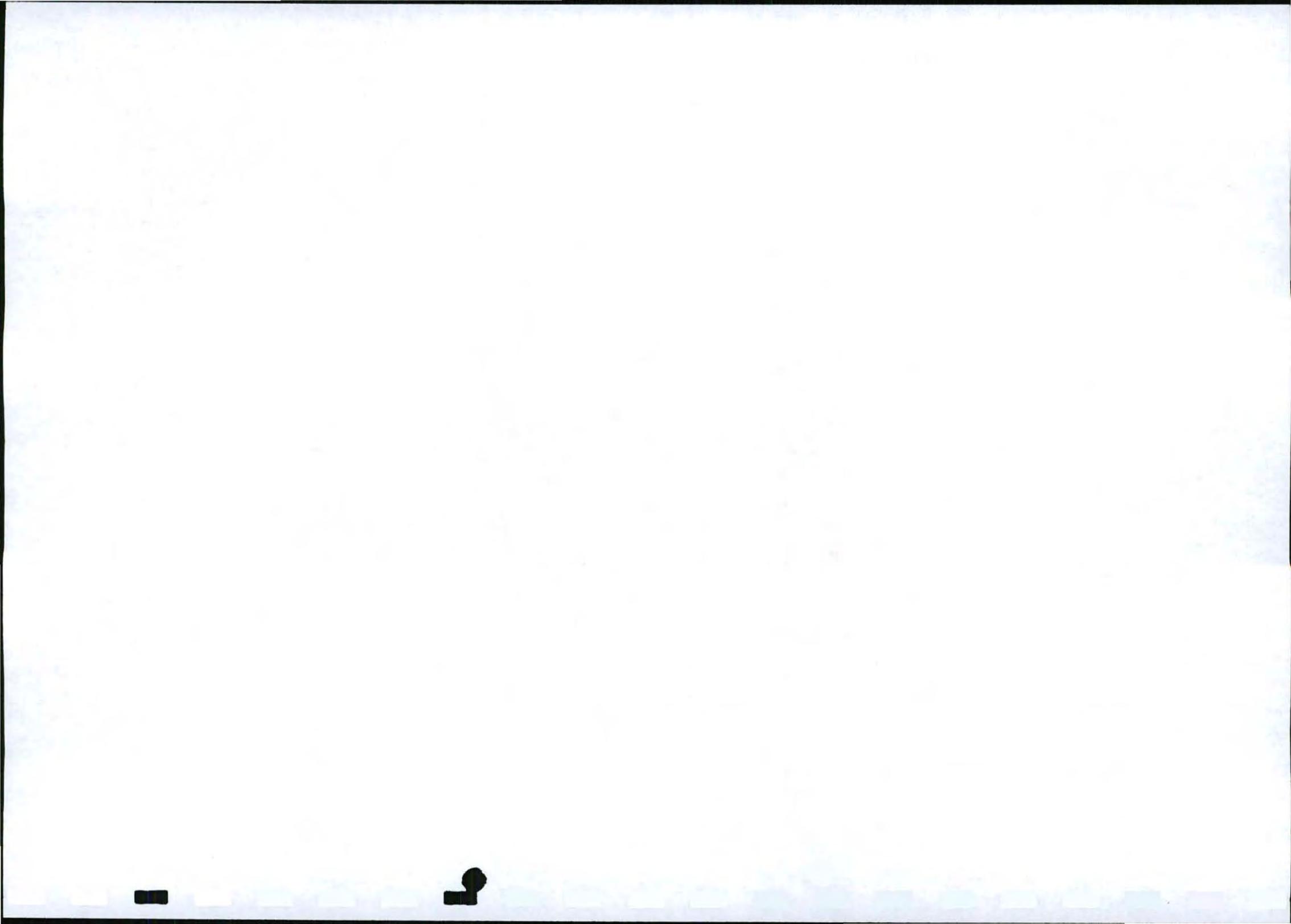


FIG.6 From Lourens van der Bÿl's farm of Welmoed, the party of HRH Prince Alfred set out fox hunting on 1 Aug. 1860. The buildings are apparently drawn from memory and should actually all be in line (Stellenbosch Museum).



proceeded promptly the following day, the 1st of August, to Welmoed for breakfast and a great fox hunt! (FIG.6).

"Next morning early, the Royal party sallied forth and galloped down the rich valley of the Eerste River to the hospitable home of Mr Laurence van der Bijl, where a bountiful breakfast was in waiting - a necessary preliminary to the fox-hunt which was to follow... The hounds were brought out, the Prince mounted his steed in full hunting costume, and was attended by the master of the pack and members of the hunt, and all the party present" (Neethling 1994:1). A similar description follows (Masson 1950:139):

The Prince's

first Sunday at the Cape was a pleasant foretaste of joys to come, once he had satisfactorily carried out his manifold obligations. For, early in the morning, the royal party galloped down the rich valley of the Eerste River to the hospitable home of Laurence van der Byl, "Welmoed", where a bountiful breakfast was waiting — a necessary preliminary to the hunt which was to follow. "Substantial justice being done to all the good things on the table, the hounds were brought out, the Prince mounted his steed in full hunting costume, and attended by the Master of the Pack, the members of the hunt, and all the party present, set out for as pleasant a morning's sport as ever he had enjoyed." Prince Alfred was to keep a happy memory of the Van der Byl family and was frequently entertained by them, both on this visit and when he later returned to the Cape as Duke of Edinburgh.

Hunting was generally the most popular sport at the Cape (after drinking!) and with the English came the thrill of fox-hunting. Presumably the dogs were obtained locally, or provided by the *Union Hunt Club* of D'Urbanville.

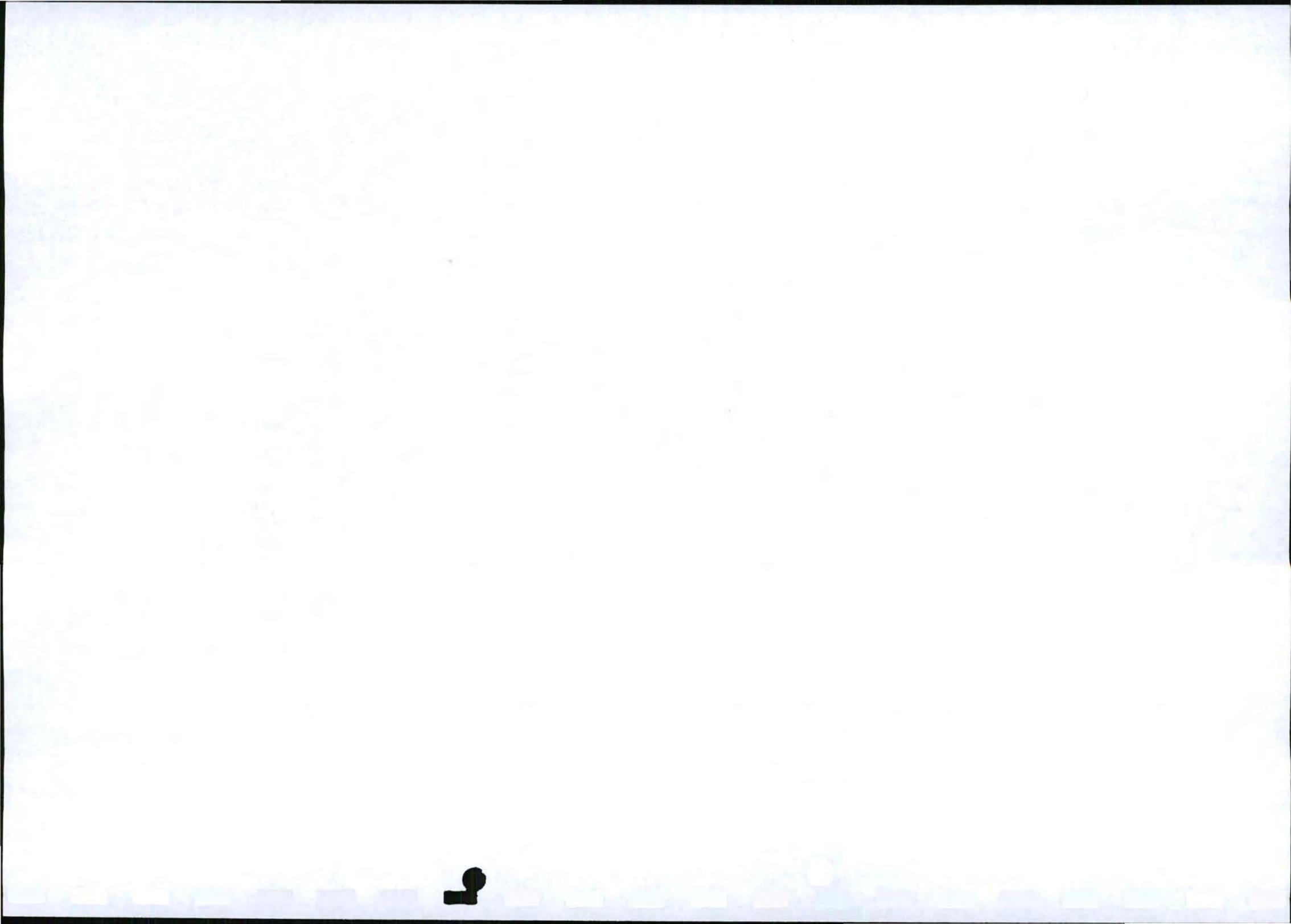
It is interesting that the venue was identified as the farm of *Laurence* van der Bÿl, i.e. Pieter Lourens, the 6th son of Pieter Voltelen. He of course managed Welmoed for his widowed mother, Johanna, till her death in 1874, when she joined her husband in vault 1 (which is now badly damaged) on the farm.

D. Pieter Alex van der Bÿl (28.6.1860-30.10.1881)

There is no mention of a Van der Bÿl by this name in the records. Pieter is certainly an ancestral name, while Alex probably refers to Alexander. Who was he?

a) He could be an unlisted son of Pieter Voltelen and Susanna, whose father's name was *Alexander* van Breda (Van der Bÿl 1968:48).

b) Or was he their "grandson", by their fourth child, Alexander Jacobus and someone unknown, and therefore illegitimate? (Ibid.:50). This seems unlikely.



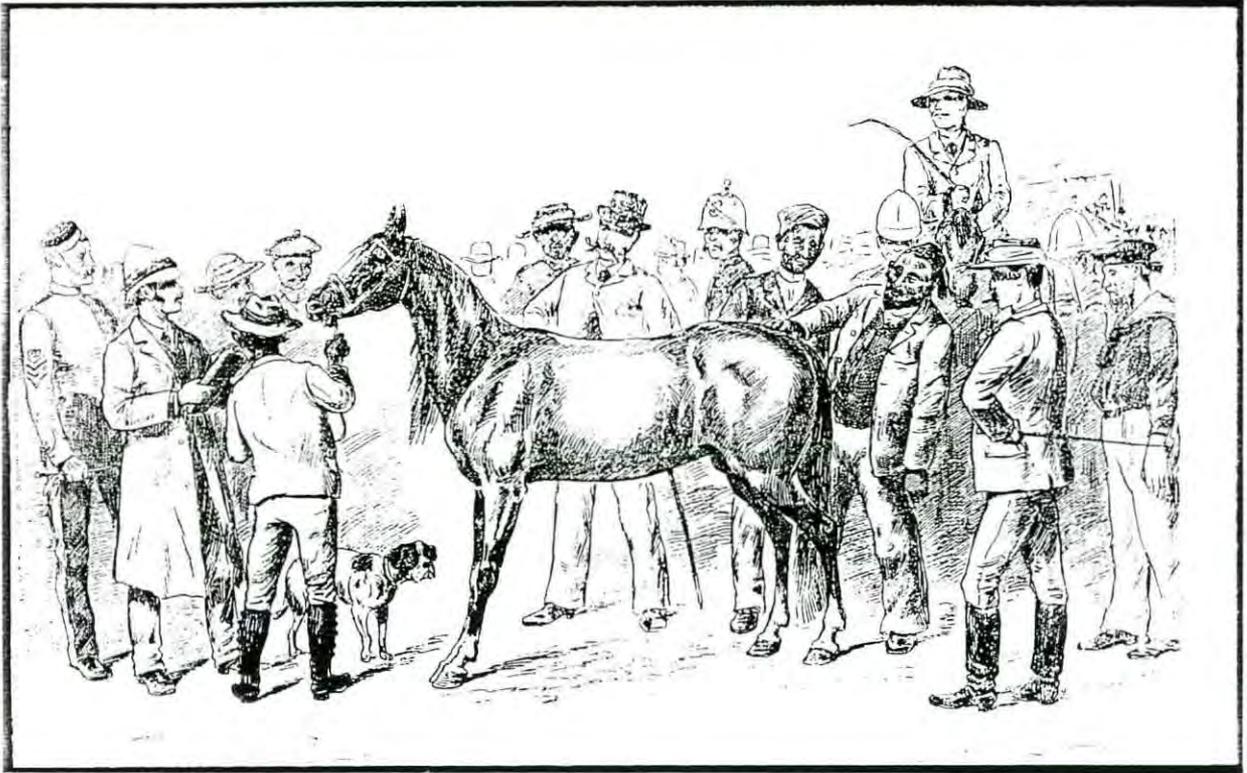
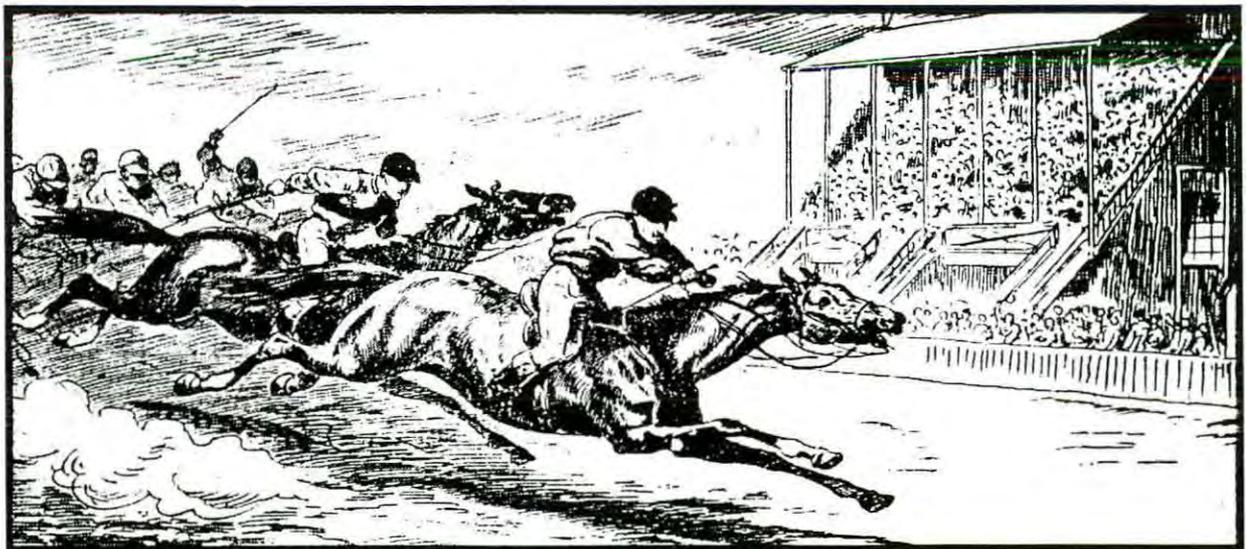
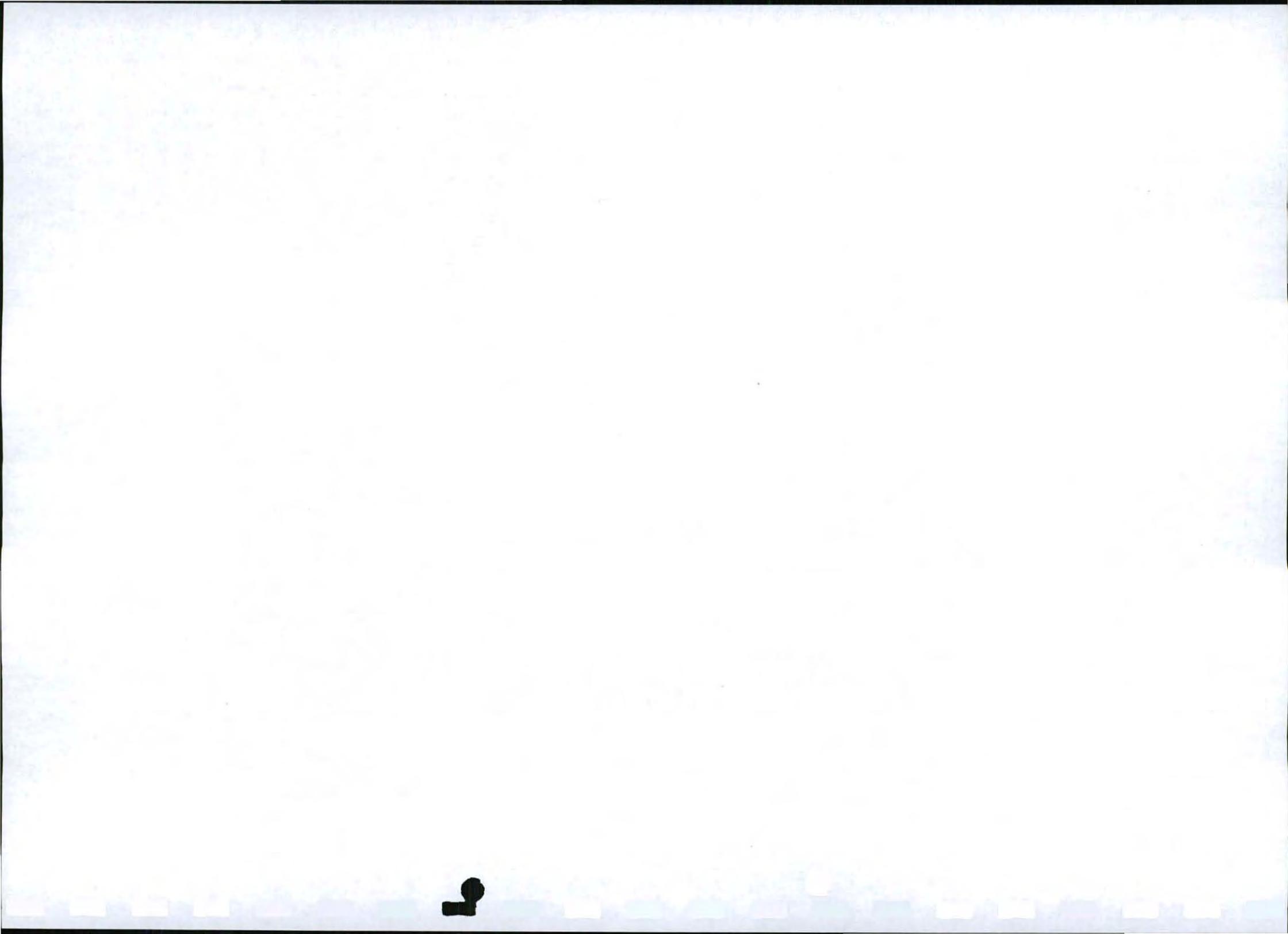


FIG.7 During the Victorian period horses were regularly sold on Cape Town's Grand Parade, attracting the interest *inter alia* of Malays (Rosenthal 1960:65).

FIG.8 Horse racing at Greenpoint was still quite common during the late 19th century (De Kock 1952:100).





E. Pieter Gerhard van der Bÿl (3.1.1820-9.3.1890)

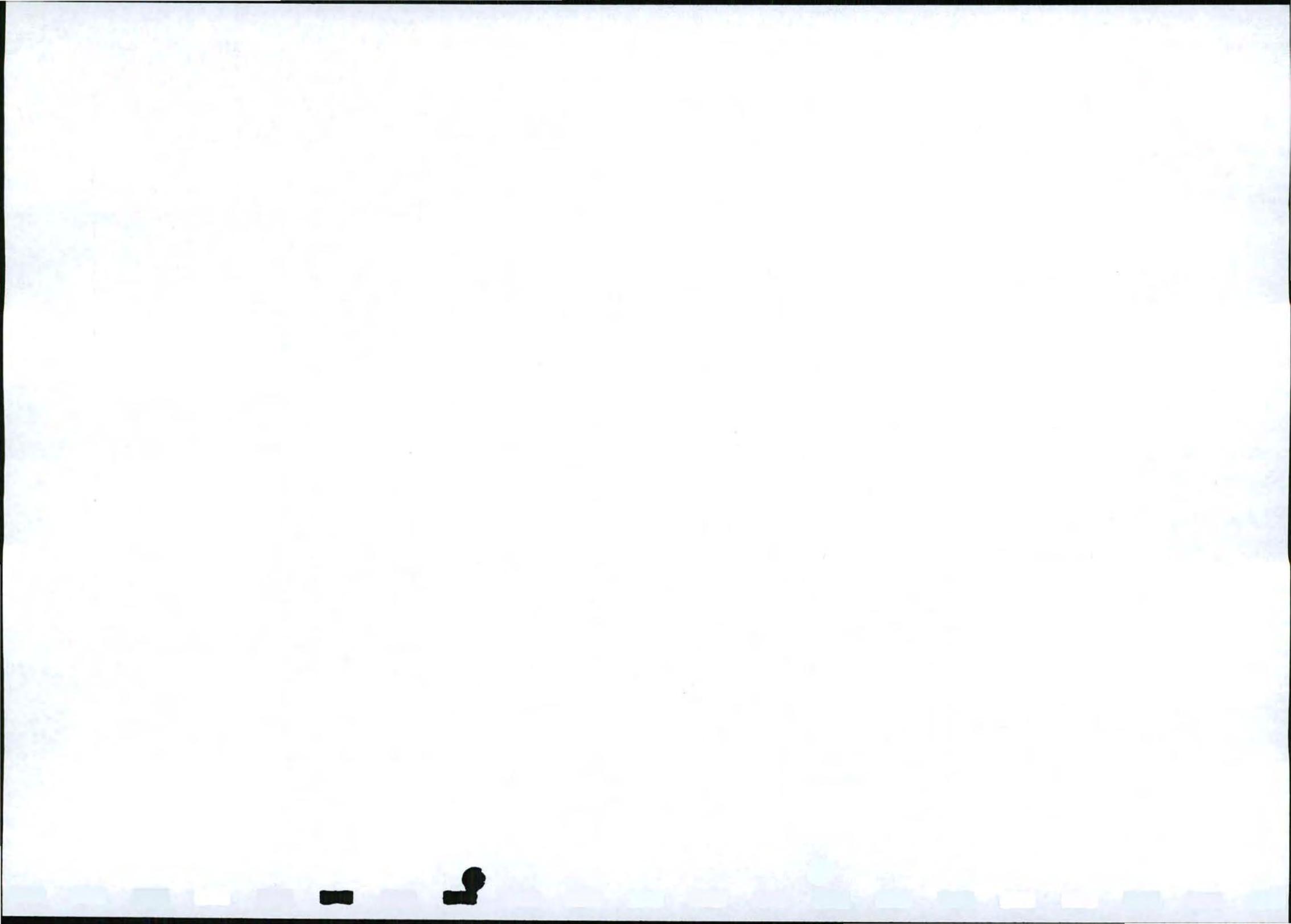
He was the first son of Pieter V. and Johanna, born at Welmoed. At age 33 he married, on 1.10.1853, Celina Euphemia Blyth, who died in England in 1874 (Van der Bÿl 1968:48, 49). The birth of a son was followed by a daughter, **Celena Euphemia**, who survived for only three years (2.5.1856-25.5.1859). Her name in the epitaph is spelt slightly different to her mother's. She was born at Claremont and died there, but was buried at Welmoed. For some or other reason the inscription on the gravestone merely states "Born 1856, Died 1859", as though the inscription was based on a vague memory. The degree of ornamentation perhaps indicates a great fondness for this daughter.

F. Alexander Jacobus van der Bÿl (4.11.1823-16.3.1899)

The fourth child of Pieter V. and Johanna was Alexander Jacobus, who was born at Welmoed. He followed in his family's footsteps as a racehorse owner and breeder. At age 24 he married, on 22.11.1847, the 19 year old **Cornelia Arnoldina Cloete** (born c.1828), but tragedy struck and she died a mere 7 months later on 21.6.1848). Though she died at Nachtwacht, her body was transported this great distance to Welmoed for burial (Van der Bÿl 1968:50).

One of the shallow tombs must therefore be hers, and judging by the brickwork, it is most probably vault 4 in the northwestern corner.

Although A.J. married again in 1853, no further children were born. A.J. continued with his horsebreeding programme and crossed imported thoroughbred horses with local fillies, giving rise to the name "Cape thoroughbred" (*Kaapse volbloed*). He regularly raced at Greenpoint, Cape Town and produced numerous winners (**FIG.7 & 8**). After winning the Agricultural Cup three years in a row (1860-62), he became the permanent owner of this magnificent silver trophy (Heap 1977:819). He sold the farm Nachtwacht in 1881 and bought Morgenster at Somerset West in 1885. At his mansion in Fernwood, Newlands, he received in 1880 Prince Albert Victor and Prince George of Wales (later King George V), when they embarked at the Cape on a world cruise (Ibid.).



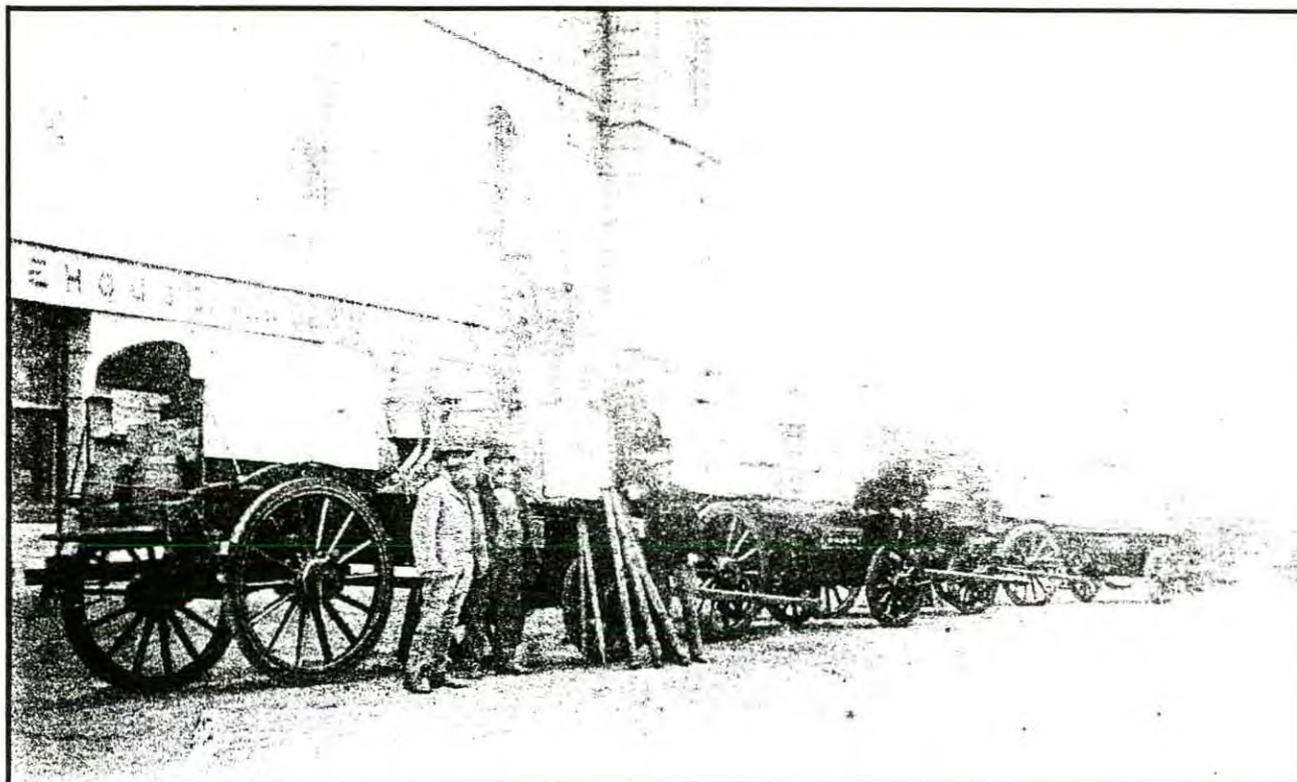


FIG.10,11 Two rather poor originals (in sepia) of the ill-fated party of trekkers under Pieter Lourens (above, second on left), just before it departed from Cape Town on 25 June 1891 (Stellenbosch Heemkring).





G. Pieter Lourens van der Bÿl (18.4.1831-30.3.1892)

He was the 8th child of Pieter V. and Johanna van Breda. As has been noted, he stayed with his widowed mother, and managed the farm Welmoed. At age 25 he married, on 7.5.1856, Johanna Sophia Aletta Gie (23.3.1835-28.11.1884). A splendid plan of Welmoed in 1860 exists showing also the railway line from Cape Town to Wellington which cut through the farm. It seems P.L. saw the opportunity to commission one of the engineers, Edmund Wragge, to survey his farm, on 8th October 1860 (FIG.9). It records about a dozen buildings, including the graveyard. This is probably the earliest depiction of the latter.

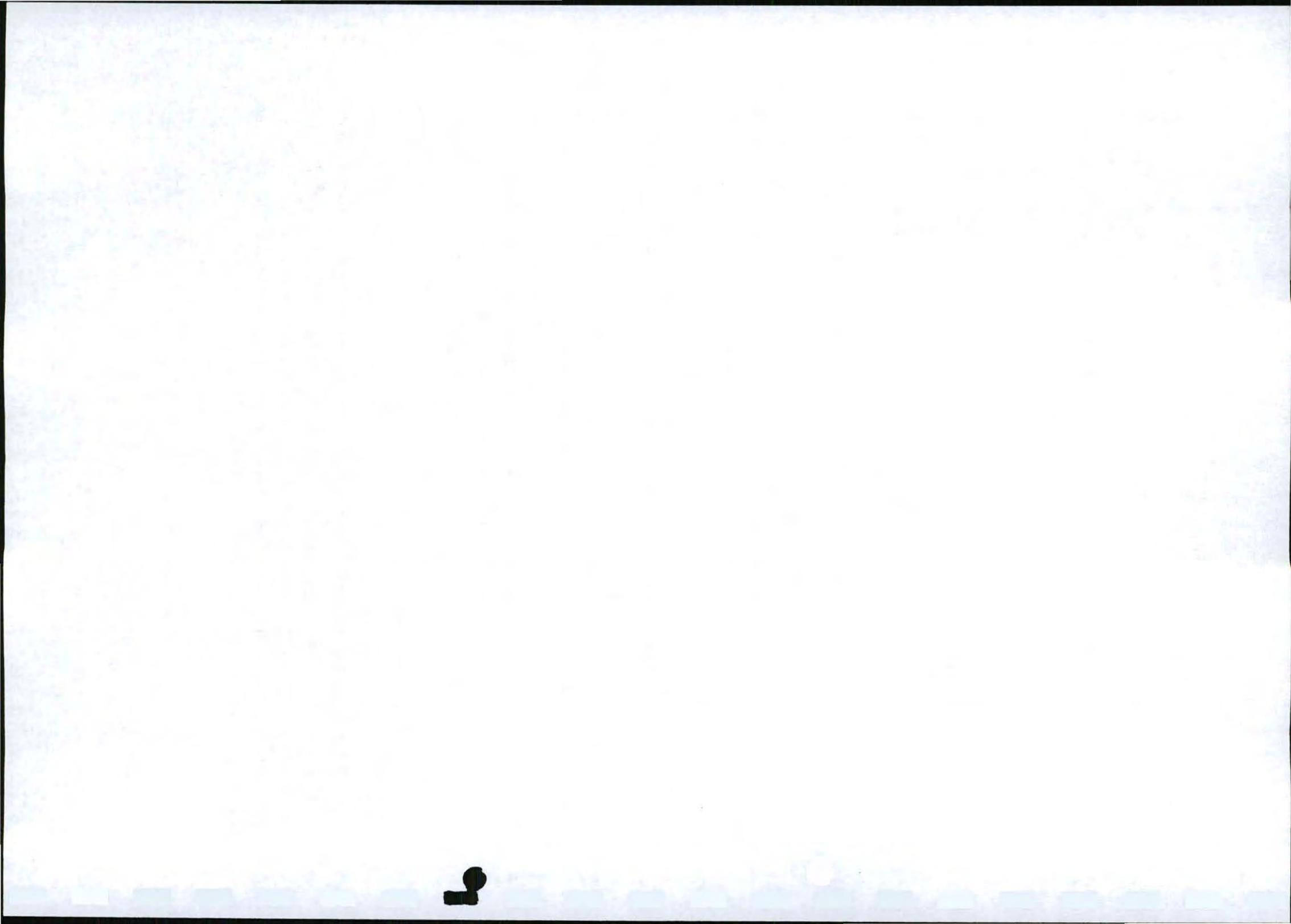
P.L. and Johanna had seven children, of whom two are buried at Welmoed. Their fourth child, **Laura Isabella** (15.6.1866-28.3.1876) was about 10 years old when she was buried in vault no.2 (according to the grave inscription).

Their seventh and last child was **Hester Maria** (11.4.1874-17.3.1875) who scarcely lived for a year. Her inscription on vault 1 is combined with that of a son (25.5.1872-14.6.1872), presumably also of Pieter Lourens.

At the death of P.L.'s mother in 1874 he inherited the farm, which was officially transferred on 28 November 1874 (Van der Bÿl 1963:66). He stayed a mere four years before he sold the family farm to A.A. de Villiers (17.1.1878). It is said that he moved to Mt Daisy at Paarl (Van der Bÿl 1968:53; Burke 1977:819). Yet he had bought in 1872 Klein Welmoed, which he retained until 1884 (Ibid.; 1968:38, 43).

Pieter L. occupied two political offices. He sold the farm on 20 June 1884, and his wife died a few months later on 29 November at Paarl, where she was presumably buried outside the old 1885 church (Van der Bÿl 1968:53). From 1885 the widowed PL commenced travelling widely overseas, including Australia, New Zealand, the USA and England, studying scientific methods of farming.

Subsequently, at age 60, he led a party of 25 men in order to colonise Mashonaland, Rhodesia. They started from Cape Town on 25 June 1891, where two photographs were taken in front of the WAREHOUSE, VAN DER BÿL & CO. (FIG. 10 & 11). Unfortunately all did not go well and Pieter Lourens died in March 1892, at a place later called Laurencedale.



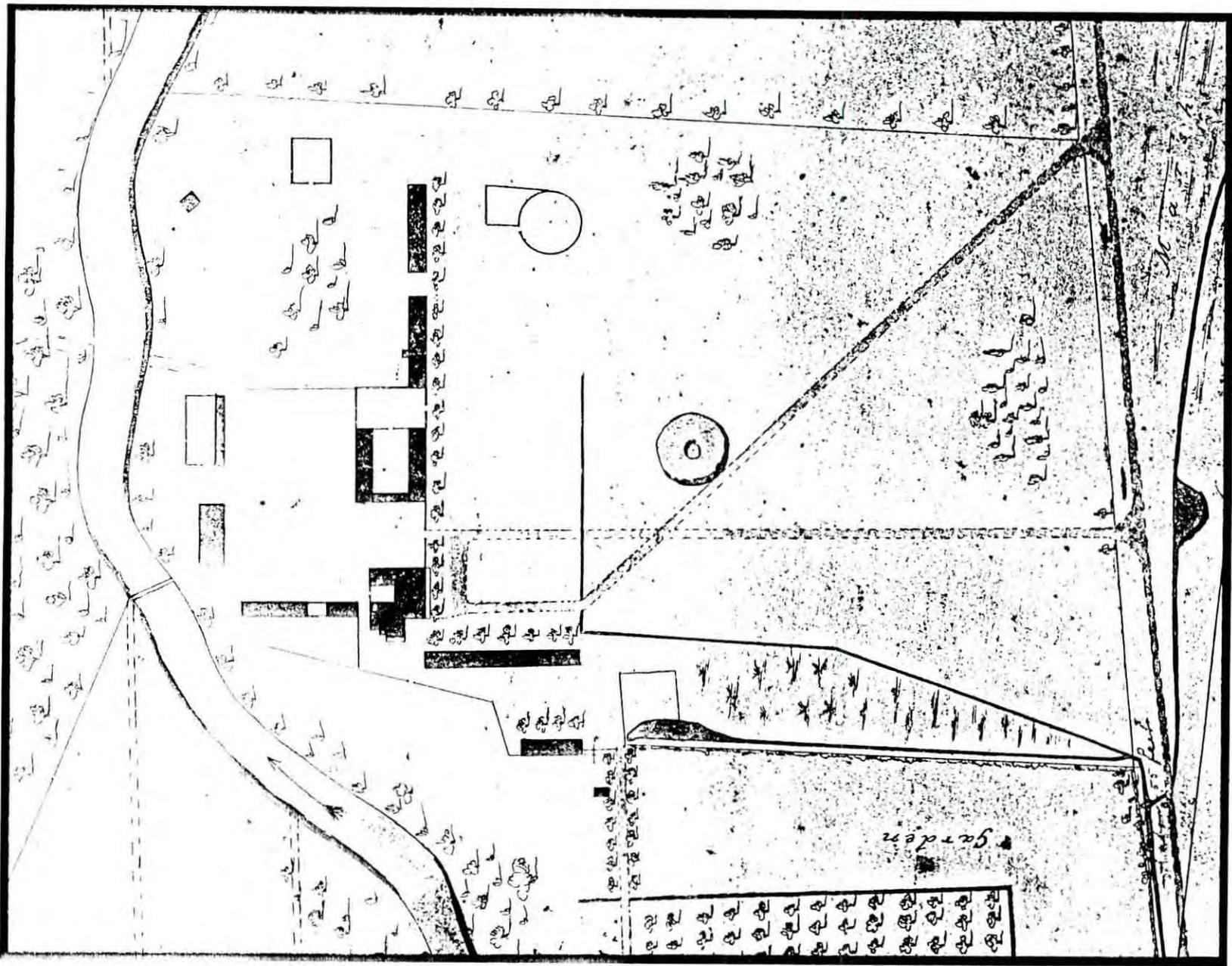
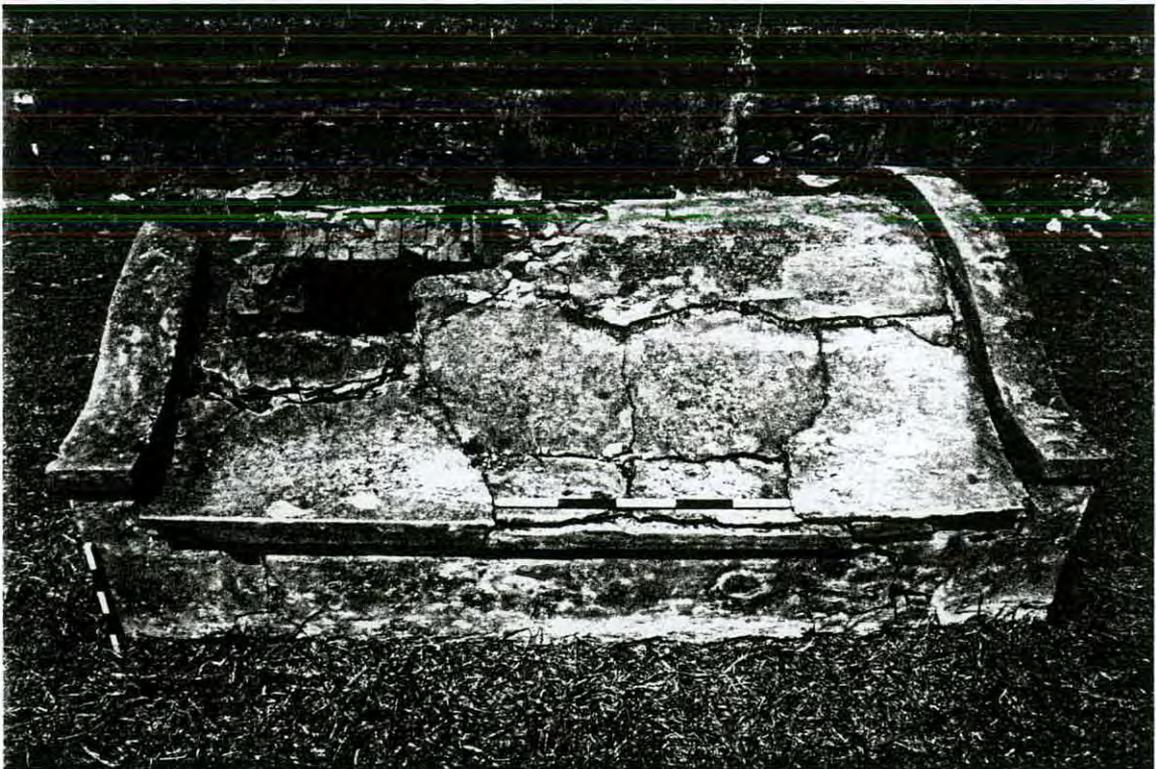


FIG.9 An accurately surveyed map by engineer E. Wragge of 1860 depicts the Welmoed farm at its finest. Note the graveyard (Stellenbosch Museum).



1. The collapsed facade of vault 1, where at least six individuals lie buried (scales: 1 m and 50 cm).



2. A view of its side giving an indication of size.

WELMOED GRAVEYARD 1998

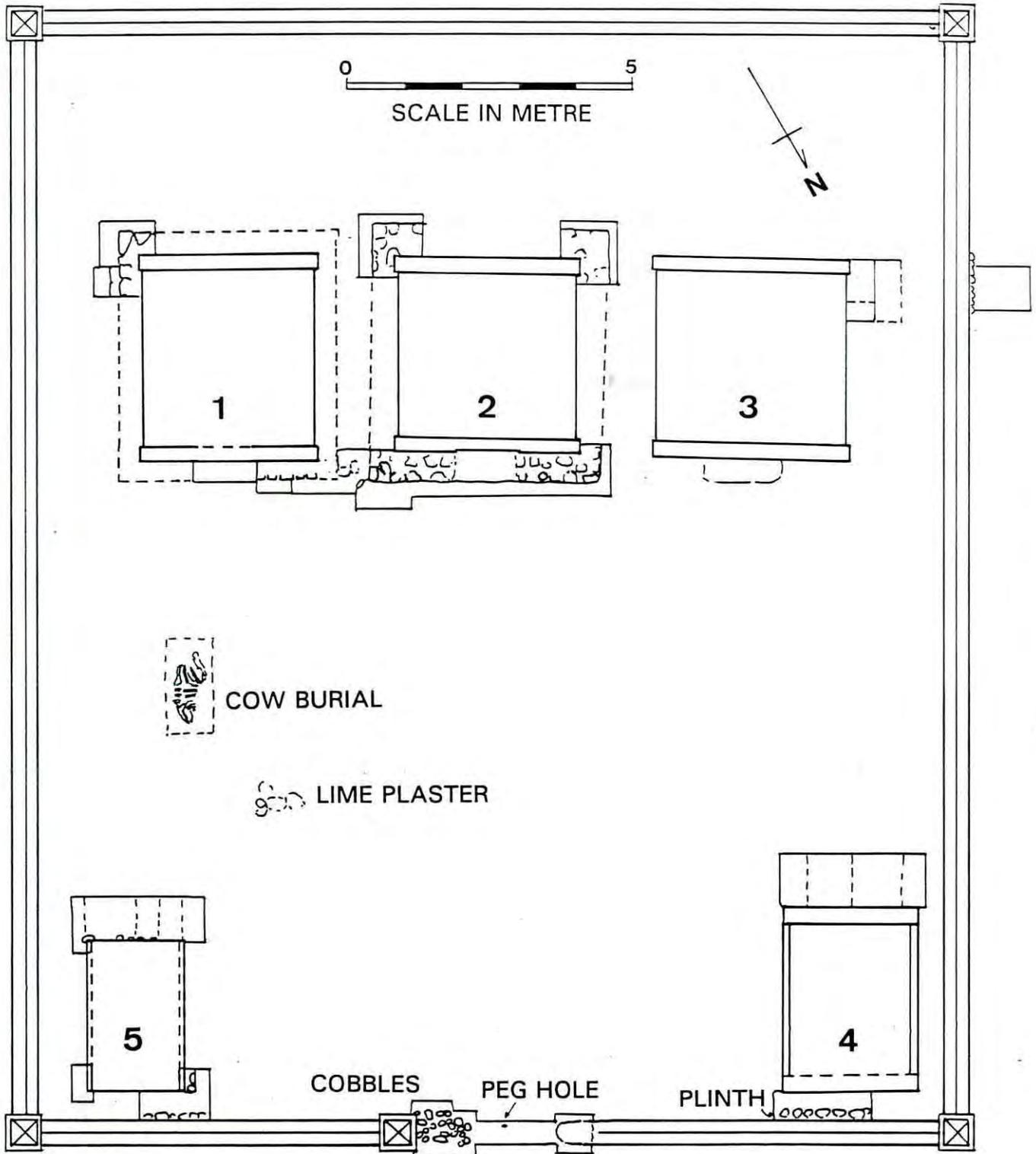


FIG.12 Layout of the Welmoed graveyard at present. Details of the excavations are included (Vos 1998).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

We conducted five days (2-5, 18 March) of excavations and measurements to clarify details about the vaults in respect of age, building techniques and materials. Our guiding principle was to minimal interfere with the fragile vaults, on both the exterior and the interior (FIG.12).

3.1 VAULT 1

3.1.1 Inscriptions

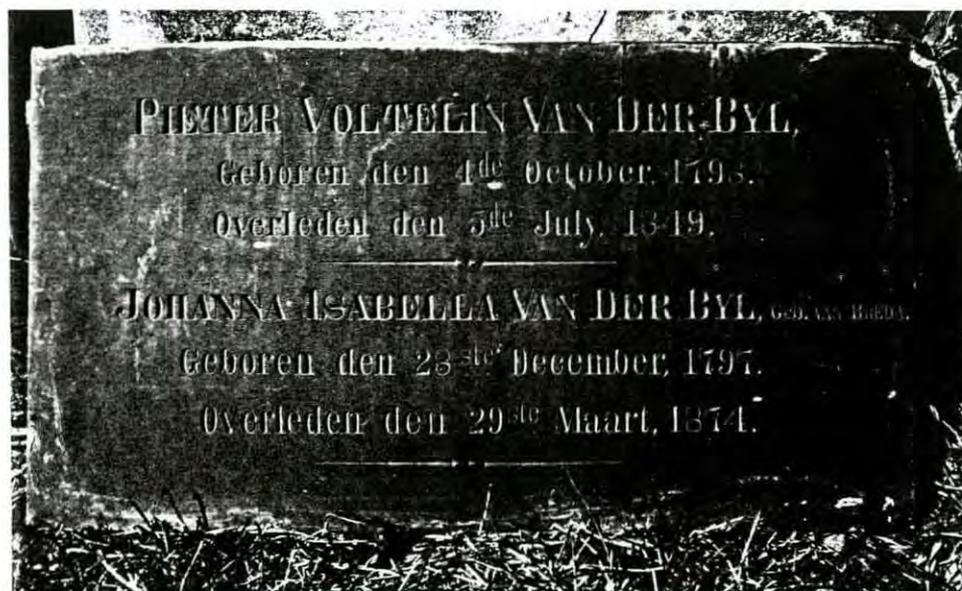
This is the collapsed vault with much rubble and wood which protruded from the back. After we cleared the thickly matted grass and the spilled building rubble at the front, two discoveries were made. A large slab of cement was exposed as an entrance step before the central opening. Immediately to the left (east) we found another slate slab with two inscriptions about a daughter and a son.

There were thus three funerary slate inscriptions, as follows:

A. A large main slab, dimensions 92 x 51 x 2.5 cm:

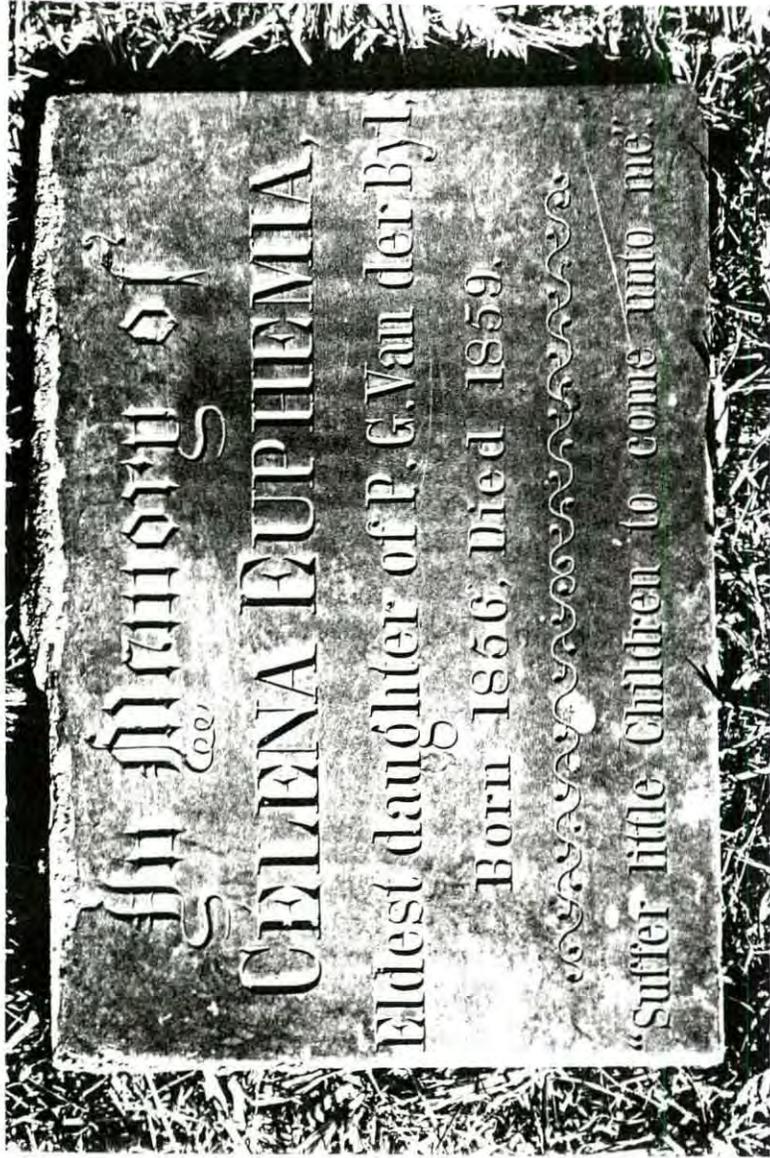
PIETER VOLTELIN VAN DER BYL
Geboren den 4de October, 1798.
Overleden den 5de July, 1849.

JOHANNA ISABELLA VAN DER BYL, Geb. VAN BREDA
Geboren den 28ste December, 1797.
Overleden den 29ste Maart, 1874.



3. Slate epitaph of Pieter Voltelin and his wife Isabella.





4. Slate epitaph of Celena Euphemia.

5. Willem inspects the newly discovered grave-stone lying face down.





B. A smaller slab, dimensions 51 x 35 x 2.5 cm. It is quite ornamental:

In Memory of
 CELENA EUPHEMIA,
 Eldest daughter of P.G. Van der Byl,
 Born 1856, Died 1859.
 "Suffer little Children to come unto me".

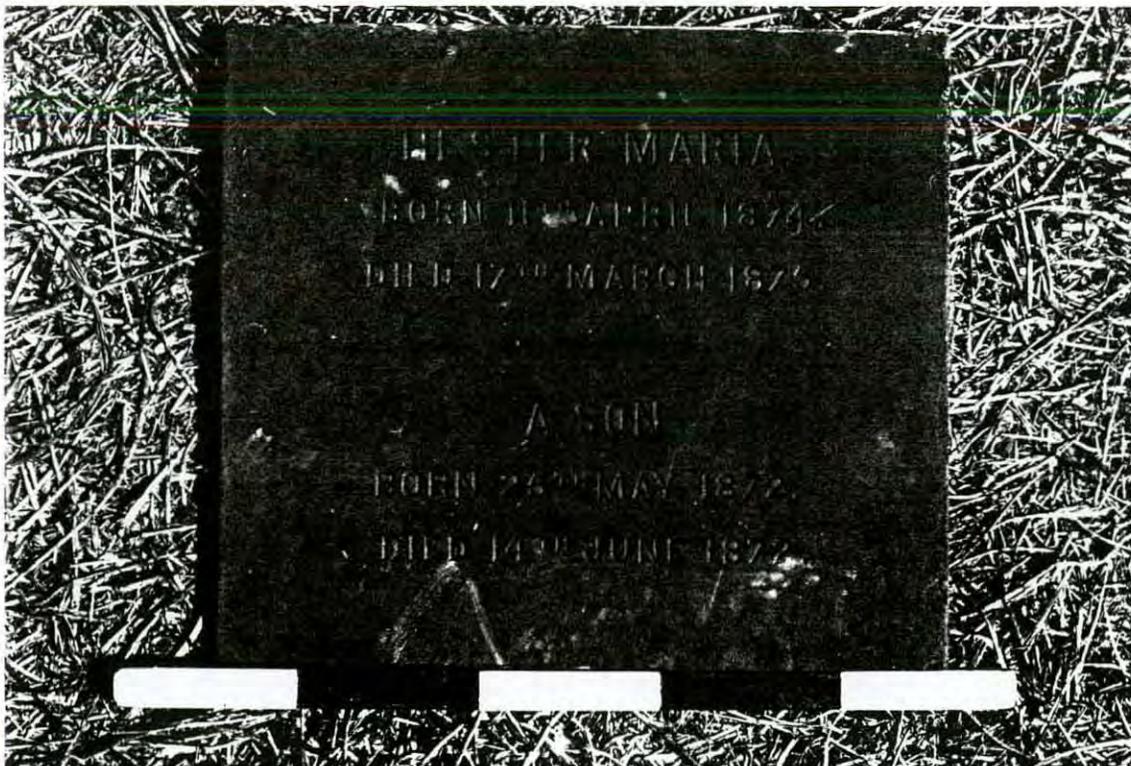
C. A smaller slab, discovered afterwards, dimensions 40.6 x 35,7 x 2.5 cm:

HESTER MARIA,
 BORN 11TH APRIL 1874.
 DIED 17TH MARCH 1875.

A SON
 BORN 25TH MAY 1872.
 DIED 14TH JUNE 1872.

There were thus at least five burials, in the following order:

- a Pieter Voltelen, age 50, died 1849.
- b Celena E., daughter of Pieter G., age 3, died 1859..
- c A son, presumably of Pieter Lourens, age 21 days, died 1872.
- d Johanna, P.V.'s wife, age 77, died 1874.
- e Hester M., daughter of Pieter Lourens, age 1yr 6 days, died 1875.



6. The grave-stone of two young babies.



VAULT 1
SECTION: LOOKING WEST

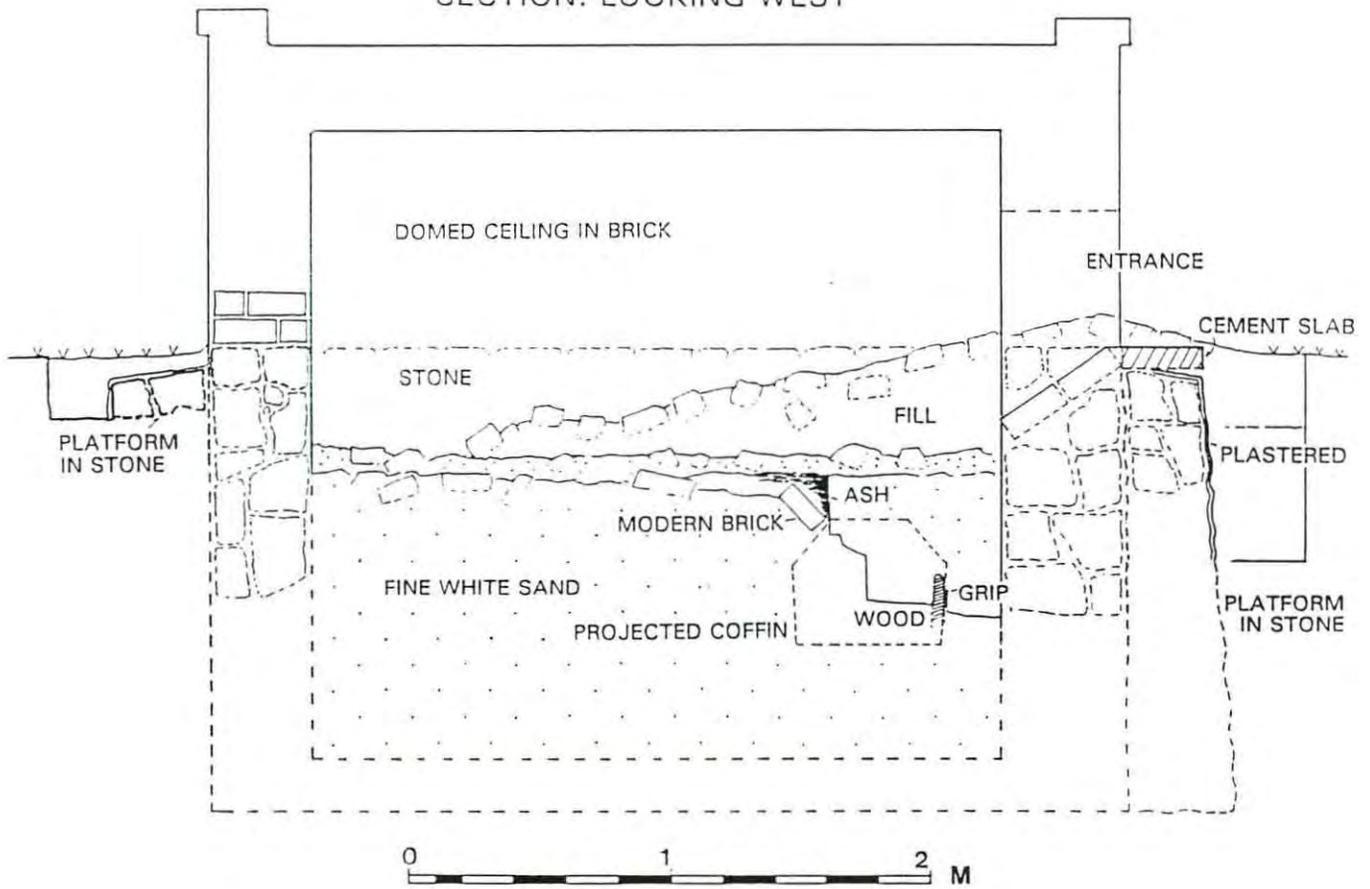
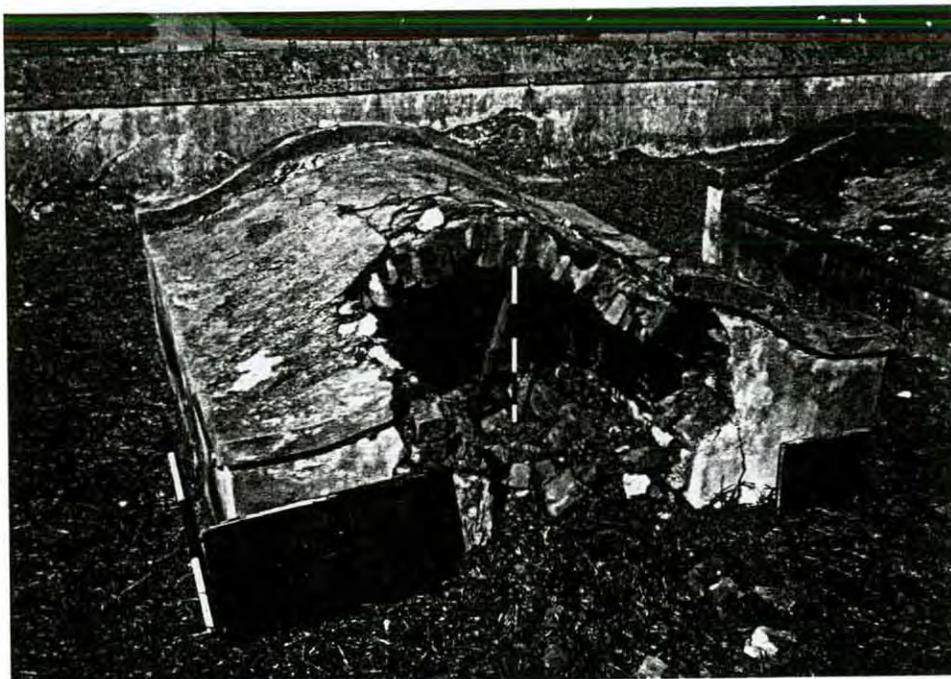


FIG.13 Sectional drawing of vault 1, detailing the fill.



7. The amount of rubble and rubbish in vault 1 was substantial.



3.1.2 EXCAVATION

With the aid of two labourers, we started to clear the chaotic rubble from the vault. Please refer to the sectional drawing (FIG.13). What was immediately noticeable were two corrugated sheets. A small one (122 x 67 cm) of recent (c.1970) date was tucked into the left (east) side of the vault. It acted as a support to repair the back (south) section of the vault when this portion collapsed. Cement impressions underneath the interior confirms this, as well as the very modern brick and cement. Two or three clay nests of swallows were built into the vault roof and later in the day swallows flitted in and out.

At the same time a number of grooved ceiling boards (14 cm wide) of the early 1900s were used in a similar manner to support the interior vault construction. Their impressions in cement are also still visible. About a dozen of these old boards were mixed in the jumble. Two or three stronger square (4 x 4 cm) posts were used to prop up these boards. These wooden pieces were earlier interpreted as possibly being a "dilapidated coffin".

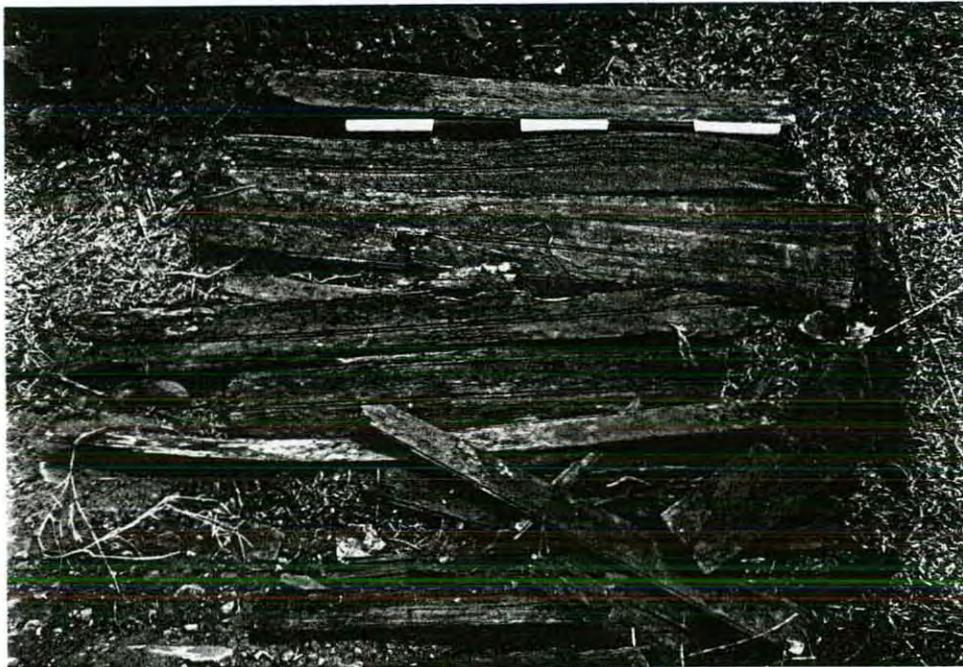


7.1 The interior of vault 1 before excavation.





8. Inside vault 1, the upper fill was cleared down to this level composed of older brick and fine sand (looking S). Note the impressions of boards (1) and corrugated iron (2) in cement on the ceiling.



9. A fair number of c.1900 grooved ceiling boards were removed.

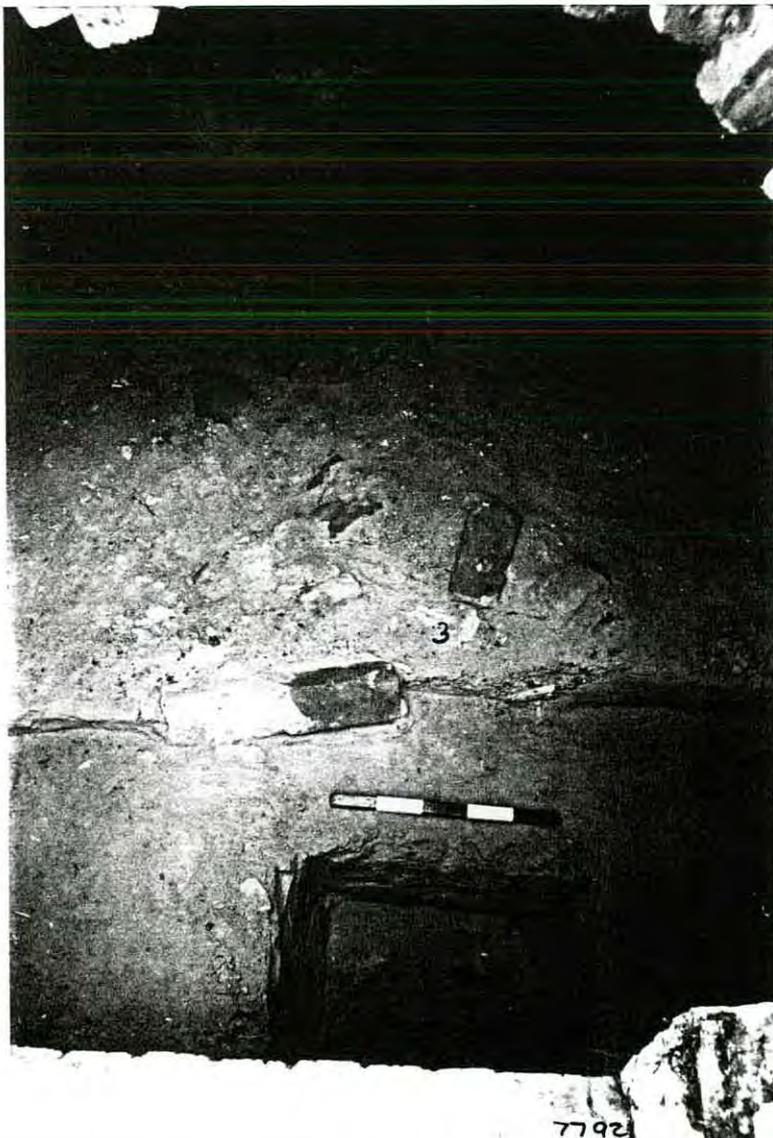


10. Close-up of the ash layer of the 20th c. hearth.

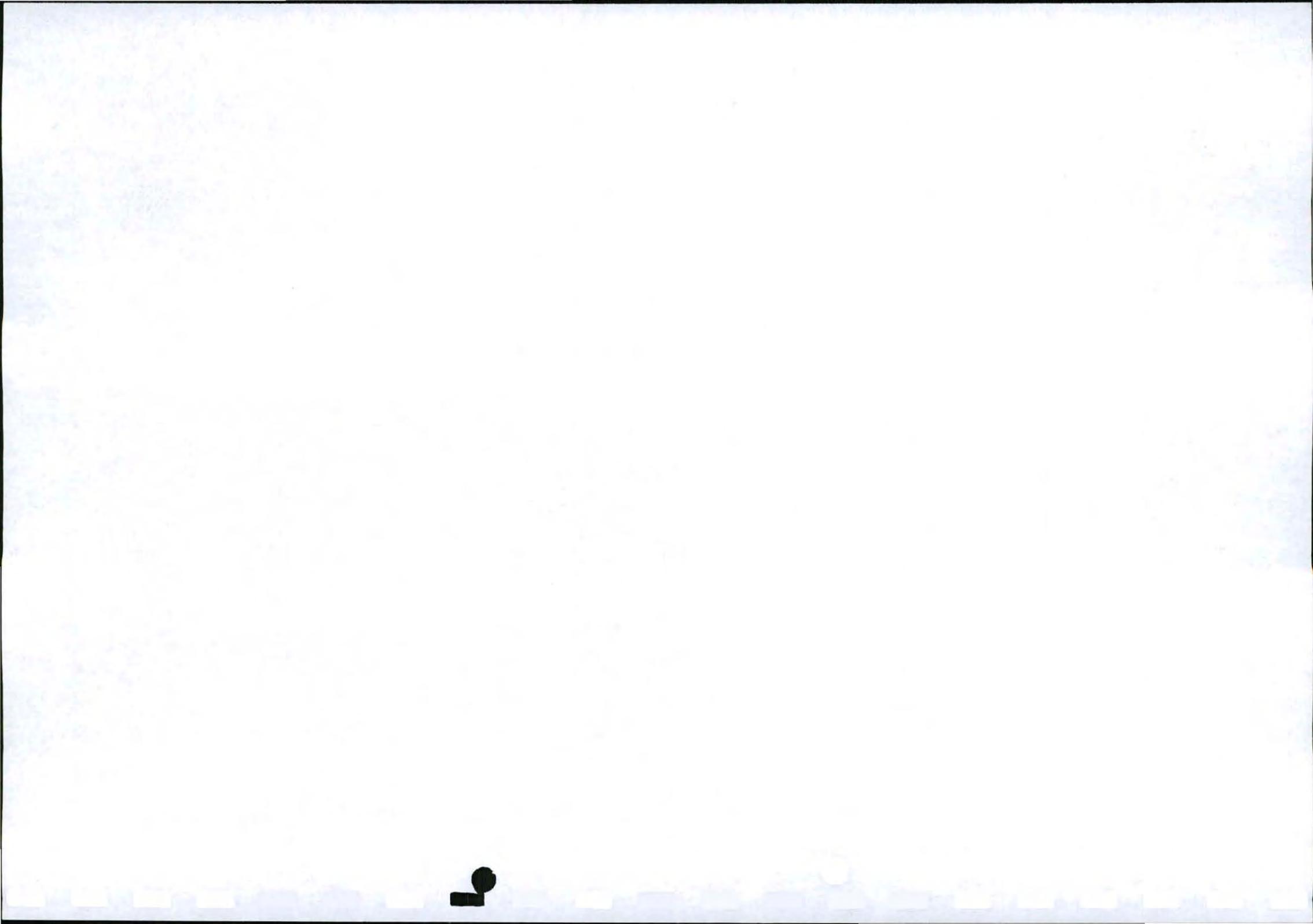
Amongst this top-fill we also collected two wine bottles, about 1970-1980. In 1968 Van der Bÿl (1968:37) already considered the vaults in need of repair, and this one may have collapsed soon afterwards, providing a secluded recess for someone to enjoy the spirit of the vine! (see section 4.4).

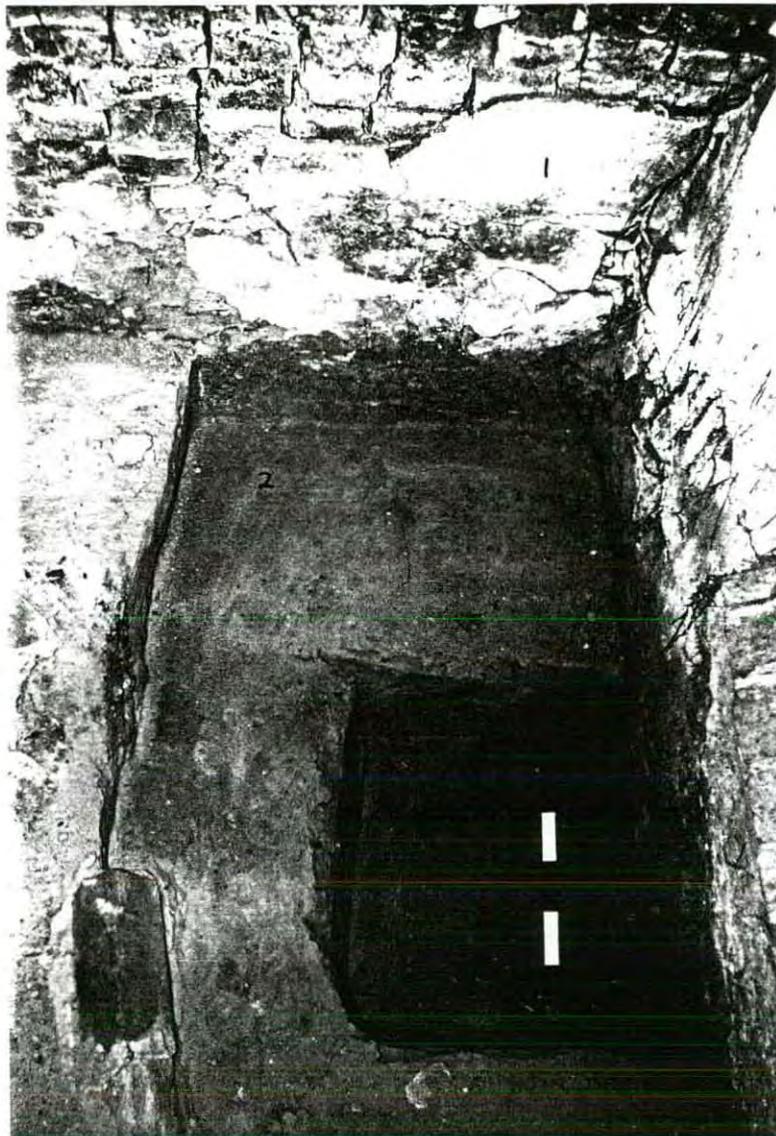
Beneath the first layer of rubble appeared fine grey sand with much lime plaster and black pieces of charcoal. Towards the front (north), we uncovered an ash and charcoal deposit, typical of a "hearth". Another hard type of brick with cement, with other older bricks, were arranged in a semi-circle to form this hearth. It appears that the front portion of the vault had collapsed at an earlier stage in the 20th century, and was repaired, but collapsed again. The hearth deposit contained no bone, glass or ceramics, indicating that meals were not prepared here. It probably represents a short period when a labourer or vagrant kept himself warm here, sleeping in the vault at night.

As we excavated the orange bricks and clays of the collapsed vault, we extricated a much longer corrugated sheet (242 x 75 cm), propped up against the western side wall. It was much corroded and was possibly used during an earlier period (early- to mid-20th century) to repair the vault.



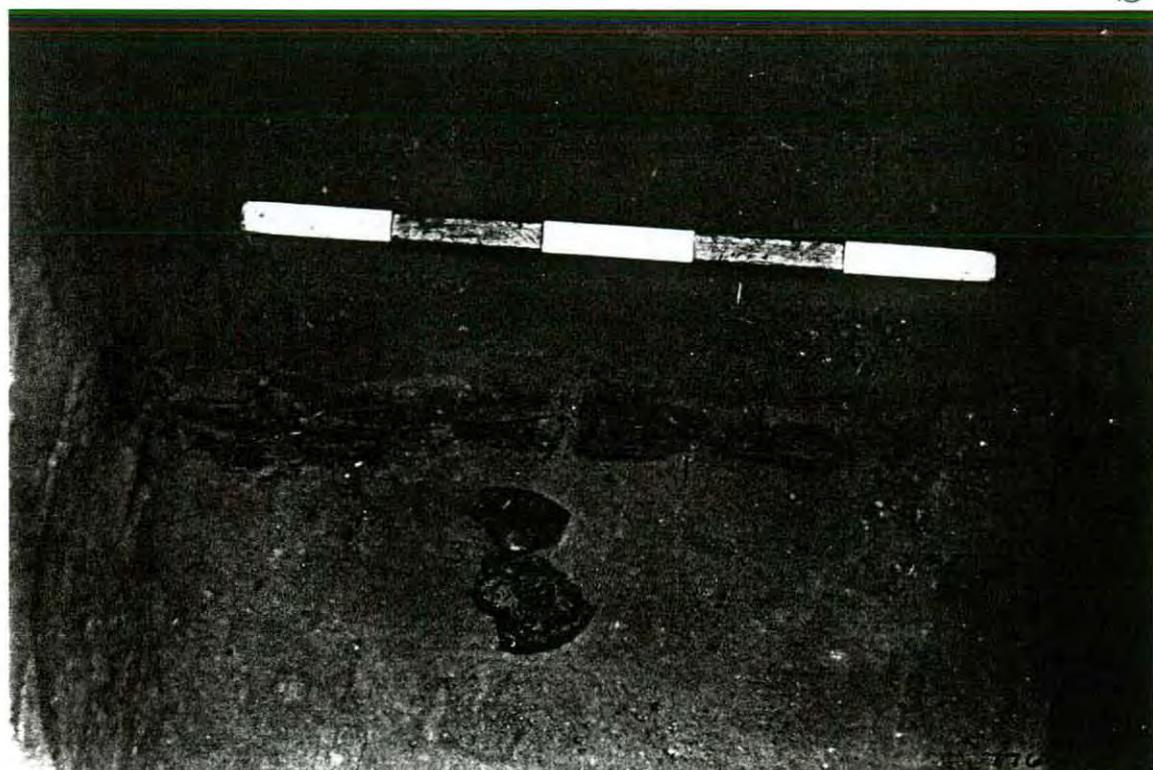
11. The context shows the back of the vault (1), the early collapsed dome (2), hearth of ash with later bricks (3) and section of the coffin (4).





12. View of the front of the vault (looking W). Note the plastered walls (1), the fine-grained sand (2) and the remains of the coffin.

13. Close-up of the coffin side (1), the iron grip (2) and the decorative tin plate (broken) (3)(looking N).



At least two or three types of hard brick correspond to at least two or three periods of restoration, of which none were too successful. Care should therefore be taken with the present reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Below layer three another rubble layer, consisting of plaster and brick, represents a period when the vault collapsed partially, possibly late 19th/early 20th century. These building materials lie primarily along the centre line of the grave (N-S).

Finally a fine monogreyish sand fills the subterranean vault for another 90 cm to the base. A small section was excavated near the entrance and yielded, at about 86 cm below the present exterior surface, a portion of a wooden board, now much decomposed. On the exposed western side an iron grip was still attached. Two pieces of a thin circular "iron" plate, could represent a pressed tin/iron escutcheon, generally used for decorative purposes (FIG.14).

Presumably we had found the long side section of a coffin of one of the deceased. It was deemed unnecessary to excavate further after it was determined that the coffins were actually buried, instead of being stacked, as one would have suspected from a superficial investigation.

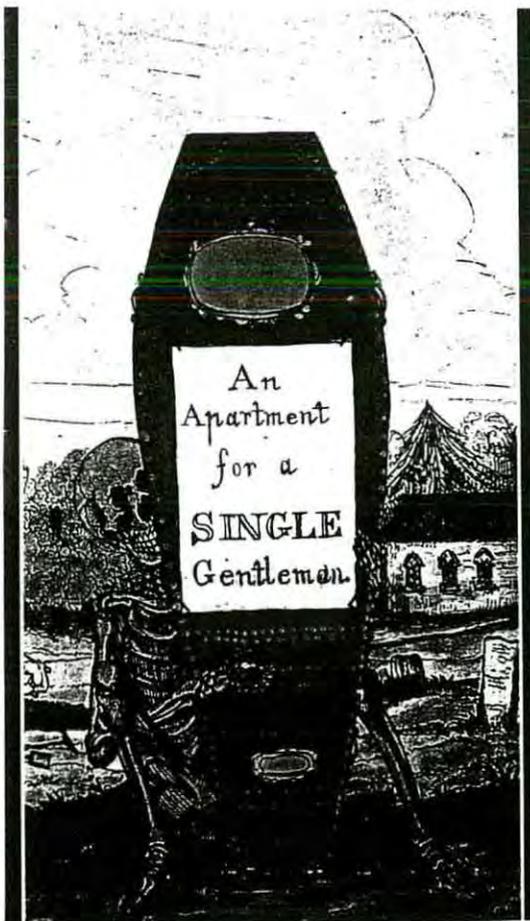
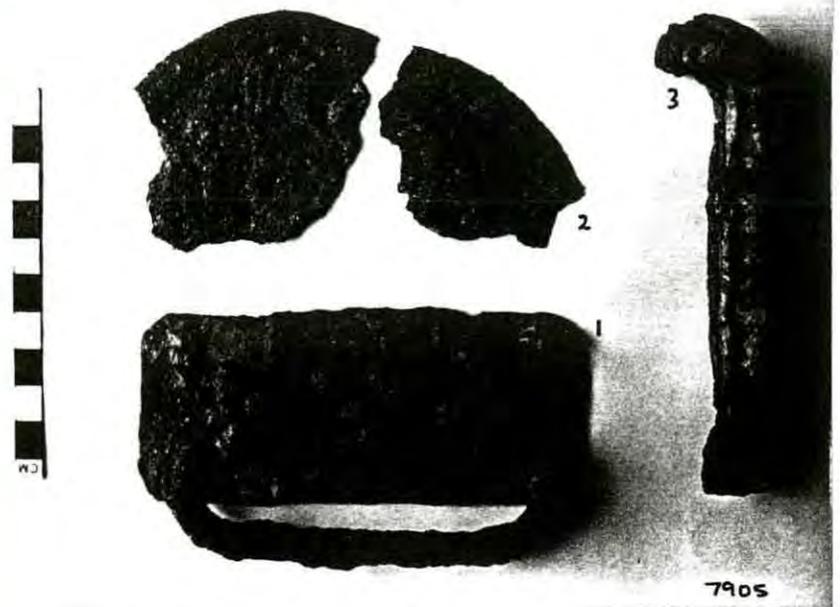
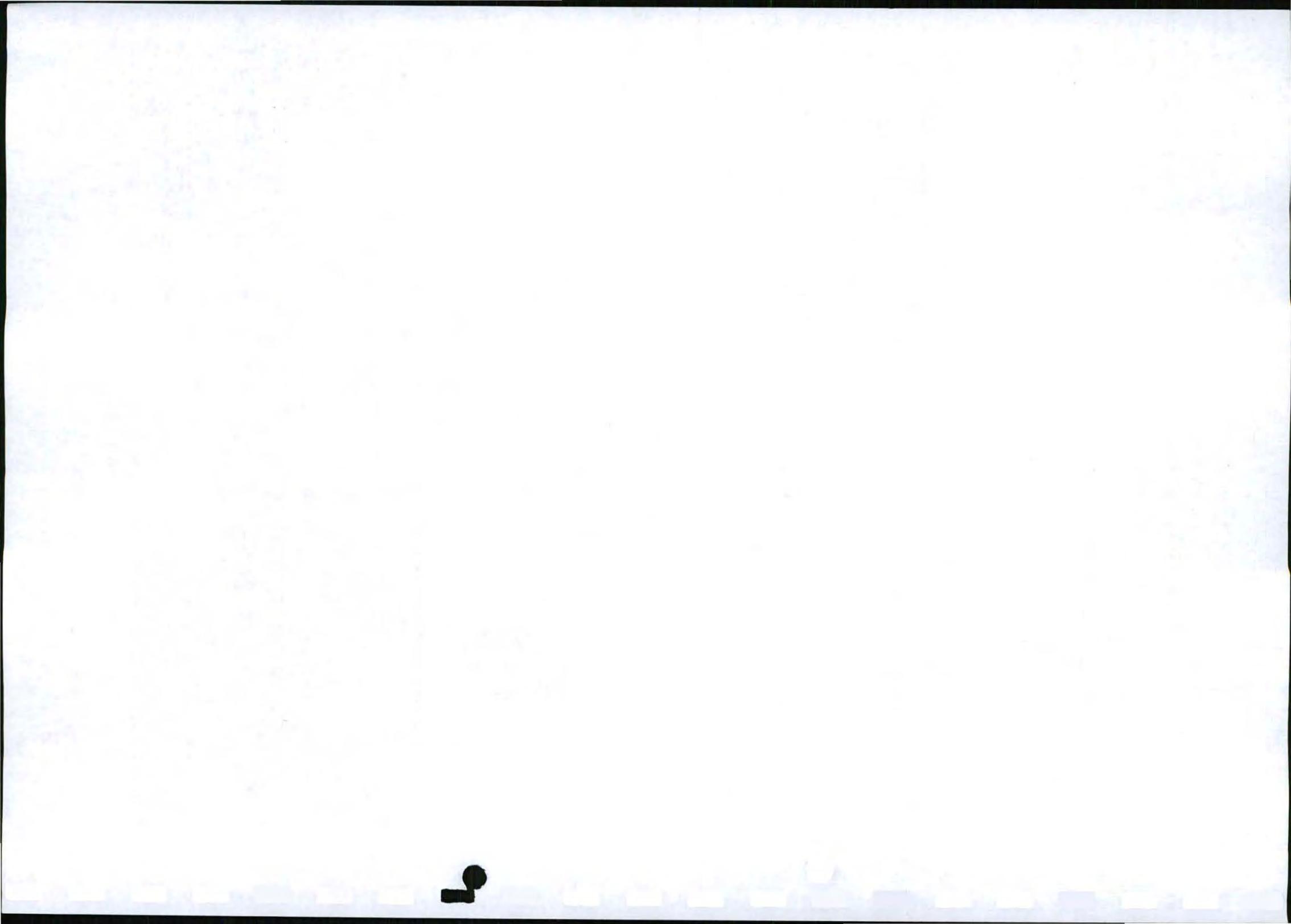


FIG.14 A typical English coffin (18th-19th c.) which is studded with nails (Cox 1996: back cover).



14. A close-up view of the iron grip (1), pressed tin medallion (2) and iron peg (3).



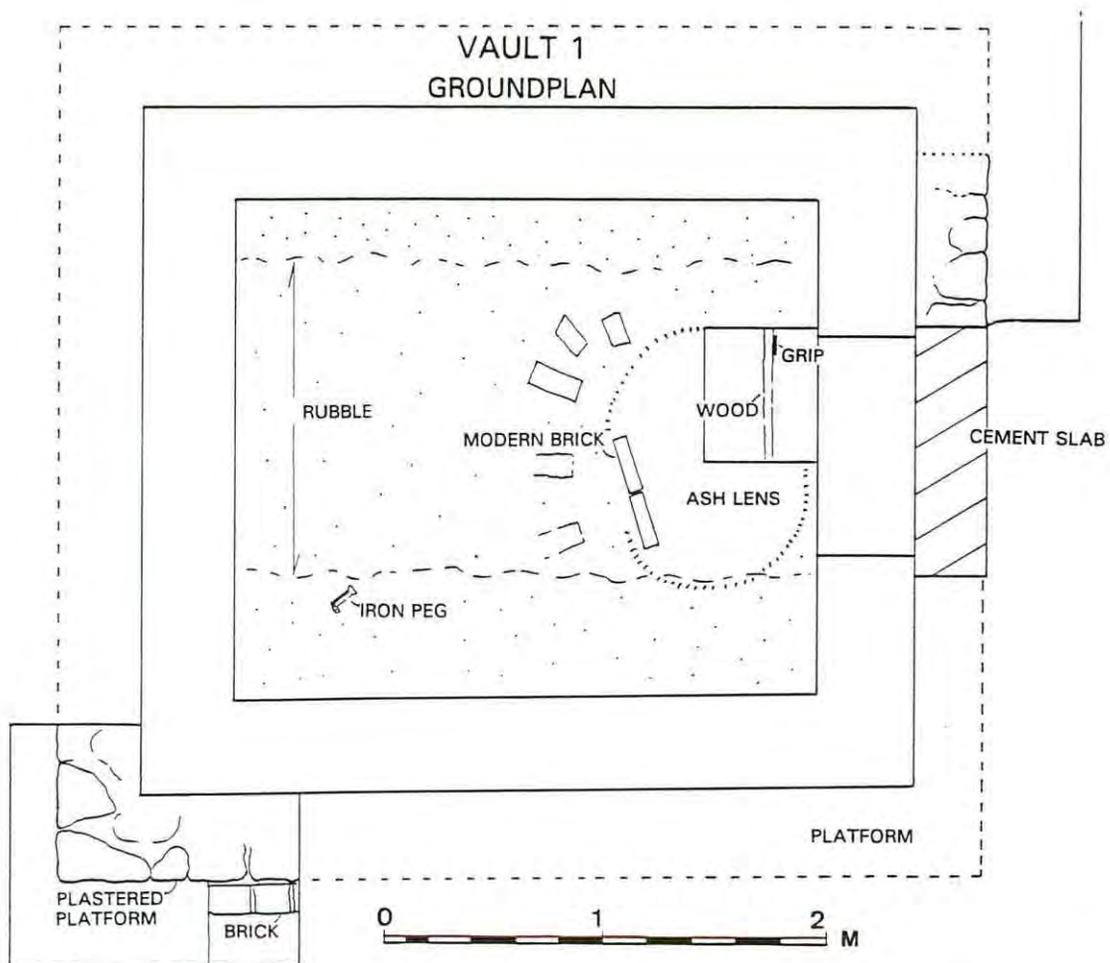
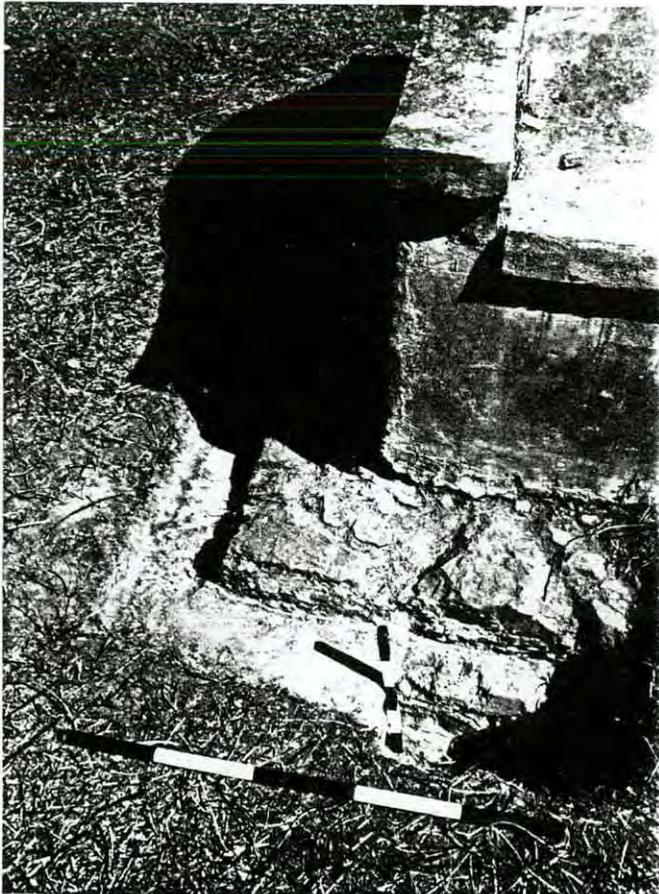
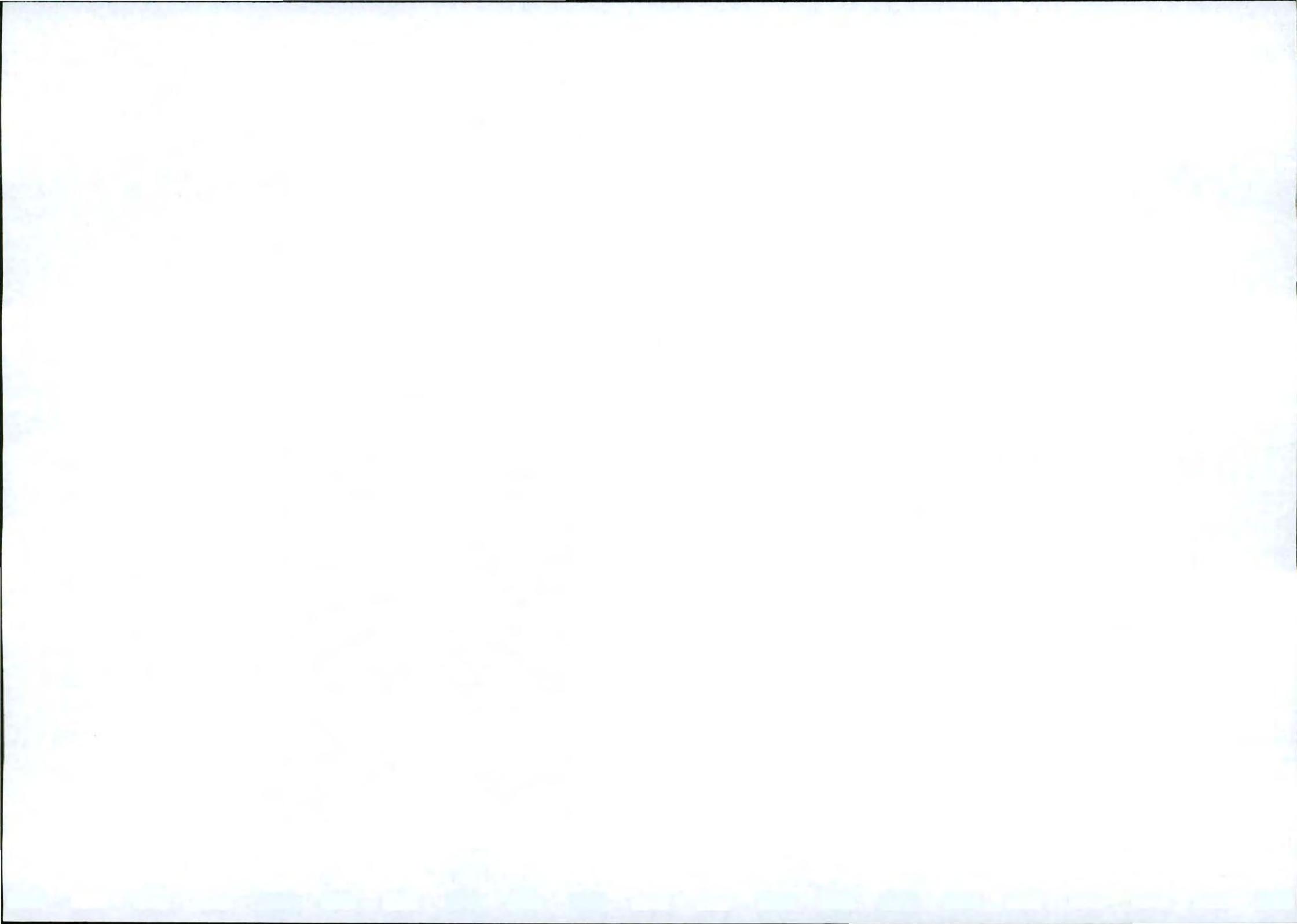


FIG.15 Groundplan of vault 1, showing the position of the "hearth" bricks and where a small section was dug.



15. Vault 1 was also built on an extended footing of sandstone, which was plastered (1). A purpose of the brick plinth (2) was to further dampproof the vault (view of SE section).



3.1.3 VAULT CONSTRUCTION

Generally family vaults would have been constructed before deaths occurred. The earliest burial in vault no. 1 is that of Pieter Voltelen, who died (prematurely?) when he was about 50 years old in 1849. Whether this vault was constructed before or after 1849 remains an open question.

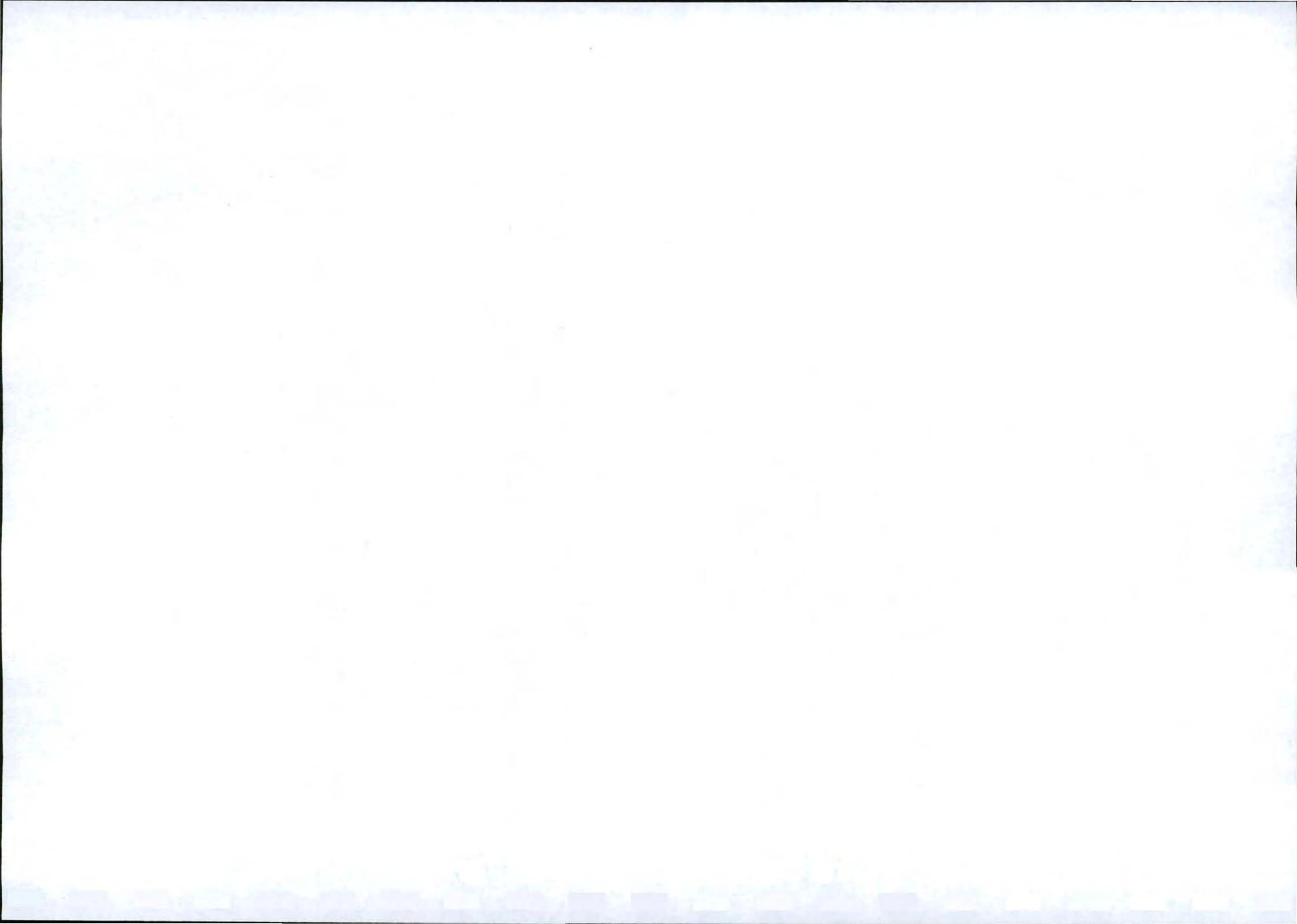
The Pieter Voltelen vault is nearly rectangular (3.0 x 3.46 m), with brick walls of about 40 cm wide, typical of the 19th century (FIG.15). The vaulted roof is only 32 cm thick. The orange bricks are well-fired but still absorbent, with dimensions of 230 x 110 or 115 x 90 mm. A fine brownish clay mortar was used. This vault has an extended stone footing of about 38 cm all around (except in front), which is plastered on top and down the sides for about 20 cm till a brick plinth.

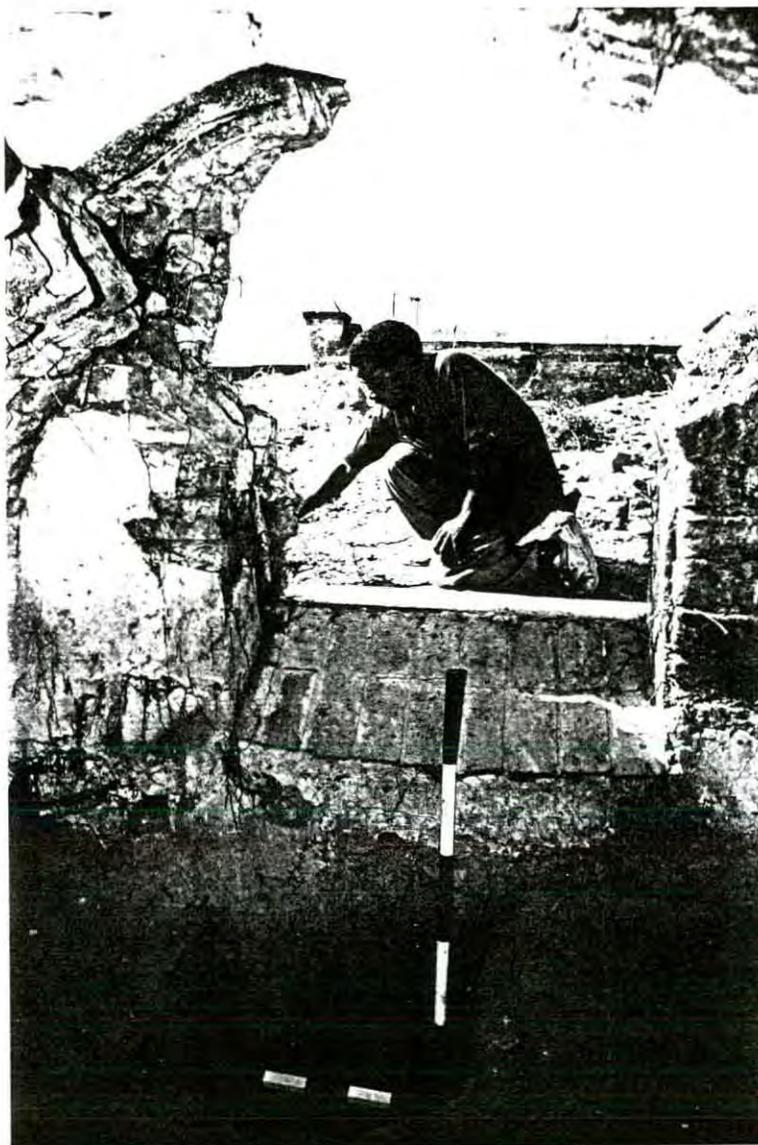
The vault itself rests upon a foundation of dressed stone (Cape sandstone) which starts about 50 cm below the present exterior surface (BPES). On the inside these stones (and brick vault) are plastered in lime-sand to a depth of 158 cm BPES. Whether the base is plastered is unknown, but presumably it was so as to waterproof the whole chamber. A layer of stones may form the foundation for the base. Its depth was determined by hammering a thin long rod till it hit the floor. Internal measurements of the chamber are about 2.2 m high x 2.6 m long x 2.2 m wide.

Bricks used in the town of Stellenbosch generally changed over the years in a standard fashion in respect of size, consistency and mortar. My experience with the analysis of structures on farms indicates that the same clay sources, particular wooden brickmoulds and mortars were used for generations. Dating a particular structure on Welmoed should therefore take into account neighbouring old buildings, the inspection of which have not yet been possible.

My first impressions was that the graveyard dates from the second half of the 19th century. This was primarily based on the 90 mm height of the bricks, typical of about >1880. Yet the similarity of bricks obfuscated the general dating techniques. Thus historical evidence and stylistic considerations take precedence over the physical dating of bricks.

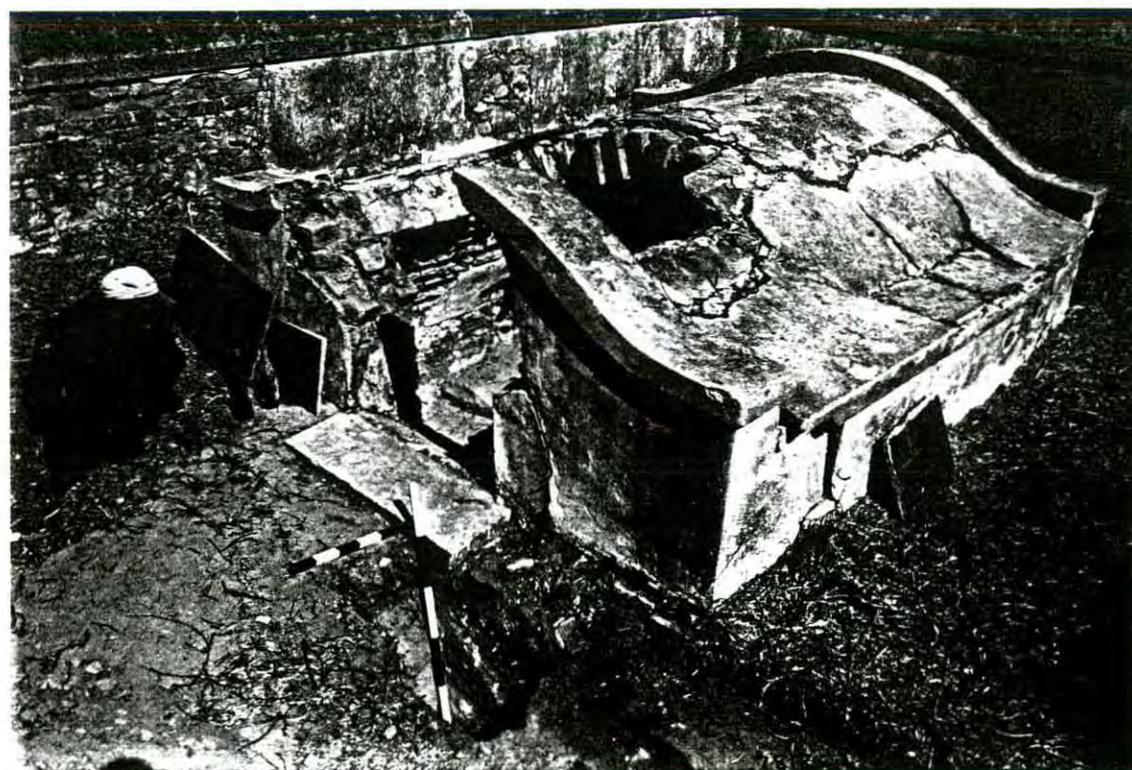
Another type of brick of similar dimensions but with sharper corners and a more light yellowish mortar, point to renovation during the late-19th century (size 225 x 115 x 90 mm).

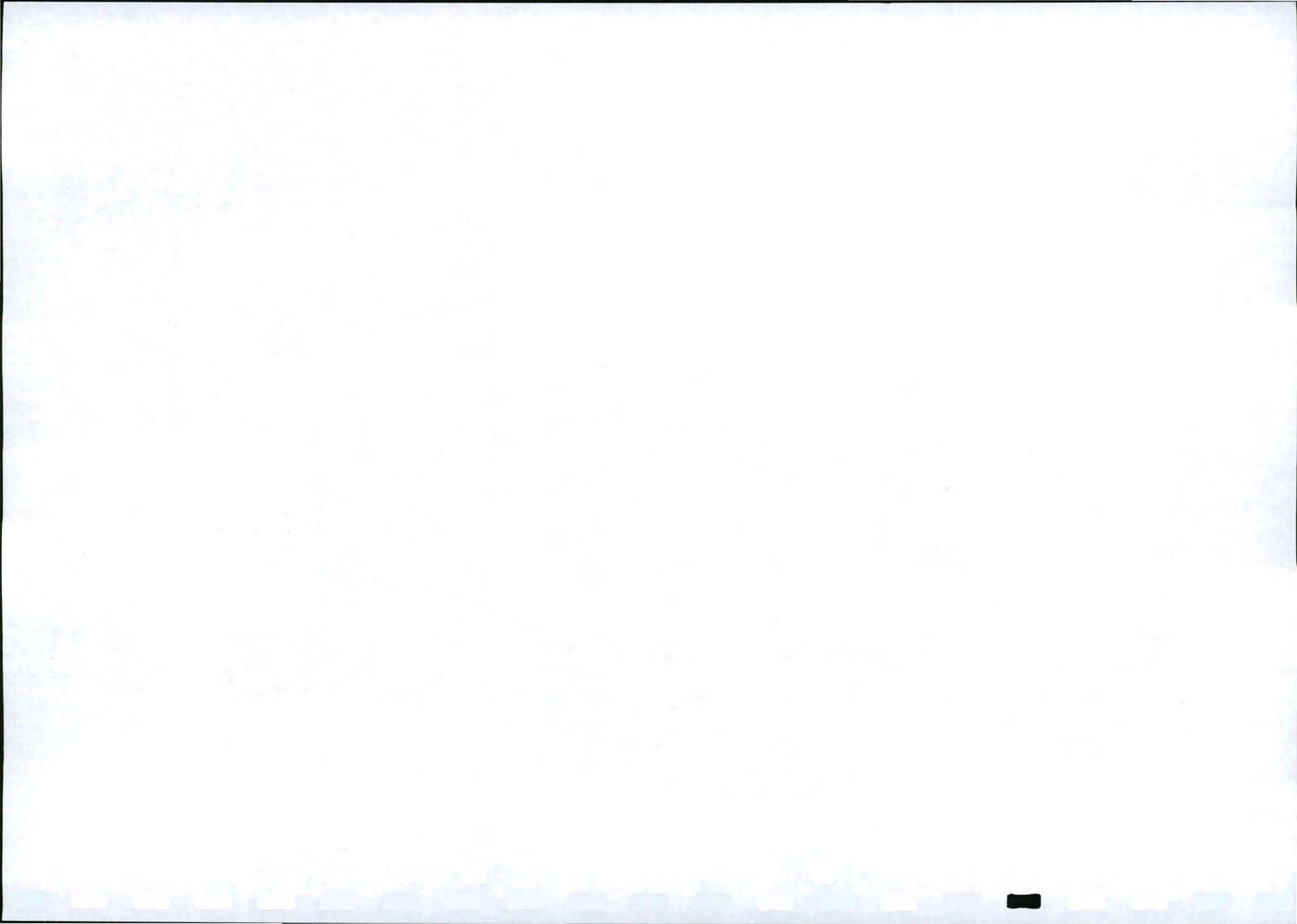




16. A cement slab at the entrance and the brick ramp (about 1940) gave access to the grave.

17. A section revealed that the stone footing was plastered in front, probably to the depth of the sub-terranean vault.





Another example was hard-fired, reddish and of smaller size. Sharp edges indicated it was mass-produced and wire-cut, while the central depression or mould is generally associated with the period 1910-20. Clay mortars still adhere to the surface.

Sample sizes: 215 x 105 x 64 mm
 216 x 105 x 65 mm

The entrance to the vault consist of bricks laid at a 45° angle and sloping inwards. They resemble the others to a degree, but are laid in flat cement (1940s?). Size 220 x 100 x ? mm (location cemented over) (see photo).

A number of bricks were hard-fired, deep red in colour, and mass-produced because it was machine cut (i.e. with wires).

Sample sizes: 240 x 120-2 x 67 mm
 244 x 116 x 66 mm

They appear to have brown and yellowish clay mortars, indicating manufacture during the early-20th century. Some bricks appear to have been reused with cement mortar, ending once more in collapse. They were then finally reused in the hearth.

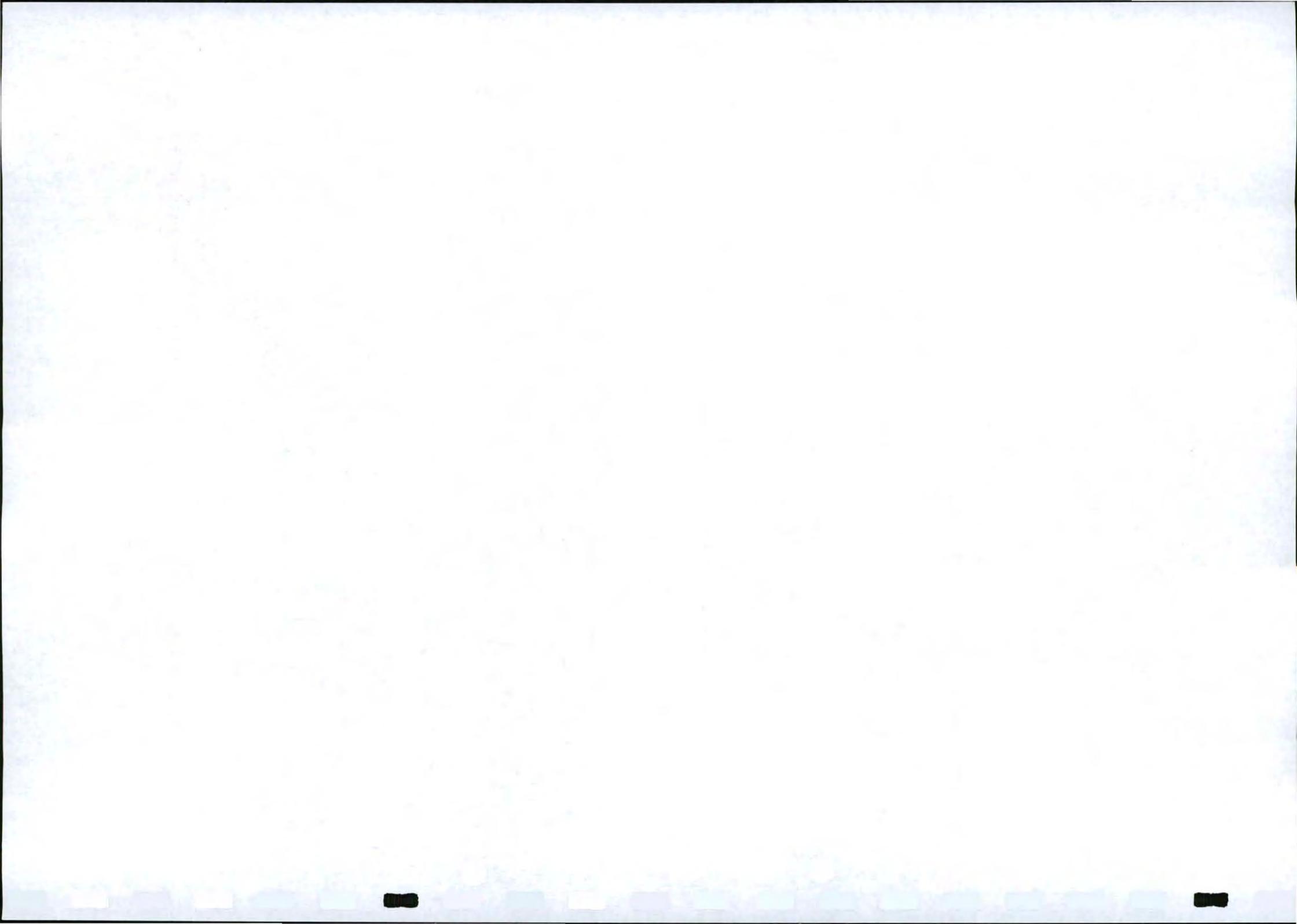
The back portion of the vault was repaired, perhaps between 1950 and 1970, using corrugated iron with hard-fired yellowish bricks in cement. Size 220 x 107 x 73 mm. Thus the various types of brick indicate that this vault was built c.1850 (bricks A), and suffered collapse on a number of occasions:

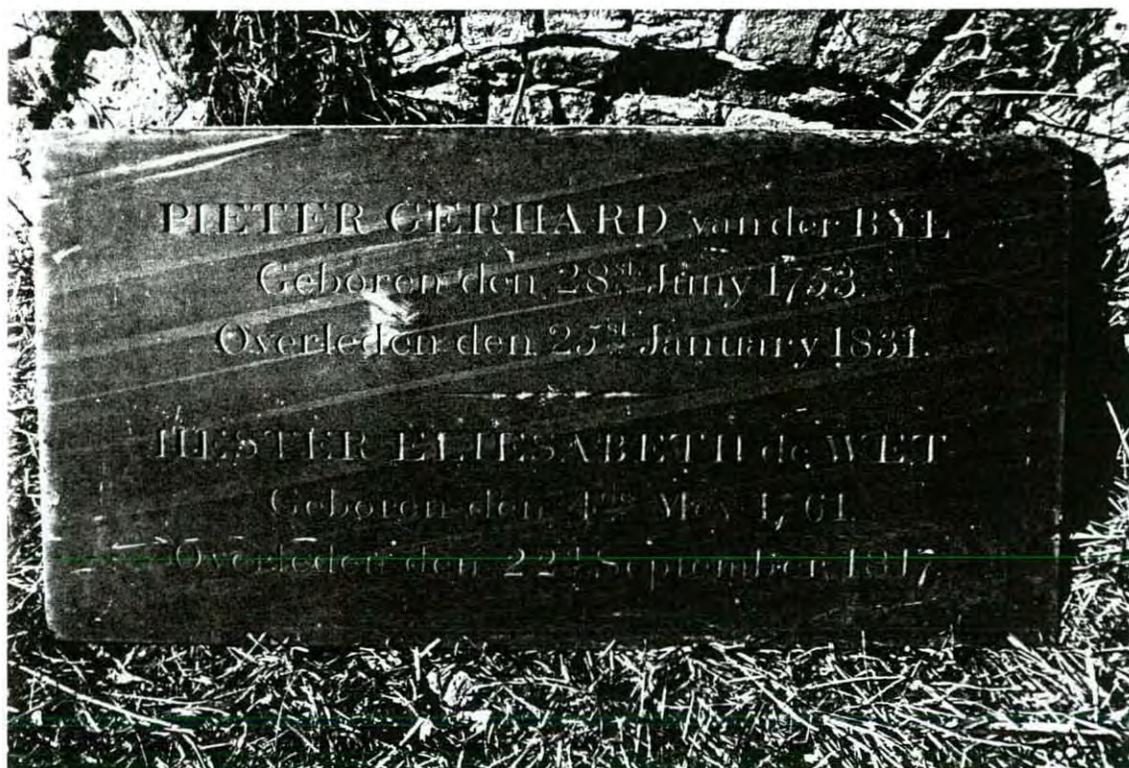
1. c.1880 (bricks B)
2. c.1910 (bricks D)
3. c.1930s (bricks C)
4. c.1960s (bricks E)
5. c.1980s - to be repaired 1998

On top of the vault about three layers of plaster can be observed:

1. Oldest: whitish limeplaster, about 10-20 mm thick;
2. Late 19th: off-white limeplaster, about 10 mm thick;
3. c.1930s: greyish cement, about 15 mm thick.

The problem with the cement plaster was that it cracked, and did not adhere well to the soft-fired bricks and clays. This allowed water to penetrate, and become trapped inside. Thus the mortars, which were softer than brick, were leached out so that the sodden mass collapsed. New plaster should contain a high percentage of lime, and it is recommended that limewash again be used. The latter "breathes" and allows moisture to escape again.

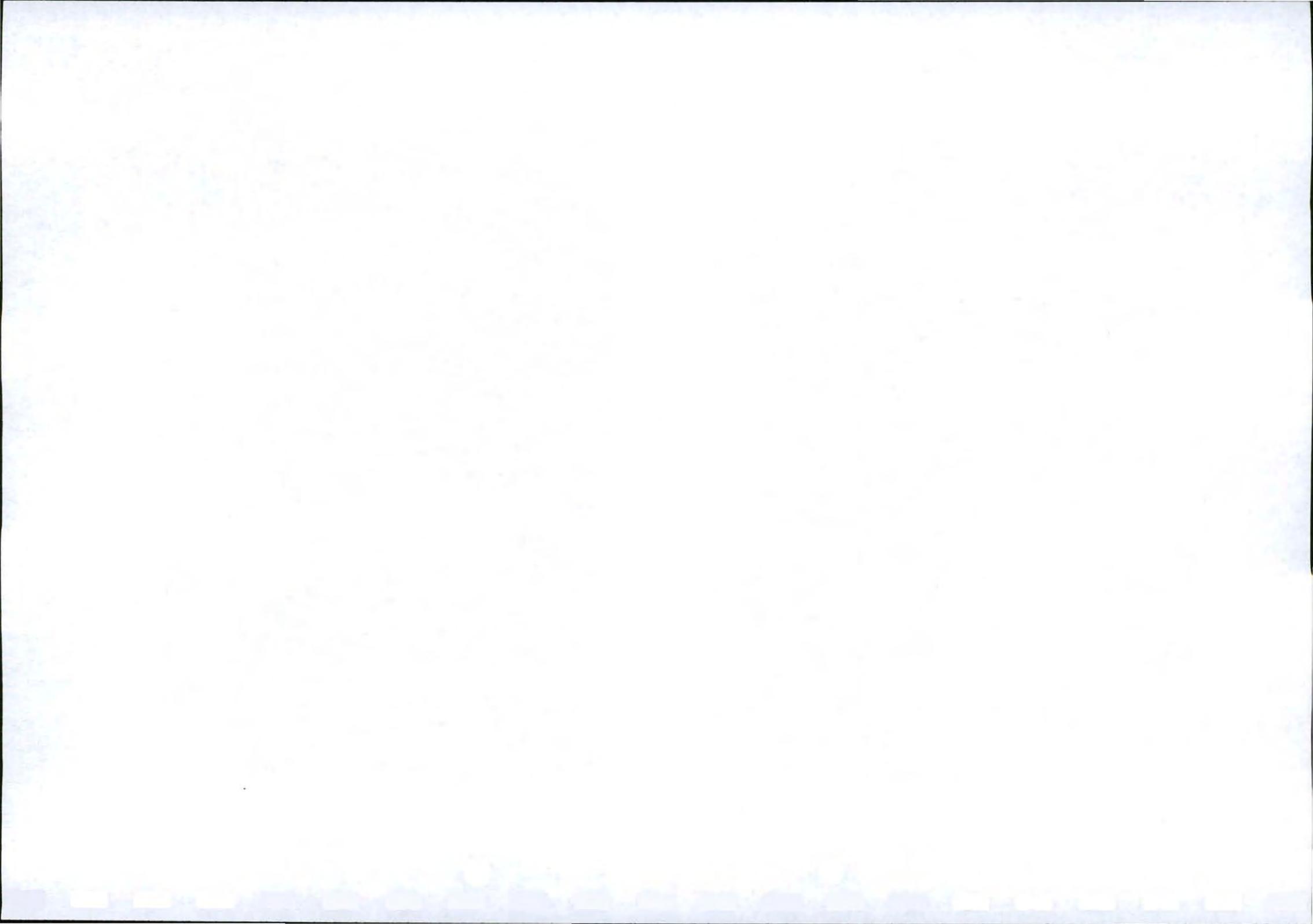




18. The grave-stone of Pieter Gerhard and his wife Hester is the oldest of all.

19. The Anglicized epitaph of Pieter Alex and Laura Isabella.





3.2 VAULT 2

3.2.1 Inscriptions

This grave, of which the arched opening was sealed with bricks during the late 19th century, is in comparatively good condition. Cut partially into this brickwork and the vault are two slabs, one above the other:

A. A large slate slab measuring 92 x 46 cm, with a thickness of 40-46 mm and a rough, undressed back. The inscription is in Roman letters and predominantly in the Dutch language, although English influence is apparent in the dates. The deceased were husband and wife:

PIETER GERHARD van der BYL
Geboren den 28st. Juny 1753.
Overleden den 25st. January 1831.

HESTER ELIESABETH de WET
Geboren den 4de Mey 1761.
Overleden den 27st. September 1817.

B. The other large slate slab measures 77 x 51 cm with an even thickness of 25 mm, with the names of two individuals:

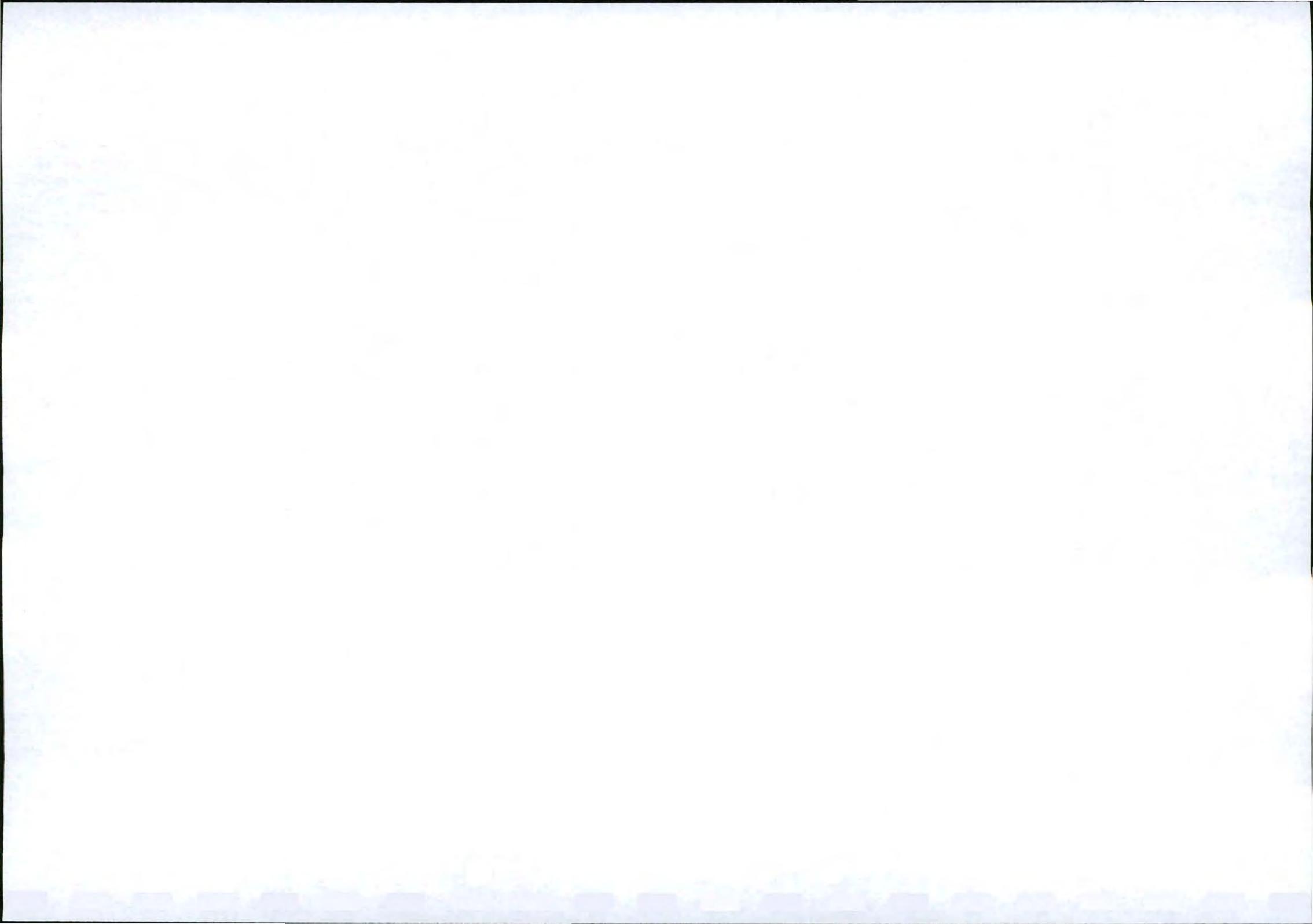
PIETER ALEX VAN DER BYL
BORN 28TH JUNE 1860.
DIED OCT. 30TH 1881.

LAURA ISABELLA
BORN 15TH JUNE 1866.
DIED 28TH MARCH 1876.

The inscriptions from the last quarter of the 19th century are completely Anglicised with only a single straight line separating the two names.

The sequence of the burials were as follows:

- a. Hester E. de Wet, wife of Gerhard, age 56, died 1817.
- b. Gerhard van der Bÿl, age 77, died 1831.
- c. Laura I., daughter of Gerhard, age 9, died 1876.
- d. Pieter Alex, unknown ancestry, age 21, died 1881.



VAULT 2
SECTION: LOOKING WEST

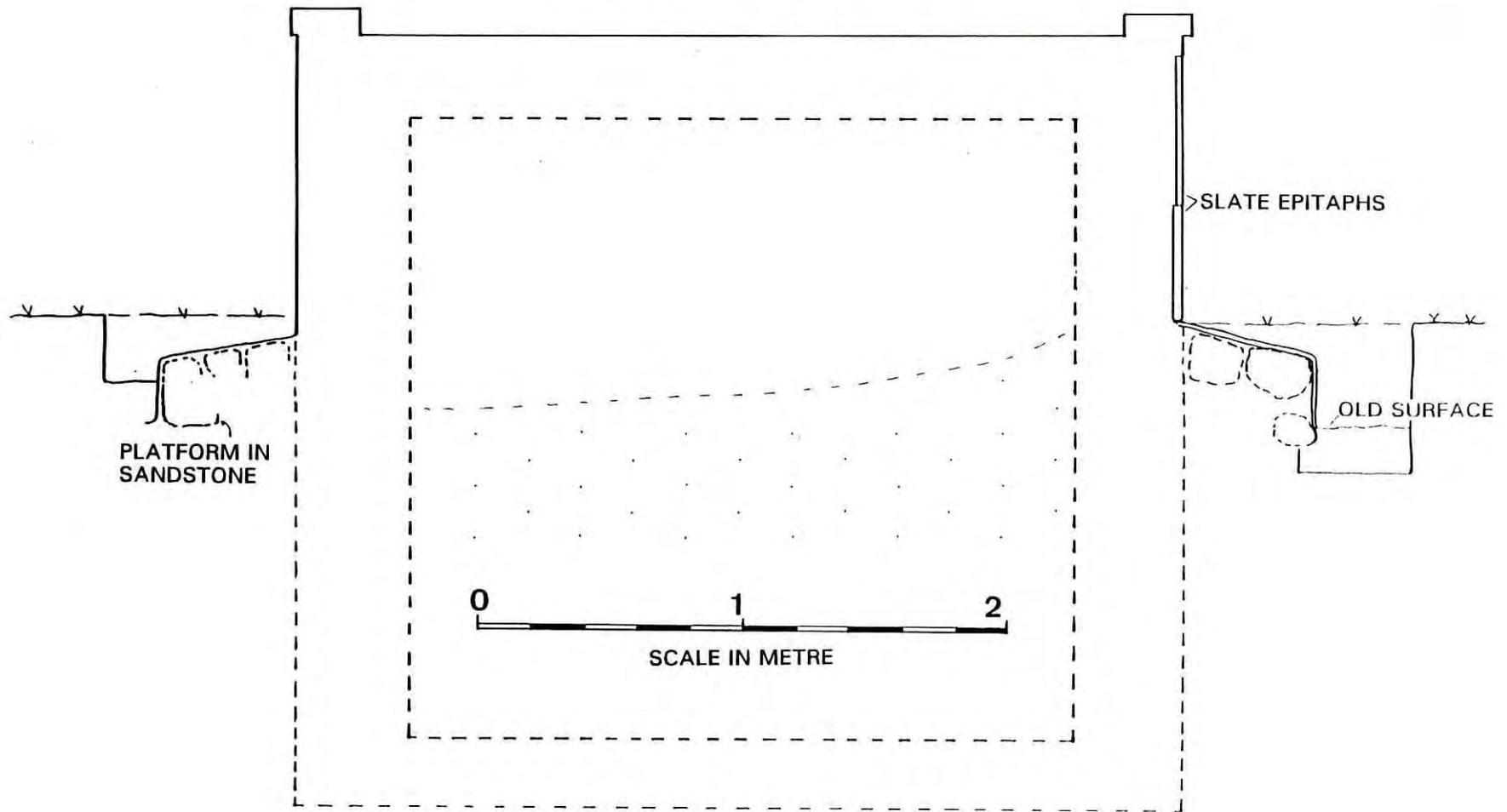
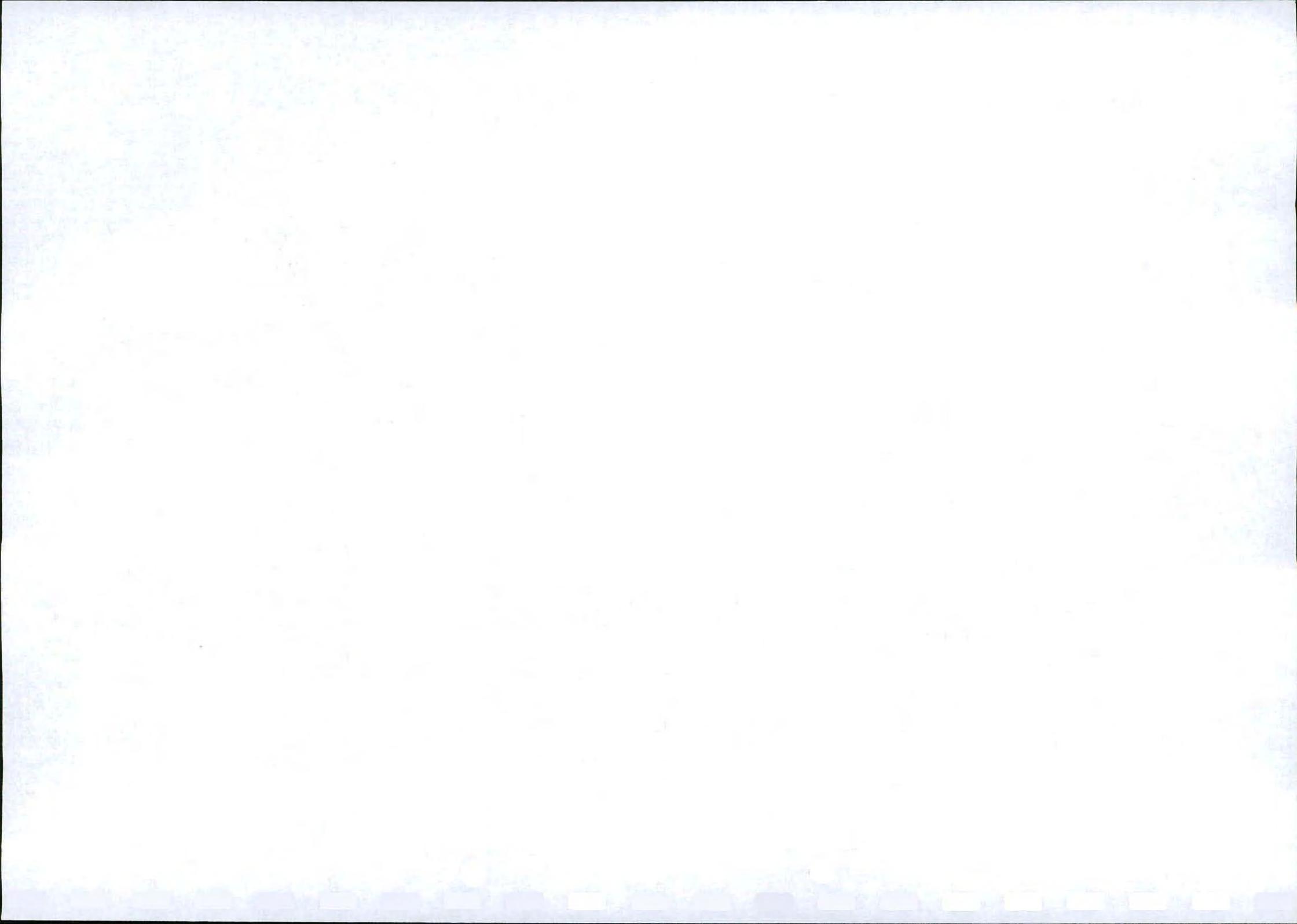


FIG.16 Sectional drawing of vault 2 and its probable depth.



3.2.2 Construction

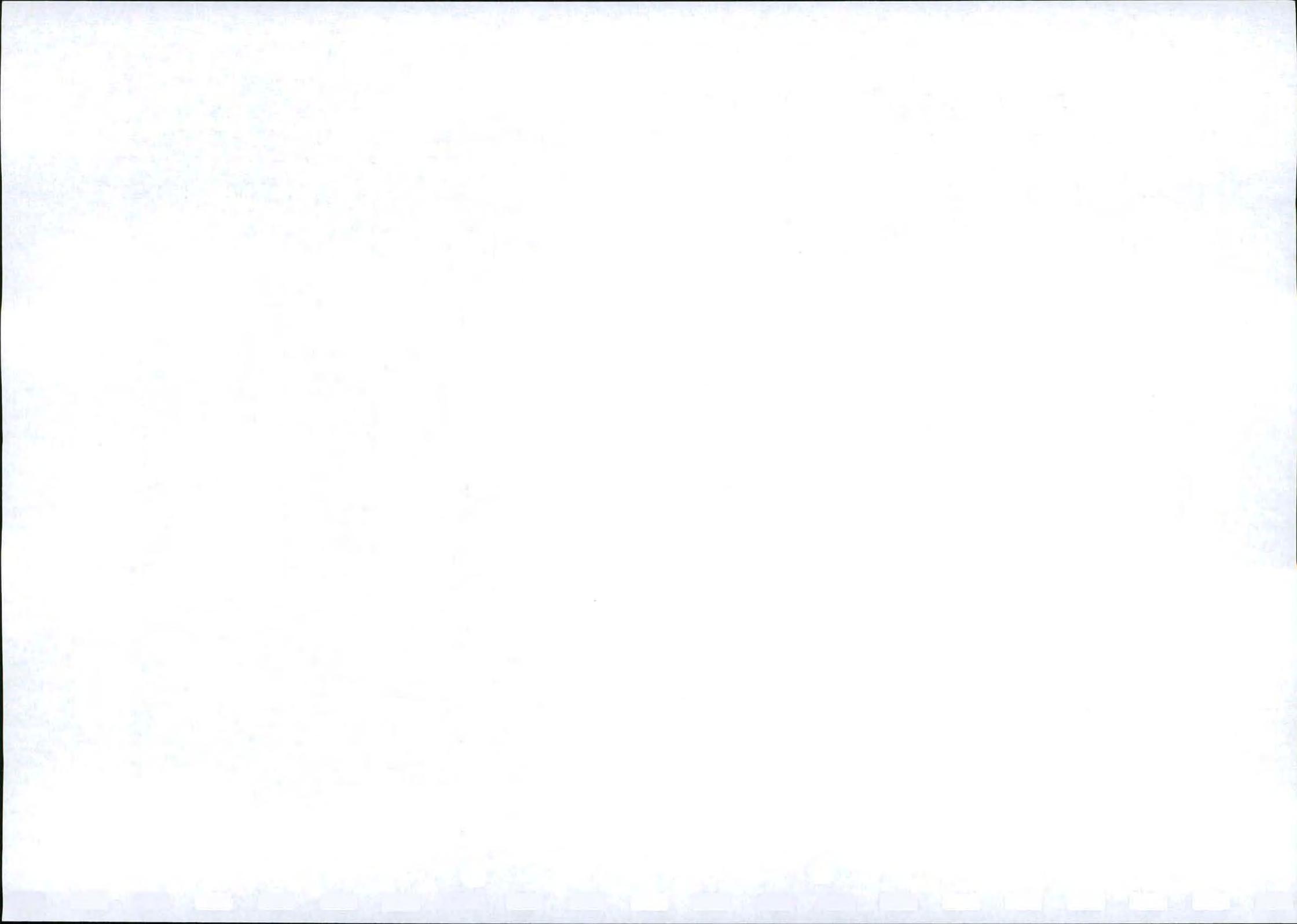
At present the whole vault is plastered over in cement (like vaults 1 and 3), which probably happened at the same time in the 1930s or 1940s. Exterior dimensions are 3.0 m wide and 3.38 m long, built at a slightly obtuse angle. This vault has also a 50 cm wide stone footing, which was once fully plastered and white-washed to a depth of 30-40 cm. Medium sized (20-25 cm) slatestone blocks were used in the construction of this firm base, and are still in good condition (FIG. 16).

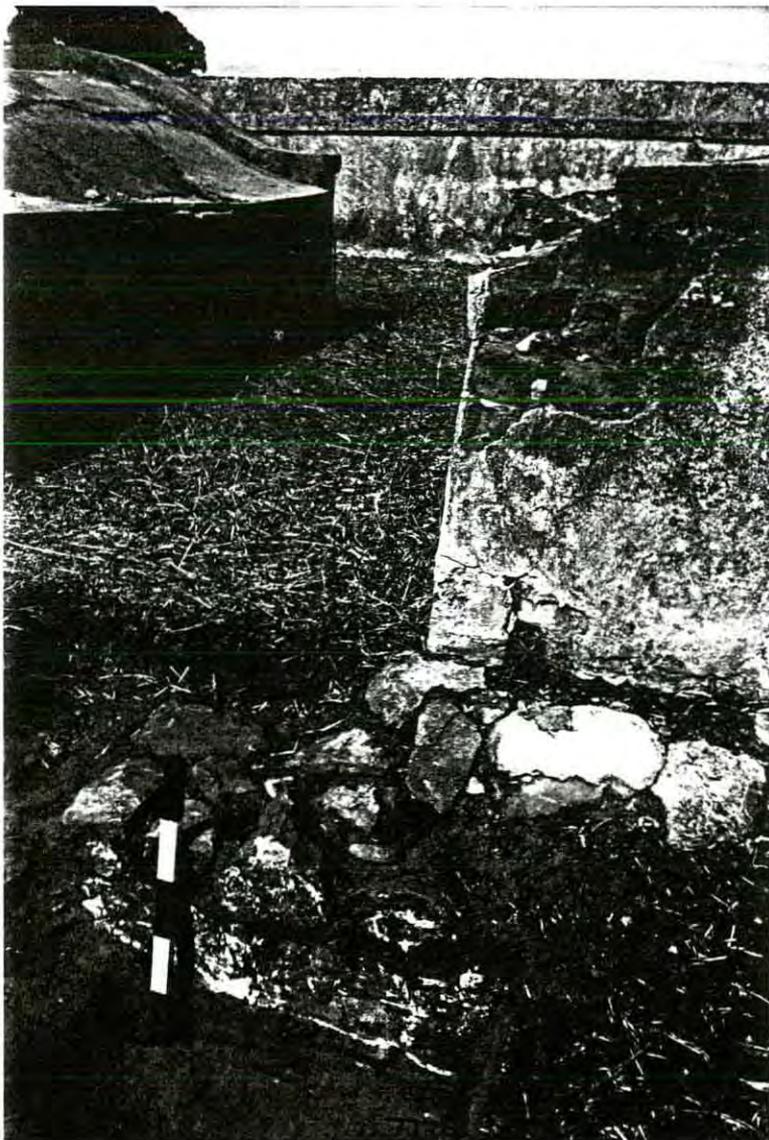
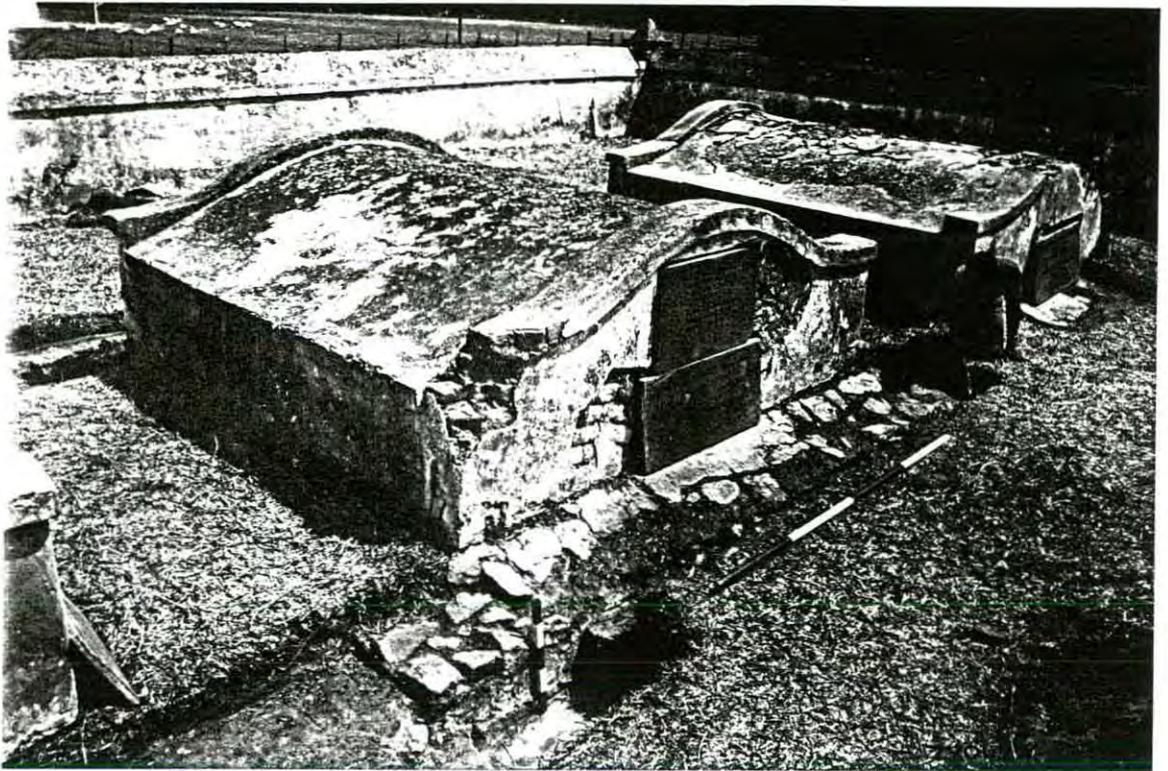
The vault itself is built of large orange-coloured bricks containing specks of reddish grog. Their dimensions range from 240 x 80 x 115 mm to 245 x 85 x 118-120 mm. All are laid in grey-yellowish mortars. Vaults 1 and 2 are constructed in a similar way. Note that the arched opening was once plastered on the inside, but since there are no signs of pintle hinges for a door, the opening was probably lightly bricked-up after each interment (see photo 20).

Just how were the bodies buried? Under ideal circumstances perhaps as follows: First the vault was built and fully limeplastered on the inside, after which the entrance was loosely bricked up. Immediately before a burial the walled-up arch would have been opened up, allowing one or two persons to crawl into the chamber to receive the coffin. After positioning the latter in a N-W or E-W direction, the fine



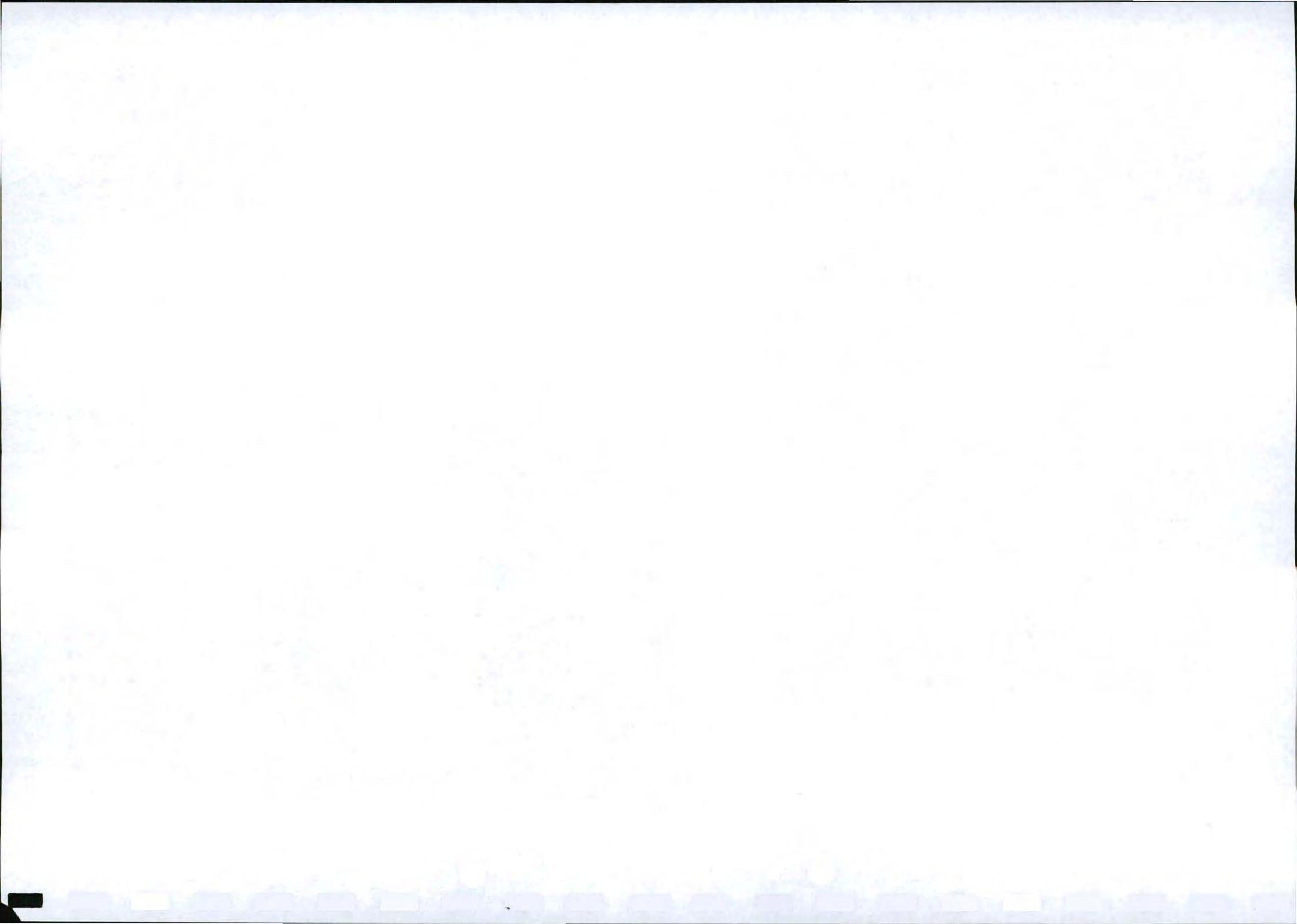
20. The oldest vault 2, is particularly well-built and was sealed in the late 19th century.





21. The stone platform of vault 2 extended all around and was plastered and lime-washed (scales: 2 m and 50 cm).

22. Close-up of the NE corner where the footing was plastered down to about 300 cm below the present surface (looking S).



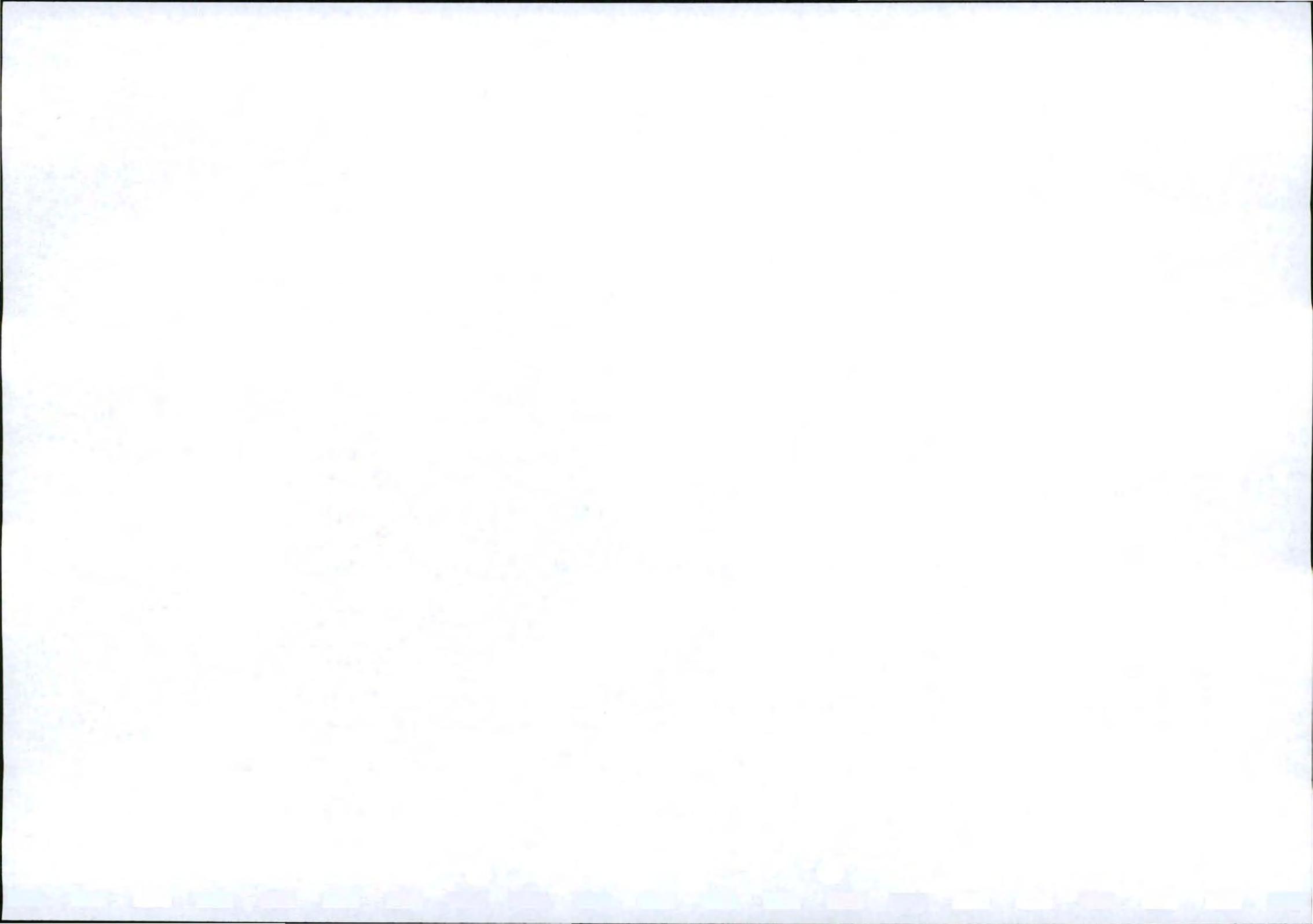
sand obtained outside the cemetery wall would have been poured over the coffin to cover it completely (sand piled up years ago when the tomb was dug, could also be used if still clean). The sand that covered the coffins in vault 1 was very clean, with no impurities of any kind.

The status of this tomb is undisputed. Centrally situated on a raised platform towards the back of the graveyard, it is the first structure that catches the eye when entering the cemetery gate (which is just wide enough to admit a wagon or hearse). It is the oldest of the tombs and was for a number of years probably the only one. Since the boundary wall is constructed of materials similar to those of this vault, they are probably contemporaneous. Just when were they built?

Hester died in 1817, about 24 years before her husband. Perhaps she was initially buried in a simple grave, and later reburied in the grander vault after its completion in the early 1820's. The epitaph would have been added only after Gerhard died in 1831. Although Hester died first, her details appear below that of her husband, reflecting the prevalent patriarchal system.



23. At the SW corner the plaster was still in good condition.



WELMOED GRAVEYARD

SECTION: LOOKING SOUTH

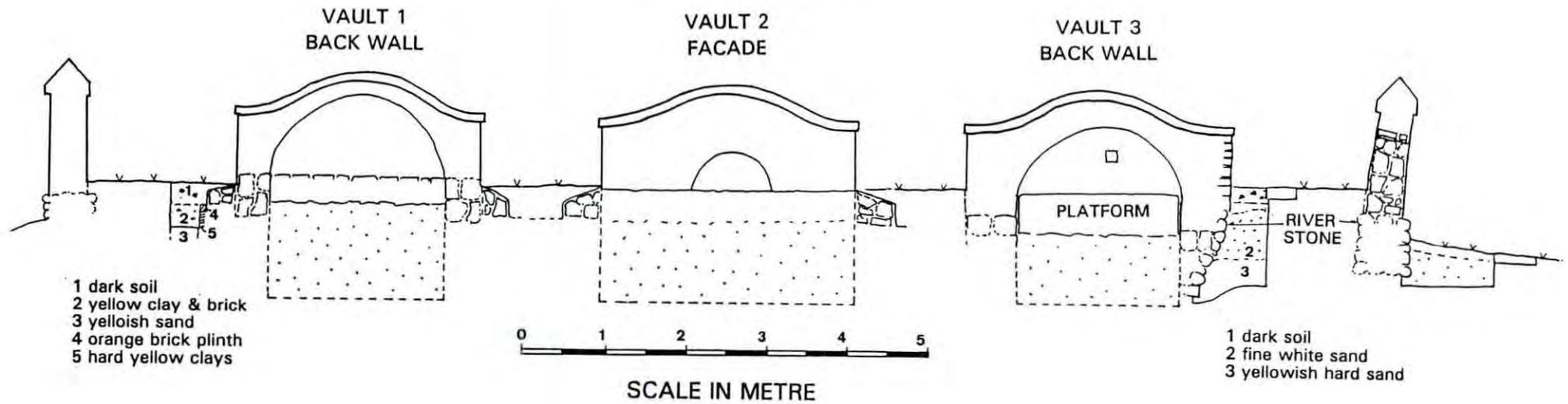
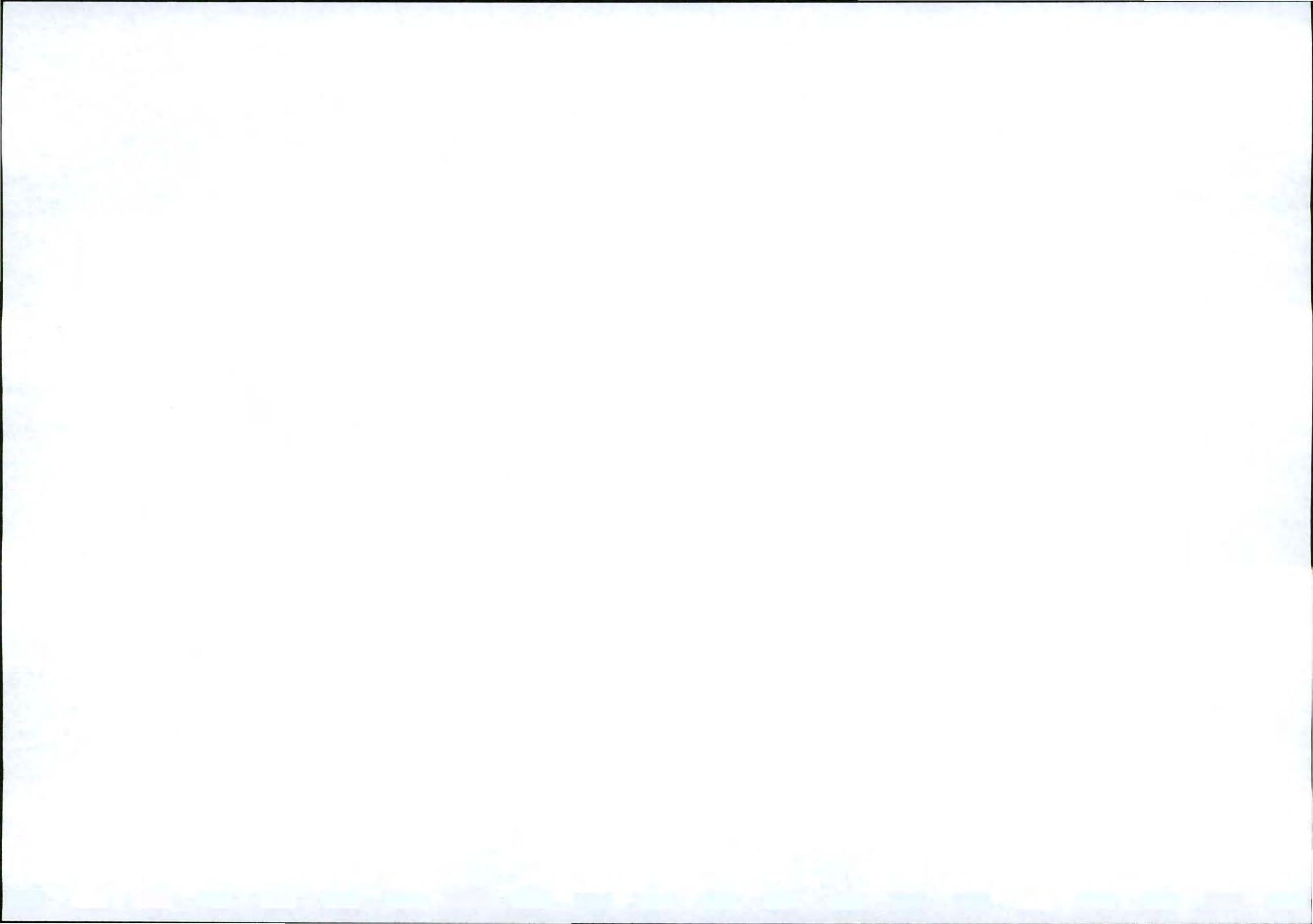


FIG.18 Sectional drawing of the facade of vaults 1, 2 and 3, including the boundary wall.



3.3 VAULT 3

3.3.1 Inscription

This tomb also remains in relatively good condition. When first inspected the gravestone was still firmly attached, but became dislodged during later weed-clearing operations. Since the tomb was unsealed, the inside could be investigated. The dark slate slab measures 51.0 x 107.5 cm with an even thickness of 25 mm. The inscription is in neat and evenly-spaced Roman characters:

PHILIPUS JOHANNES ALBERTUS VAN DER BYL,
Geboren den 20st October, 1789.
Overleden den 5de December, 1873.

SUSANNA FRANCINA VAN DER BYL
Geboren de WIT,
Geboren den 5de Juni, 1793.
Overleden den 29st Augustus, 1847.

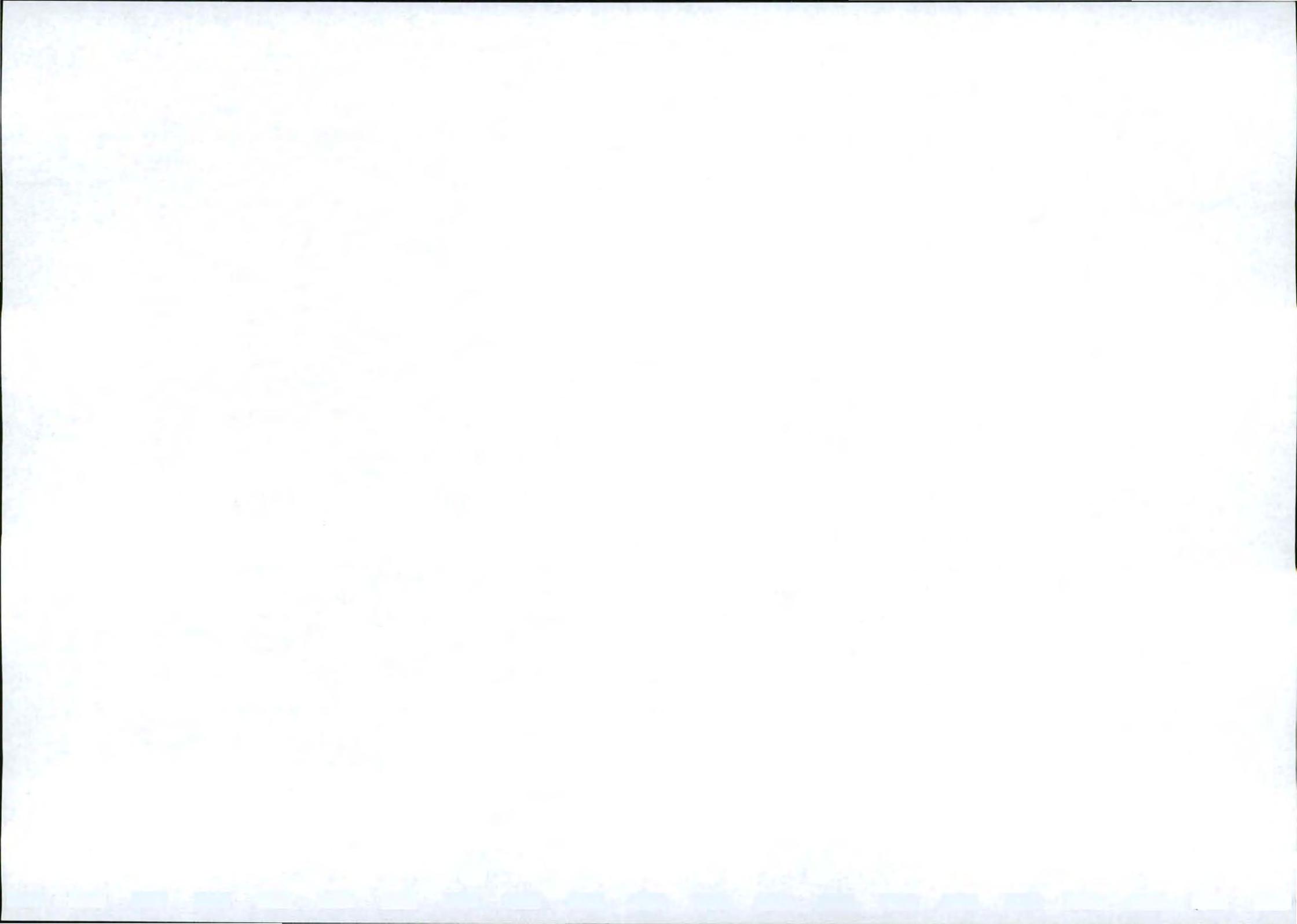
At least two persons were buried here and, once again, the wife aged 54 preceded the husband aged 84, in this case by 26 years. As in the case of the first vault, this one was probably built after the death of the wife (which implies reburial), while the tombstone would have been commissioned by die surviving family of the husband.

The two burials are thus:

- a. Susanna F., wife of P.J.A., age 54, died 1847.
- b. Philipus Joh. A., husband, age 84, died 1873.



24. A well-designed epitaph graces the slate grave-stone of vault 3, the tomb of Philipus and his wife Susanna.



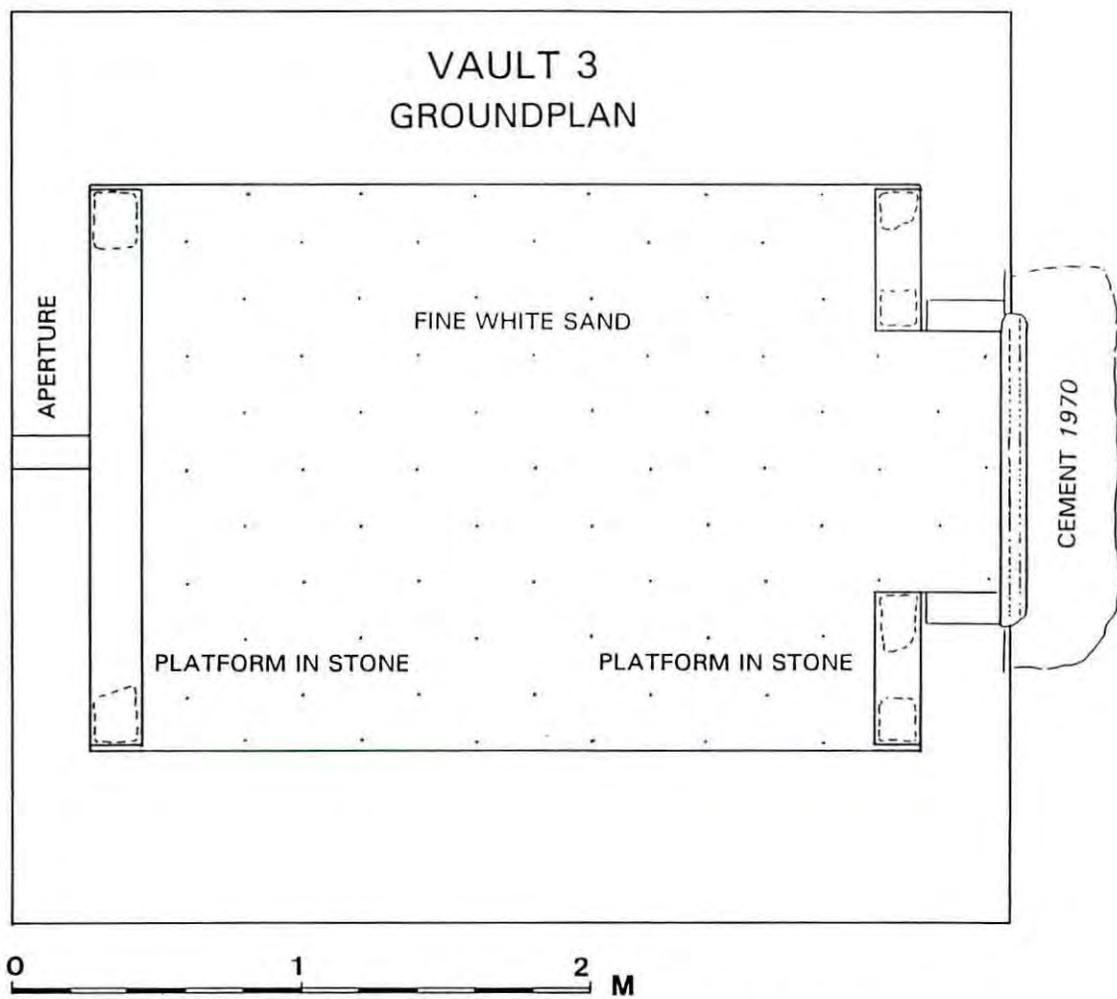
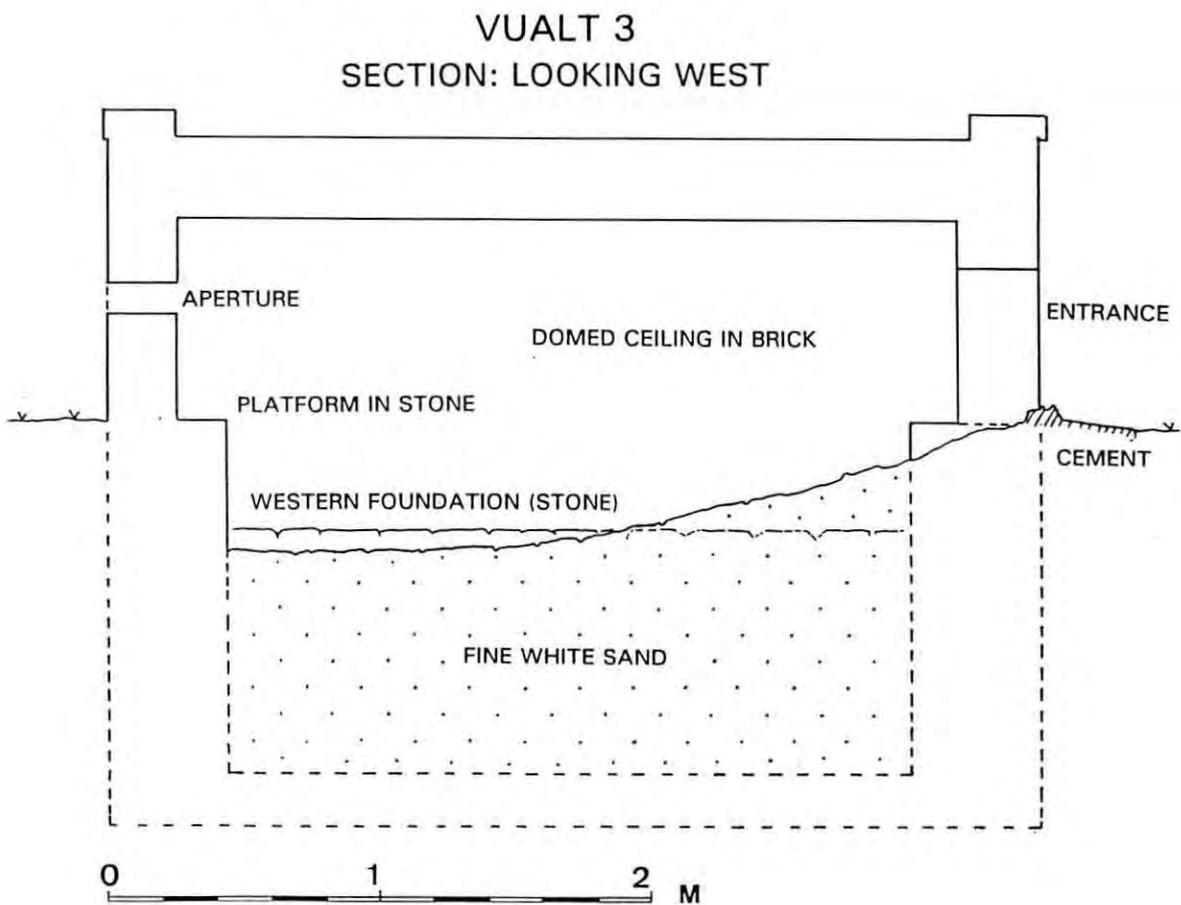
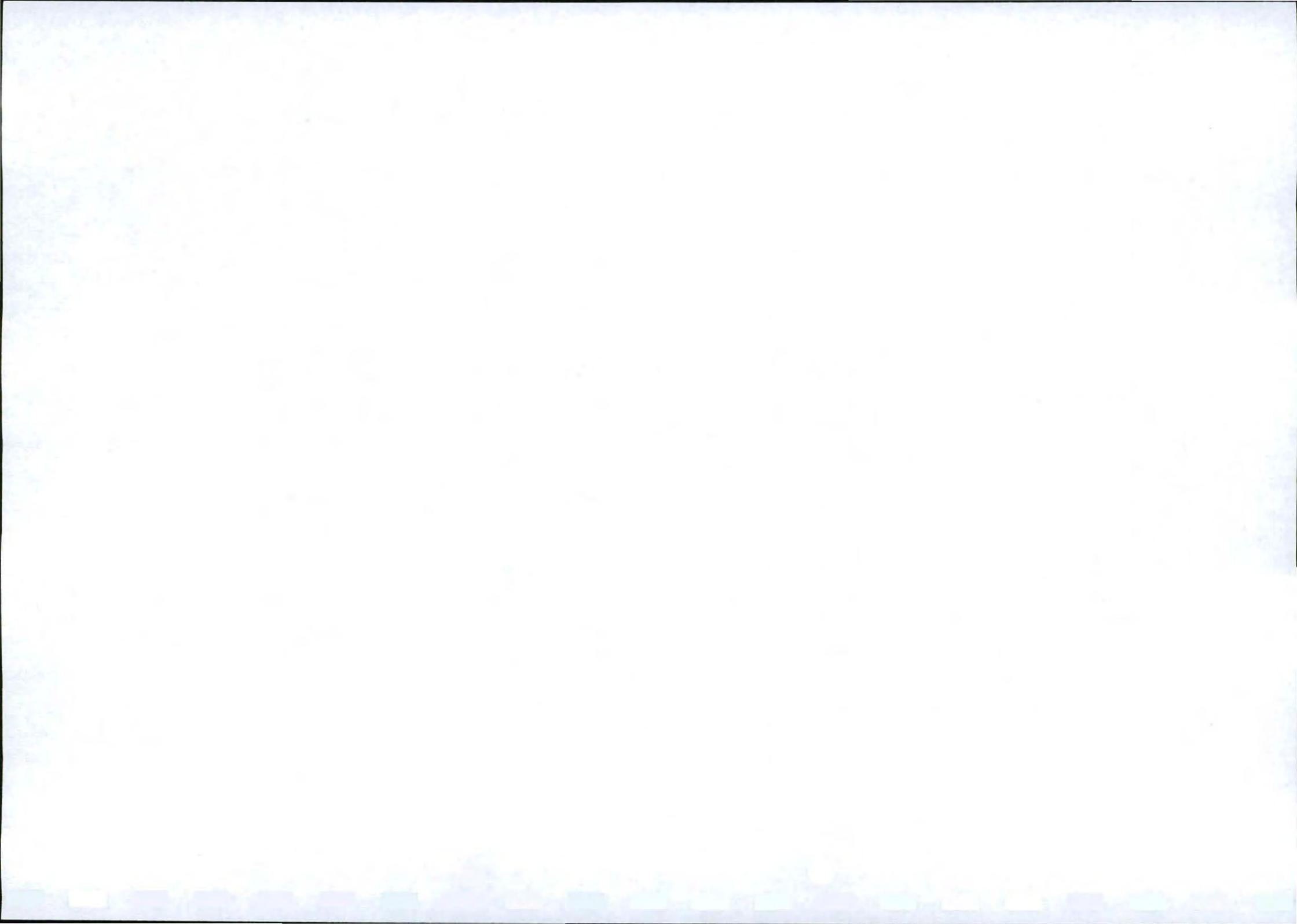


FIG.19 Groundplan of vault 3 with its inner platforms.
FIG.20 Sectional drawing of vault 3.





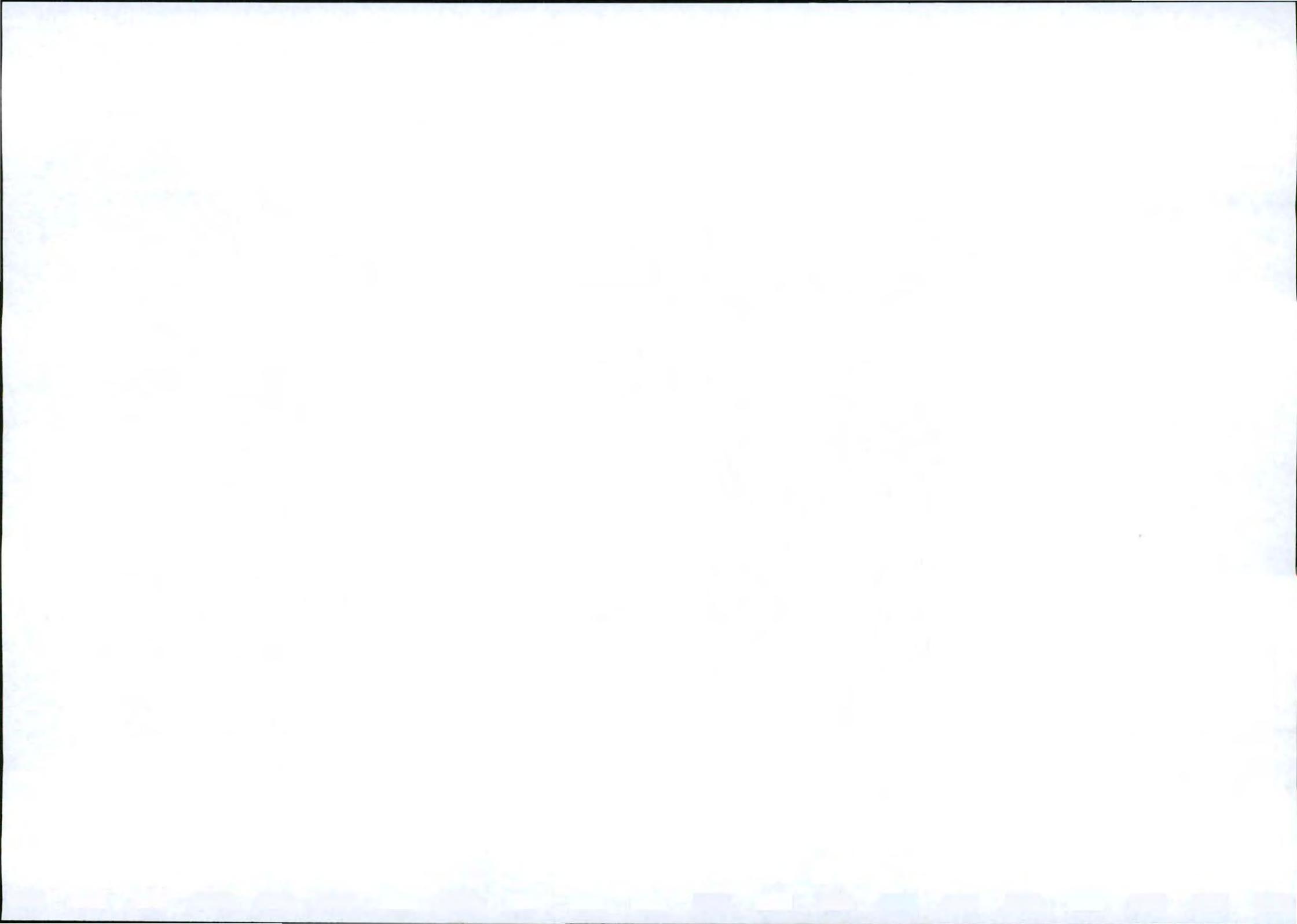
3.3.2 Construction

This was the only instance where a deep section was dug against the tomb in order to establish the stratigraphy, construction techniques and material. Probably the last of the three to be erected (c.1860-70) (FIG.18), its exterior dimensions are 3.22 m wide by 3.44 m long, with interior measurements of 2.0 m wide by 2.52 m long and with a depth of 2.14 m (FIG.19, 20).



25,26. A before-and-after view of vault 3, showing the urgent need for restoration.



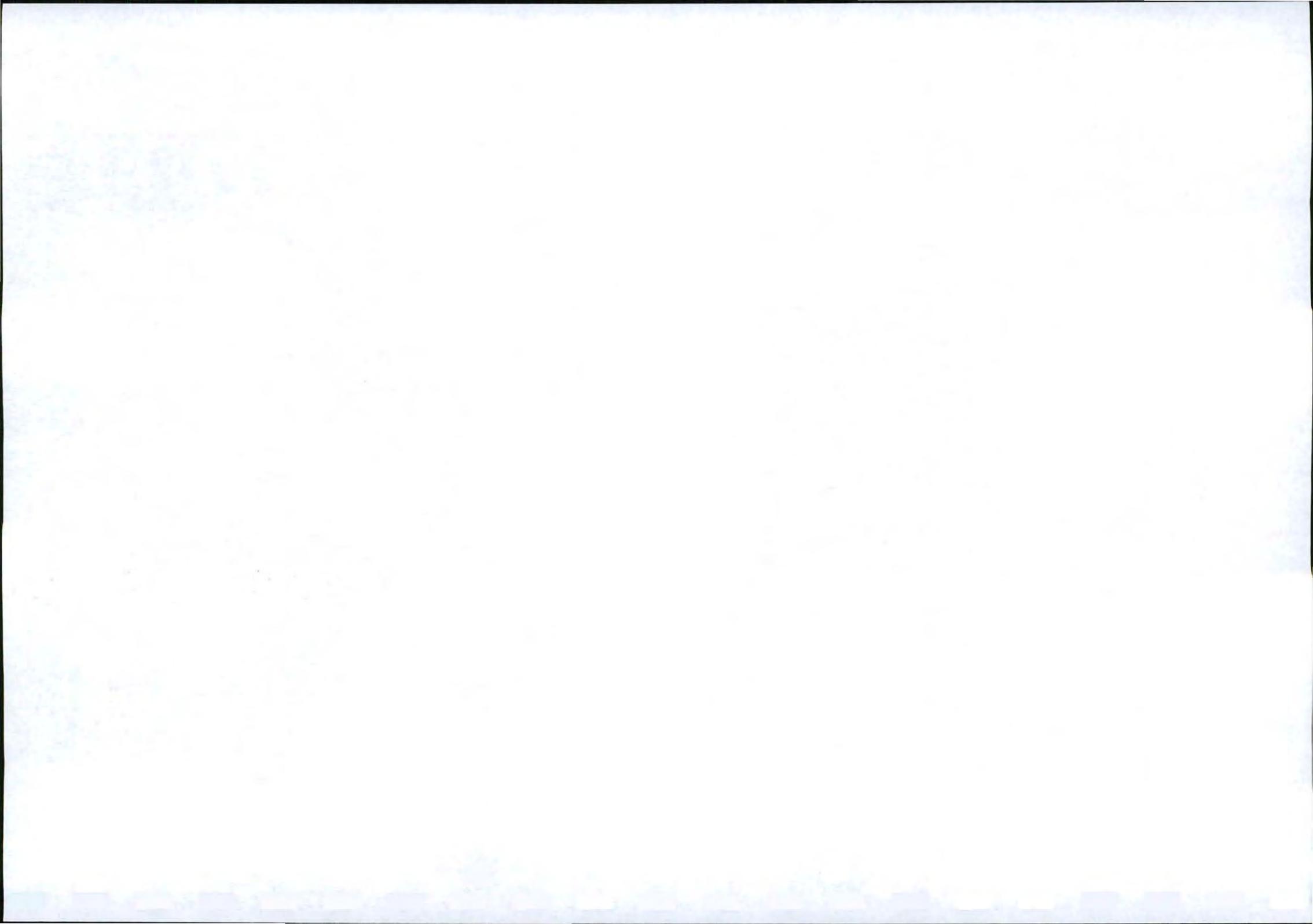




27. At vault 3 an archaeological section on the SW corner revealed the slanting foundation in cobbles and clay, with a depth of at least 1.2 m. Note the absence of an extended footing (looking E) (scales: 2 m and 50 cm).

28. A view of the interior of vault 3, with the hanging roots and cobwebs creating an eerie atmosphere. Note the plastered brickwork (1) and the shoulder platforms (2) (looking N) (scale: 50 cm).





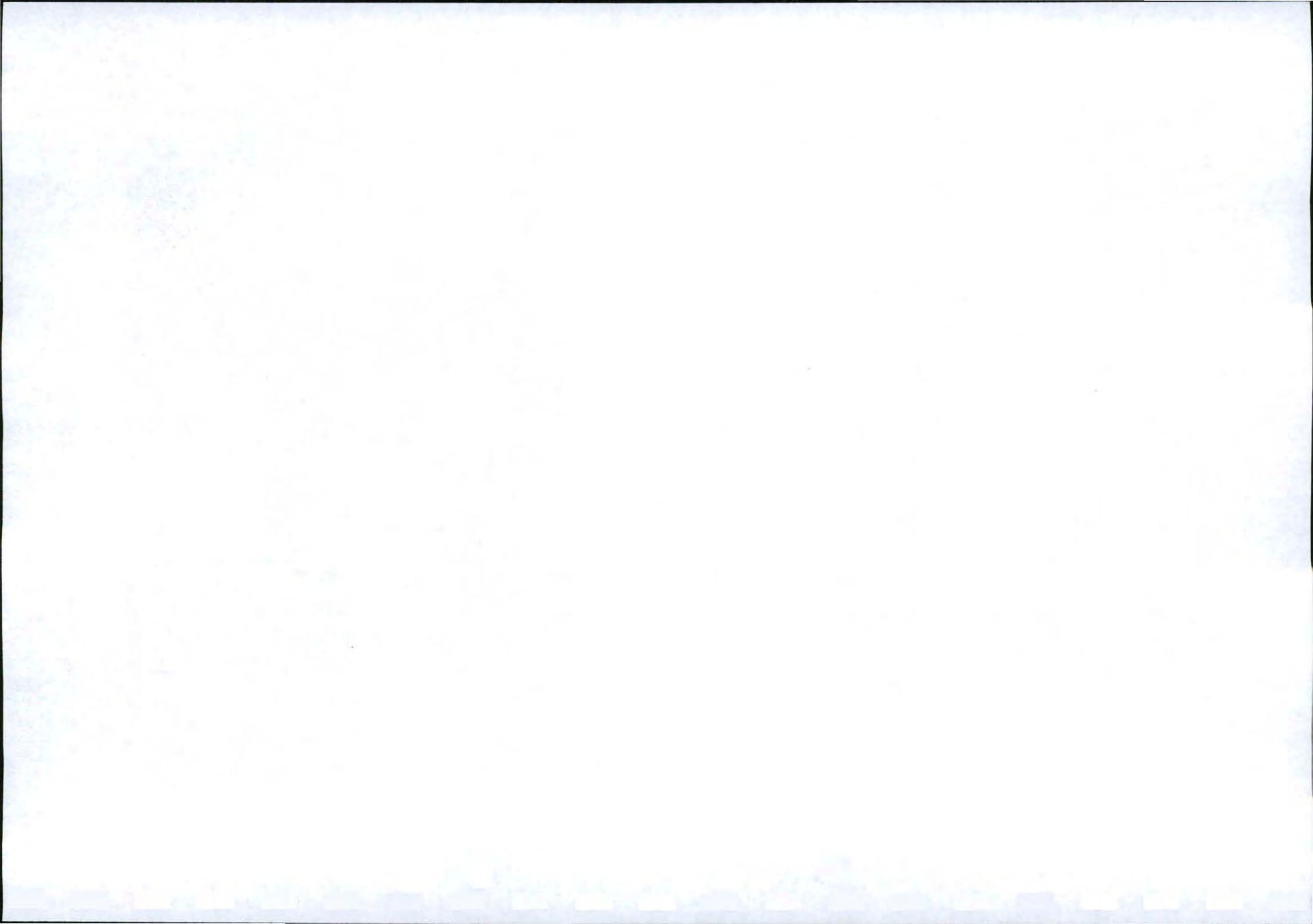
There are certain construction differences between vaults 3 and 1: In vault 1 the side walls (which support the domed ceiling) are about 40 cm thick, while in vault 3 they are about 60 cm. The front (northern) and back (southern) walls, which are about 28 cm thick, are provided with stone platforms 18cm wide, making the lower portion of the wall about 45 cm wide. At the back there was originally an opening the size of a brick, which was subsequently sealed with a loosely placed brick, and then thinly plastered and white-washed on the exterior.

These interior platforms or plinths were not bonded into the east/west walls. Against the western wall a stratigraphic section revealed that a foundation of cobblestones formed the outer lining which sloped, unusually, towards the interior of the tomb. Through digging we reached a dressed rectangular stone, set in extremely hard *in situ* yellow clays. Presumably there is at least one or two more stones, stepped towards the inside, which formed the base of the wall. The lower footings of these east/west walls on the interior were again of dressed sandstone.

The whole interior was plastered using the same fine whitish sand, but mixed with a little lime. Consequently, the leaking roof leached out the clay mortars and even the vault plasters, which all became detached. The inner surface of the vault was riddled with holes 10-20 mm deep created by droplets. The depth of the plaster floor was once again determined by hammering down a thin rod, near the north and south walls, as previously.



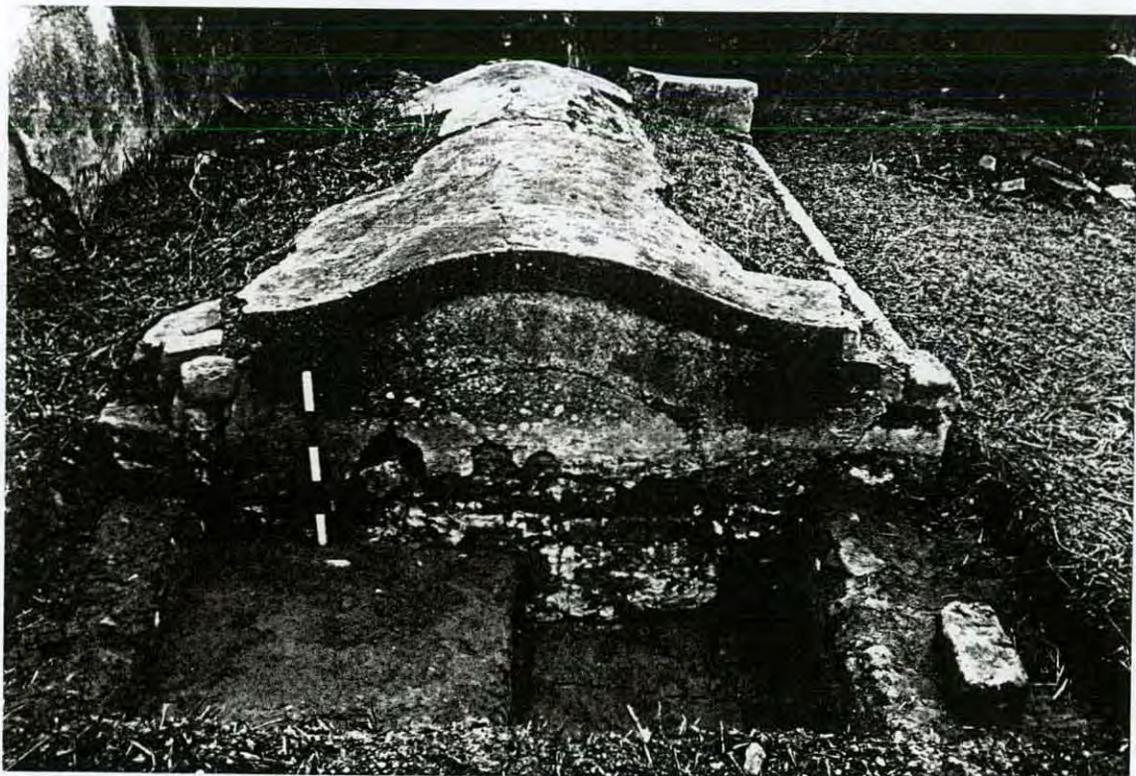
29. A view of the back of the inside of vault 3. Above the shoulder platform (1) is the hole with a loose brick (2). From 3 downwards the foundations are of stone.

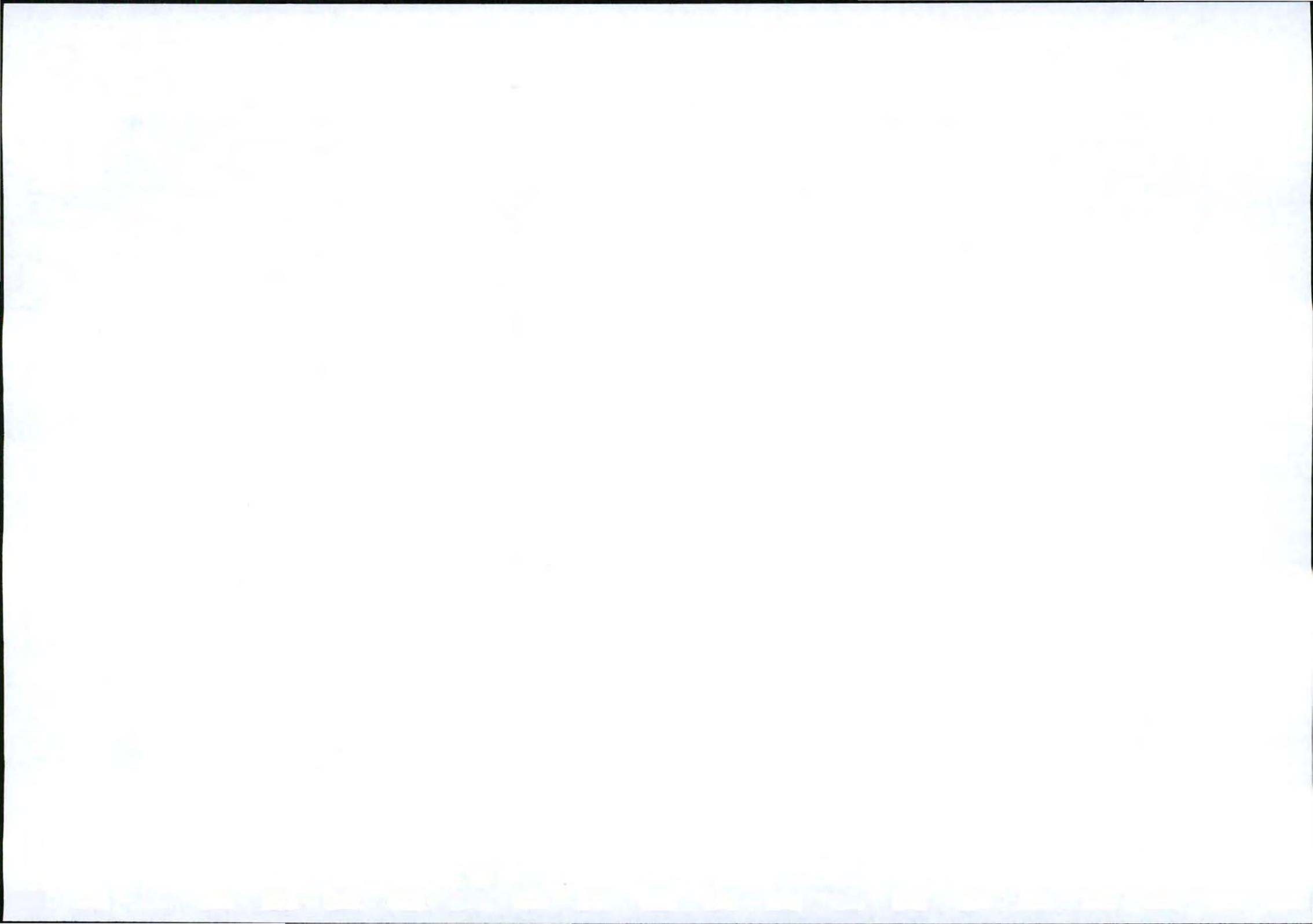




30. The dilapidated vault 4 is probably the second oldest grave. Repairs were carried out with modern brick.

31. Note the depth to which the blocked-up arch was once open. Chunks of brick (complete brick on right) and yellow clays were used as filling material. A faint line (1) shows the extent of the dug vault (scale: 50 cm).





The orange bricks, mortared with a mix of fine whitish sand and lime, are fairly smooth and standardized, and have the following dimensions:

240 x 105 x 60-75 mm
240 x 115 x 80-90 mm

The variation, especially in height, indicates that a variety of brick moulds were in use, but the bricks were becoming flatter. This is unusual since the height of bricks generally increased during the 19th century. Flatter bricks of course make their firing easier.

The absence of brick rubble suggests that vault 3 had never collapsed. Notice in the sectional drawing (N-S)(FIG.20), how the fine, whitish sand slopes downwards from the aperture. This confirms that after burial, sand was poured in from the outside over the last coffin (1874).

The roof of the vault was again cemented over on the outside in the 1930s. Below this layer a pure, light grey-cream limeplaster of about 20 mm thickness was discovered. Renovations to the front of this tomb were carried out in 1970, since this date is roughly scratched into the cement immediately below the epitaph. At this time a ridge was built so as to prevent water seeping into the tomb, and the slate slab was properly cemented.

3.4 VAULT 4

3.4.1 Inscription

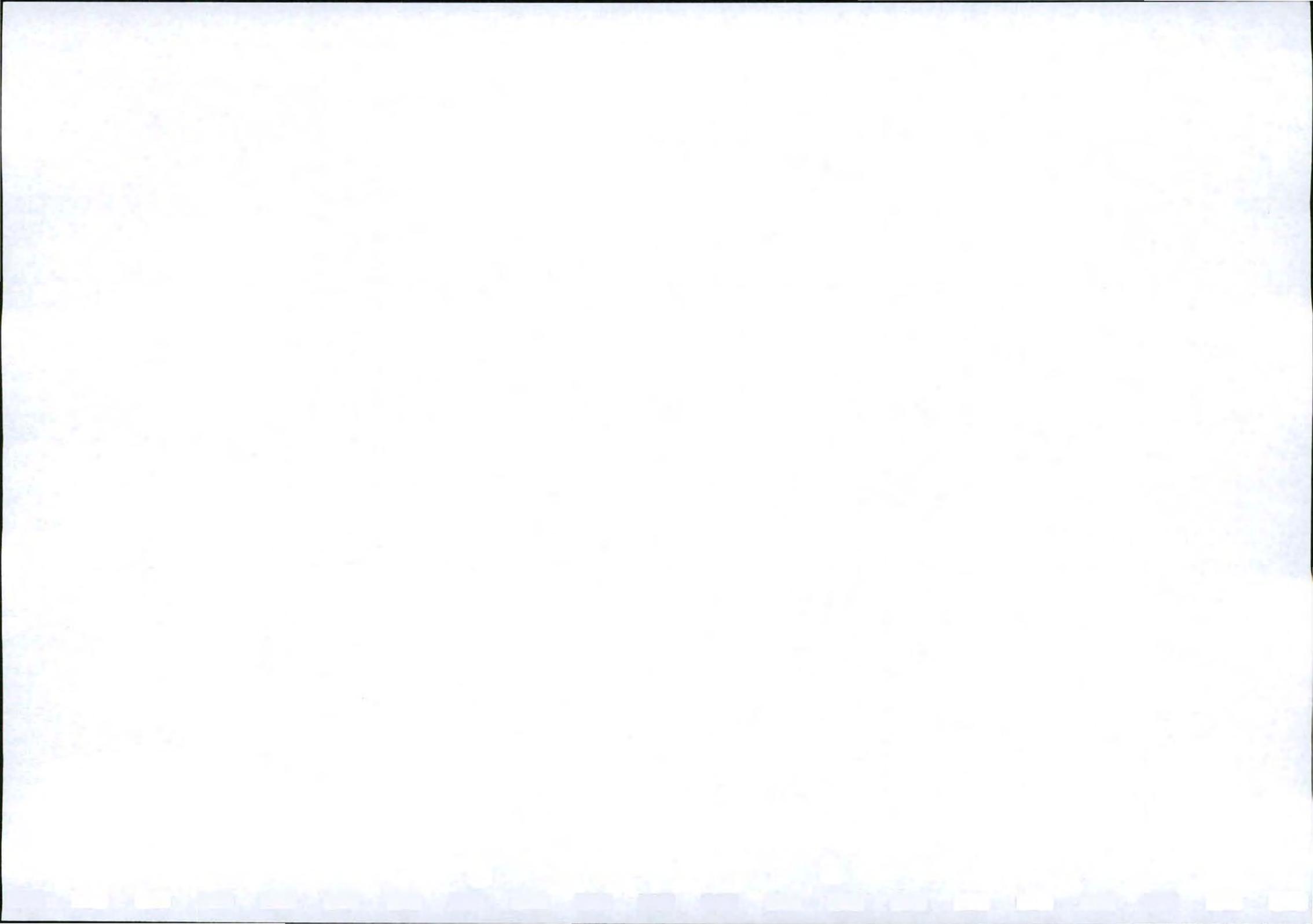
This grave, like no. 5, is a low and small vault. The size indicates a single (or double) burial of an adult. Though there is no inscription, this grave perhaps belongs to the 20 year old **Cornelia A. Cloete**, wife of Alexander Jacobus, son of Pieter Voltelen (1798-1849). Her tragic death occurred only a few months after their marriage. A suitable inscription might be the following (Van der Byl 1968:50):

CORNELIA ARNOLDINA VAN DER BYL

Geboren Cloete, 1808.

Overleden den 21st Juni 1828.

Presumed to be her grave, restored in 1998.



VAULT 4
SECTION: LOOKING WEST

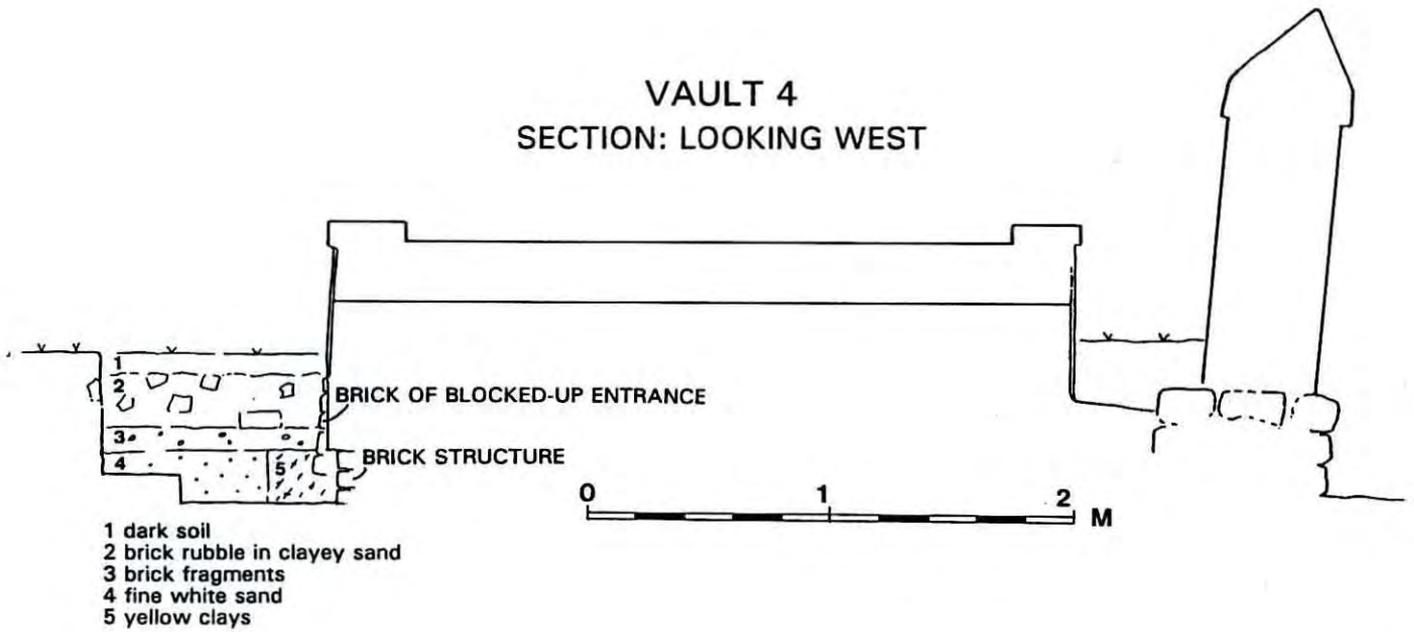


FIG.21 Sectional drawing of vault 4 and boundary wall.



3.4.2 Construction

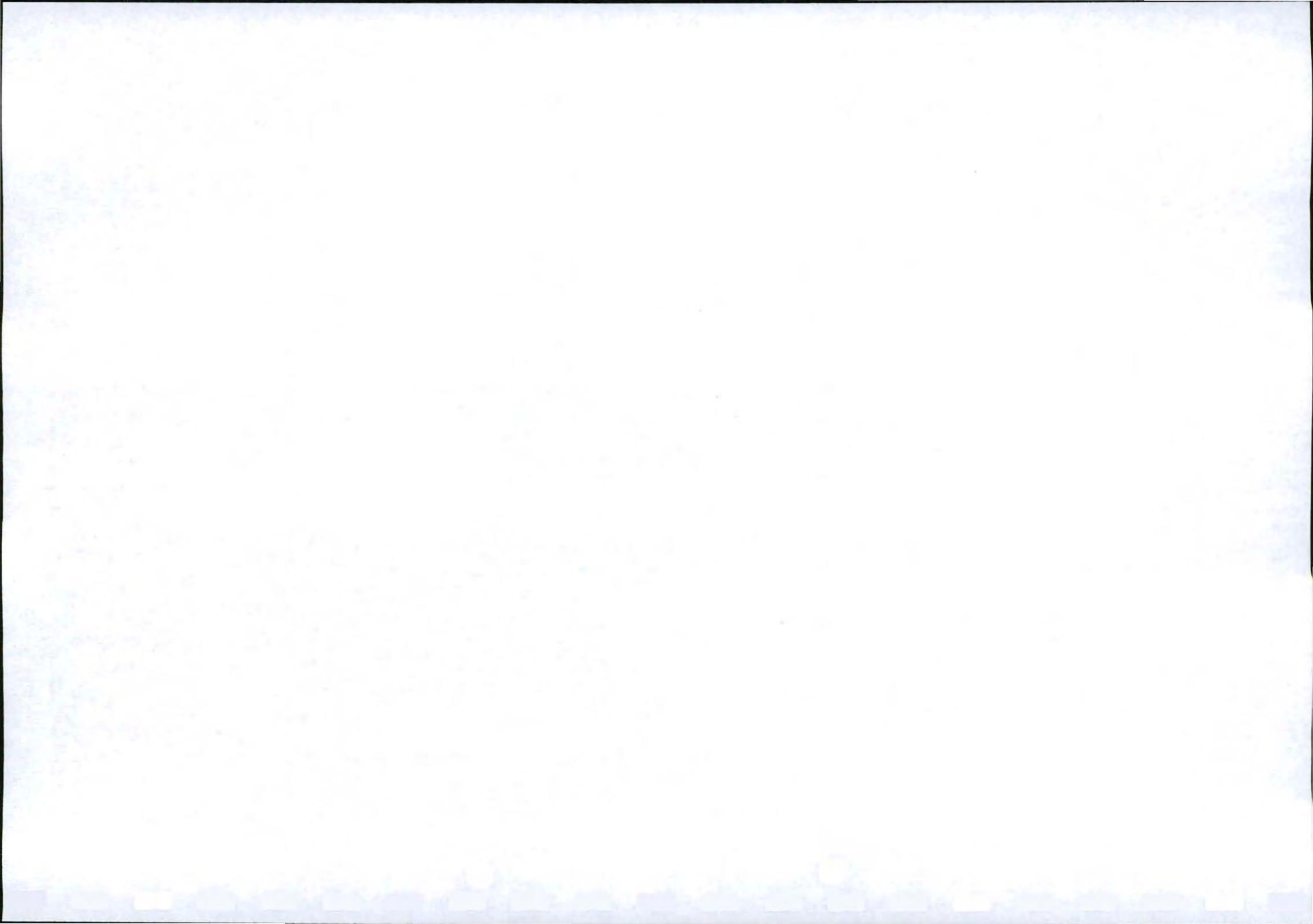
Because this tomb was much overgrown with weeds, two sections were dug, respectively at the north end (back) and south end (front).

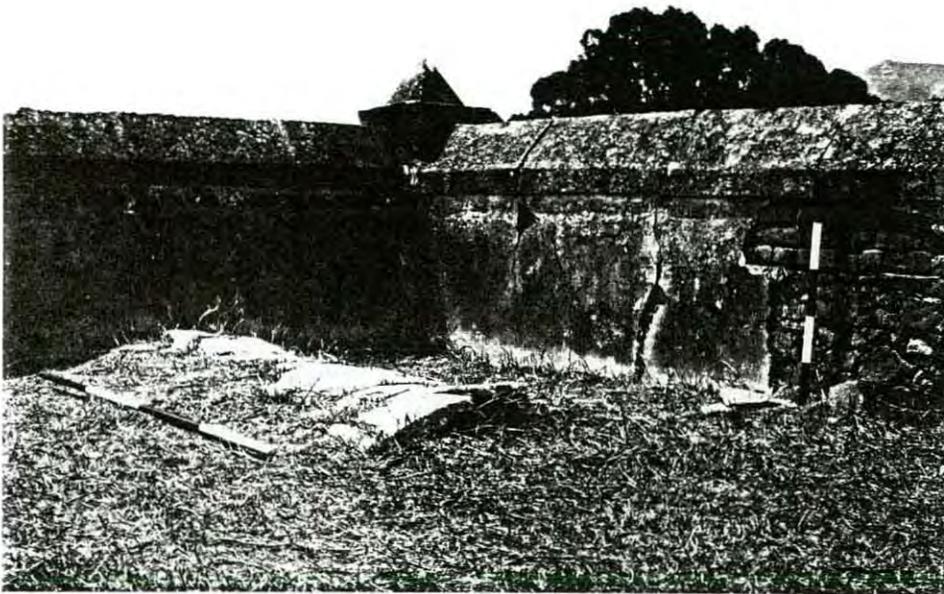
The outside measurements of the tomb are 3.2 m long and 2.3 m wide (FIG.21). It appears to have been built for at least one or possibly two individuals, and was not considered to be a family vault. It contains most of the stylistic elements of vaults 1-3, with an arched entrance which was sealed at an early date. The base of the entrance lies about 55 cm below the present grass surface.

Though only brick is visible from the outside, the foundations are certainly of stone. The bricks used in the vault measure 245-250 x 115 x 80 mm, which is typical of the other vaults. Again the brick has an orange colour and contains with reddish grog fragments. The entrance has been sealed with similar bricks which measure 250 x 115 x 80 mm, though a smaller brick size of 245 x 110 x 70 mm is also present. It is thus a relative early tomb, which nicely fits into the period around 1830.

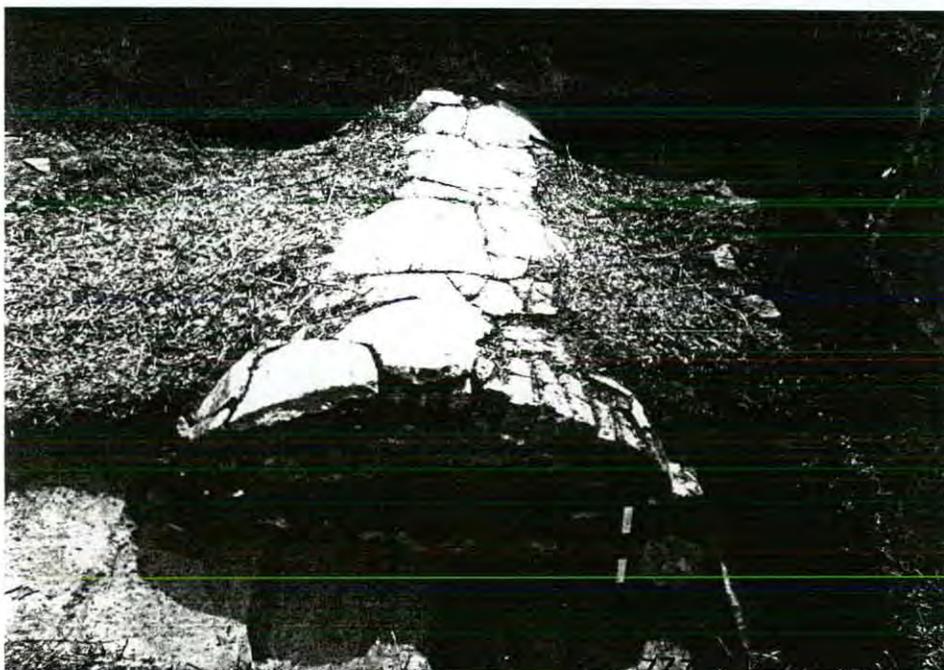


32. The northern end of vault 4 is close to the cobbled plinth (1) of the wall. Note the old limeplaster (2), the later cement (3) and the new brickwork (4).





33. Vault 5 was barely visible in the NE corner.



34. Excavations revealed a very wide arch, with no bricked-up opening. It is built on shallow foundations of river-stones, including a single large stone at the corner (scale: 50 cm).



35. The northern corners were also exposed, revealing similar construction techniques (scale: 2 m).



3.5 VAULT 5

3.5.1 Construction

This grave is tucked away in the northeastern corner with only 25 cm of it protruding above the surface. It differs markedly from the other tombs, being much smaller (with outside measurements of about 2.6 m long and 1.6 m wide) and without an arched entrance (although built in the shape of a vault) (FIG.22). The shallow cobbled foundation in front and at the back betrays an inferior building technique, and the equally shallow opening suggests that the coffin was first buried before being enclosed by a vault very late in the 19th century. Hard-fired, reddish bricks were laid in lime plaster in the upper section. From the shoulders down a yellow clay mortar was used. The brick size is 240 x 115 x 80 mm. Very little remains of the limeplaster that covered the vault. A thick layer of cement crudely covers part of the grave.

It appears that this tomb belongs to a single individual, either child or adult, whose parentage is unknown at present. Inscription on the restored tomb should await proper identification.

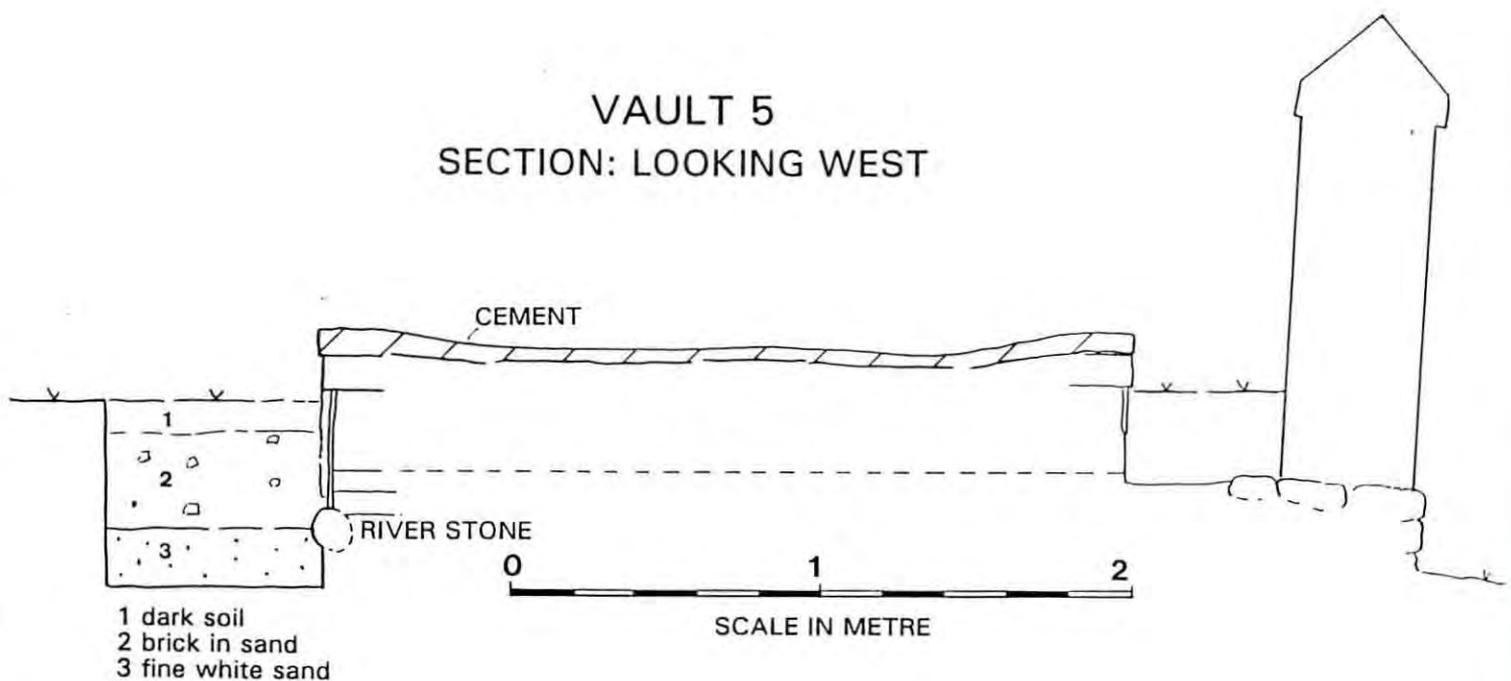
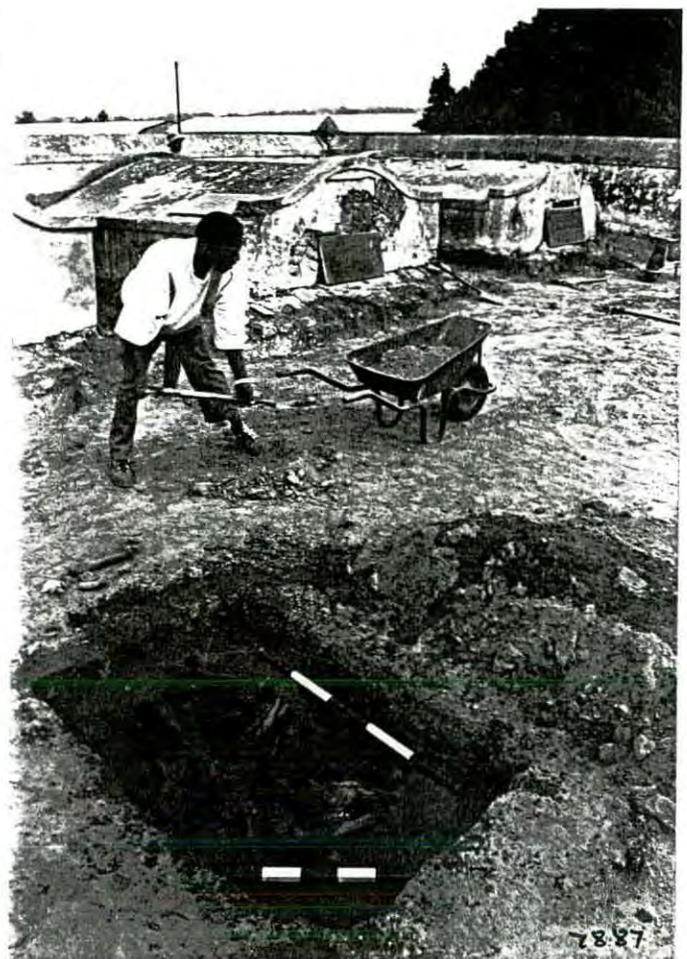


FIG.22 Sectional drawing of vault 5 and boundary wall.





36. Ryno Goosen of the Archaeological Department, University of Stellenbosch, inspects the animal bones of which the upper portions were exposed.

37. Afterwards more of the skeleton was excavated. Note its position relative to the vaults (scales: 1 m and 50 cm).

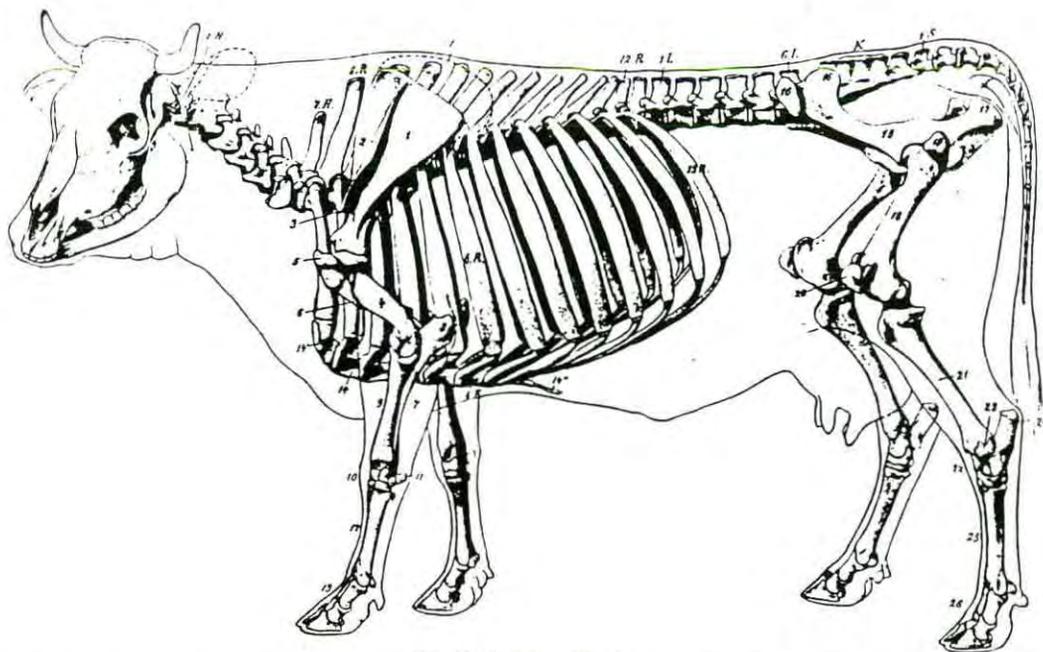
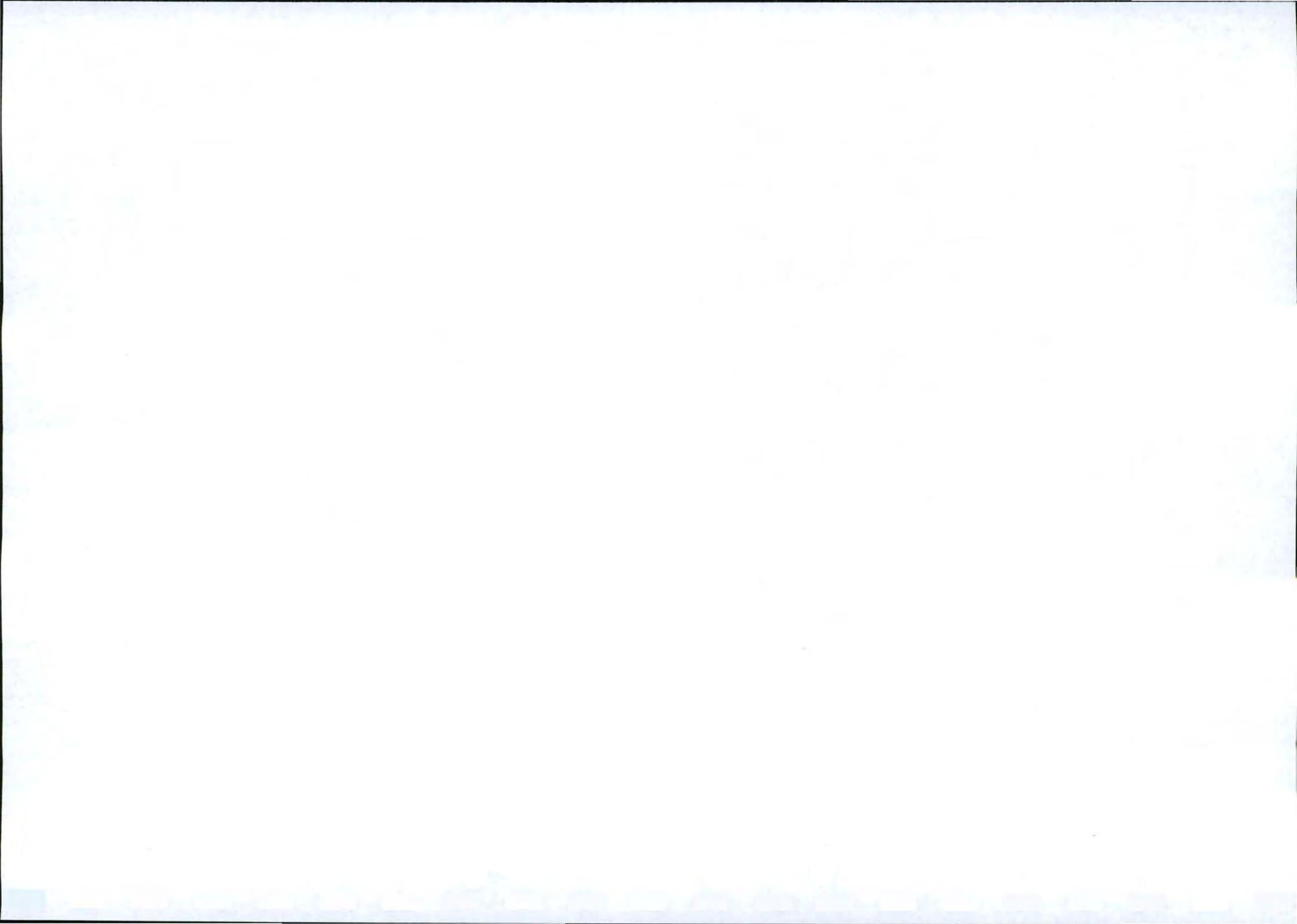


FIG. 119.—SKELETON OF COW.

1.H., Atlas; *7.H.*, seventh cervical vertebra; *1.R.*, first thoracic vertebra; *6.R.*, sixth rib; *12.R.*, twelfth thoracic vertebra; *15.R.*, last rib; *1.L.*, first, *6.L.*, last lumbar vertebra; *K.*, sacrum; *1.S.*, first coccygeal vertebra; *6.K.*, sixth costal cartilage; *X.*, wing of atlas; *1.*, scapula; *1'*, cartilage of scapula; *2.*, spine of scapula; *3.*, acromion; *4.*, humerus; *4'*, lateral condyle of humerus; *5.*, lateral tuberosity of humerus; *6.*, deltoid tuberosity; *7.*, ulna; *8.*, olecranon; *9.*, radius; *10.*, carpus; *11.*, accessory carpal bone; *12.*, metacarpus; *13.*, phalanges; *14.*, sternum; *14'*, manubrium; *14''*, xiphoid cartilage; *15.*, ilium; *16.*, tuber coxae; *16'*, tuber sacrale; *17.*, tuber ischii; *18.*, femur; *19.*, trochanter major; *20.*, patella; *21.*, tibia; *21'*, lateral condyle of tibia; *22.*, tarsus; *23.*, distal end of fibula; *24.*, tuber calcis; *25.*, metatarsus; *26.*, phalanges. The bones of the fore limb are placed too high in relation to the thorax. (After Ellenberger-Baum, Anat. für Künstler.)

FIG.23 Diagram of the skeleton of a cow, similar to that of the one found at Welmoed (Sisson & Grossman 1953:126).



3.6 ANIMAL BURIAL

3.6.1 Discovery

During April the contractor moved in with his team of labourers to lower the interior soils with about 30 cm. During this operation (on 6 April), a single large bone was encountered about 3 m in front of vault 1. Stuart Hermansen informed me in the morning and the whole afternoon (2.00 - 5.30 pm) I spent on site, helping to remove the overburden.

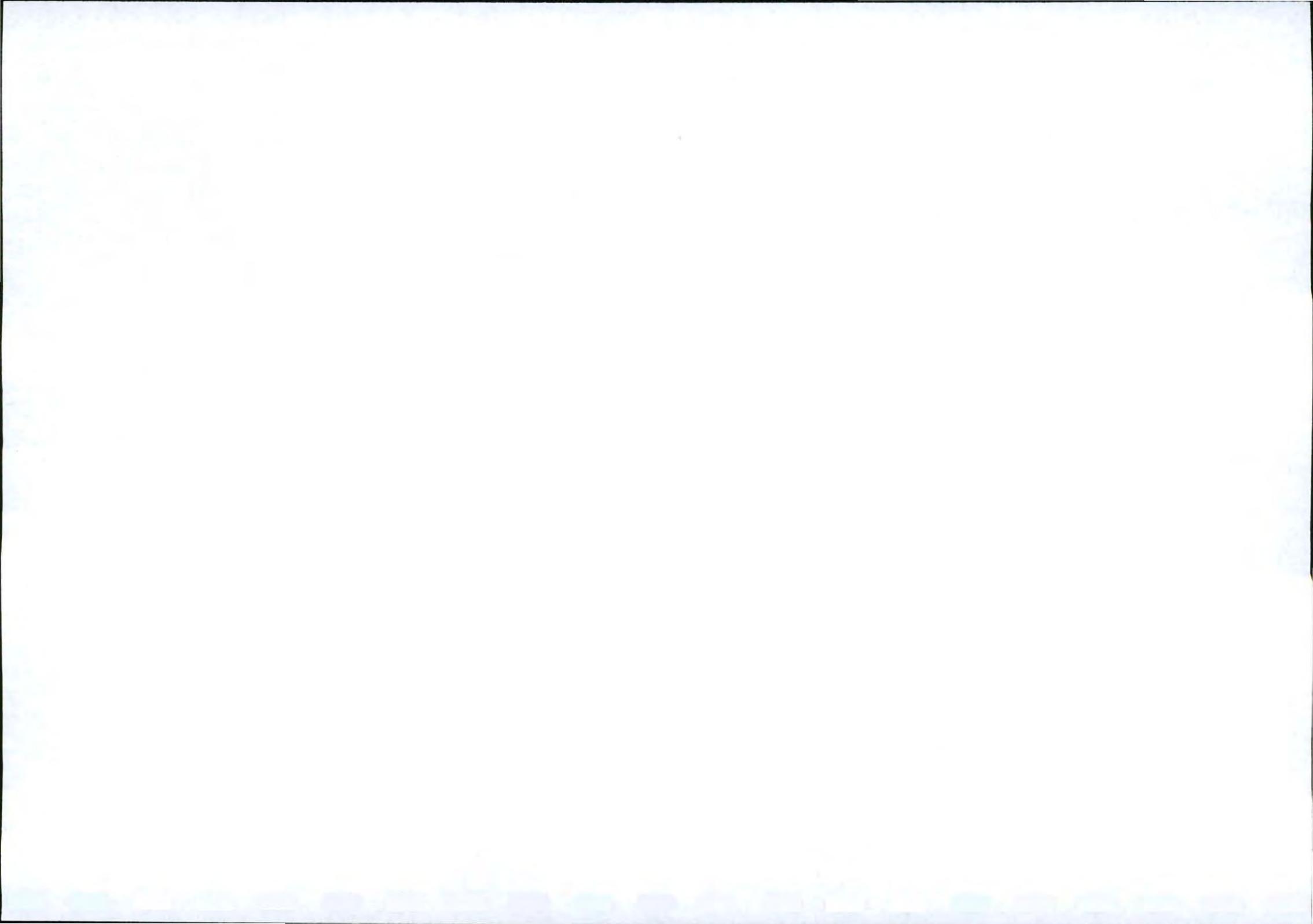
More large bones in there "original" context were exposed, looking like femurs and tibia to my untrained eye. The bones lay about 20 cm below the grass surface and was buried in about 20-25 cm of sandy white soil. Broken bits of brick and plaster were found above and between the bones. About 2.5 m north from where the first femur was encountered by the workers, a lens of *in situ* limeplaster pieces was found. Indications were that these bones were part of a conscious burial with signs of brick and plaster present. As these indicators were all in context of a cemetery, I initially assumed the bones to be human. I tried to contact two professors (UCT, Medical School) and one at U.S., but all were unavailable or too busy to inspect the bones.

There were a number of anomalies with the burial. As I have no knowledge of human skeletal material, I tried to identify the few exposed bones by means of a figure of a human skeleton, but failed to do any serious matchmaking. Secondly, the bones were not in a standard human burial position, but crammed into an area of 60 x 110 cm and looked disturbed. Thirdly, the shallow burial was suspect, with no signs of a coffin or vault. And finally, it was completely out of symmetry with any of the vaults, which would be unusual for the late 19th century.

All these problems were dispersed when the skeleton was identified as a cow by Ryno Goossen, a post-graduate student of the Department of Archaeology, U.S. (16 April)(**FIG.23**). Of course, this raised a few more questions. What would an animal be doing in a graveyard? Why was it buried? Who was responsible?

3.6.2 Excavation

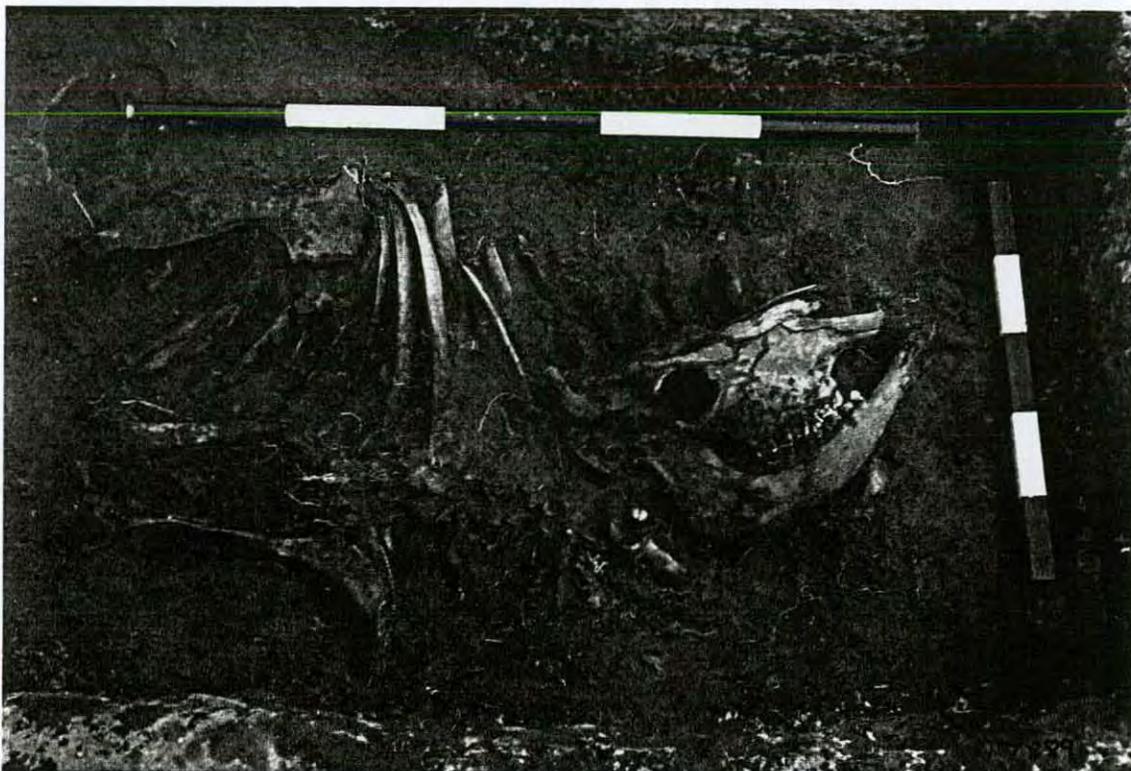
In consultation with Team Architecture, we decided it best to excavate the remains, which I did on the morning of 20 April (8.30-11.30 am). As the soil is extremely hard, I had poured about 25 litres of water the previous day over the burial to soften the sandy deposit. This facilitated the excavation tremendously. Only about 10 cm deeper and I located the skull with horns, confirming *Blommetjie's* (my pet name for the cow) identity.

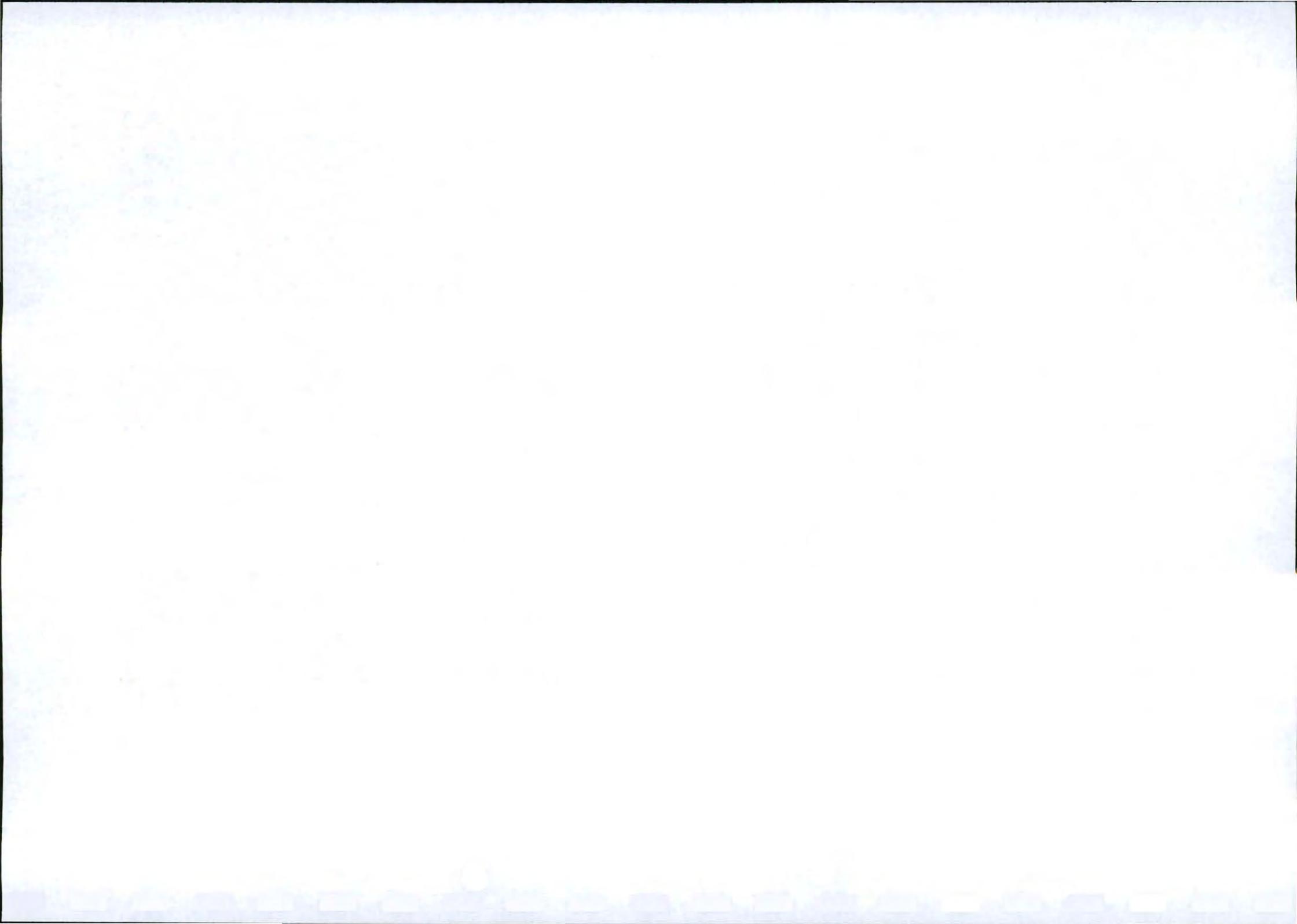




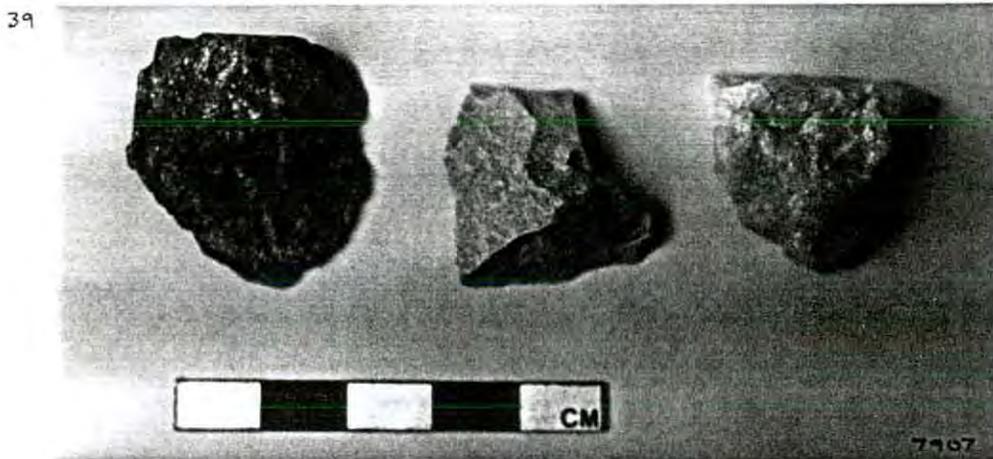
38.1 Much of the skeleton is visible, with signs of the skull (mandible and orbit) protruding.

38.2 After some of the upper bones were removed, the full skull was exposed.





The cranium lay on its left side, of which the stumpy horn was already broken-off prior to burial. The cranium with its mandibles was still intact with all the molars present. The complete skull was lifted out, but the rest of the bones were merely excavated and placed in bags in a box. It seems as though only one half of the rib cage was present. During this process, three small stone artefacts were found, which could be regarded as waste products of tool manufacture of the post-Holocene period of micro-tools. The three samples were respectively of brownish, coarse-grained sandstone (very smooth), grey silcrete, and yellowish quartz. They probably are incidental to the carcass and could date many years, if not centuries, earlier (see photo 39).

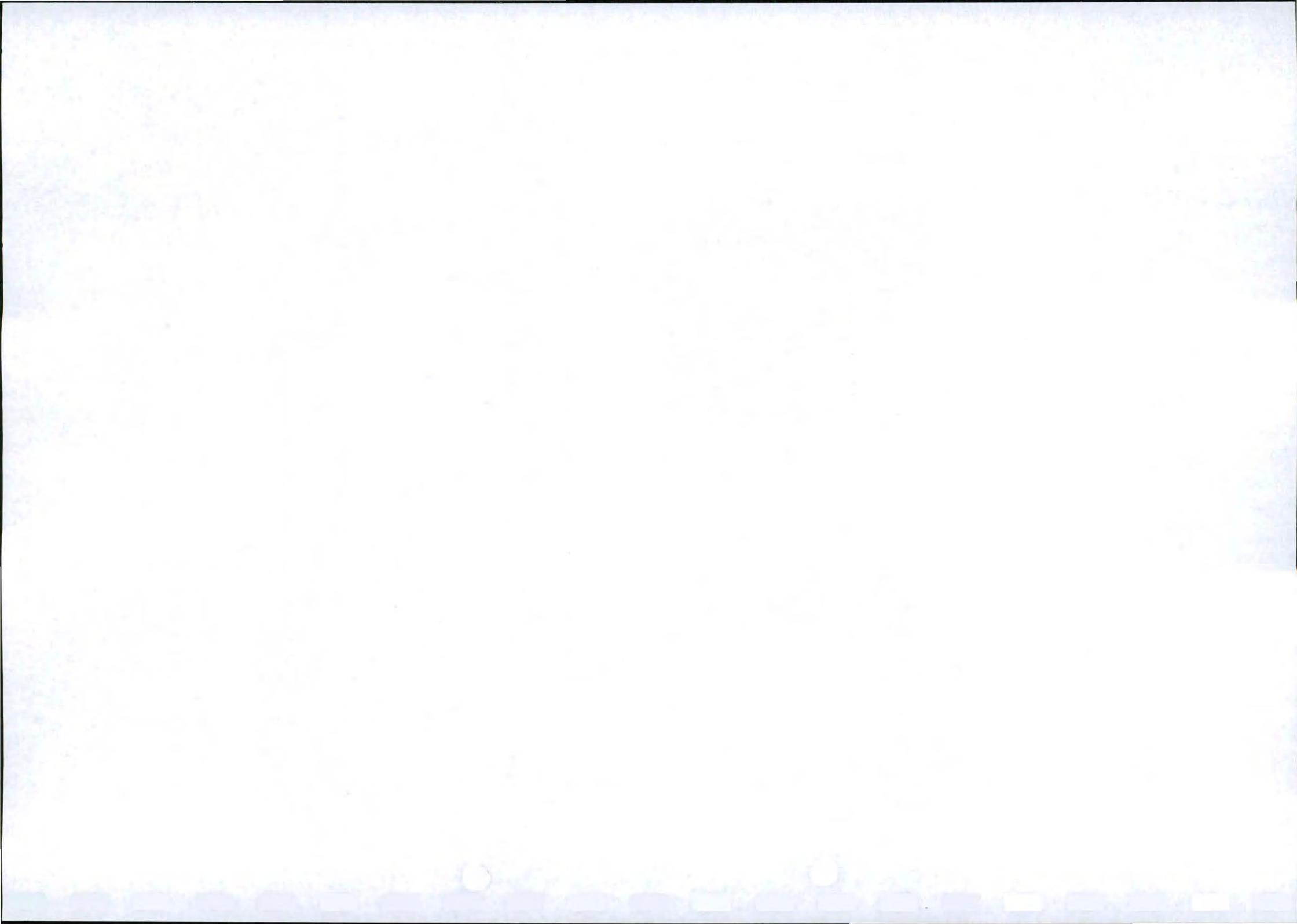


3.6.3 Discussion

The graveyard was erected by c.1820 and the last burial by about 1884. It is highly unlikely that the Van der Bÿls would have allowed a deliberate animal burial in their graveyard. A beloved horse may have been a possibility, but not a cow!

During the late 19th century the interior of the graveyard was filled in and consequently raised above the platform levels of vaults 1 and 2. As the carcass was partially buried within this upper matrix with old brick rubble and plaster present, it would date after the fill period. There were no signs of hide, hair or organs, indicating that the burial must have occurred scores of years ago. There are also signs that the animal was butchered and not all parts were present (the hooves, other half of ribcage, etc.). Therefore this incident possibly happened about a century ago.

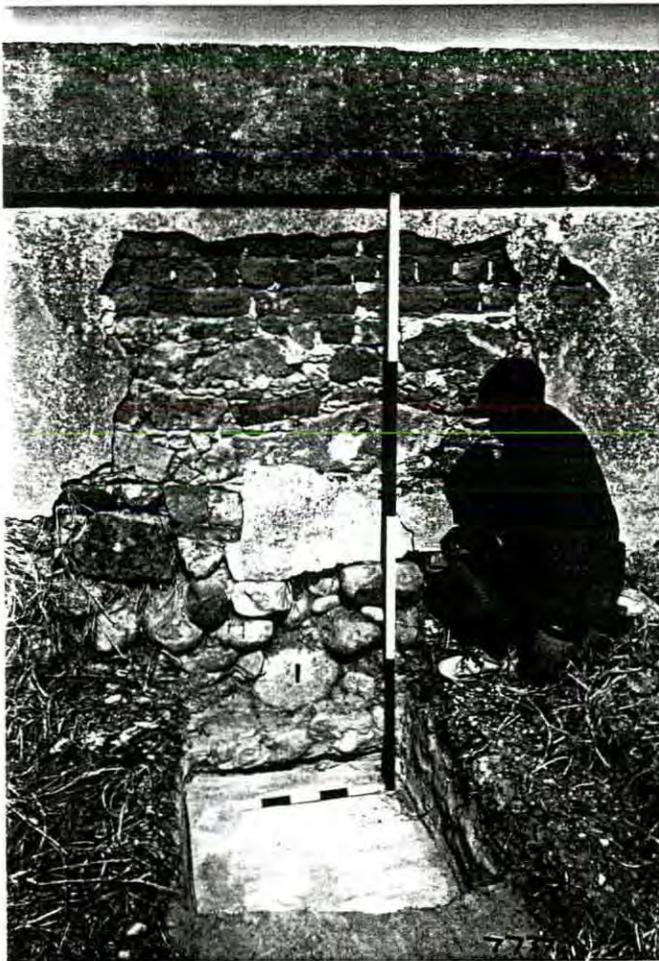
It is surmised that *Blommetjie* was stolen and afterwards slaughtered inside the cemetery. Certain portions were disposed of, but no signs of butchering, like cut marks, were to be seen on the existing bones. Presumably the marauders worked during the secrecy of nighttime and decided to bury the rest of the carcass in this very shallow grave, for fear of being found out. The fact that the skeleton was still intact, proves that it was never discovered...until now!



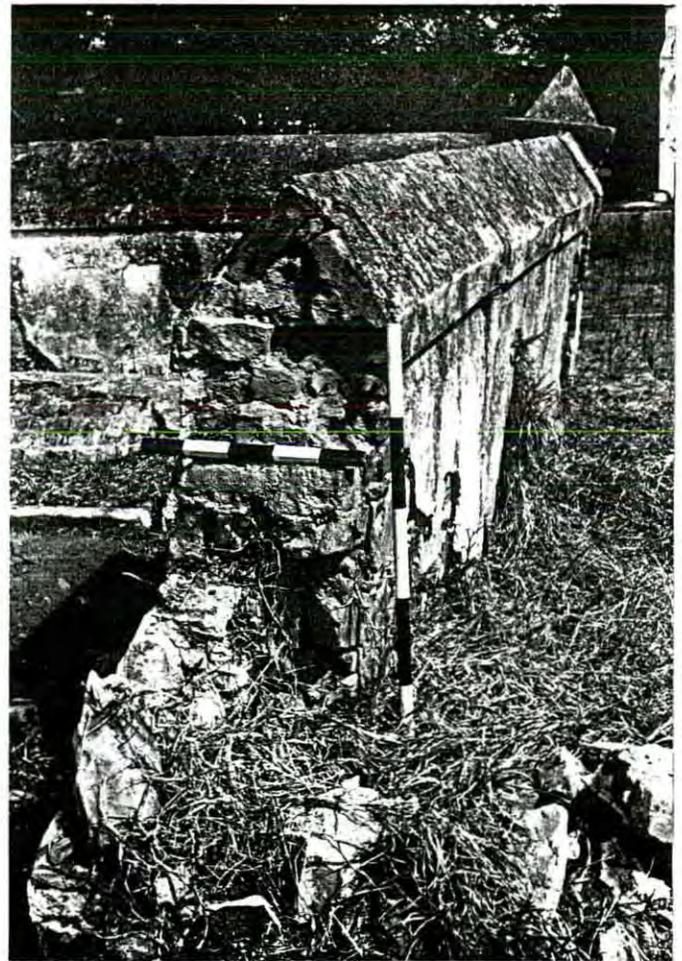
3.7 BOUNDARY WALL

The graveyard is enclosed by a sturdy wall which is capped on each corner, and ends in engaged pillars at the entrance. The wall is about 40-42 cm thick, 150 cm tall, with a length of 18.8 m and a width of 17.7 m (inside measurements). The entrance is on the north, where one entrance pillar still survives. The latter was previously repaired with a reddish modern brick, probably when the boundary wall and vaults were renovated in the 1930s (FIG.24).

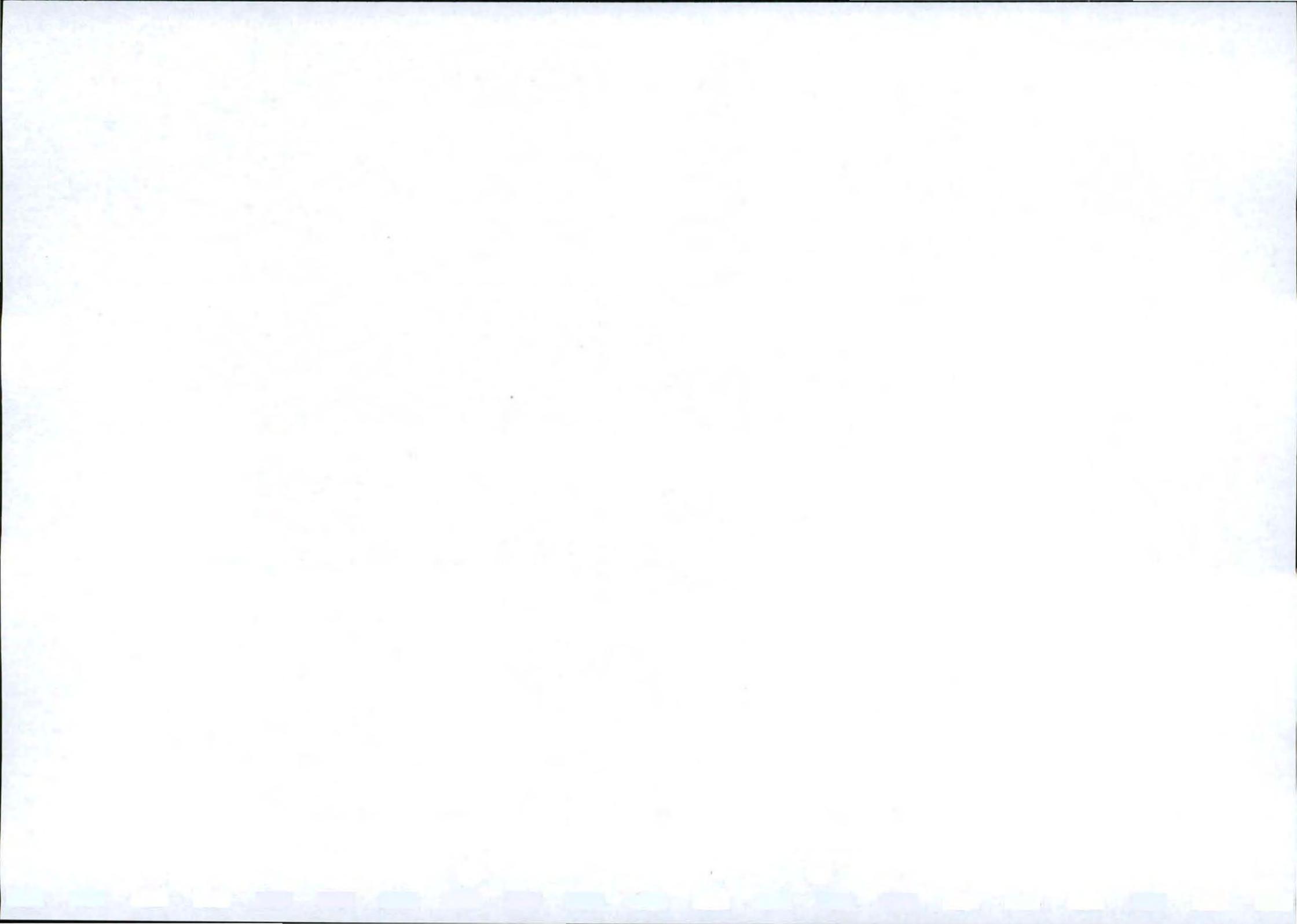
The foundation of the wall was rather crudely constructed with local cobblestones embedded within the fine white sands of the area. Interestingly enough, an Acheulean artefact was discovered in the foundation, and more such tools are embedded with the cobbles at the entrance gate. They date back 150 - 500 thousand years ago, and are common in the Stellenbosch area, where they often occur on the surface and were sometimes incorporated in constructions during the 18th and 19th century.



42. On the exterior of the western wall a section was dug down to the base of the foundation. Note the base of river cobbles (1) which form a plinth, the large granite block (2) with traces of shell limeplaster still adhering to it (scales: 2 m and 50 cm).



43. This detail shows how the ridge of the wall was built of brick in the vicinity of the demolished entrance pillar (scales: 1 m and 50 cm).



WELMOED GRAVEYARD
LOOKING NORTH

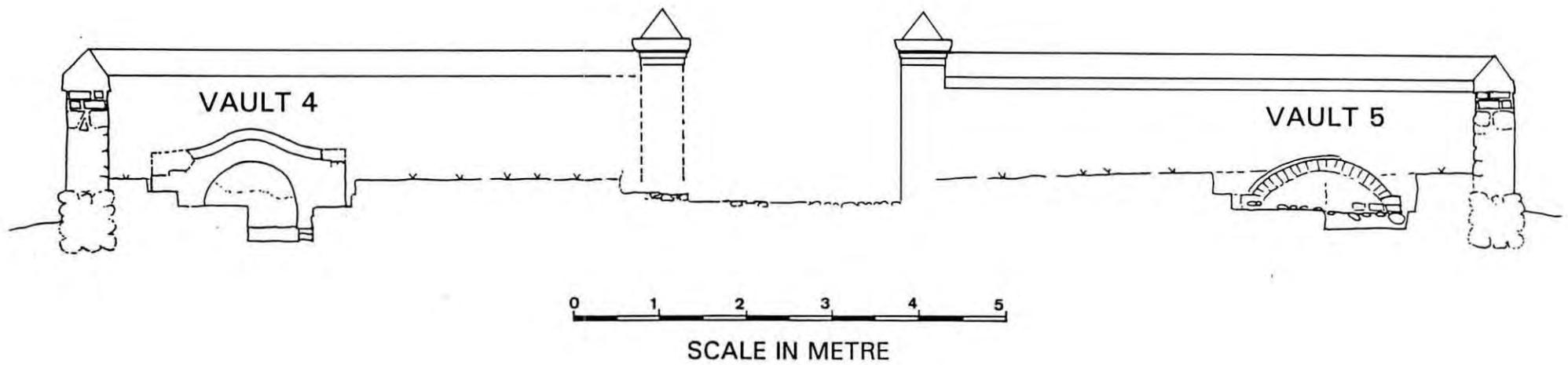
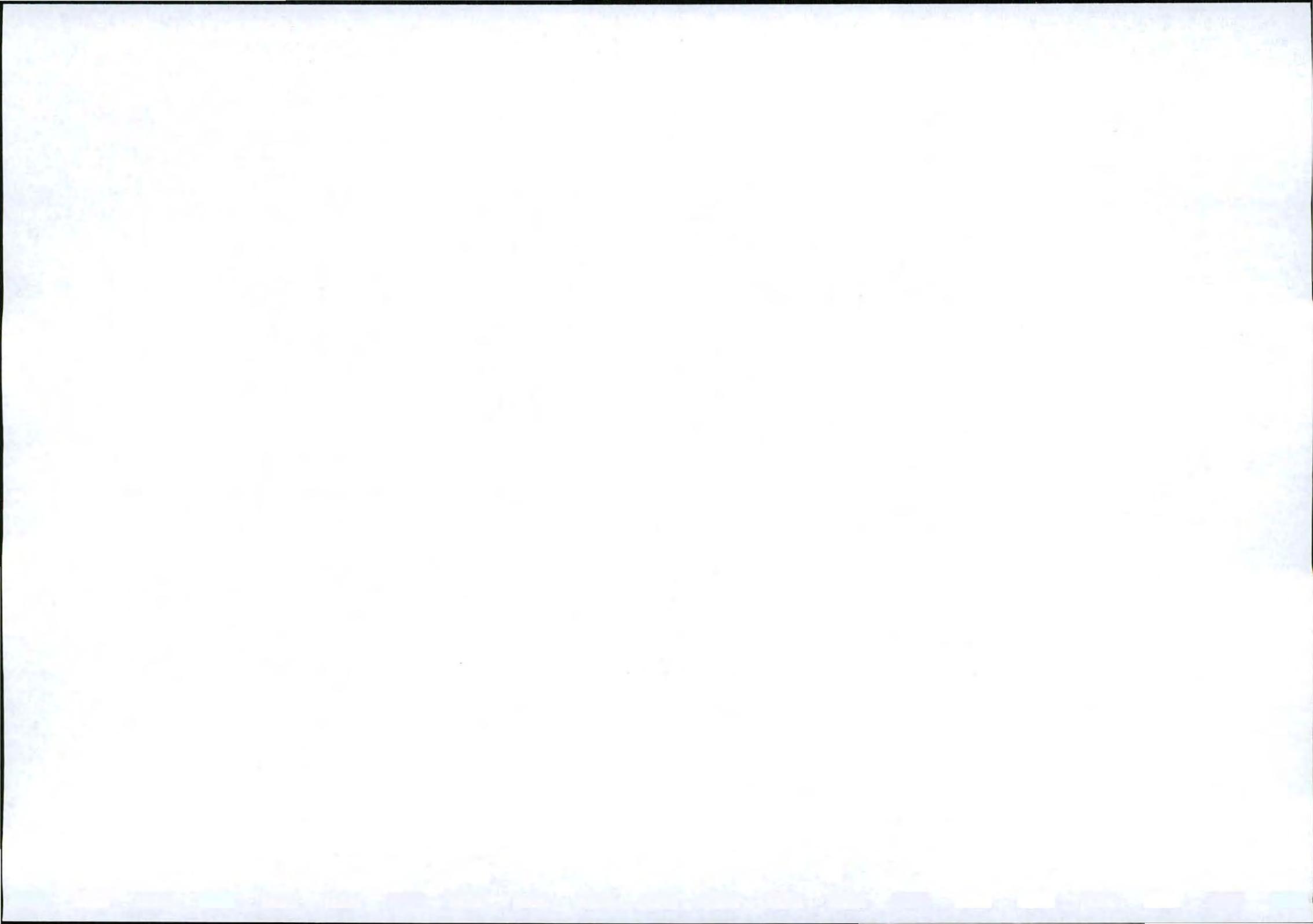


FIG.24 Sectional drawing of the facades of vaults 4 and 5, and also the boundary wall.

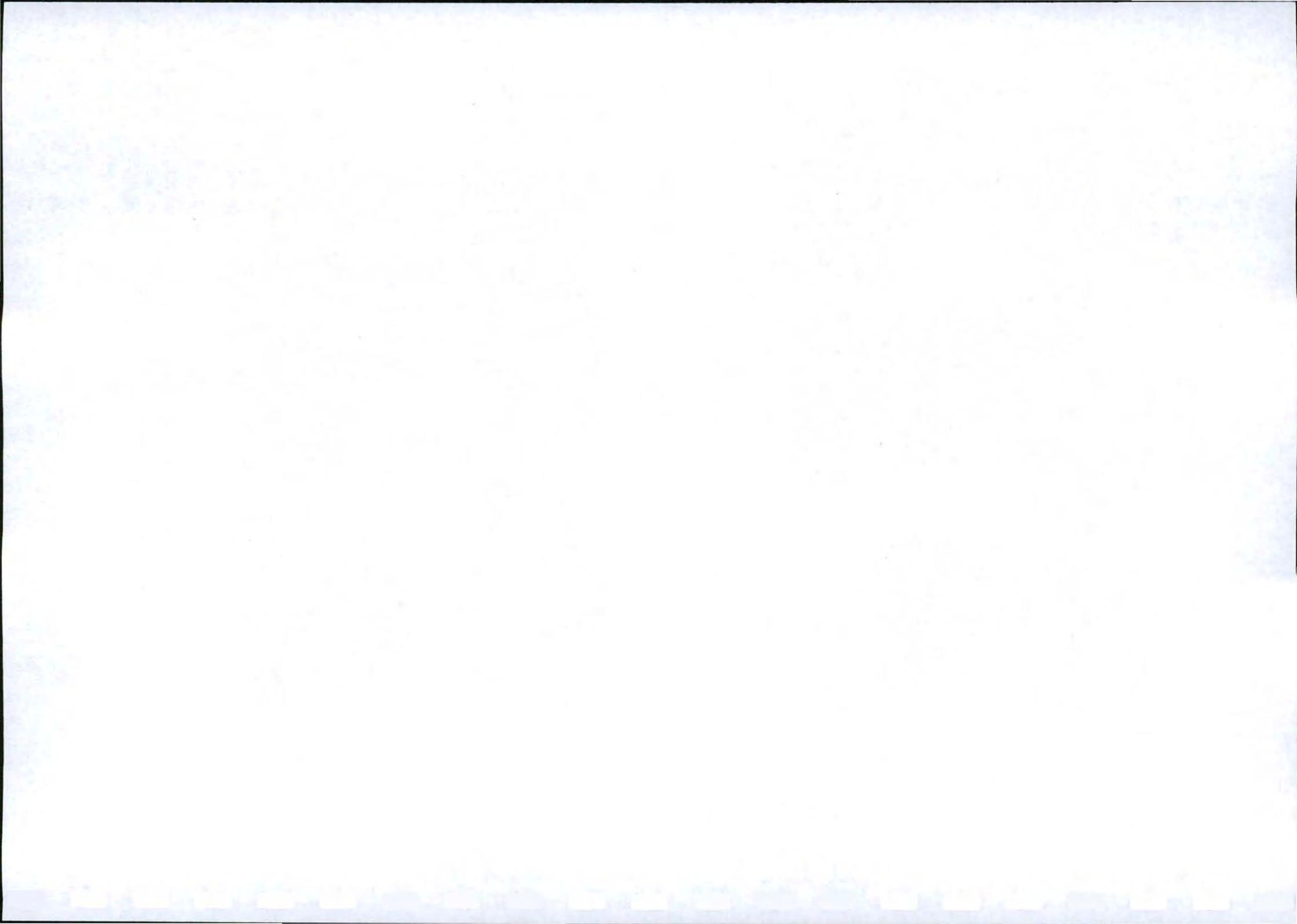




40. The boundary wall consists of particularly well-built dressed granite, sandstone and the odd slate block. When the plaster goes, the clay leaches out and decay sets in (NW corner, looking E).



41. Notice how well the stones were laid and levelled at the top to receive the hard-fired Cape brick (eastern wall, looking E) (scale: 1 m).





44. A close-up of the wall's brickwork shows that English bond of headers and stretchers was used.

45. A close-up of the remains of old plaster on the wall. Note the numerous lime-washes, some in cream.

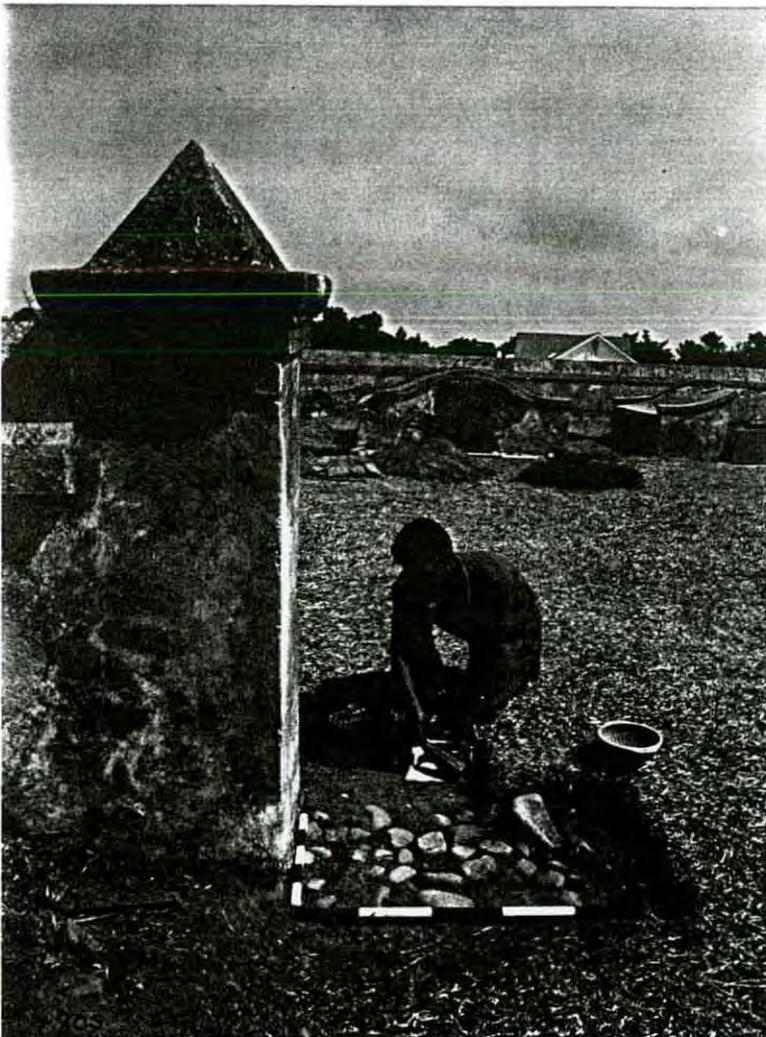




Above the plinth the wall was very neatly built-up with about 80% granite blocks and 20% sandstone. Smaller stones were neatly inserted between the larger stones. The rest of the wall consists of medium-fired orange bricks containing reddish grog pieces. These bricks measure about 240 x 115 x 80-85 and are laid in light cream mortar with ochre specks - all very reminiscent of vault 2.

Most of the original limeplaster has gone and has been replaced with cement (c.1930s). Nonetheless, some limeplaster, in which fine broken pieces of shell can be discerned, still remain. Shell-lime was considered the best waterproofing and superior to lime quarried on land. All the capped pillars and mouldings have been replaced with presumably faithful copies in cement.

Since the remaining gate post was previously repaired and replastered, no signs are visible of pintle hinges for a gate. Nevertheless, a graveyard without a gate on a farm with loose animals would be unthinkable. Moreover, the cobbling below the opening in the wall points to the former presence of a gate, while a shallow hole may represent a gate anchor. It is recommended that some cement plaster be removed from the pillar to determine whether old holes were filled in. Modern bricks may actually have replaced these crucial sections containing the original anchors.



46. Within the old gateway, some cobbling was exposed. The lower half of the pillar has been rebuilt and cemented over, hiding any sign of pintle hinges (scales: 1 m and 50 cm).



3.8 POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GRAVEYARD

Based on this full investigation, the initial graveyard can be dated between 1820-1830. First to be built was the P.G. tomb (vault 2) with its extended footing and, simultaneously, the boundary wall. Then followed consecutively vault 4, vault 1, vault 3 and vault 5 (FIG.25). Later the surface of the graveyard inside the wall was probably artificially filled in with about 30 cm of sandy soil, allowing water inside the graveyard to drain to the outside.

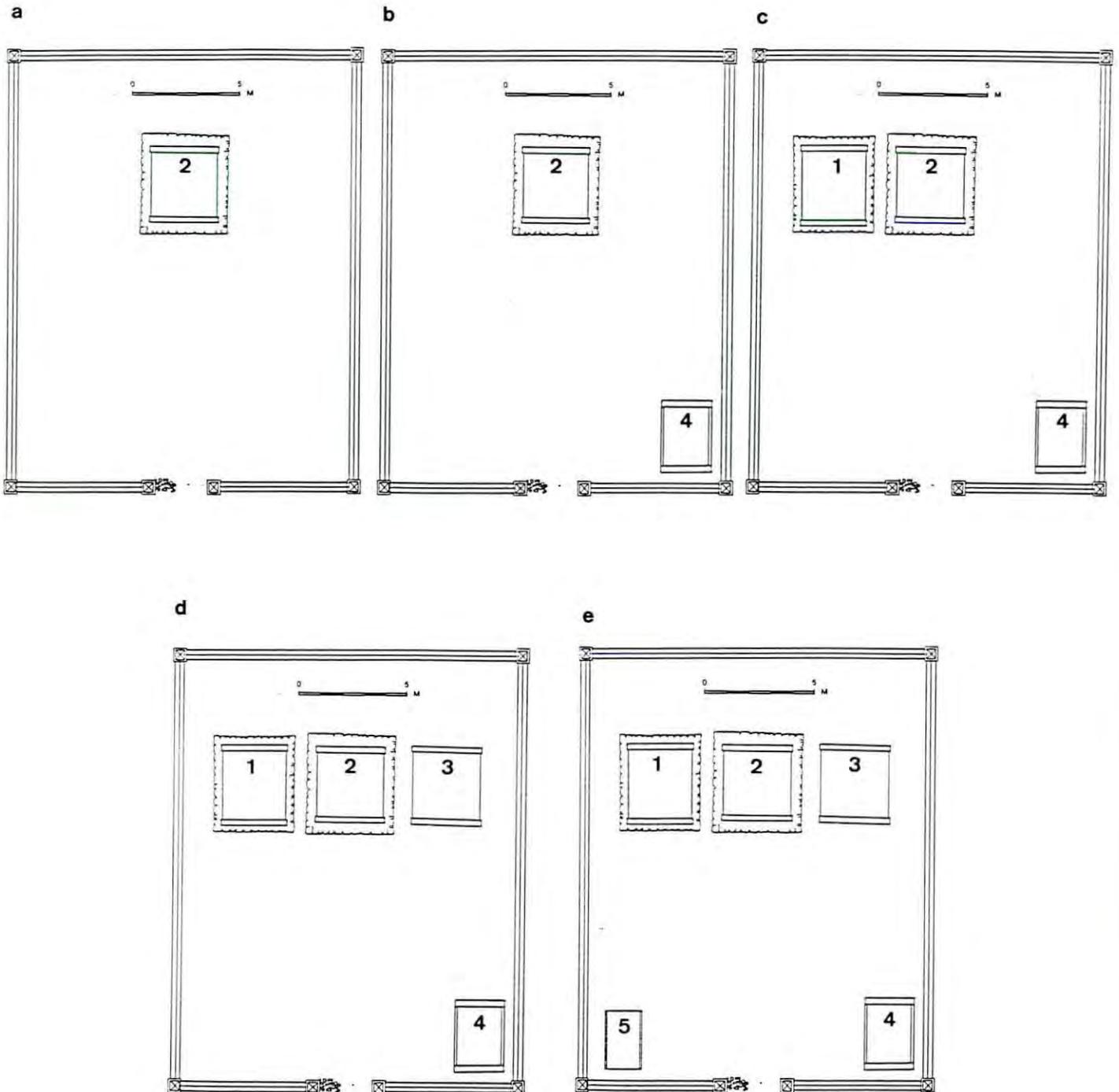
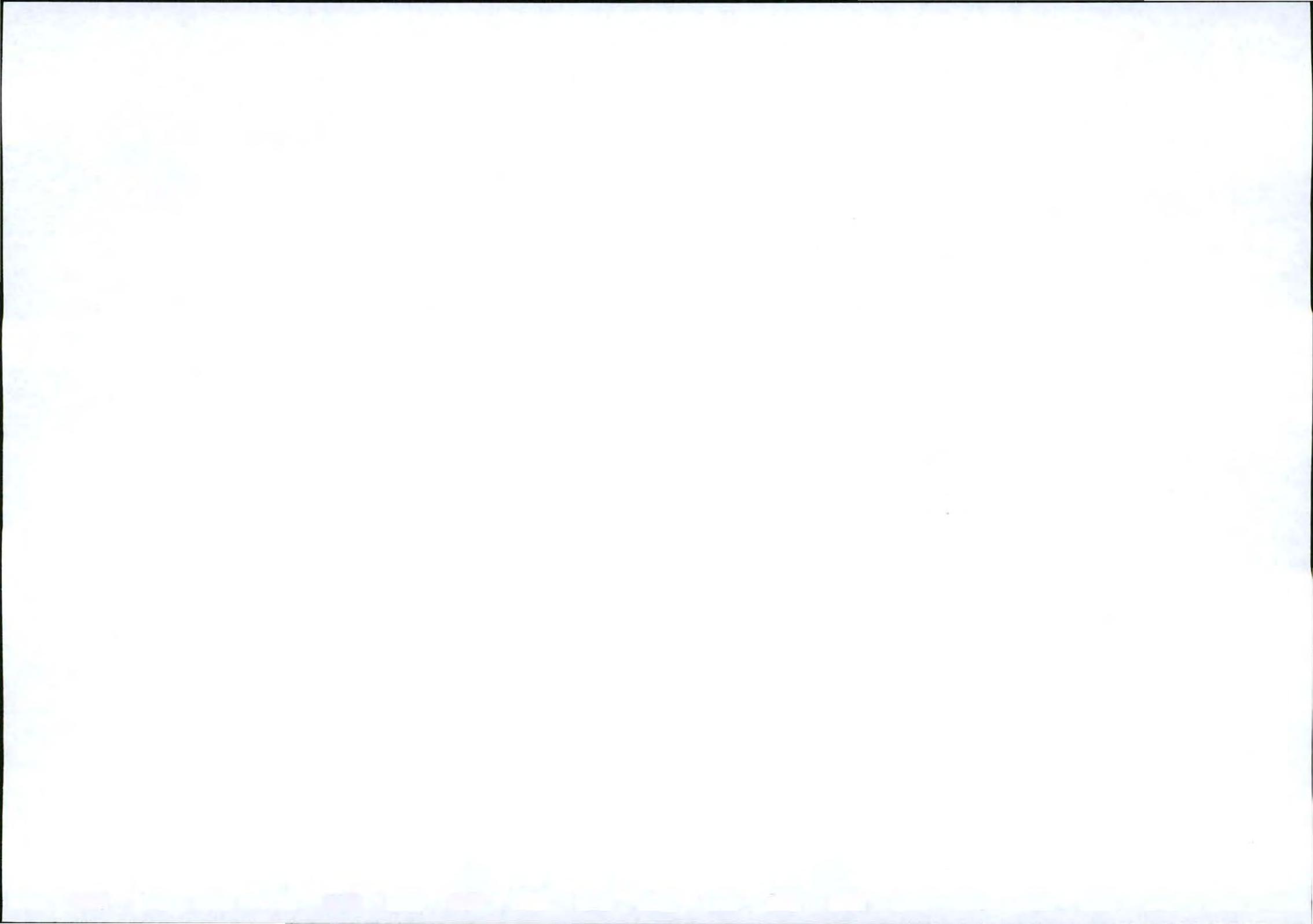


FIG.25 Outline of the development of the graveyard, 1820-1885.



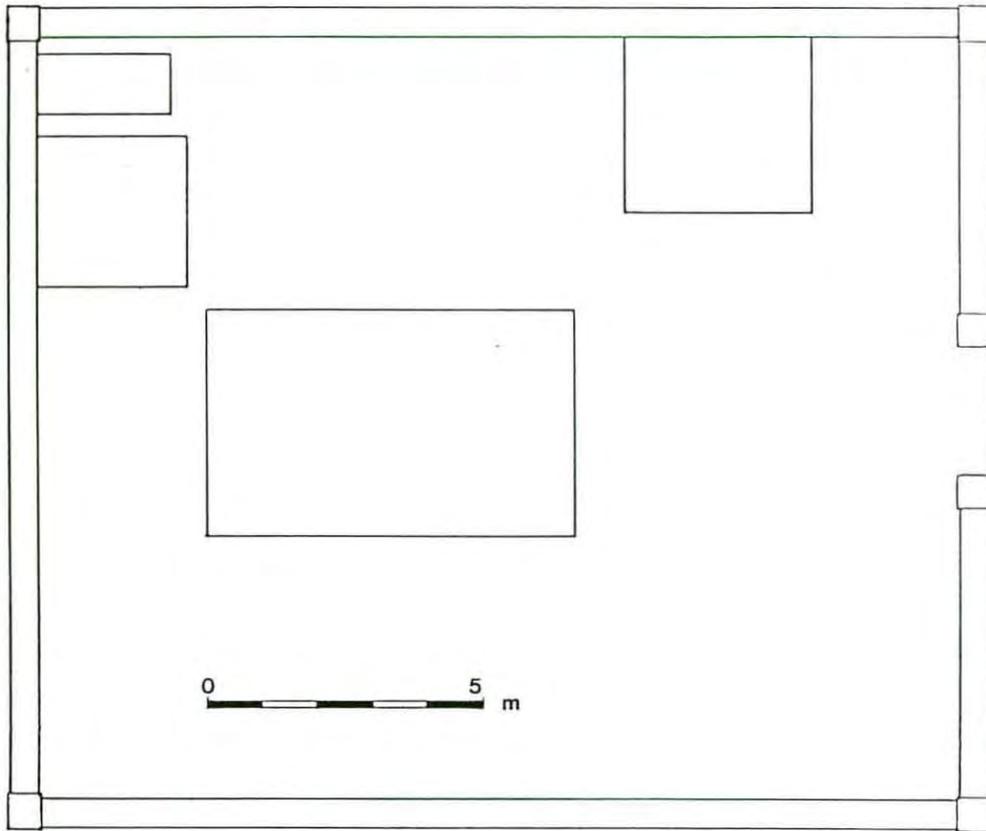
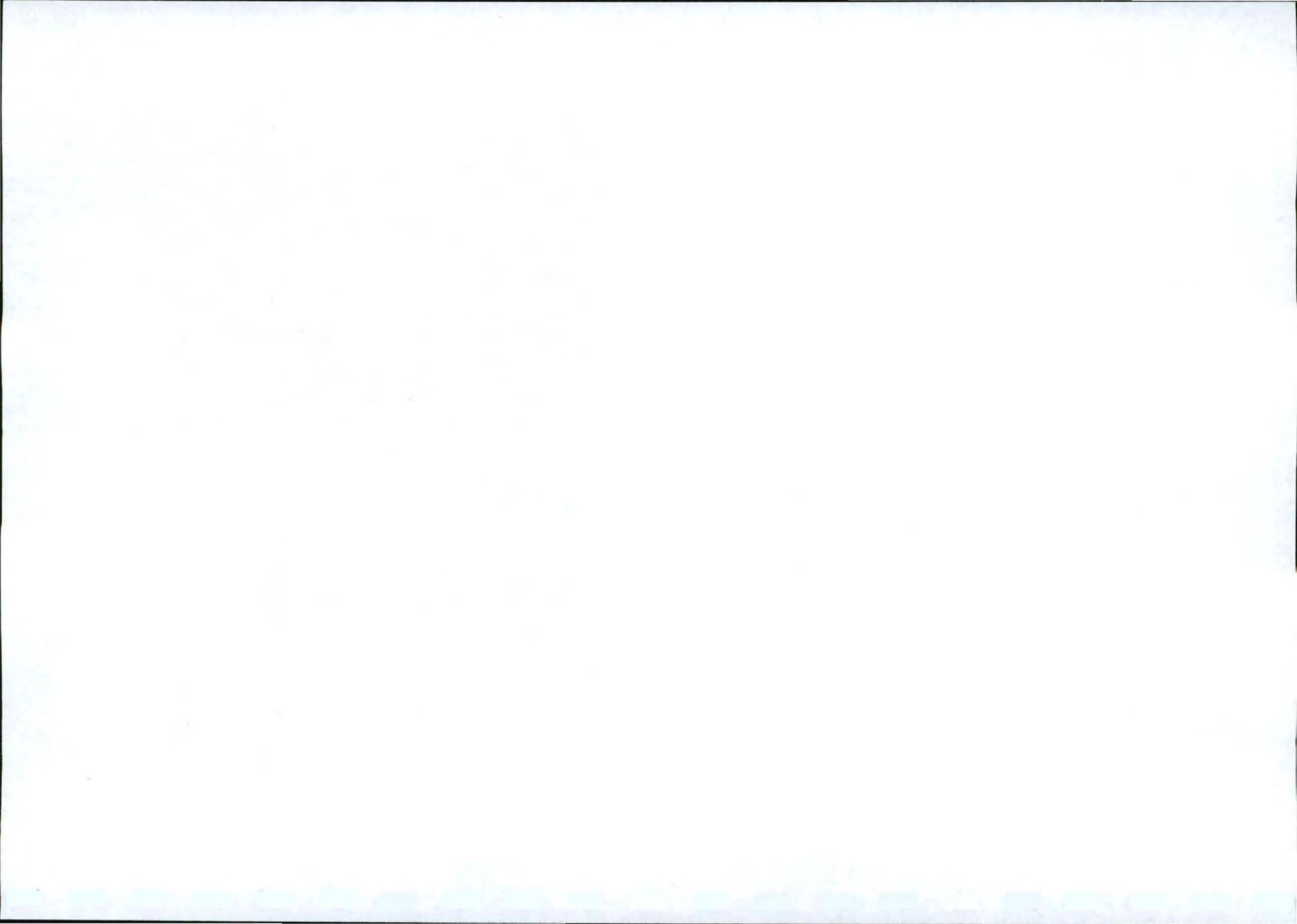


FIG.26 Groundplan of the cemetery at Meerlust (Vos 1998).



47. The splendid Meerlust graveyard with its old iron gate and vaults date back to at least the 1780s. A modern graveyard has been added at the northern end (looking N).

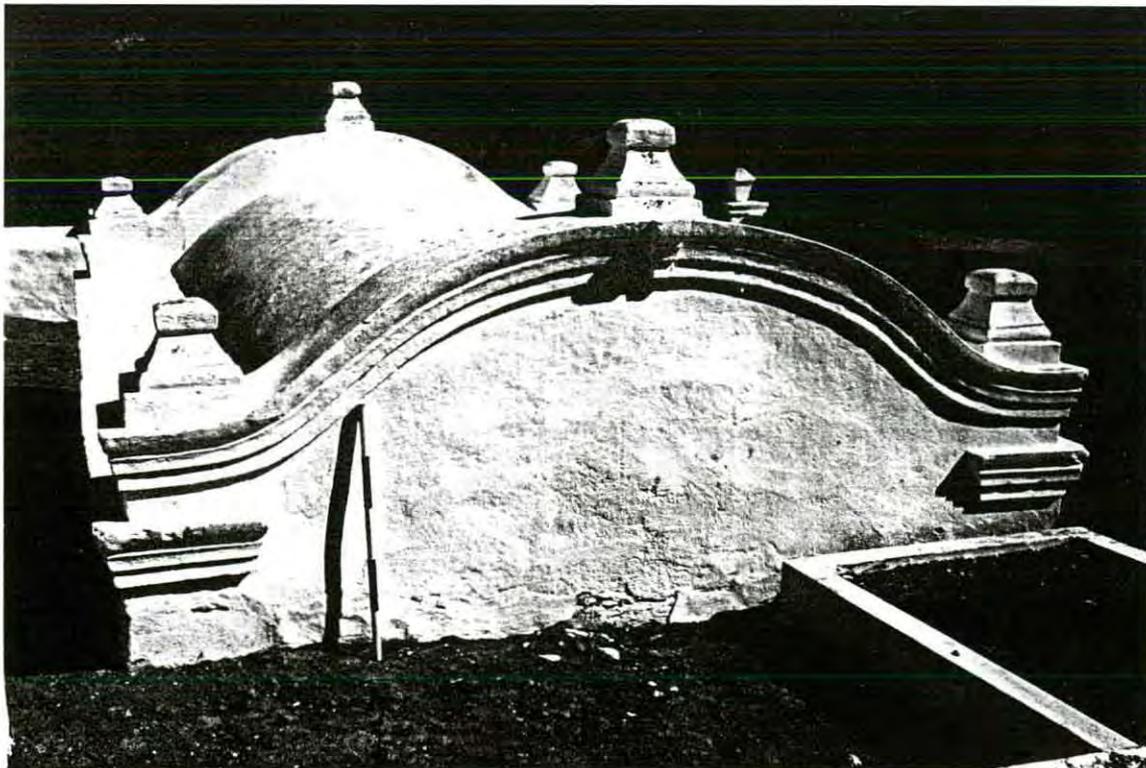


4. OTHER GRAVEYARDS

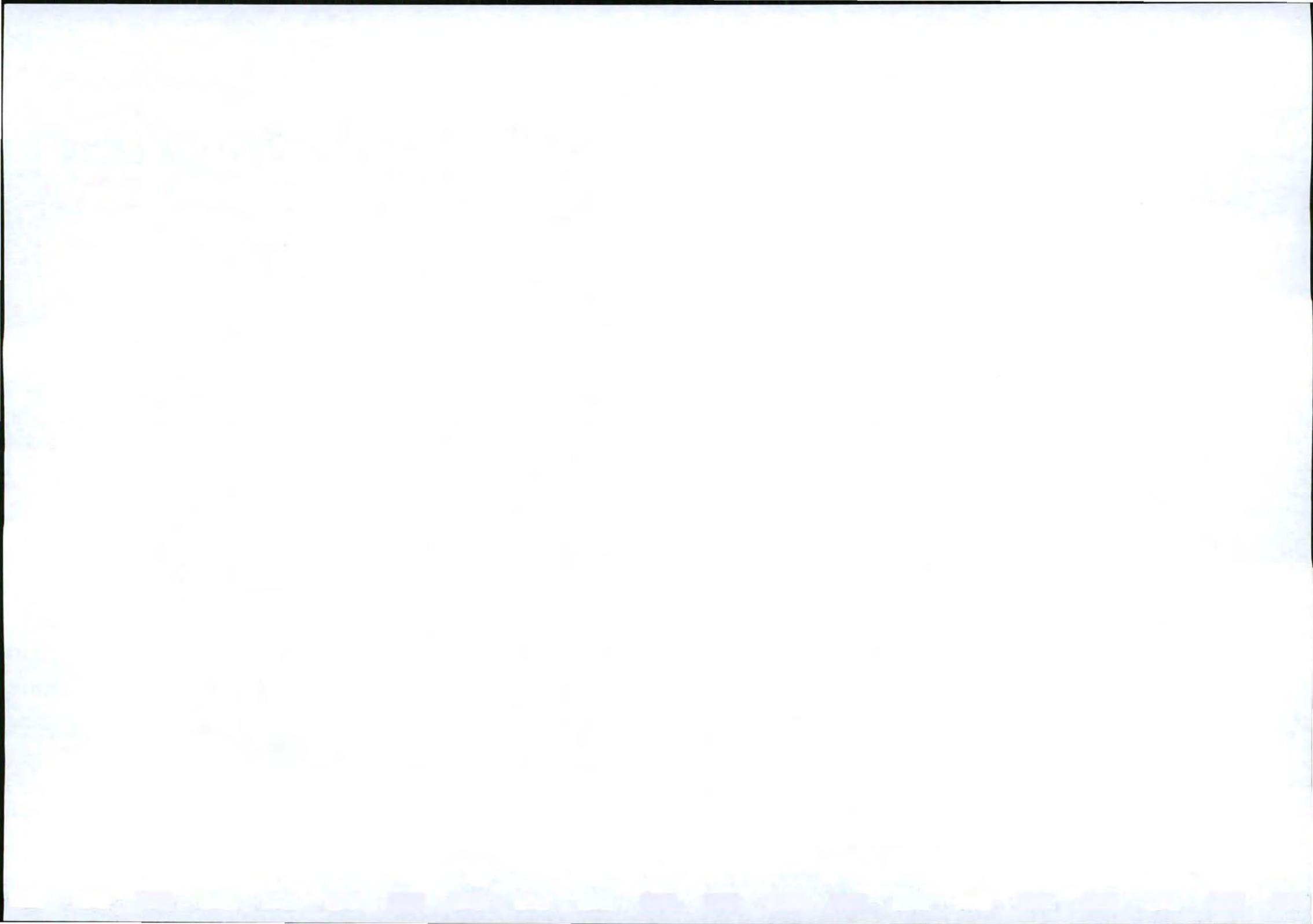
To place the Van der Bÿl graveyard in context, it will be compared to other graveyards on farms like Meerlust of the Myburghs, Jonkershoek and Welgelegen of the Bosmans. In conclusion we will take a quick look at church vaults at Stellenbosch and Paarl.

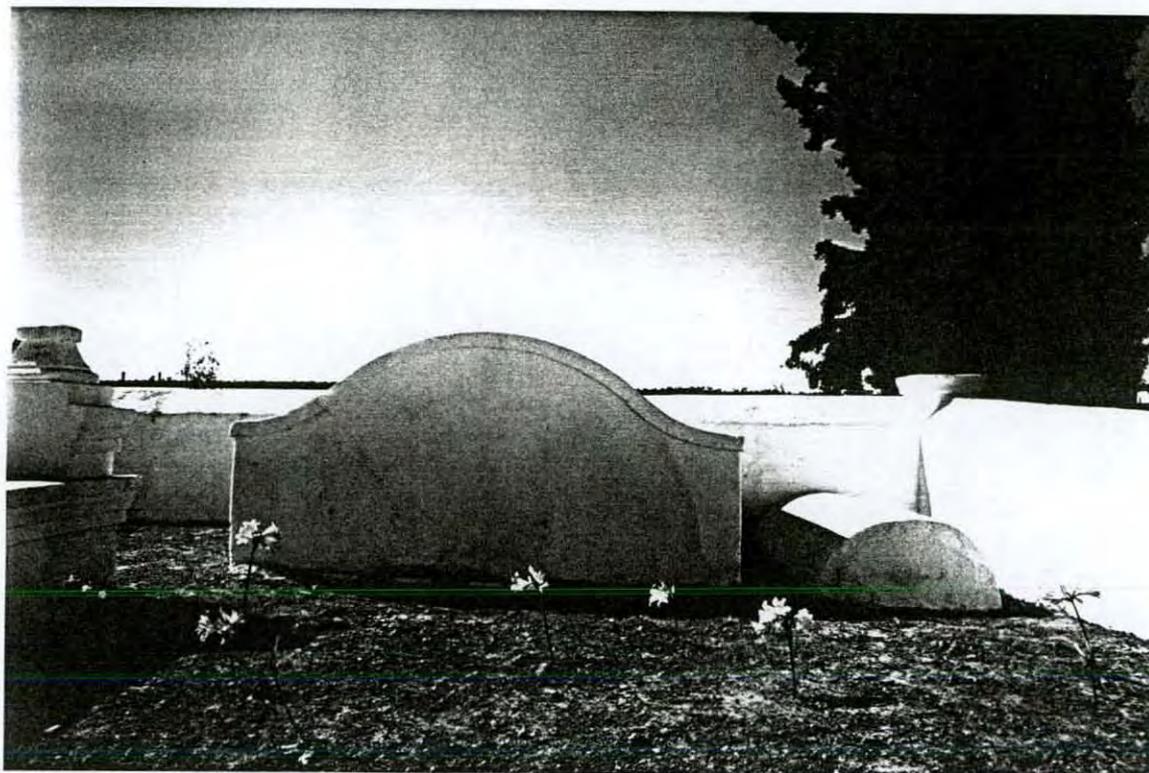
4.1 MEERLUST

This graveyard (FIG.26) is probably about 40 years older than the one of Welmoed. Its walls are about 55 cm wide, which is typical of the 18th century (Welmoed: 40 cm). Its inside dimensions are 16.7 m long and 14.0 m wide (Welmoed: 18.8 x 15.7 m) and therefore slightly smaller. Here the vaults are arranged quite differently. In the centre and slightly towards the back in the north stands a monumental vault. Two smaller vaults, somewhat similar to those at Welmoed, are built against the sidewalls. Others like them may already have been destroyed. A small single vault is also visible in the NE corner. A number of Van der Bÿls were also buried here. According to Van der Bÿl (1968:37) a two year old son was buried at Meerlust in 1780. Probably the graveyard wall was in place by 1785-88, for in 1788 the first Myburgh, Albertus Johannes, was interred within (Ibid.:7, 37, 38).



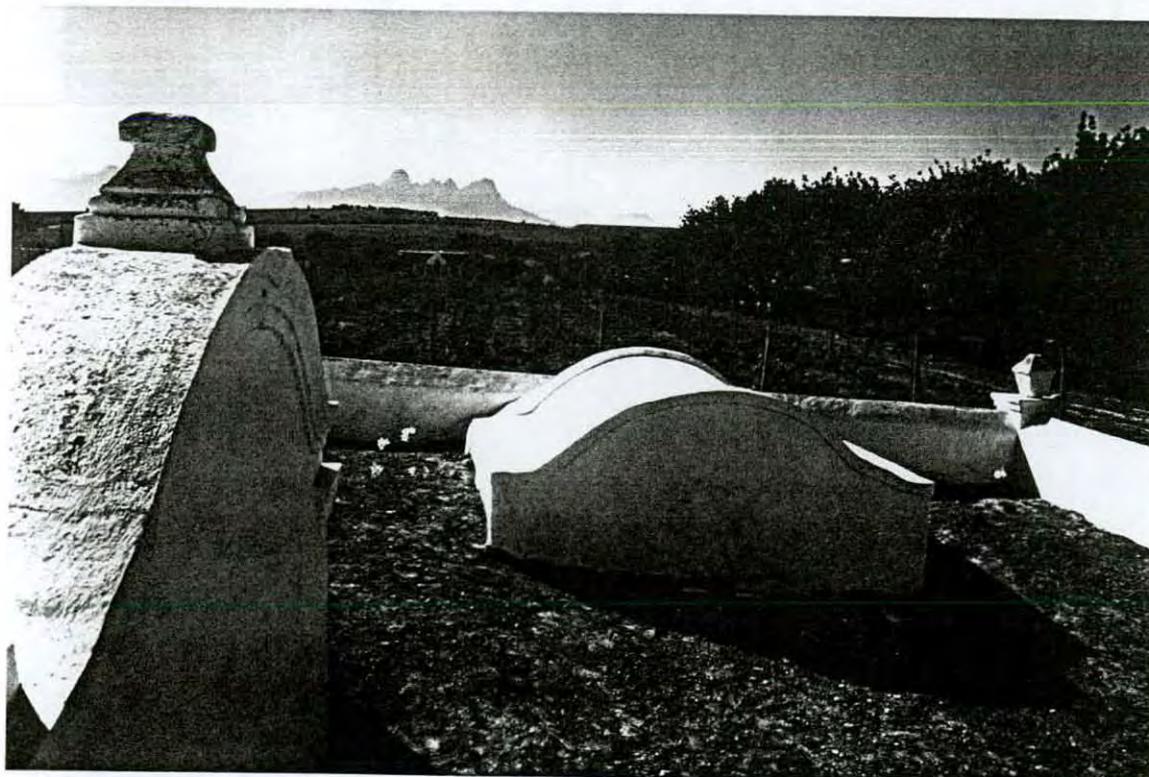
48. The magnificent family vault of the Myburghs, also dating back to the 1780s (looking S) (scale: 1 m).

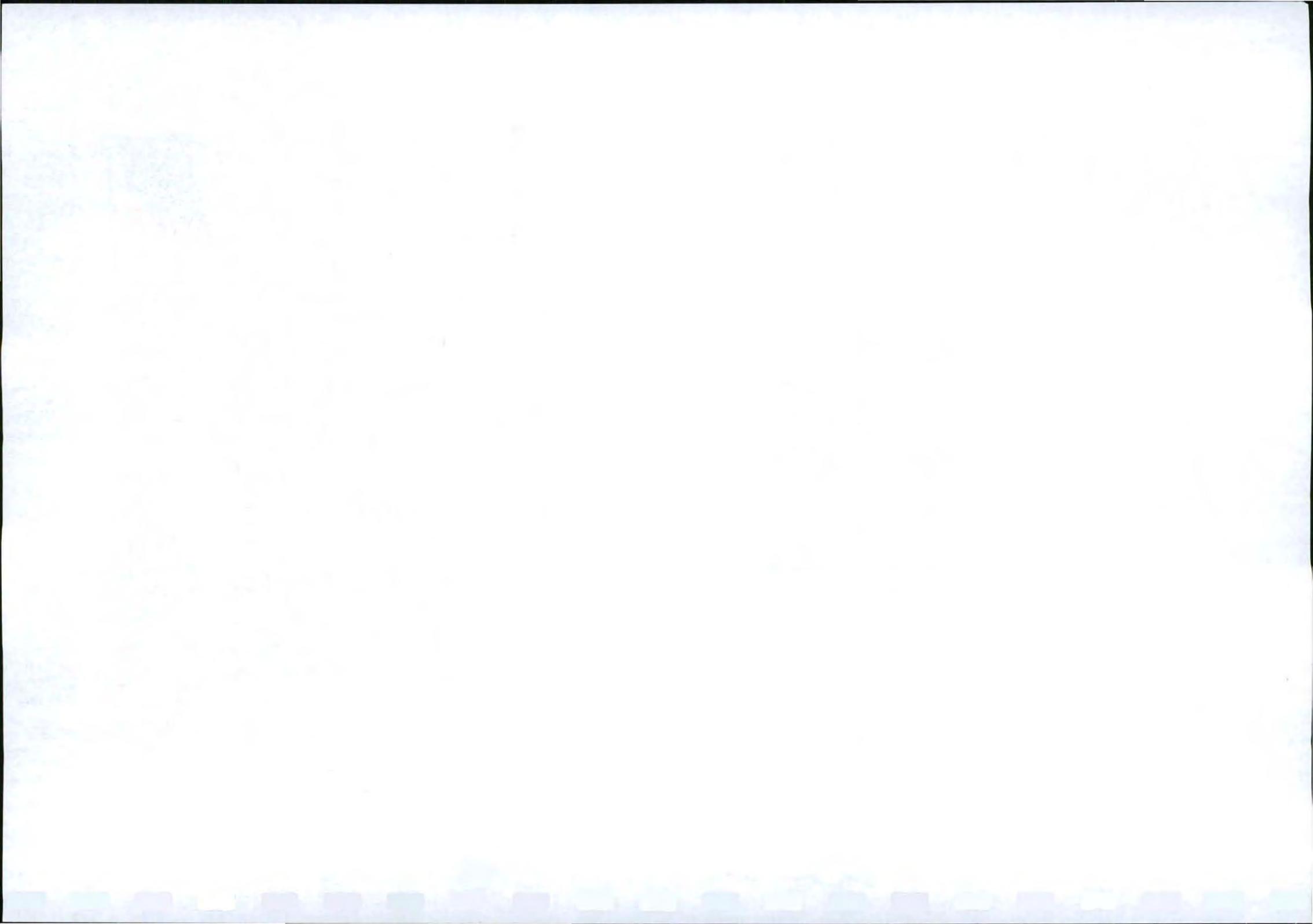




49. At the northeastern corner a dimunitive vault probably houses a single individual. The other vault is quite similar to those of Welmoed and perhaps dates from the 1820s. Note the faint outline of the arch and a sealed rectangular opening, probably a door (looking N).

50. Near the south-eastern corner another, similar, family vault survives, also sealed.



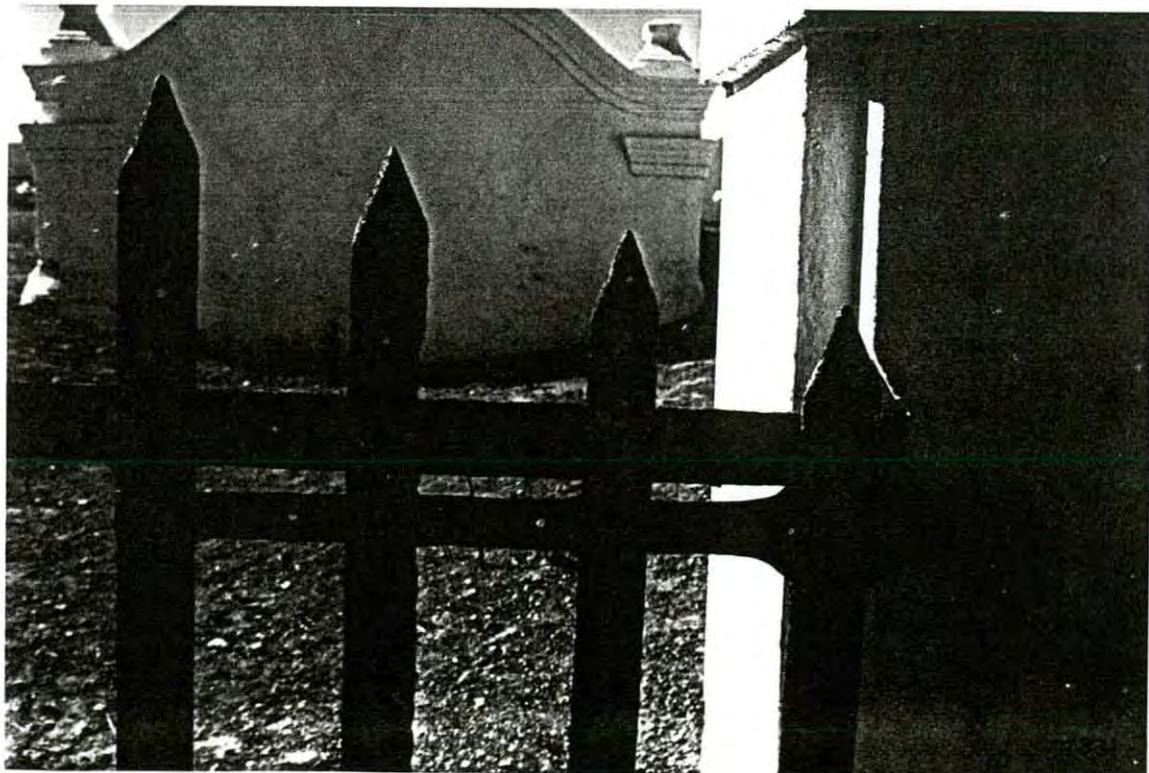


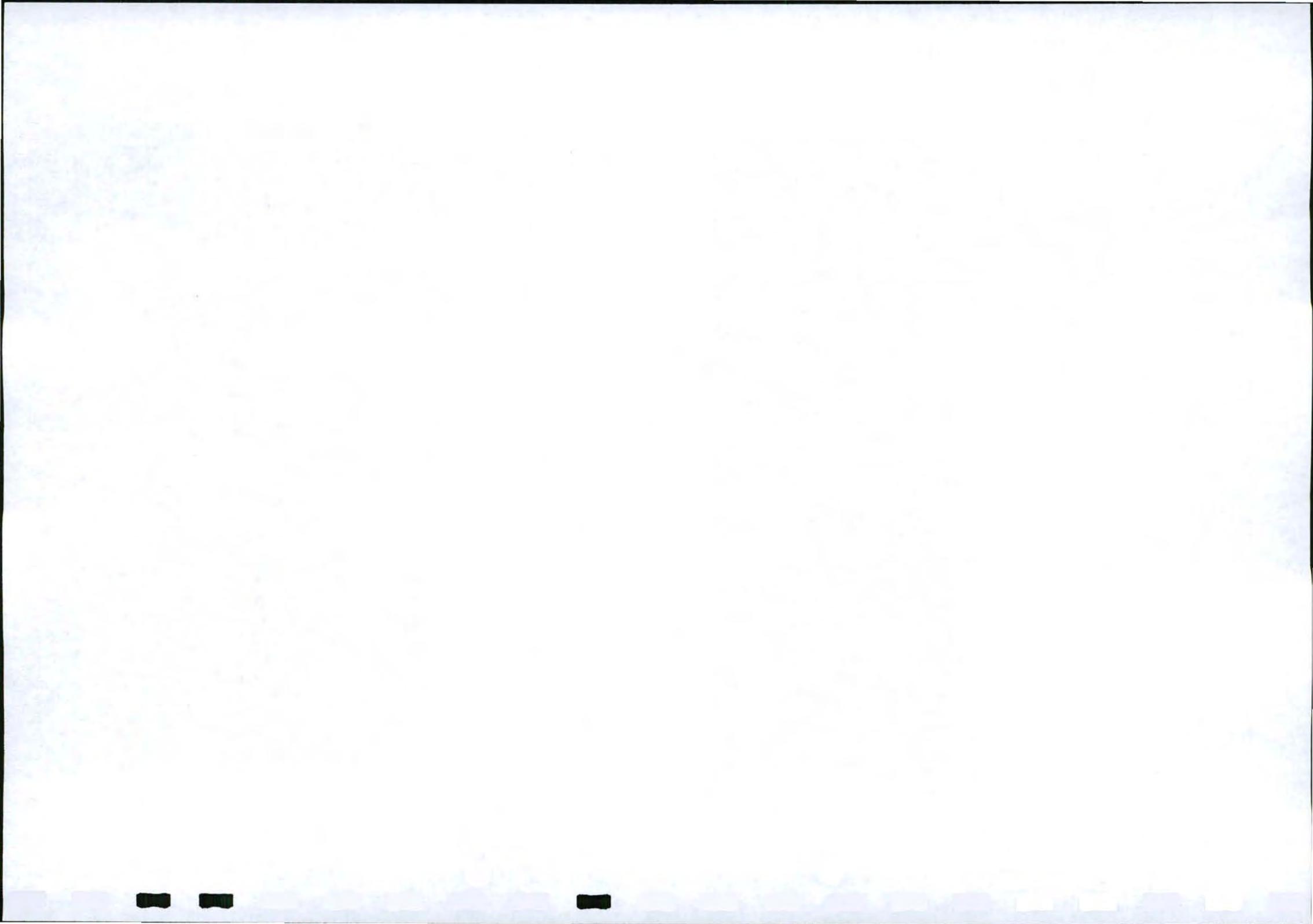
The entrance faces southwest, towards the existing access road. A pair of old iron gates, swinging on old pintle hinges, are still in position.



51. A heavy pair of iron gates adorn the entrance. As there are numerous holes in the ironwork and there are recesses along the pillars, it is possible that the iron gate was once nailed to wooden boards (looking N).

52. Close-up of a pintle hinge and iron strap, typical of the late 18th century.





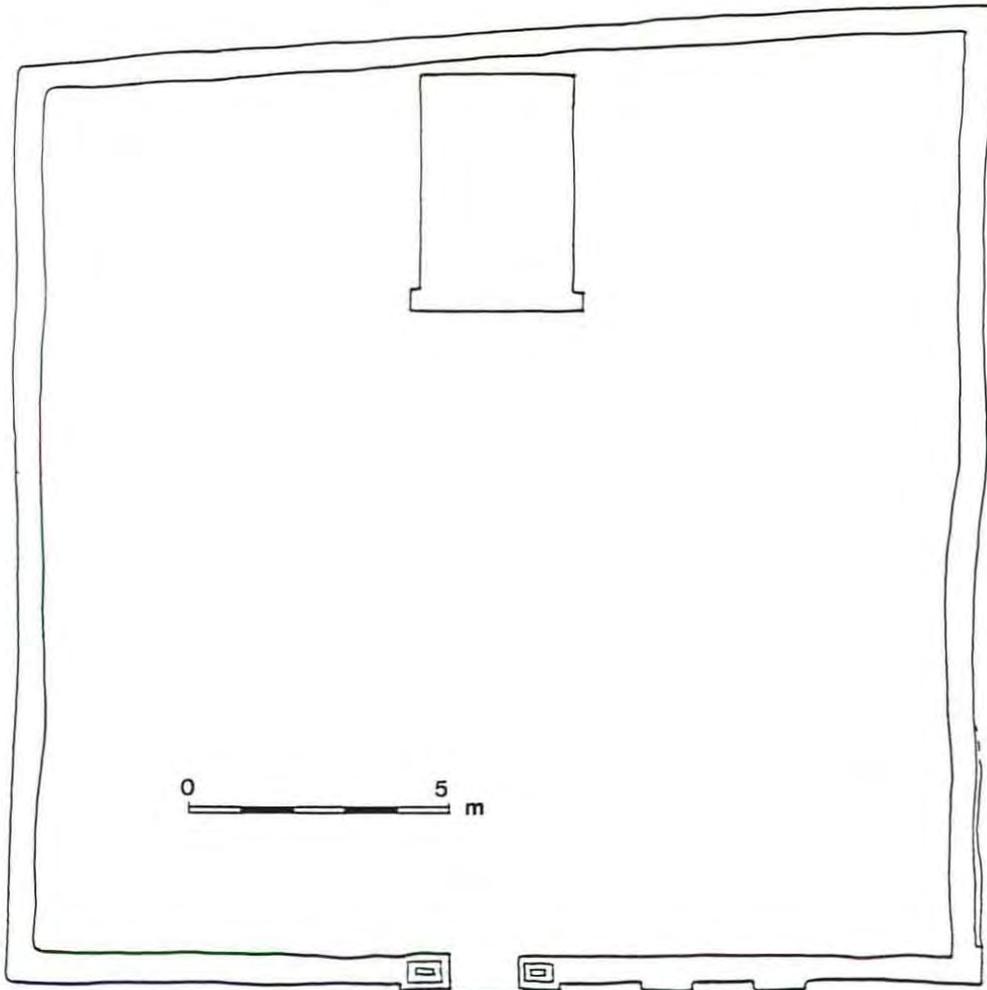
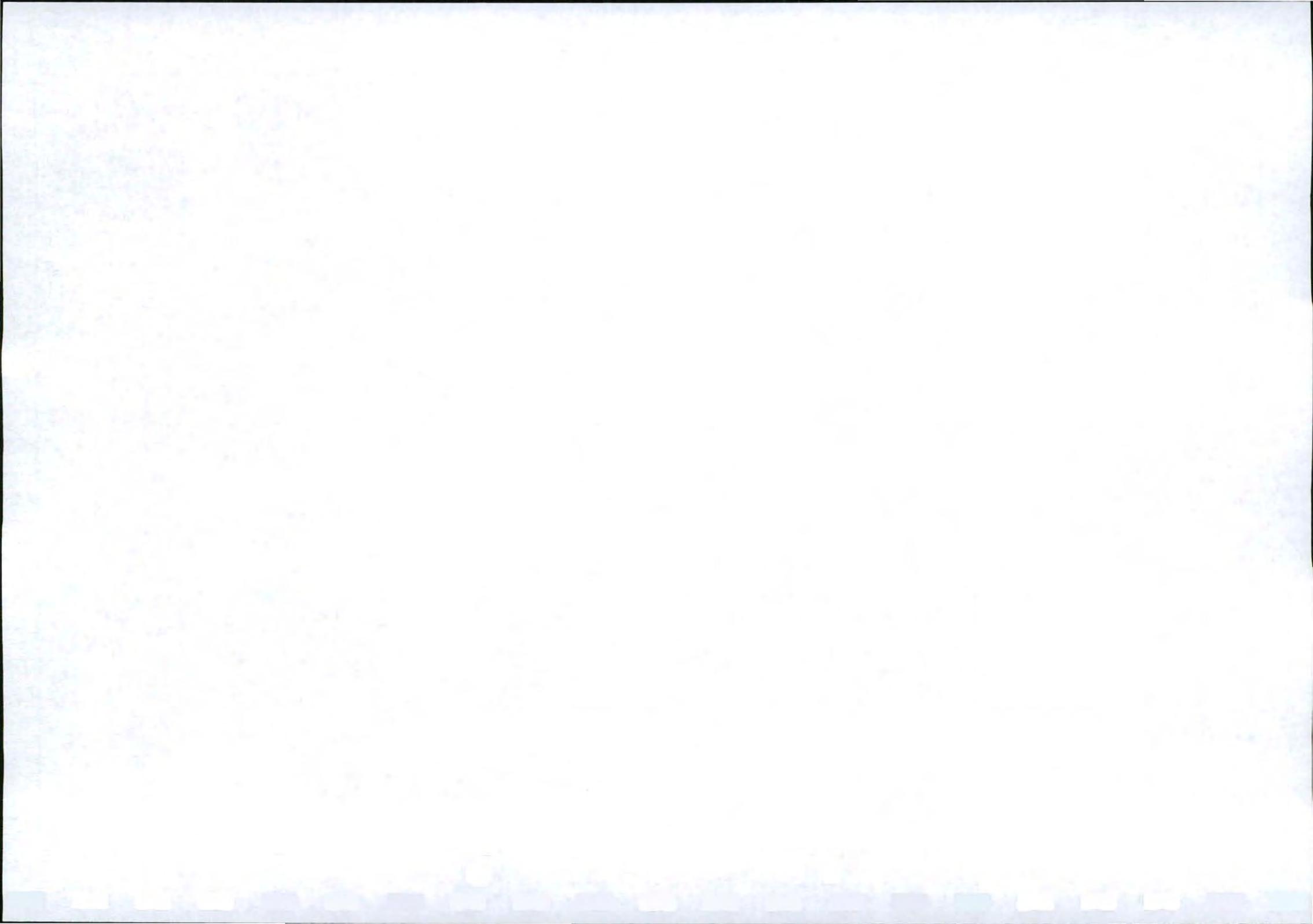


FIG.27 Groundplan of the cemetery at Welgelegen (Vos 1998).

FIG.28 Members of the Bosman family in front of the Welgelegen vault dated 1886 (Stellenbosch Heemkring).





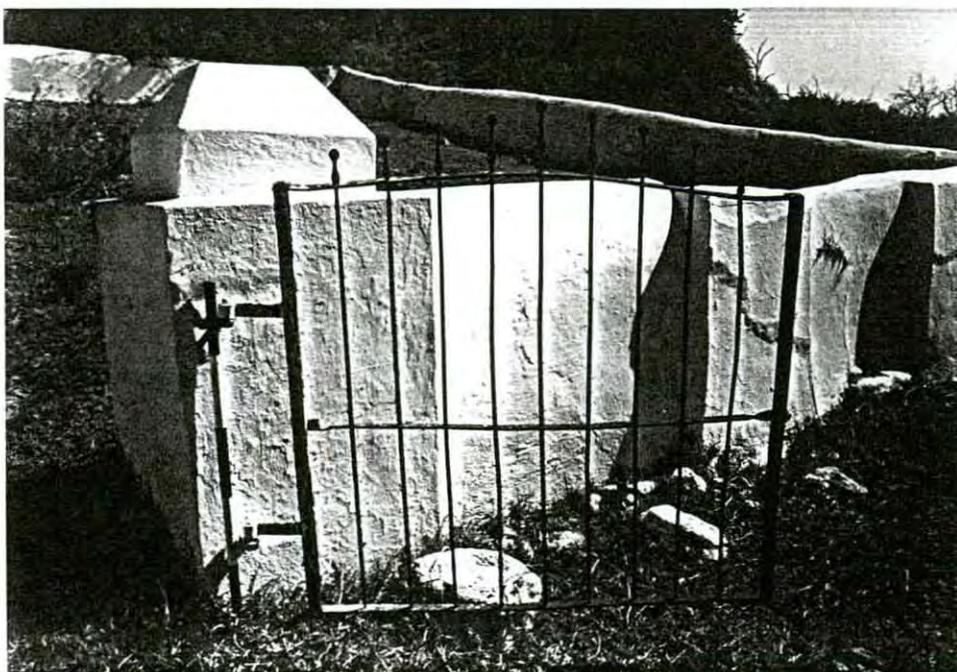
4.2 WELGELEGEN

On this farm is to be found the Bosman graveyard (**FIG.27**). It is also situated along the access road to the farm. Only one vault has survived and is dated to 1886. It is surprisingly ornate and built in a Gothic style reminiscent of a church or cathedral (**FIG.28**). The low boundary wall is built of sandstone and granite from the immediate outcrops and has been replastered in cement. An interesting iron gate is still in position. The latch-end is broken off, though probably similar to the existing one of the vault door.

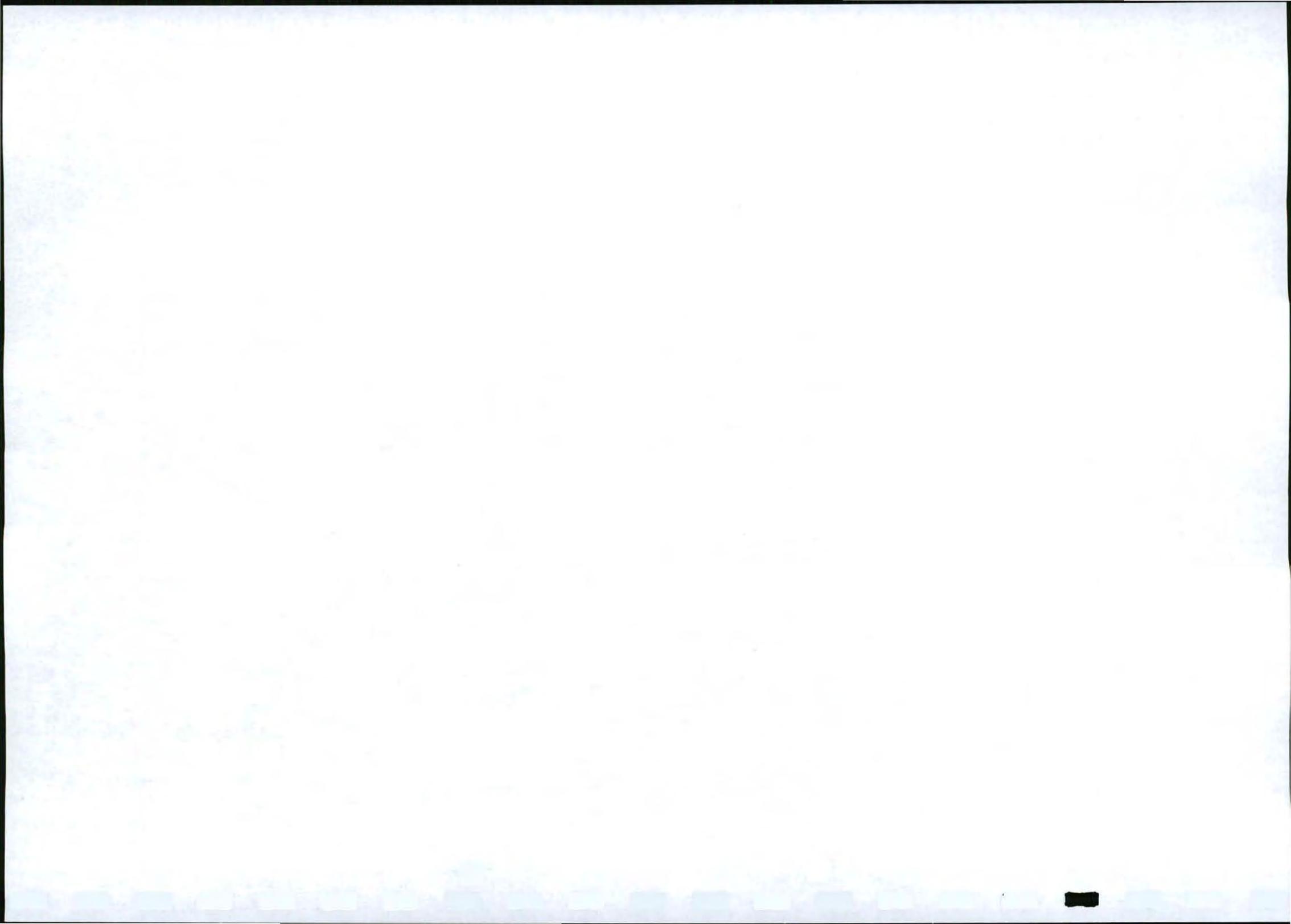
The Bosmans settled this farm since 1760 and farmed here for 7 generations (Van der Bÿl 1963:76). It is asserted that the graveyard wall dates from 1756 (De Kock, et al 1968:14), but that is doubtful. It possibly dates from about 1800.

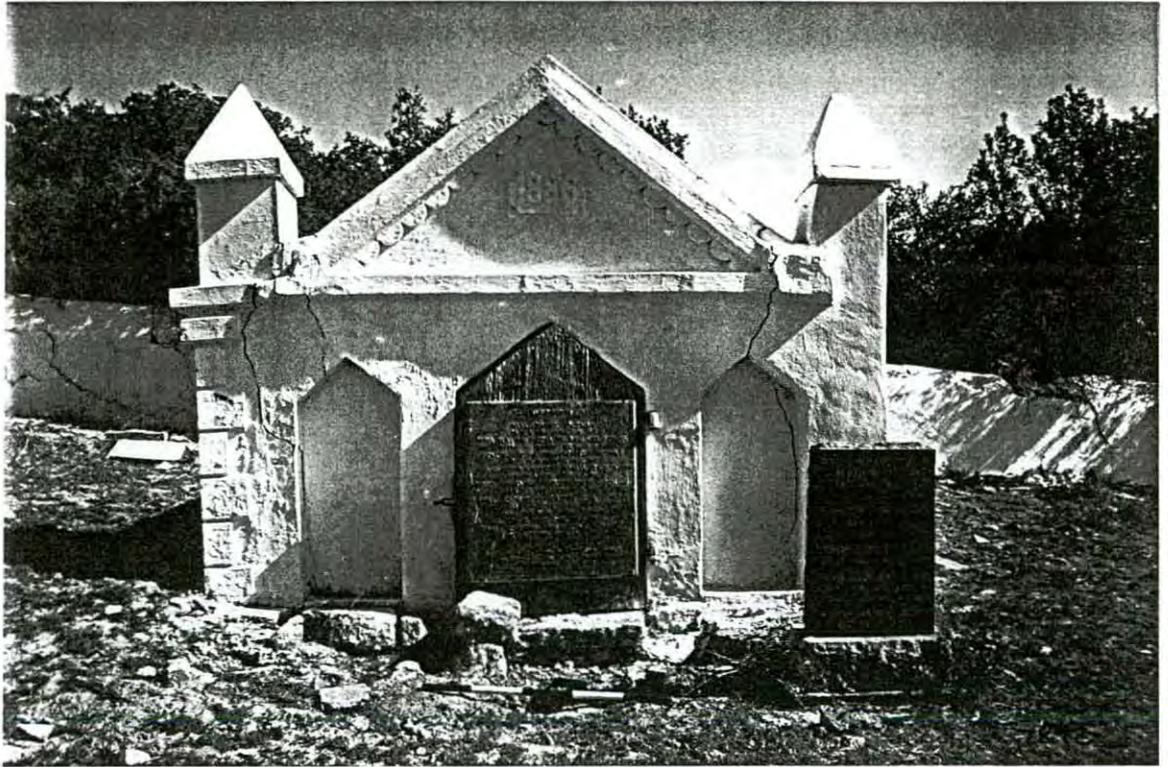


53. The white walls of the Welgelegen graveyard follow the slope of the *koppie* behind.



54. The charming iron gate to the cemetery.



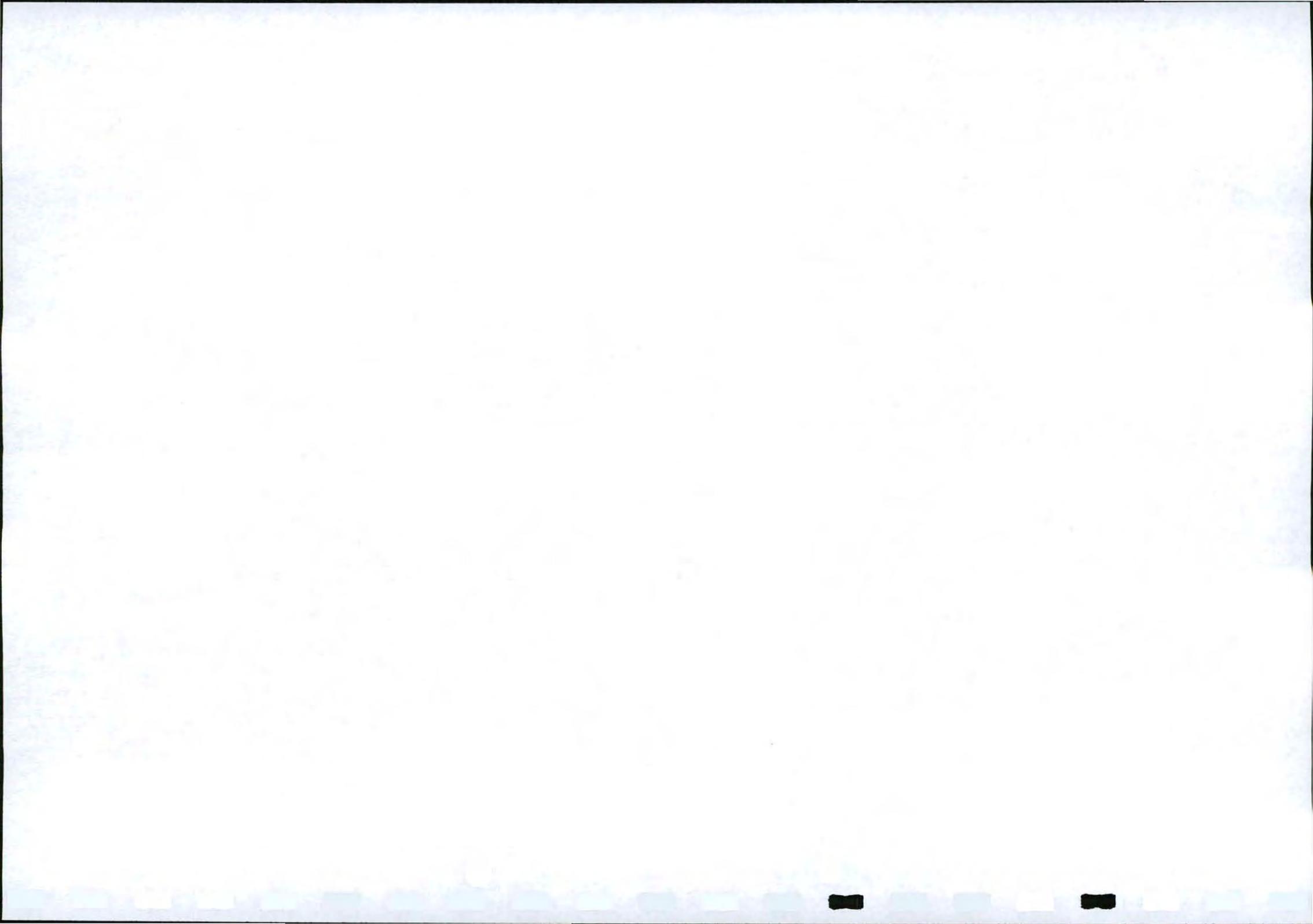


55. The vault has lost part of its cornice on the right hand.



56. Close-up of the original wooden door with its old latch. The vault behind the door has been sealed.

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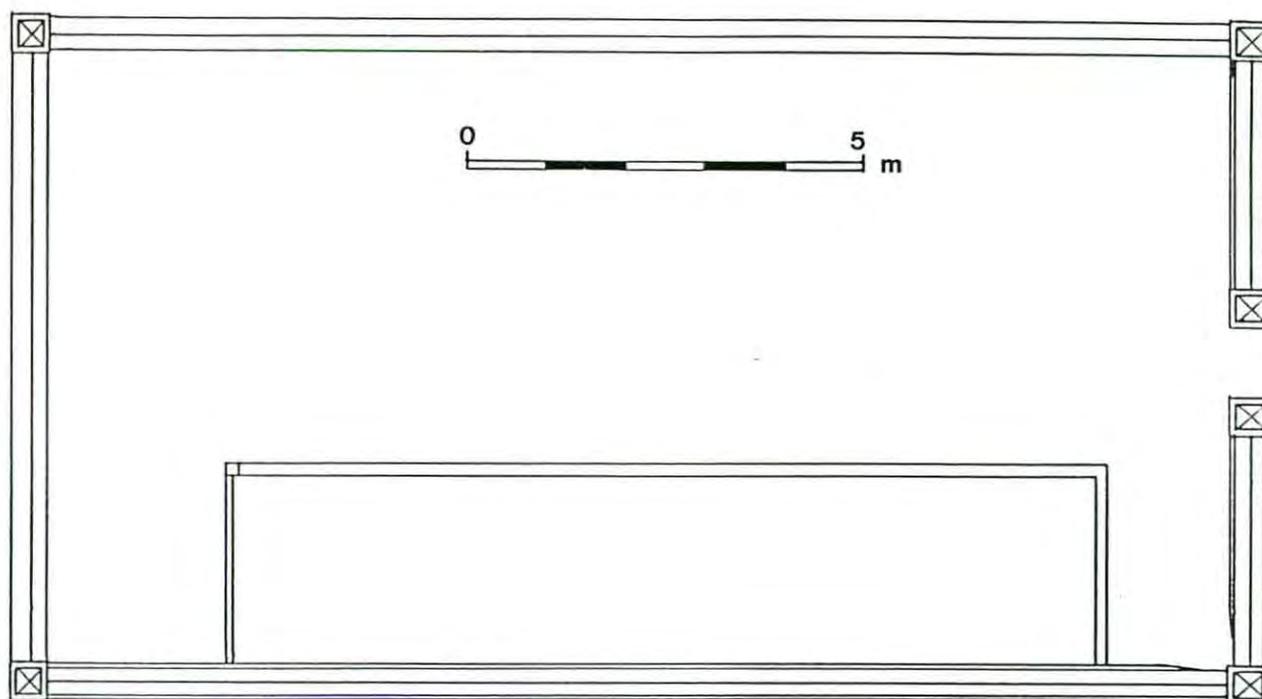
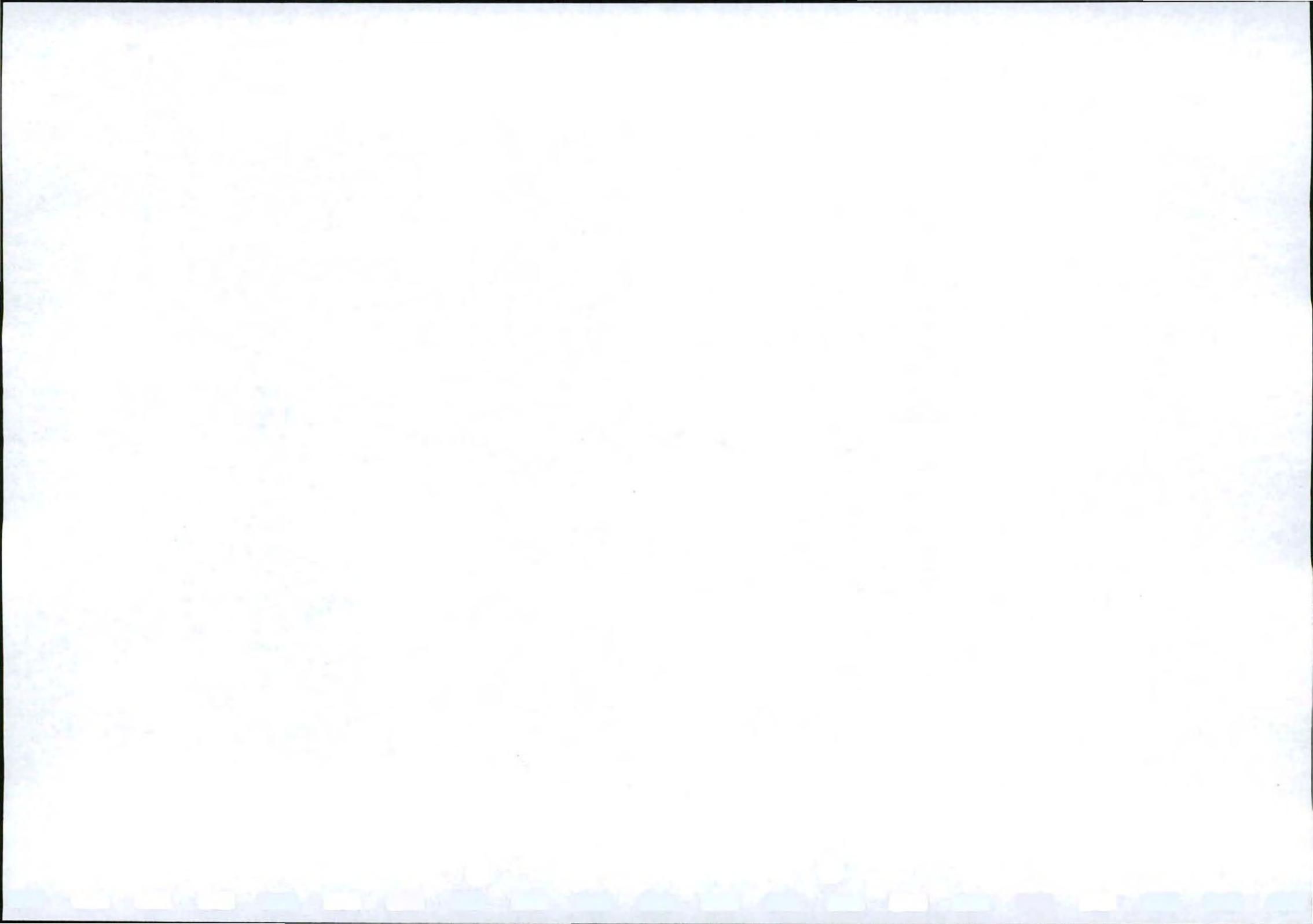


FIG.29 Groundplan of the cemetery at Jonkershoek (Vos 1998).

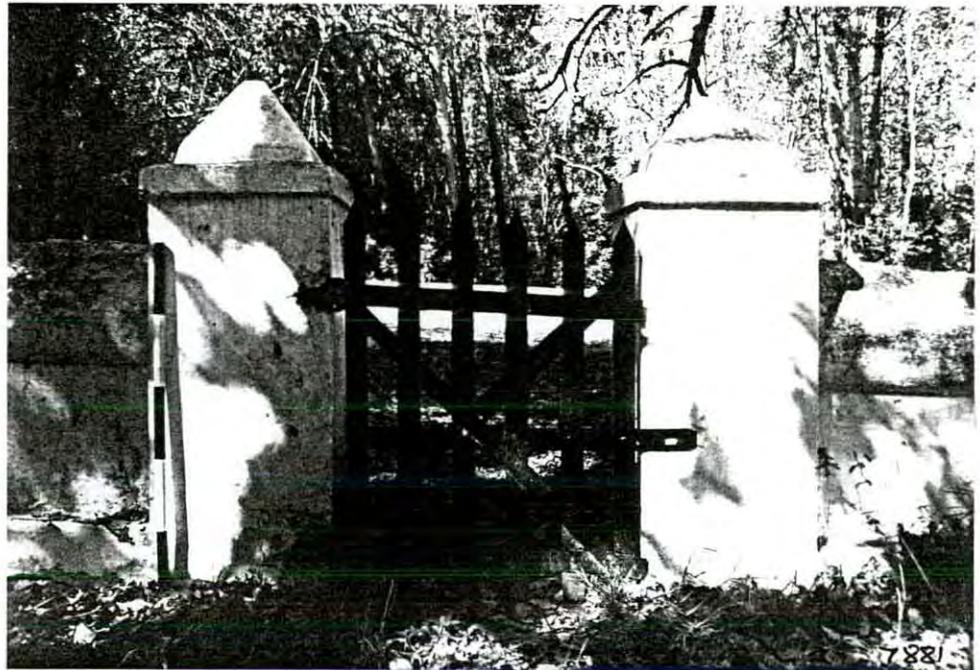


57. The cemetery of Jonkershoek (formerly Wynand) is now surrounded by a grove of oaks.



4.3 JONKERSHOEK

South of the Jonkershoek buildings lies a walled cemetery, but without any vaults (FIG.29). A single gravestone of the 20th century has remained. This graveyard also possibly dates from the 19th century. Rather little is known about it.



58. An iron gate with old strap hinges is still intact.



59. No vaults exist at Jonkershoek and a solitary marble tombstone of c.1940 marks the Neethling family graveyard (P.G. Neethling bought the farm in 1823).

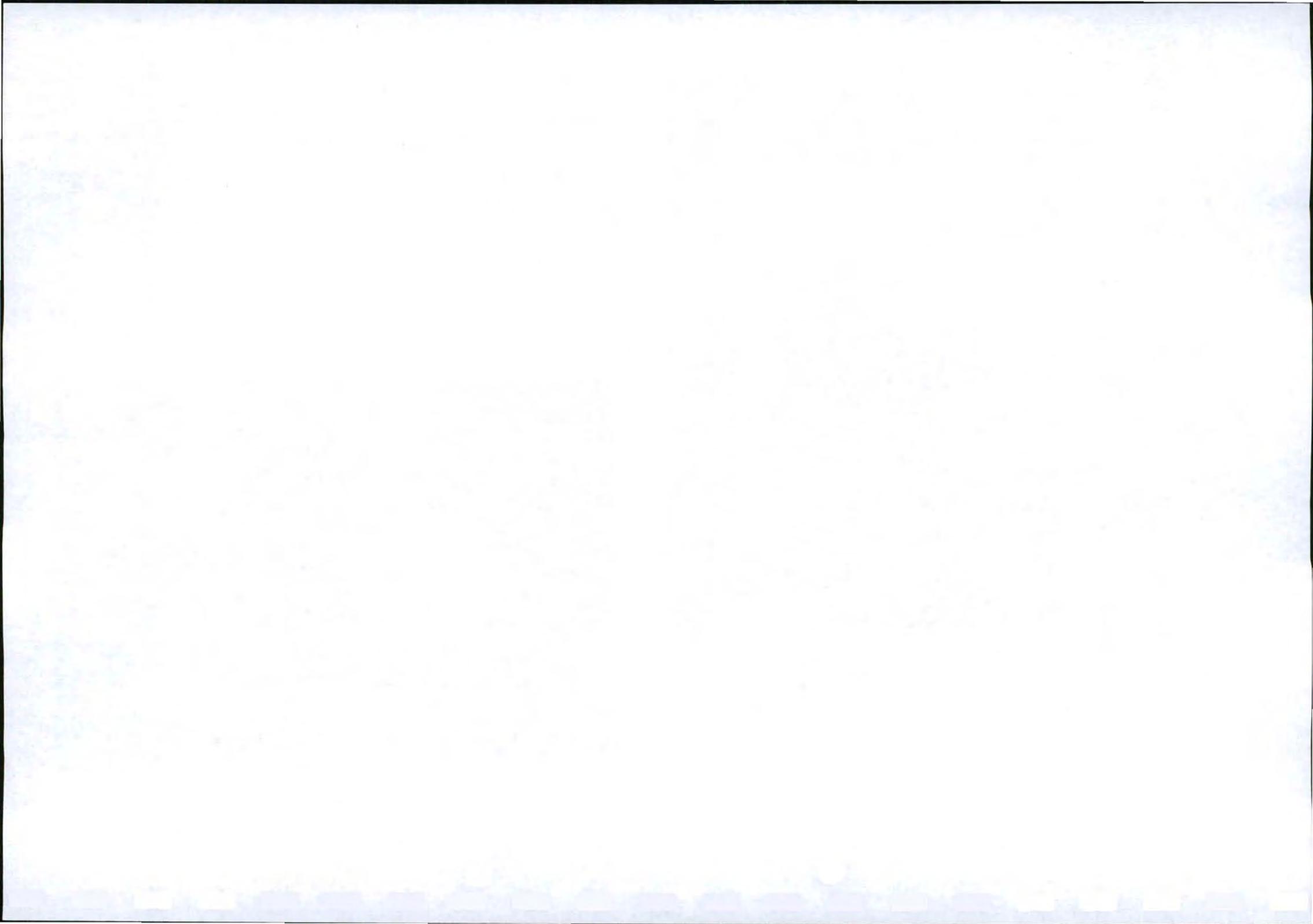
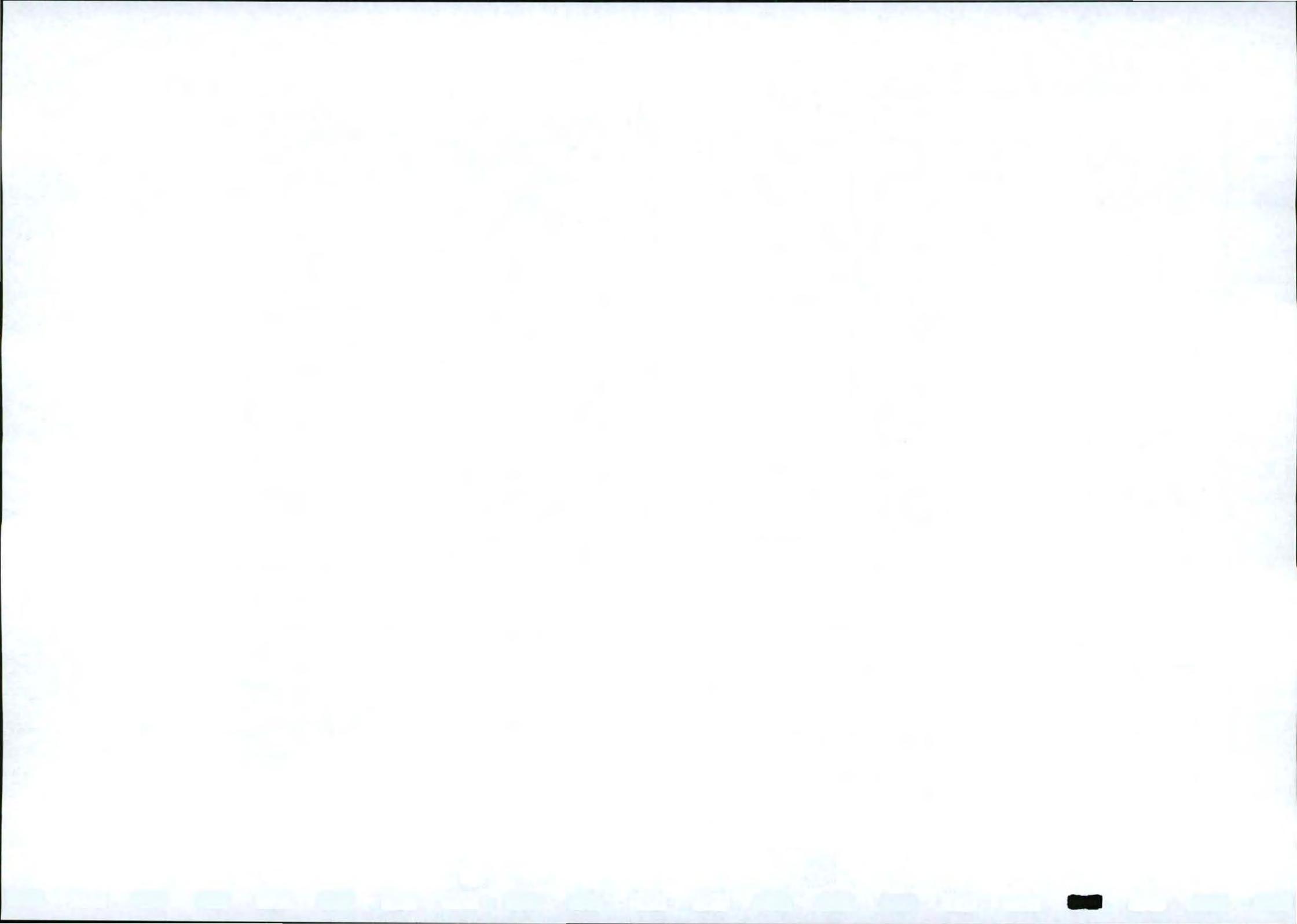




FIG.30 The oldest church building in S.A. with its belfry, by E.V. Stade, 1710 (Cape Archives) (looking east).



60.1 Excavations during 1981 in the back yard of D'Ouwe Werf revealed the location of the 1687 church. As was customary, important officials were buried inside the church. Note the slightly domed grave dating from before 1710. The brick ceiling collapsed when the coffin was removed between 1711 and 1717.



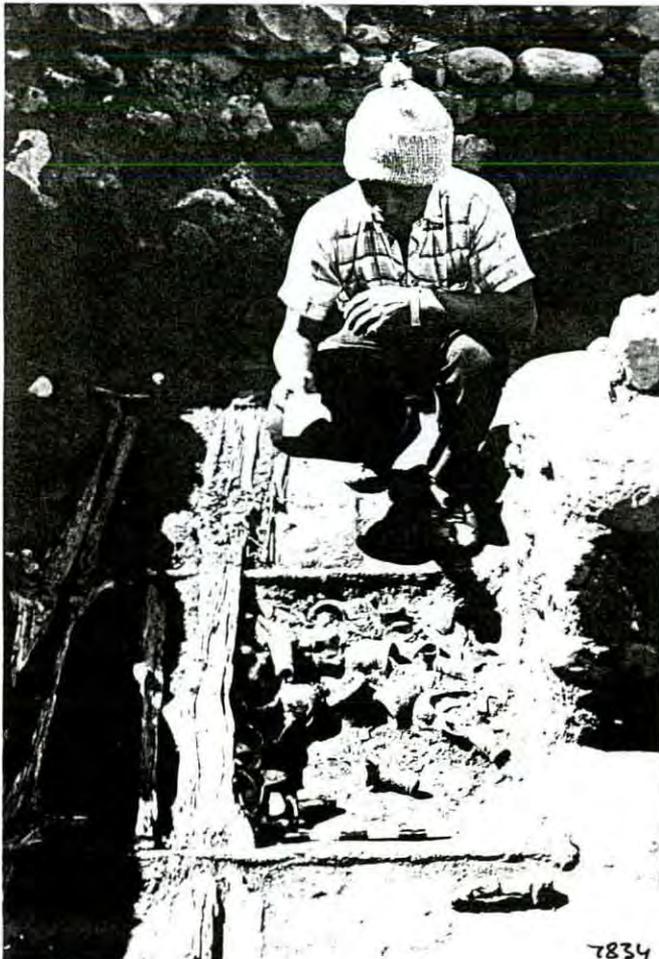
4.4 STELLENBOSCH CHURCH

4.4.1 Church 1687-1710

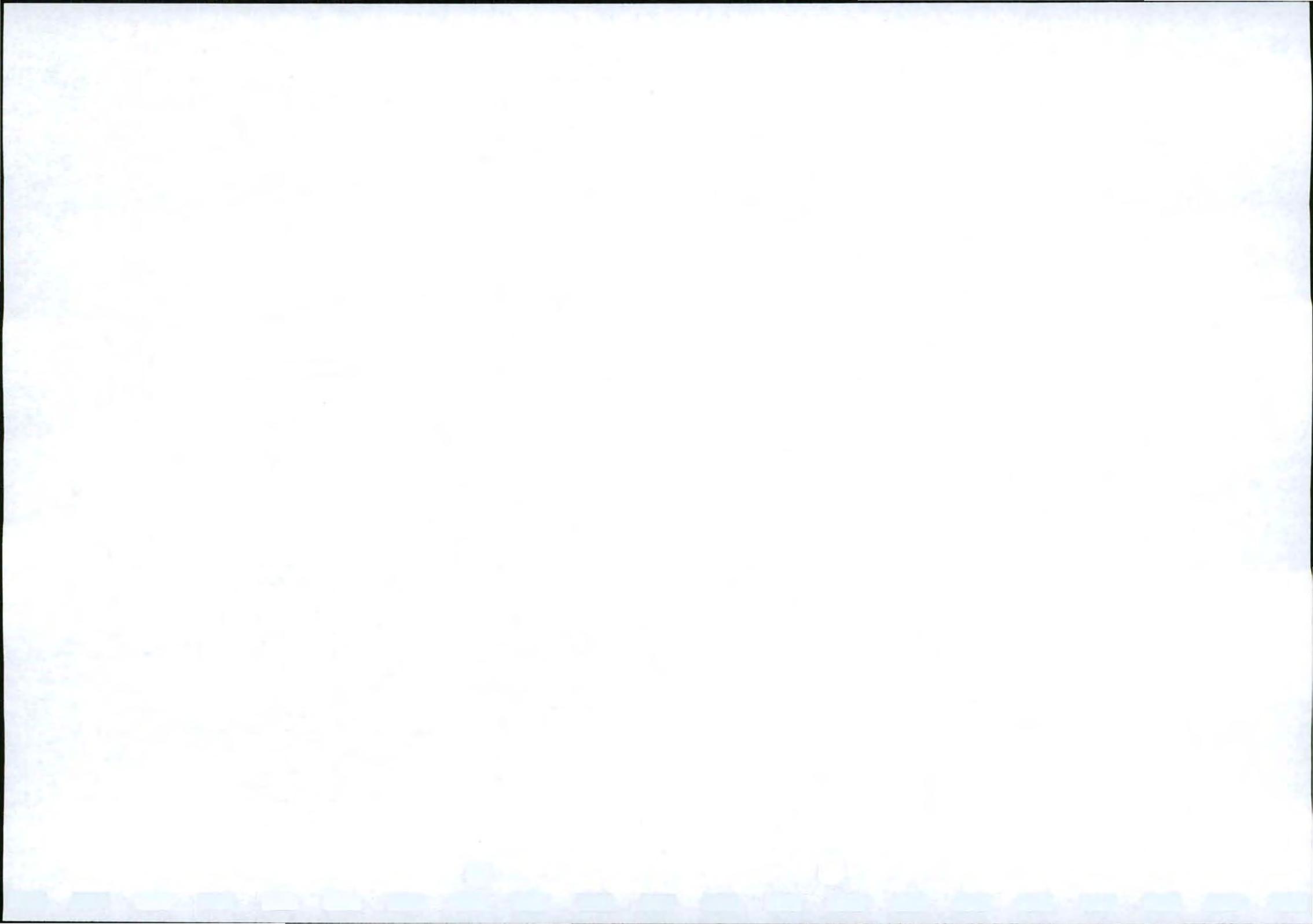
In 1687 the first Stellenbosch Church was completed (FIG.30), and the whole block bounded by Church, Ryneveld, Andringa and Plein Street became the graveyard. After the church was laid in ashes in 1710 no more burials were allowed inside the church, although some probably still took place in the churchyard until about 1717, when a new churchyard was demarcated at the eastern end of Church Street.

In 1981 archaeological excavations behind D'Ouwe Werf dwelling succeeded in locating the foundations of the 1687 church, as well as the oldest visible grave in South Africa, within the church. This was built of flat orange brick, with a slightly curved ceiling in the manner of a vault.

In 1783 the whole churchyard block was divided into building lots and sold. Human bones found in the area were to be collected and kept in a charnel house erected within the perimeter of the former church ruins. In 1981 the foundations of this house was discovered, together with a wooden ramp, below which numerous broken wine bottles were hidden. The conclusion is that by 1790 someone was secretly drinking in this dark chamber, and hiding the evidence below the floorboards! There is, therefore, a precedent for the wine bottles found in vault 1 at Welmoed (Vos 1981).



60.2 At the eastern end of the church a charnel house with a long passage of wooden boards was built before 1787. In this dark space someone consumed wine in secret and hid numerous (broken) bottles below a solitary (loose) board! (looking E).



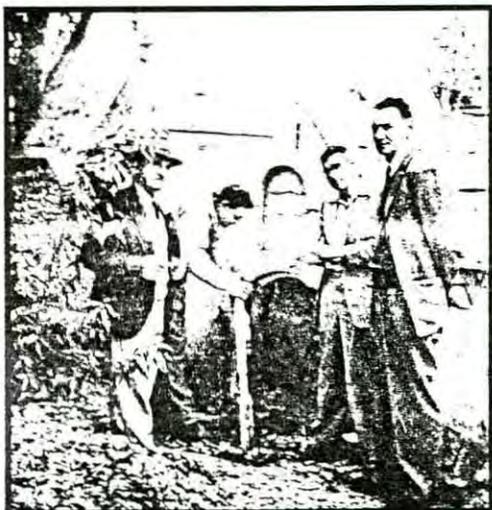
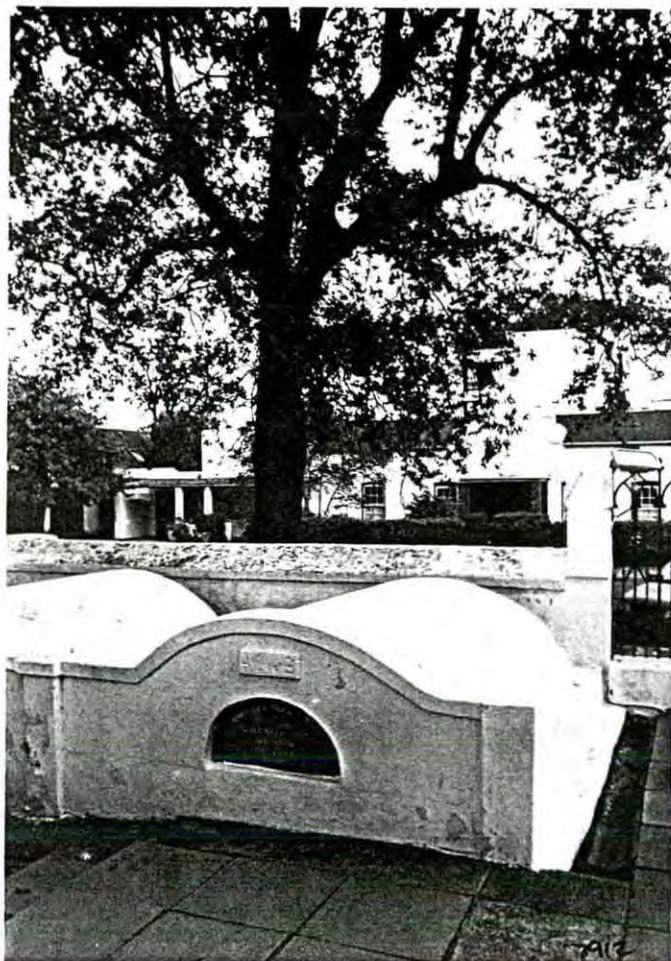
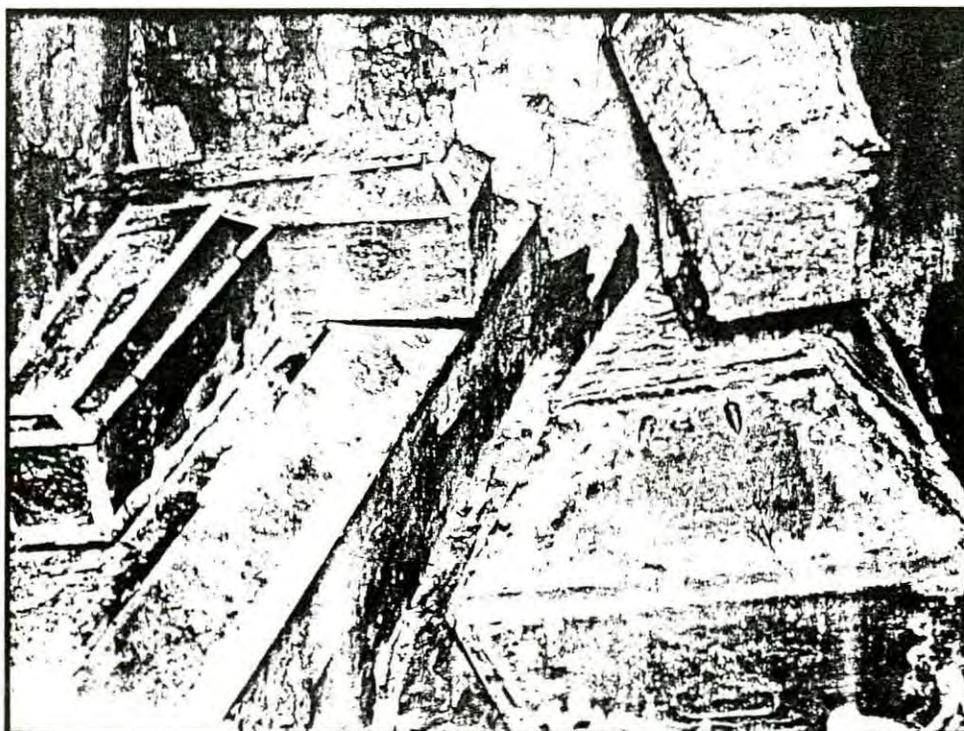


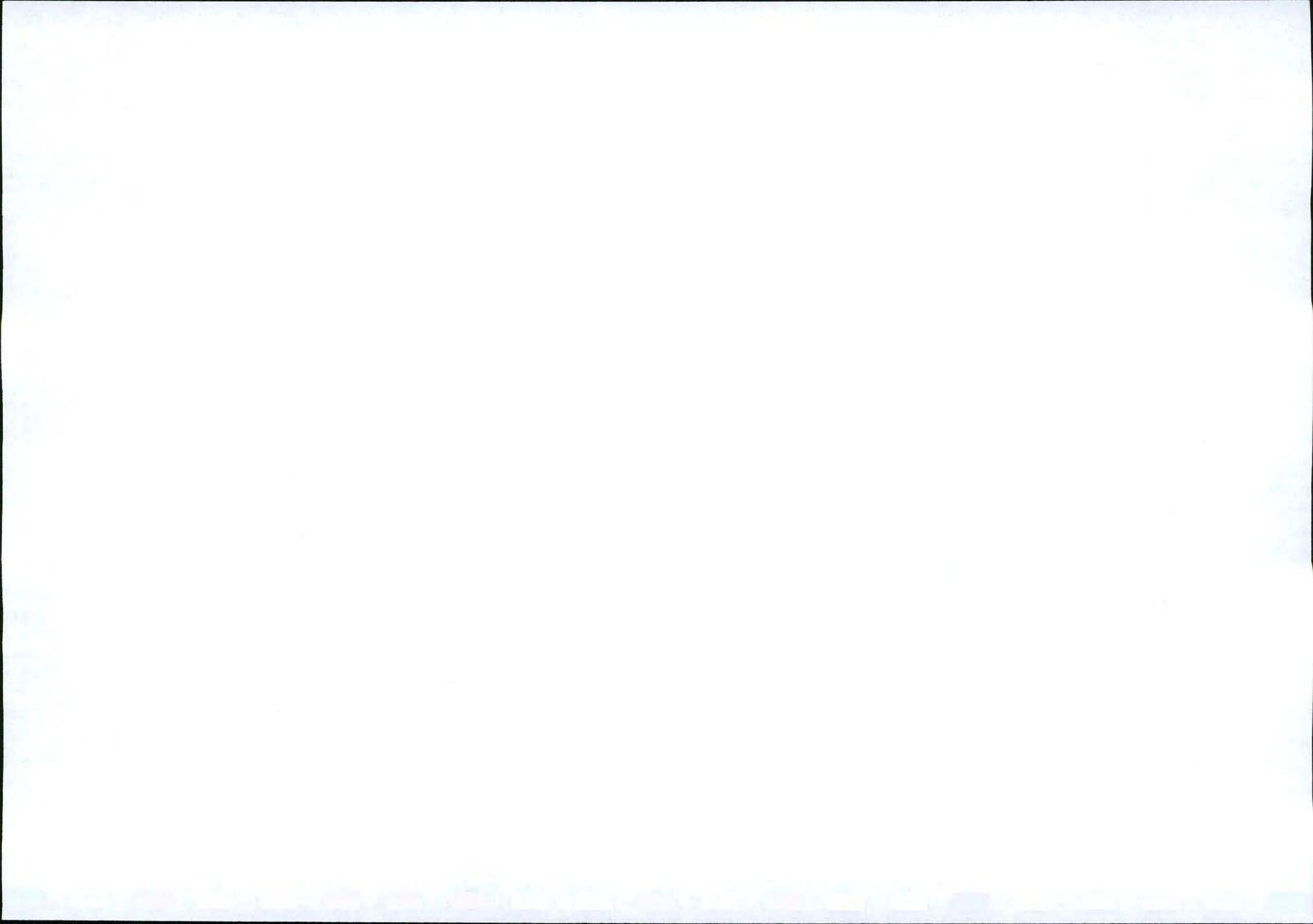
FIG.31 In 1961 a number of men, including Johannes van der Bÿl, were instructed to open up the vaults at the Stellenbosch church before being finally sealed (Origin unknown).



61. The vault of A.C. van der Bÿl of Spier in front of the Stellenbosch DR Church. Andries died in 1830, which indicates the period of these vaults.

FIG.32 The coffins in such a vault were merely stacked, yet were still intact. Note the iron grips and surrounding decoration (Origin unknown).





4.4.2 Church 1717 - present

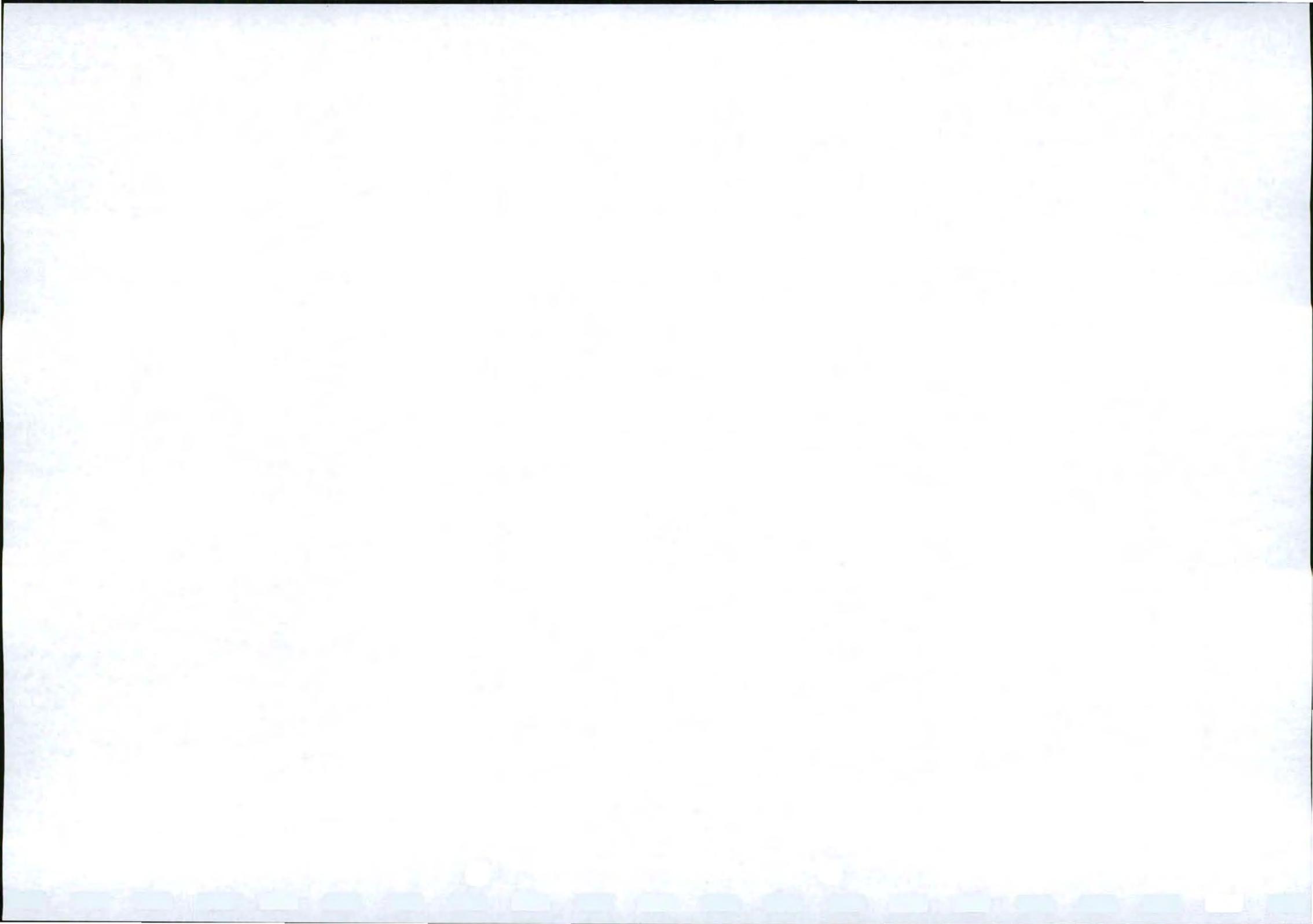
By 1717 burials were already taking place in the new graveyard around the proposed new church, which was completed in 1722 (Hugo & Van der Bÿl 1963:53,86).

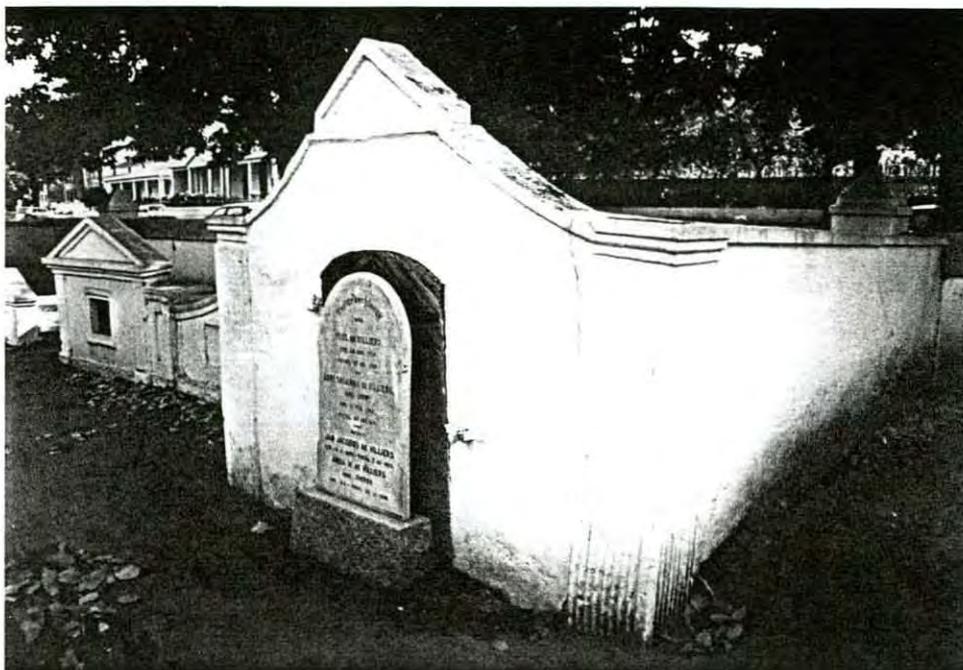
It was possible to purchase burial plots both inside and outside the church. Only a few vaults in the churchyard survive, including the vault of the Van der Bÿls (A.C.). Johannes van der Bÿl (18.11.1823-7.1.1875) of Market Street 37 was buried in the *Oude Kerkhof* of 1722 (Graveyard Notice Book). This vault was sealed in 1919 (Ibid.:217) and therefore not open for investigations carried out by Drs M. Swart, A. Hugo, Mr Johannes van der Bÿl and others (Ibid.:216-218) (FIG.31).

These low-lying vaults were originally built to a depth of 1.5 metres below the present surface, in a manner quite similar to those at Welmoed. In the Stellenbosch vaults the coffins (large and small) were merely stacked upon one another (FIG.32). None were covered with sand as at Welmoed.

Many of the graves outside the church became dilapidated and unrecognizable. Consequently, during the digging of new graves since the 1820s skeletons were unearthed (Fensham 1986:37). Another site for a graveyard was acquired by 1847 in the vicinity of the present Stellenbosch North Church, which was in use until 1893 (Ibid.:38). The church actually encouraged descendants to transfer the remains of their ancestors (those in the vaults around the 1722 church) to the new cemetery. Here burials commenced after construction of a white perimeter wall reaching almost to the Kromme Rivier farm (Hugo & Van der Bÿl 1963:141, 142). Most of the vaults at the new site were semi-detached, judging by a photograph of 1936 (Stellenbosch Museum). According to entries in the cemetery Graveyard Notice Book (1874-1918), burials continued at the *Nieuwe Kerkhof Grafkelders* (New Churchyard Vaults) up to 1900, although persons were being buried in the *Nieuwe Kerkhof* (Steenenberg) at *Papegaisberg* as early as 1st January 1881.

From then on the Kromme Rivier cemetery was known as *het Oude Kerkhof* (*Grafkelder*) (*Vlakte*). For example, on 1.1.1882 Anna Maria van der Bÿl (sic), aged 23 years and 5 months, died at Stellenbosch and was buried there the next day.

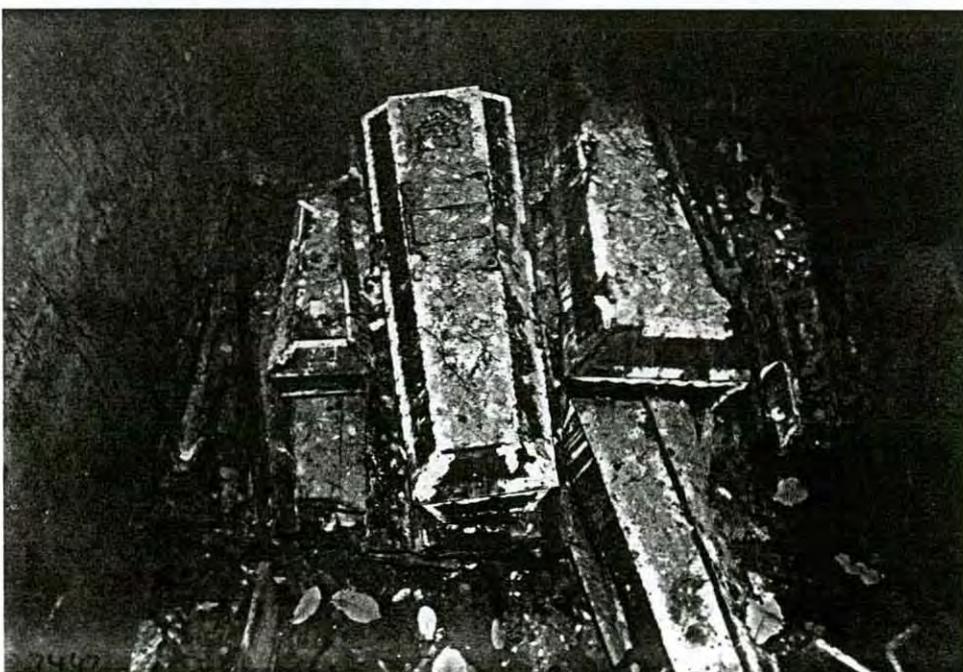




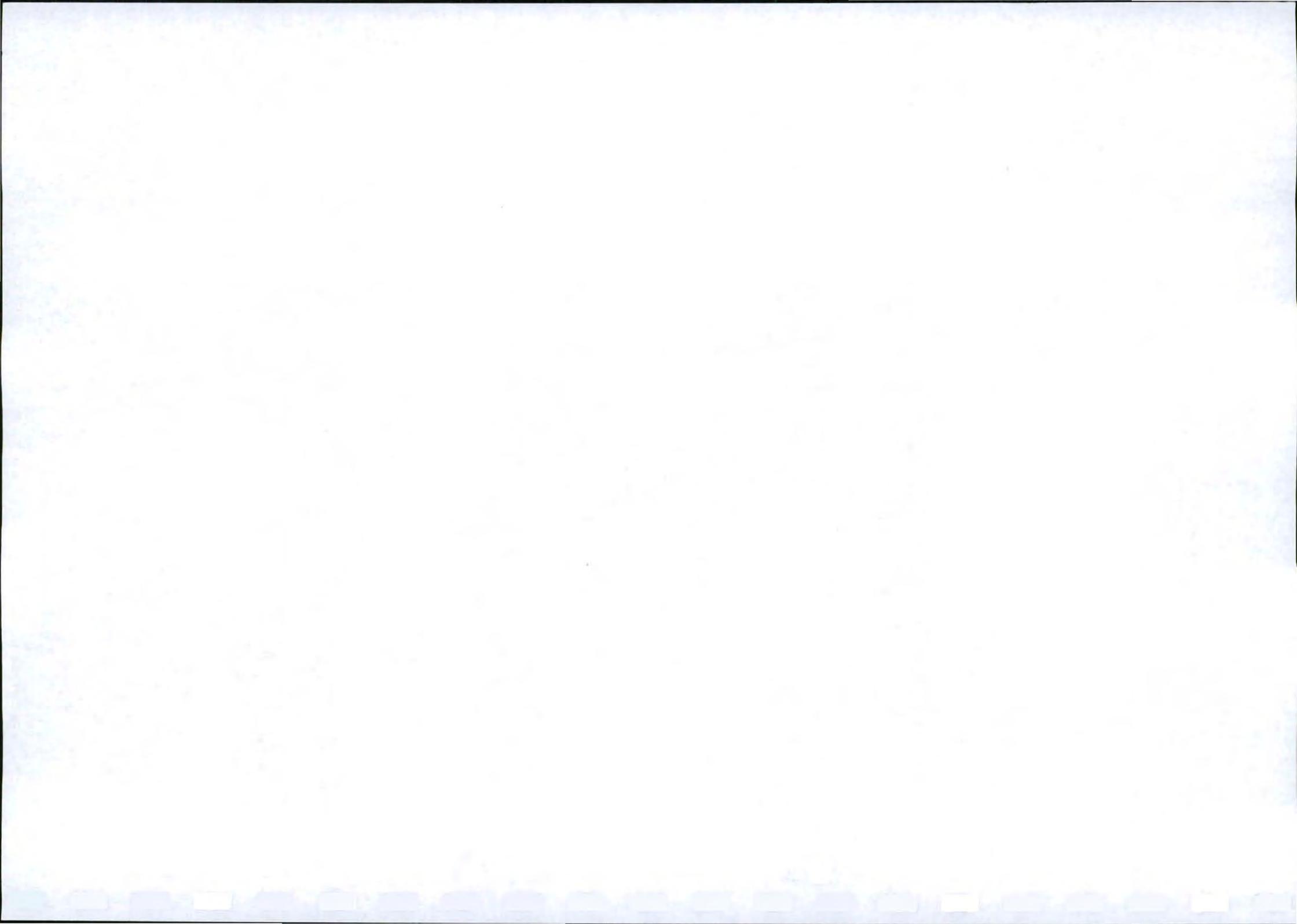
62. Numerous tombs and vaults surround the Paarl church of 1805. The De Villiers family vault dates from the 1830s (looking SW).



63. The domed ceiling of this vault developed a hole (due to dampness) through which the next photo was taken.



64. The interior of the vault is plastered down to the base. Large and small coffins are stacked here. Their good state of preservation is due to the dry interior (looking W).



4.5 PAARL CHURCH

At Paarl a church was built in 1720, with graves and burial vaults surrounding it as at Stellenbosch. In 1805 this church was superseded by a larger church. A number of vaulted graves still surround it (Coertzen 1987:112). In 1997 a small part of a mid 19th century vault collapsed which enabled the author to photograph the interior part, which was properly sealed-off by means of a door. The coffins inside were stacked in the Stellenbosch manner, somewhat in confusion.

5 DISCUSSION

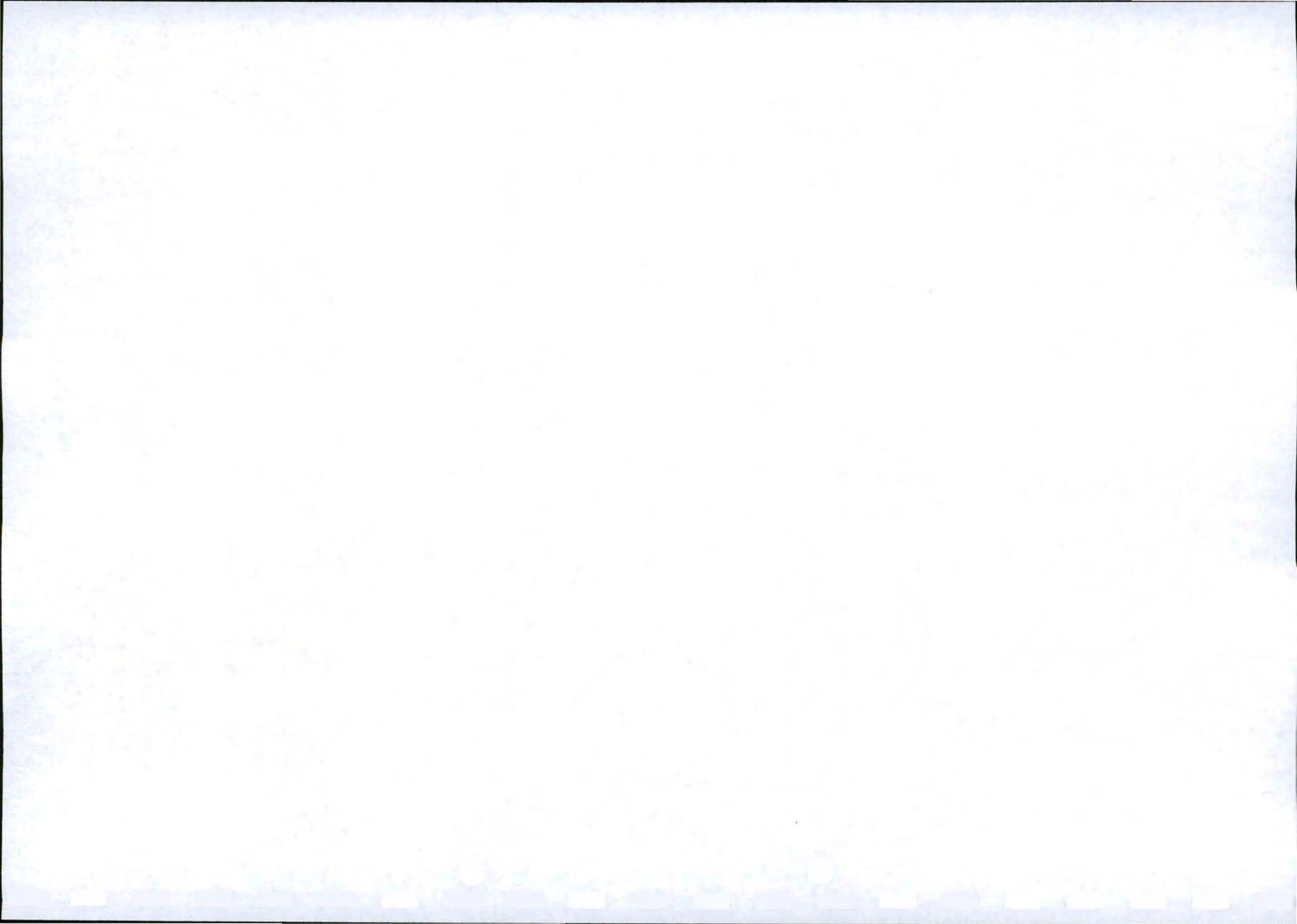
5.1 DEVELOPMENT OF GRAVEYARDS

Stellenbosch was originally an agricultural community dispersed over the countryside. Their request of 1682 for a school and church, resulted in the erection five years later of these and other buildings under the direction of Simon van der Stel. Douwe Steyn was the first sexton and *opsiender van 't kerkhof*. Everyone had to be buried at a fee in the first graveyard (1686-1717), because this was one of the few ways in which the church could generate funds. To be buried here one had to pay six guildens to the church and three to the grave digger (Hugo & Van der Bÿl 1963:7). Some were buried inside the church in small brick vaults, while probably all burials outside were in ordinary dug graves. By 1783 very few were still identifiable or even visible (Vos 1981).

In and around the second Stellenbosch Church burials took place between 1717 and 1880. Apparently outside tombs in the form of either low vaulted cellars or high, walk-in, vaults became fashionable only towards the end of the 18th century. This transition reflects the creation of an independent character of the settlers, who were asserting themselves within the context of VOC-officialdom, primarily through architecture (See Brink 1992; Vos 1993:242-252).

From the 1760s the Cape and especially the farming community who produced grains and wines, experienced some peaks in prosperity. Many farming establishments became self-sufficient in all respects, accommodating and lending out artisans, Meerlust and Elsenburg being prime examples. The emphasis was still on large families, extended family ties, and family lineage.

The Stellenbosch church (>1722) became too small for the growing congregation and cemetery space became unavailable by the 1800s. In view of these social and functional considerations, the development of graveyards on farms became an alternative. Not only did these private cemeteries reflect the inherent ownership, rights of the family and farm heritage, but they also provided



seclusion, sanctity and proximity to the departed. A further important consideration was that graves could now be tended more easily.

A small number of such private family cemeteries came into existence since the late-18th century. In the Cemetery Notice Book (1874-1918), there are numerous references to persons being buried at Moddergat, Libertas, Doornbosch, Bottelary or Knorhoek. Not all of these graveyards have survived.

5.2 WELMOED GRAVEYARD

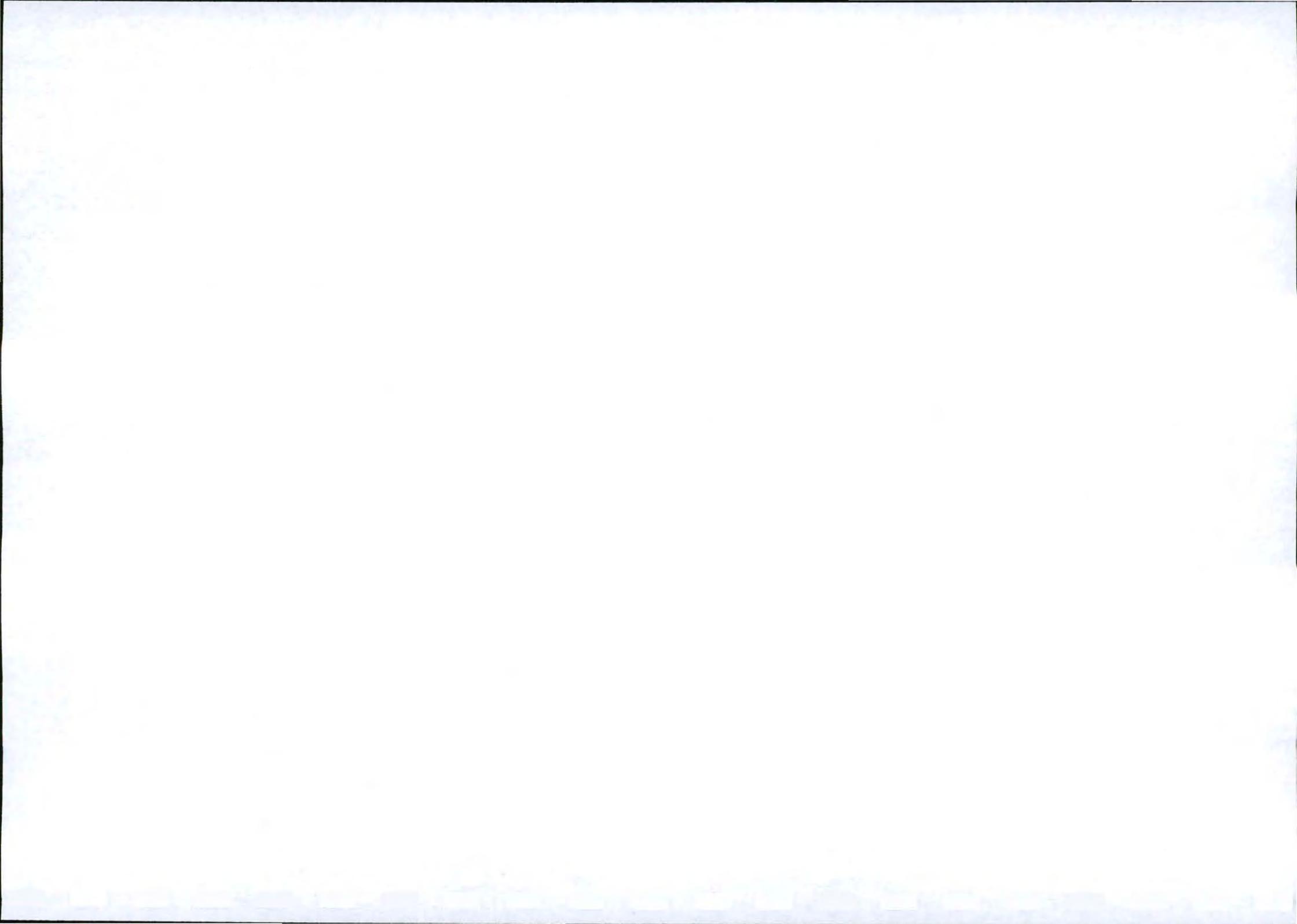
Pieter Gerhard's first wife was buried in 1789 on the adjoining farm Meerlust. Because he was acquainted with this walled family cemetery, he probably copied the idea, as well as the design, soon after his second wife died (1817) at Welmoed. The new graveyard (c.1820) can be seen as representing secondary activity, and is thus positioned behind the main line of buildings, just beyond the last longhouse. It is nevertheless, close enough to still form an integral part of the farm buildings as a whole, which is not the case at Meerlust. Note also that the cemetery faces the Welmoed complex, while the back is turned on Klein Welmoed, which was owned by Pieter Lourens from 1872-1884. Another encouragement to interment at Welmoed was the *New Stellenbosch Churchyard* of 1848, situated on the wind-swept and barren *vlakte* near Kromme Rivier farm, and far removed from the actual church.

The patriarchal status of Pieter Gerhard's tomb is confirmed by its central position and extended footing. With his sons Philip J. (on his left) and Pieter V. (on his right) these three vaults typify in a formidable way the staunch and proud Van der Bÿl family. Although Pieter Voltelen and his wife were buried here, as well as some of their daughters-in-law and grandchildren, it is interesting to note that none of their sons were.

After the farms Welmoed and Klein Welmoed were sold to new owners, the Van der Bÿl burials ceased. One can thus safely assume that the unidentified person in grave 5 was buried before June 1884. The construction of the five vaults followed a rather functional dictum of "build when needed" (see FIG.25).

At least 13 persons were buried at Welmoed between 1817 and 1884. The dates are as follows:

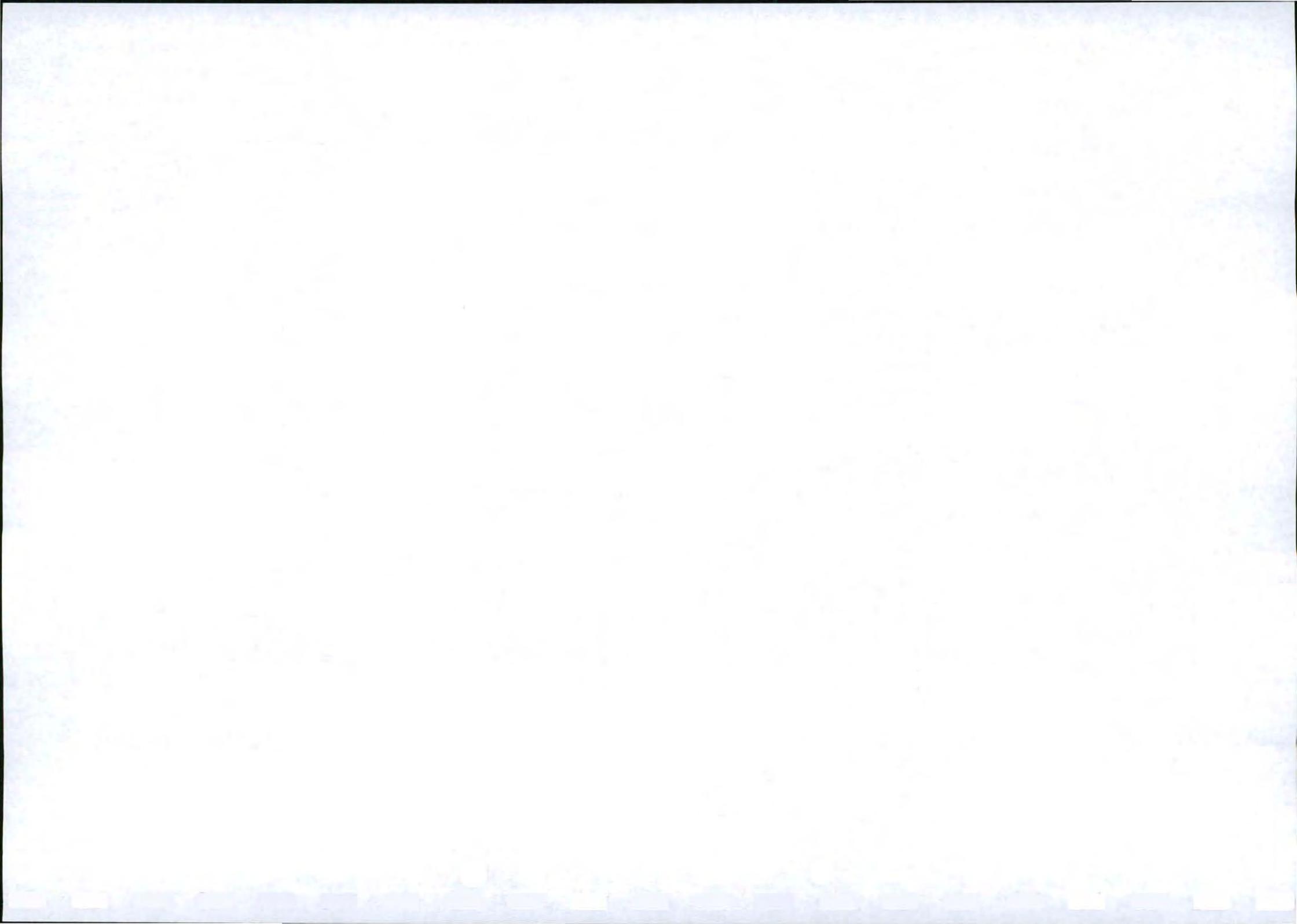
1817
 1831
 1847, 1848, 1849
 1859
 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876
 1881, <1884



The respective ranks of the officials were upheld according to a scale of precedence established by authority (*ranglysten*). When on duty, they were respected in the exercise of their power. When in church, they had their pews of distinction, and their wives were seated according to the ranks of the husbands, their chairs being arranged accordingly. The least deviation by the sexton or any other inferior created a sensation and provoked a rebuke; so strictly were these regulations respected, that even at funerals after the members of the family had followed the deceased, each individual present was called by name to follow in procession according to his rank in the "ranglyst." I have been told of an instance where a man of some rank had been rather late in his attendance, and the undertaker had actually halted the funeral procession in order to place him according to his rank in the *cortège*.

The funerals in the country were generally well attended; relations, connections, and friends made it a point, however distant their residence, to pay the last tribute of respect to the remains of the deceased. Hence a custom arose of preparing refreshment to be partaken after burial, regard being had especially to the distant travellers. This simple and well-meant custom at a later period degenerated into a mere feasting. When the mourners returned to the house of death, it was not unusual to present them with a variety of cakes, amongst these some in the shape of large loaves of bread named "*geraspte brooden*," rased bread, smoked sausages, olives, cold ham, old Rhenish and choice wines preserved for the purpose, pipes, tobacco, and with the more wealthy in such profusion that it was customary to take a share of cakes home for the family (*pour les enfants*). The practice has long since ceased, and the attendants at funerals retire from the grave to their homes after receiving simply thanks for their attention, especially those who aid to carry the coffin to and from the hearse. These bearers, usually intimate friends, in former times commonly received some donation, generally silver money, as did the pall-bearers.

FIG.33 Account of a funeral by Petrus Borchers (1963:193-4).



The relatively large number of Van der Bÿl descendants in Stellenbosch are buried in six locations:

1. In the family cemeteries on the farms Meerlust and Welmoed.
2. Either inside the first Stellenbosch DR Church (1687-1710), or otherwise in the surrounding churchyard (1687-1717).
3. Inside the second Stellenbosch church (1722) as well as in the surrounding churchyard, either in a family vault or in individually dug graves (1717-1880s).
4. In the new Stellenbosch cemetery with its vaults, near Kromme Rivier (1848-1900s) (This cemetery was demolished in the 1930's).
5. In the Papegaisberg cemetery (> 1881).

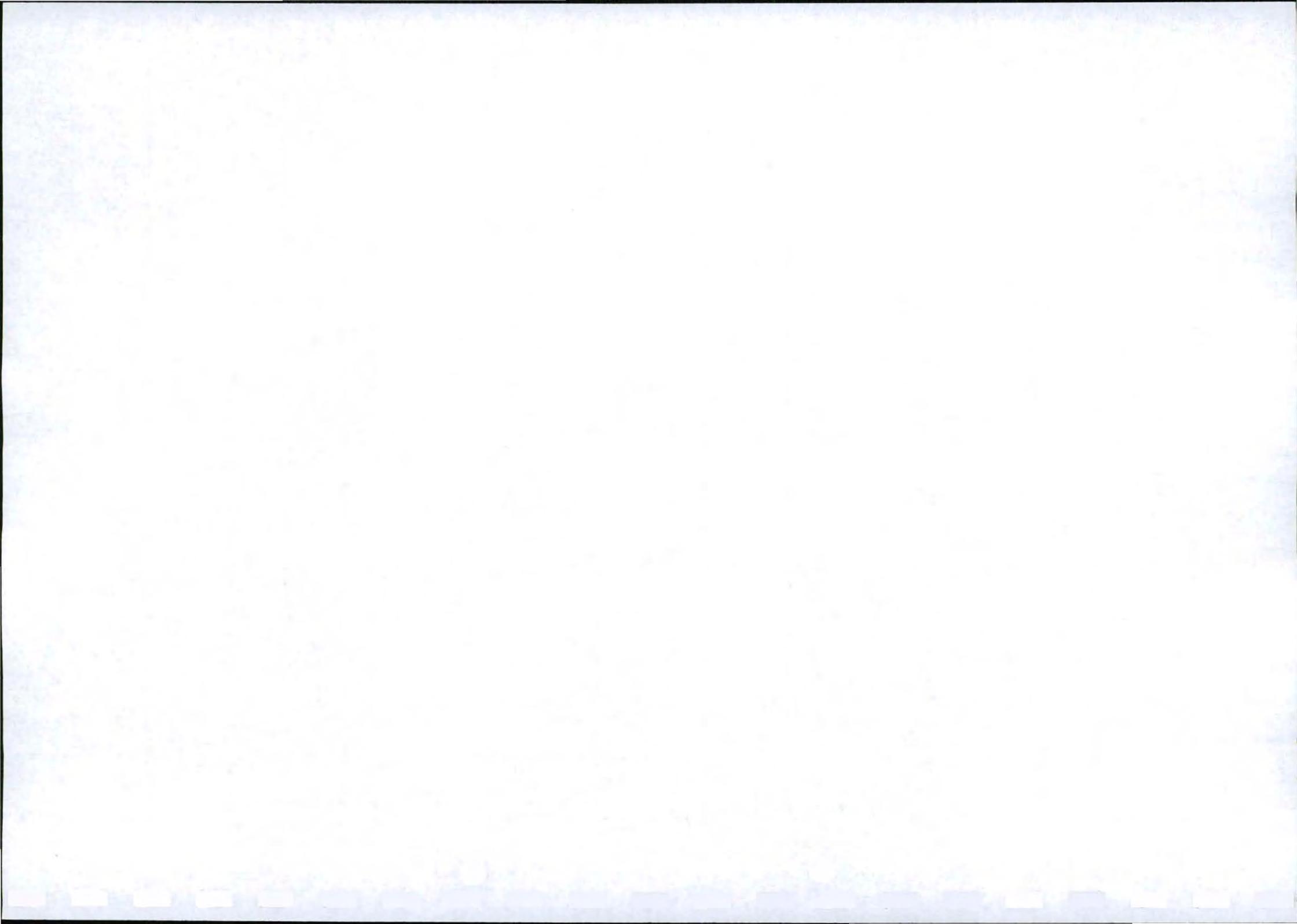
The range and size of the black slate slabs give us a detailed description of those interred. Most of the names are neatly inscribed in Roman capitals and lower case. The names of the patriarchs are invariably placed above those of their wives, even though in two cases the wives died earlier. Three slabs were inscribed in Dutch, accentuating their Afrikaander ancestry, while the other three were done in English.

Very little elaboration and virtually no decoration appear on the gravestones. The inscription on that of Celena Euphemia's, however, carries the touching epitaph *Suffer little children to come unto me* (Matthew 19:14). Simplicity was the rule, for the DR Church directed that graves in the new cemetery of 1850 were not to be decorated with sculptures, ornaments or inscription which was deemed offensive and improper (Hugo & Van der Bÿl 1963:142). Consequently no signs of vases, flowerpots or any such decorative grave-goods were found.

5.3 FUNERAL PROCEEDINGS

In Cape society rank and social standing were of great importance. Males held practically all offices in politics, trade, the military, local governing boards, etc. Women asserted their rank primarily through the positioning of chairs before the church pulpit, but also in funeral processions, and of course, in their own homes.

There are a few general descriptions of how funeral ceremonies in church were conducted at the Cape (Botha 1962:138-142; see **Annexure 4**). Proceedings at the Stellenbosch DR Church in 1857 are described by Hugo & Van der Bÿl (1963:248-53; see **Annexure 5**). Another account of a funeral is to be found in Borchers (1963:193,194), which is probably typical of the situation in the 1800s (**FIG.33**).



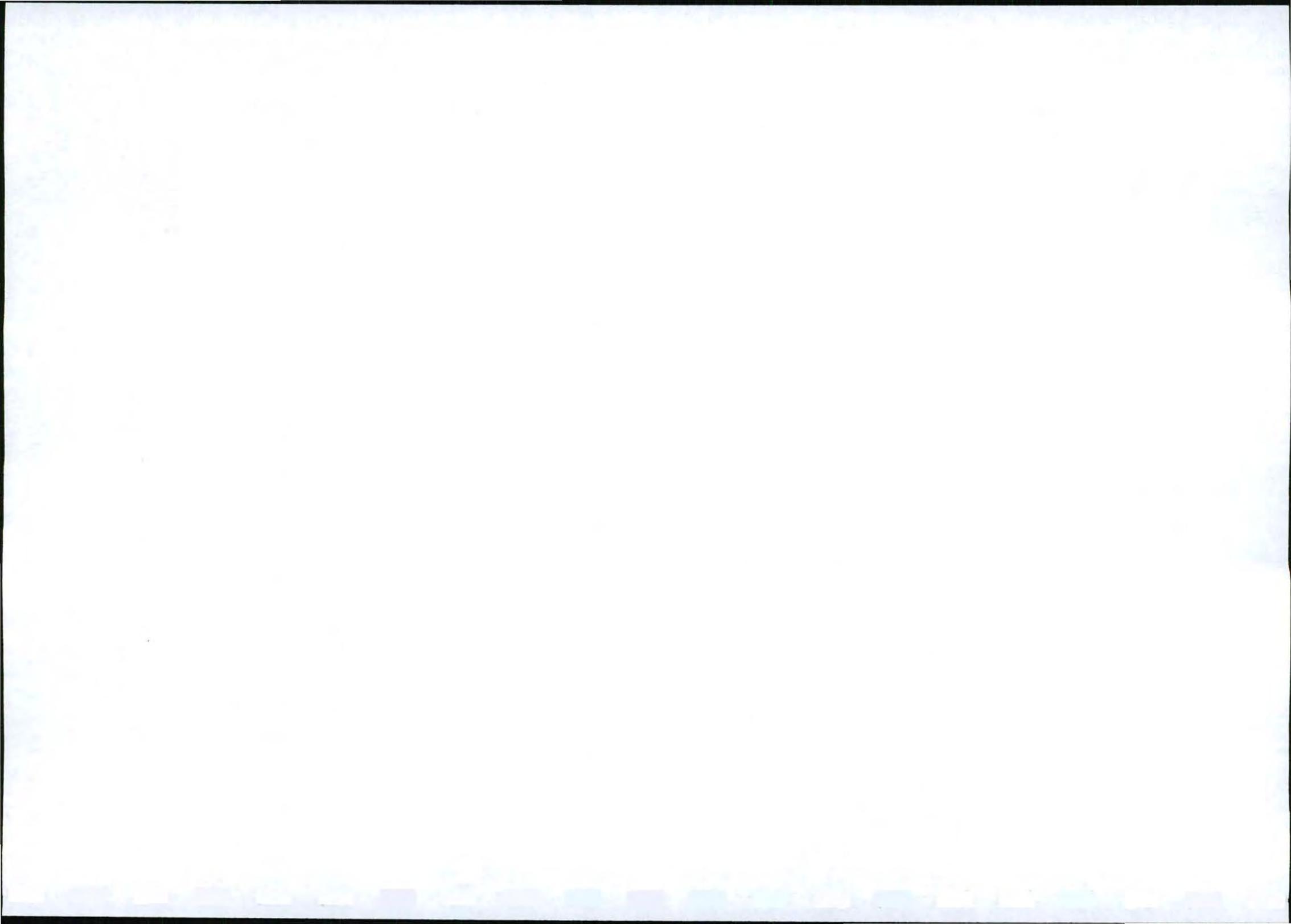
No good record exists of how a funeral would have been conducted on a farm during a private burial. Was the body of the deceased first taken to church and then returned to the farm? In the absence of firm evidence, the following can be imagined:

When a death occurred, the undertaker at Stellenbosch would have been informed of the fact. Then either he or relatives (or servants from Welmoed) would have taken a handwritten notification concerning the church service and interment to those invited. Relatives and friends would arrive by horsedrawn cart and carriage at the DR Church, where the service was to be conducted. Women would take their seats according to their rank in the central nave, while the men took their place in the aisles. Then, while listening to the strains of a mournful organ, everybody waited quietly for the preacher to appear on the crape-bedecked pulpit. After the service the sexton probably announced that the burial was to take place at Welmoed, and invited all to attend the ceremony and later partake in refreshments.

The Van der Bÿl family would have been the first to leave the church, followed by relatives and friends. They would also head the procession to the farm. Here, in a designated house (*sterfhuis*), the body would be lying in a dark room. A few close relatives may still have kissed the corpse before the lid of the coffin was closed and secured. The well-constructed teak chest was provided with pressed-tin ornaments and strong iron grips on all four sides. On the lid appeared the painted name of the deceased, as well as the date of birth and death.

Six or eight male relatives would then lift the black-draped coffin, without any flowers, unto a cart specially prepared for this task. Family and friends would follow in pairs behind the hearse to the graveyard. Muted ringing of the old slave bell, used to regulate farming activities, would accompany the solemn cortege. Servants and labourers would stand, hat in hand, amongst the trees and follow at a respectful distance. At the graveyard a few words would have been said by the remaining spouse or senior male relative, ending with a hymn and a prayer. Then one or two bearers would have crawled into the vault, opened up earlier that morning, to receive the coffin and properly position it. A small ladder may have been used to get out again. After everyone had left the graveyard, labourers would have shovelled fine grey sand over the coffin, and a mason would have bricked up the front - still on the same day as stipulated by the Church.

With eyes still wet with tears, the funeral guests would meanwhile have returned to the house of the deceased. Here the sorrowful atmosphere would soon dissipate as guests, many of whom would have come from afar, partook in the food and drinks on the heavily laden tables. While the men stood around with their drinks and tobacco pipes, the women would have congregated in the dining room with cups of tea and coffee, gossiping and exchanging news. Outside, labourers and servants

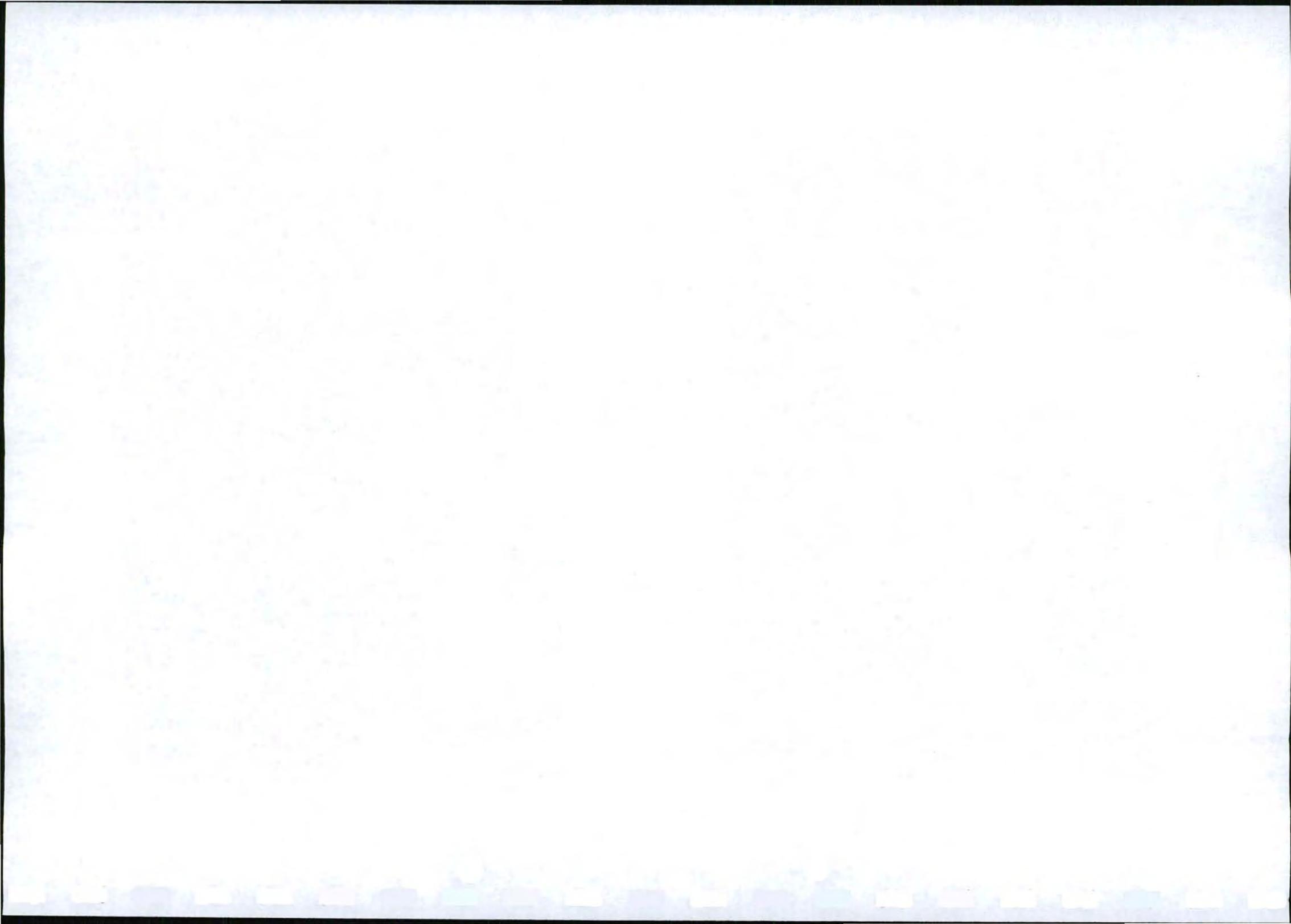




65. A view of the Welmoed graveyard in its overgrown state.

66. After the application of a herbicide, excavations commenced which subsequently revealed much about the construction of the vaults. The outbuilding in the background is a promising candidate for restoration.





would be treated to wine and generous helpings of food. In the late-afternoon friends from town would slowly wend their way home, whilst certain relatives would prepare to sleep over.



67. The outbuilding near the graveyard has been altered over the years. The gable of c.1800 may have been rebuilt (view to the east).

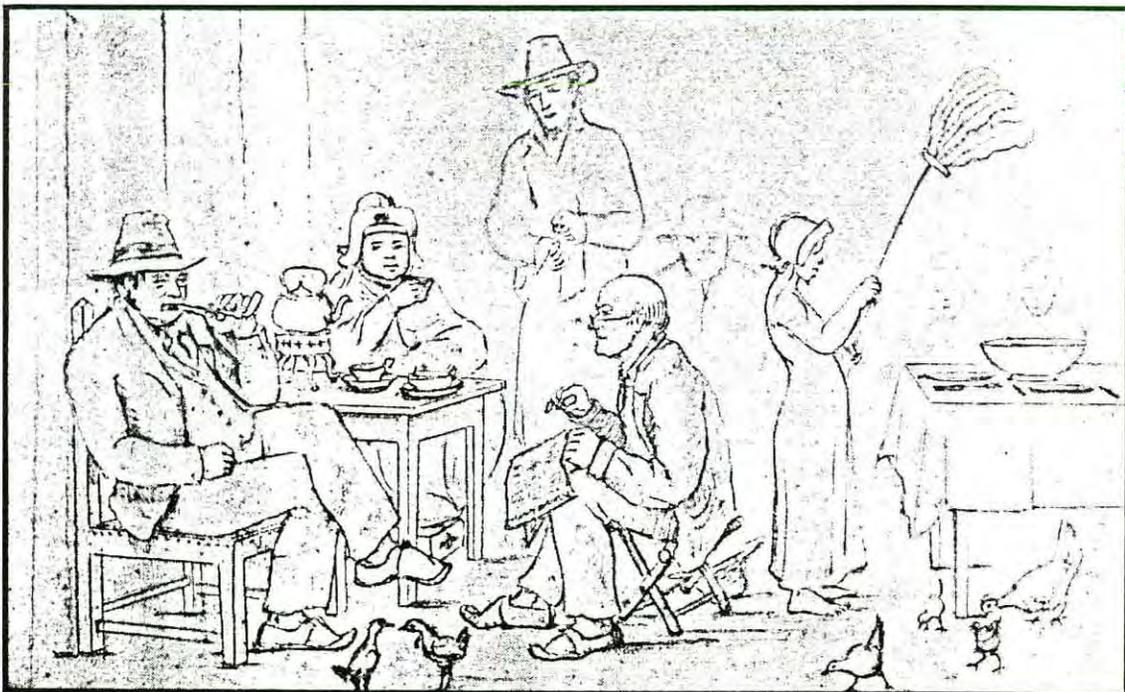
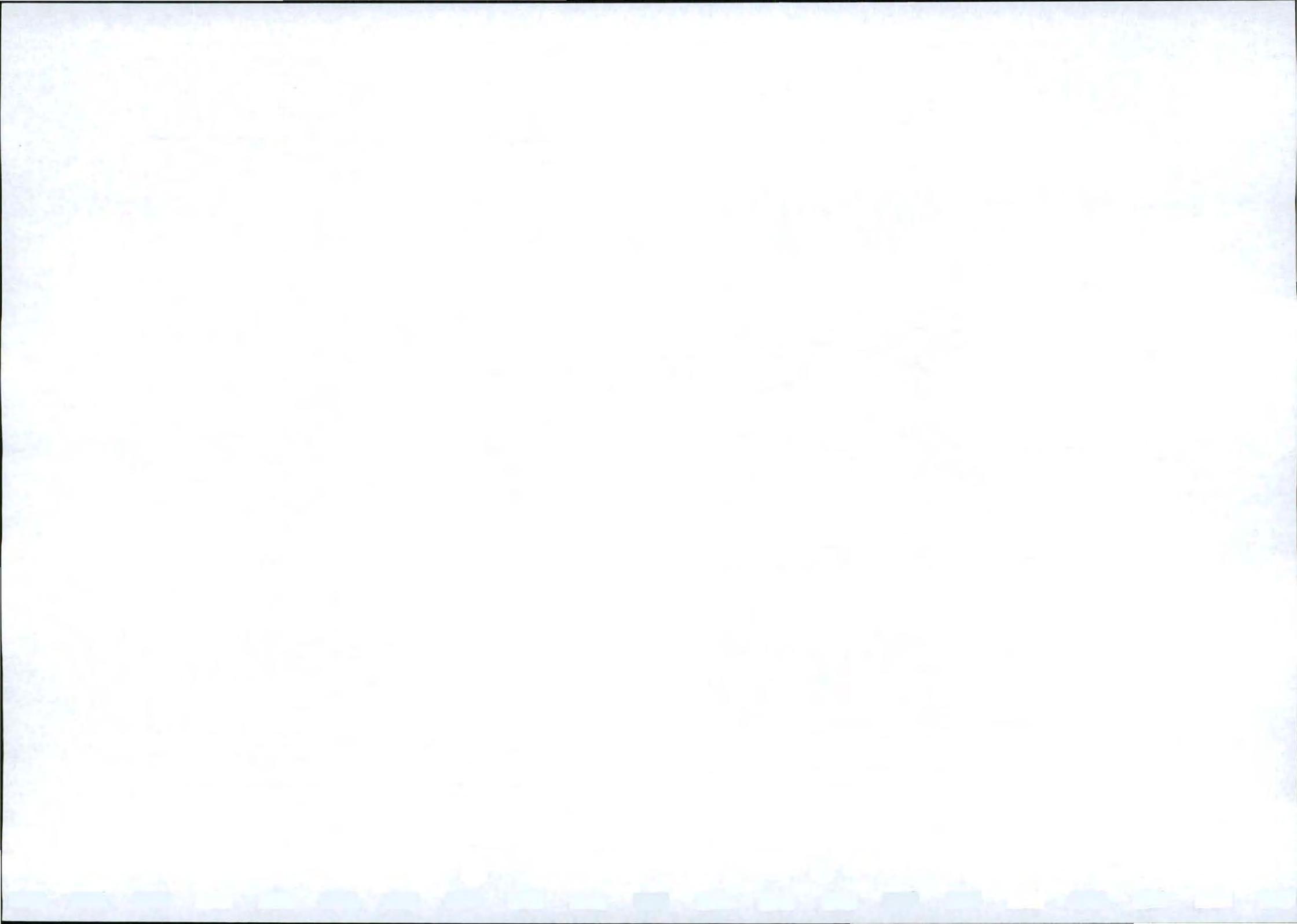


FIG.34 A Typical *voorhuis* scene of a farmer's home of about 1850. A schoolmaster is explaining from the paper *De Zuid-Afrikaan* (De Kock 1952:124).



6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is laudible that the Welmoed graveyard is to be restored. Recently, cemeteries have been neglected, violated and destroyed in favour of unsympathetic developments.

Much of the graveyard is still intact, and with careful rehabilitation the complex can regain its former dignity. Restoration materials such as plaster should match the originals as closely as possible, especially where they make contact with old brickwork and mortars; this applies particularly to the inside of the vaults.

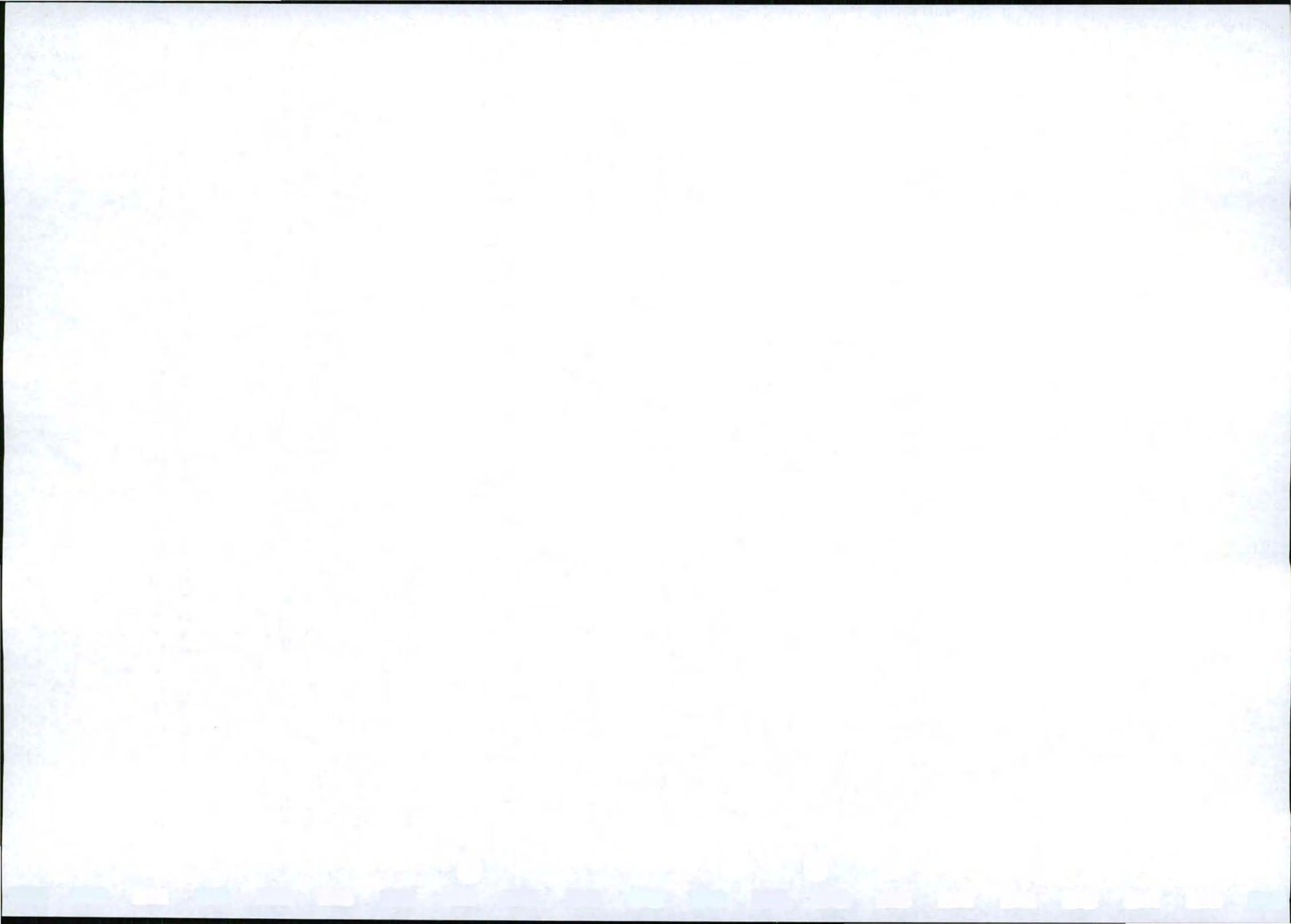
In vault 1 all collapsed brickwork and plasters should be removed down to the level of the fine sand. A boarded surface could, for example, protect the layers of coffins below. There is evidence of three slate slabs which should again be attached to the wall.

The boundary wall and all vaults have been heavily repaired with cement plaster. Where it adheres firmly it should be retained, otherwise practically all detail will be lost. The whole should be limewashed at least twice to provide a solid basis. There are signs of whitewash, but also of cream washes, the latter which I would recommend, being more fitting for a 19th century cemetery, and easier on the eyes. A cream wash will also immediately impart an authentic atmosphere to the place.

At present the surfaces are built up about 30-40 cm, but it would be advisable to lower these throughout. Tomb 1 and 2 with their extended footings will then come into their own right. It will also reveal the stone foundations of the vaults, which would reduce water penetration. Vaults 4 and 5 would also be exposed to their original depth as intended. The footing of the boundary wall could serve as a good marker for the new surfaces. It is recommended that a new inscription on a small slate slab be provided for vault 4.

Vault 5 needs to be overhauled completely. All cement should be removed, the vault fully cleaned down to its original level, and its old surfaces traced and neatly plastered accordingly. On the outside of the boundary wall the cobbled foundation is visible down to a certain depth. It is suggested that earth be added here to slope away from the exposed and newly plastered foundations. A new gate or pair of gates, possibly of iron, should in any case be fitted (Please note the designs of gates at other graveyards).

An inscribed slab of slate (not brass in the present situation!) could be affixed to the inside of the graveyard wall in commemoration of the present restoration. A contact number or address could be provided to report any undesirable happenings.



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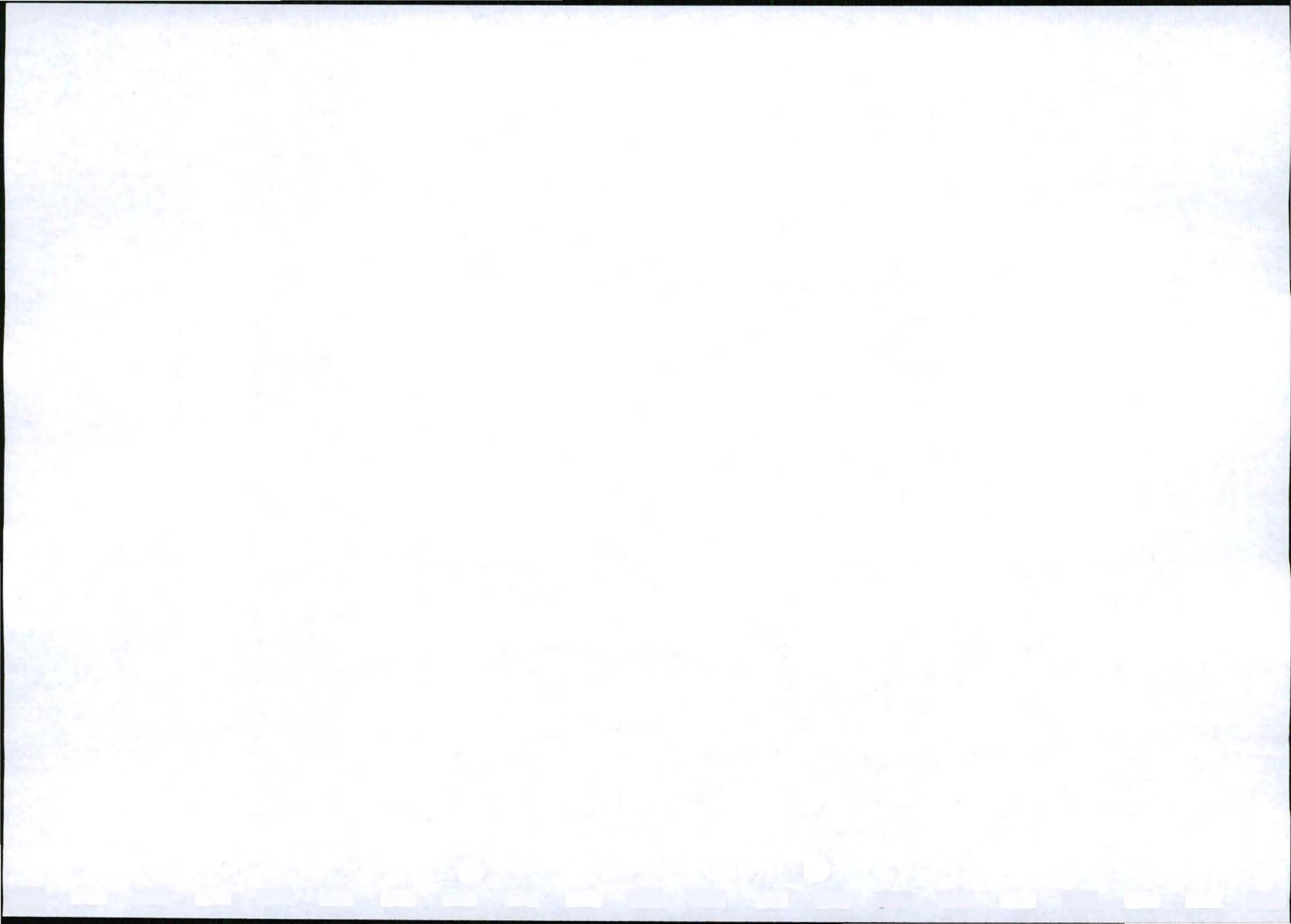
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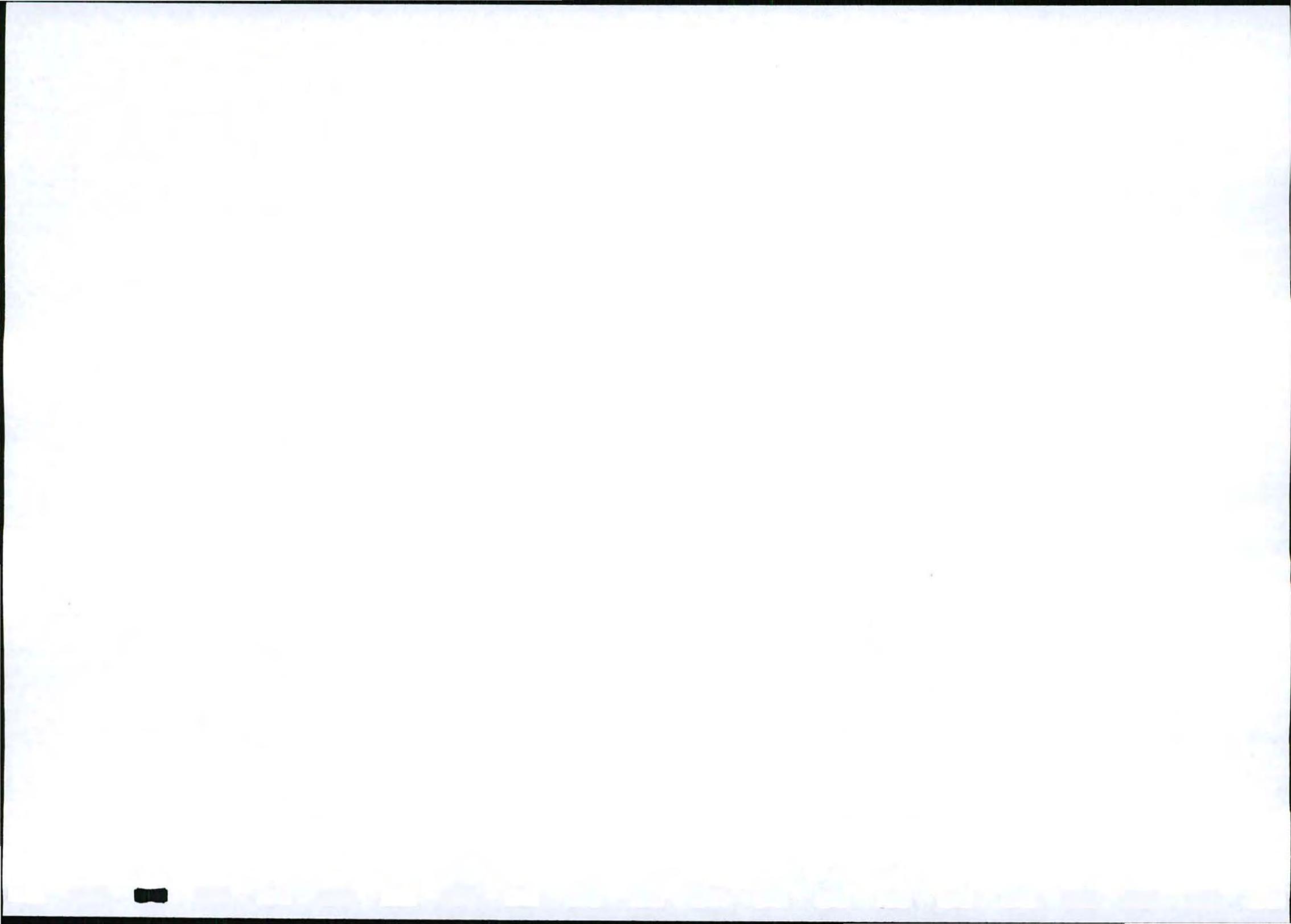
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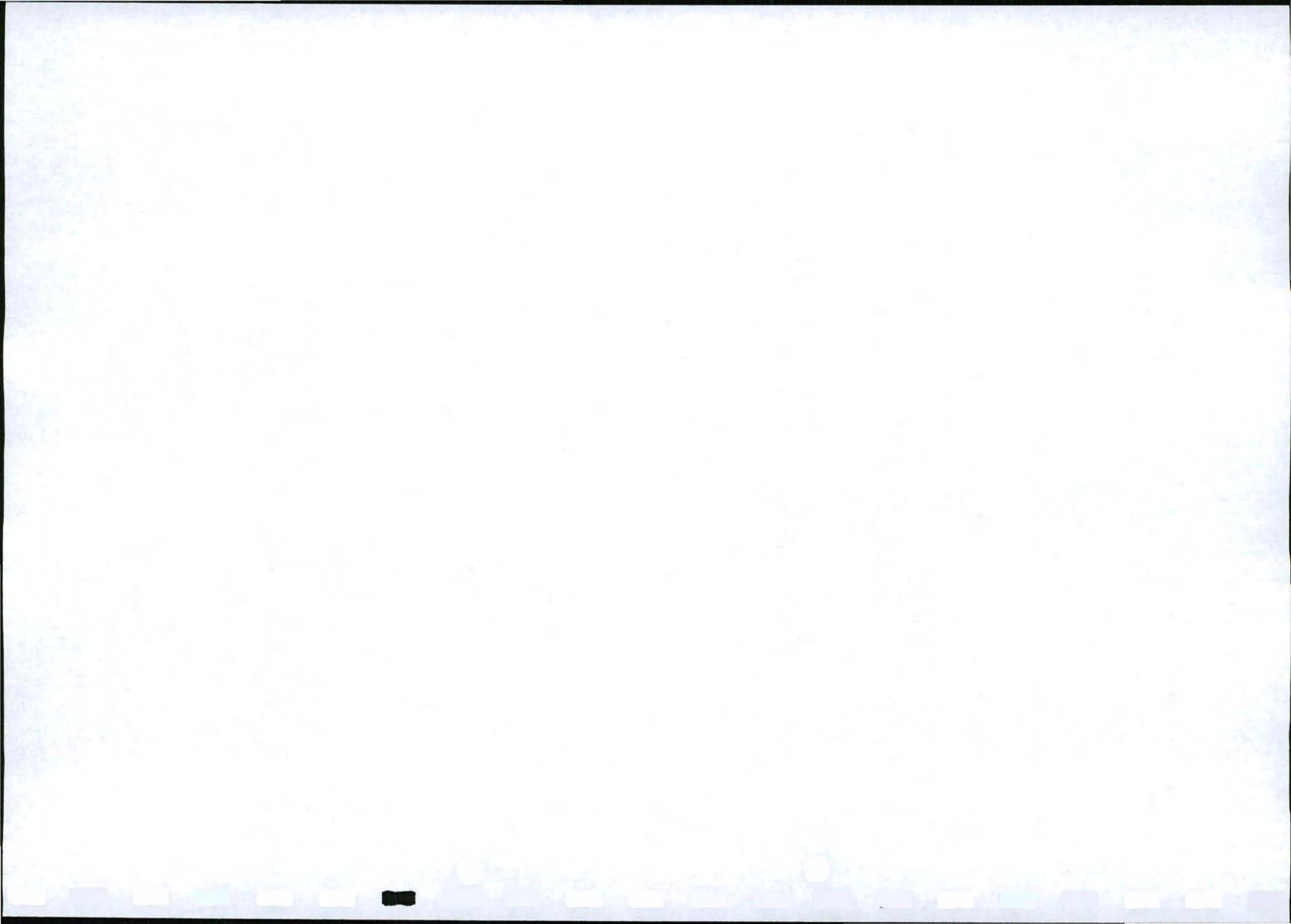
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RAAD VIR NASIONALE GEDENKWAARDIGHEDE · NATIONAL MONUMENTS COUNCIL

ONS VERW. OUR REF. 9/2/084/176

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PERMIT
No. 80/98/02/010/51

DATUM DATE

issued under Section 12(4) of the National Monuments Act (Act No. 28 of 1969, as amended).
Permission is hereby given

to: Mr H N Vos
of: the Research Centre for Historical Archaeology, Private Bag X5068, Stellenbosch, 7600
for: the excavation and temporary removal of graves and grave goods during the rehabilitation of an historical graveyard on the farm Welmoed
in: the Stellenbosch District, Western Cape Province.

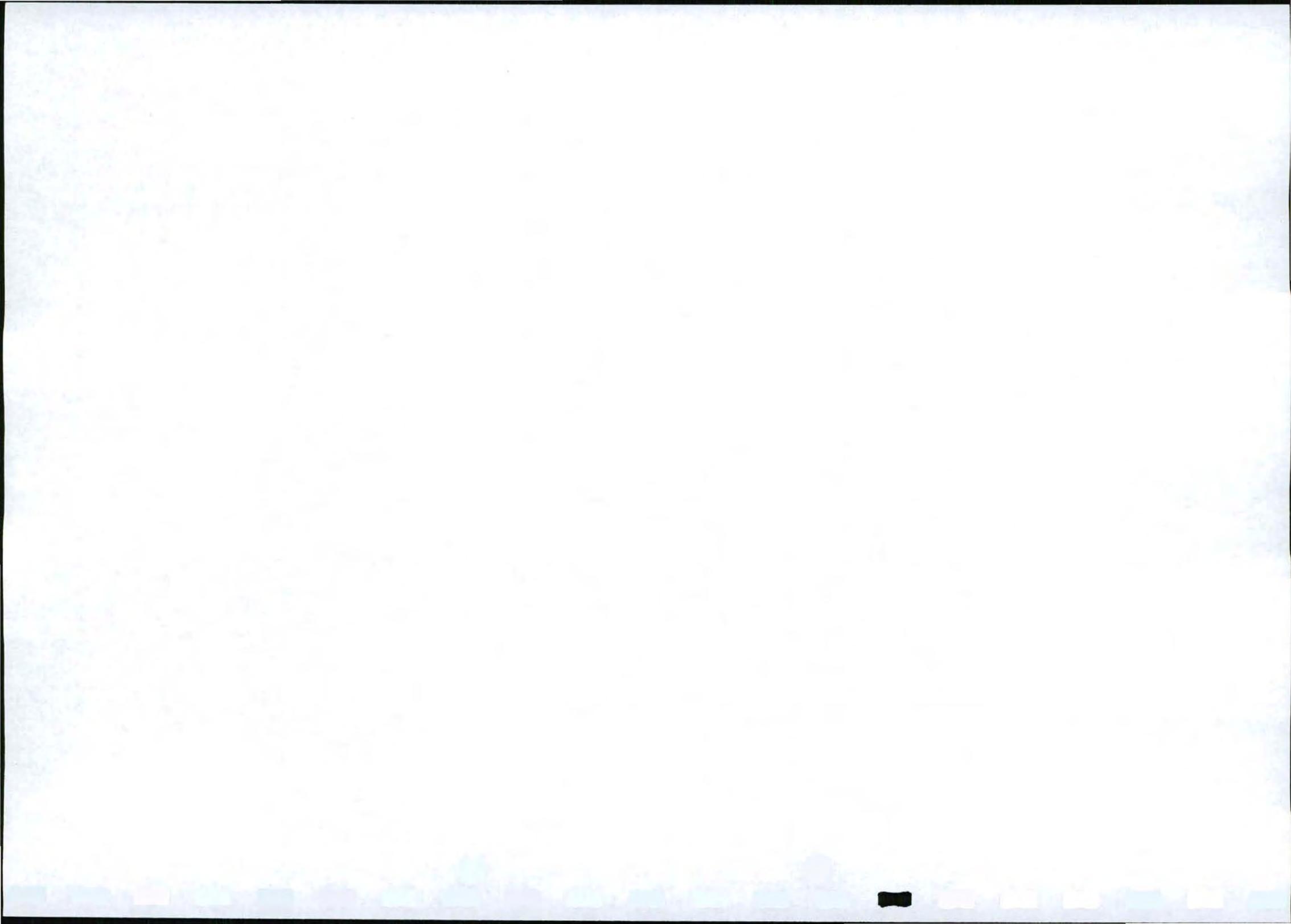
The following conditions apply:

- 1. Adequate recording methods as specified in the By-laws pertaining to the National Monuments Act must be used. Note that the position of all excavations and objects collected must be marked on a plan of the site.
2. A standard site record form must be lodged with the Stellenbosch Museum.
3. All artefacts and associated materials collected become the property of and must be accessioned and catalogued at the Stellenbosch Museum.
4. A report on activities connected with this permit must be submitted to the NMC on or before 1 March 1999 and a final report is due on or before 1 March 2000.
5. Reprints of all published papers, or copies of theses or reports resulting from this work must be lodged with the NMC.
6. If a published report has not appeared within three years of the lapsing of this permit, the report required will be made available to researchers on request.
7. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to obtain permission from the landowner for each visit and conditions of access imposed by the landowner must be observed.
8. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to fill in excavations and protect sites during and after excavation to the satisfaction of the NMC and the landowner.
9. The NMC shall not be liable for any losses, damages or injuries to persons or properties as a result of any activities in connection with this permit.
10. The NMC reserves the right to cancel this permit upon notice to the permit holder.

This permit is valid until 1 March 1999
for DIRECTOR [Signature]

Date: 26 February 1998

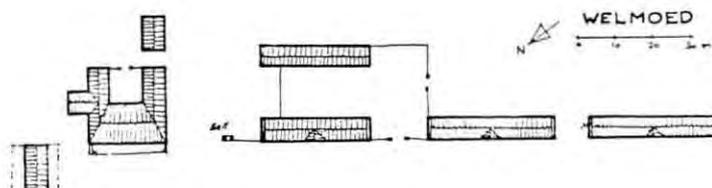
Place: Cape Town



WELMOED Granted to Henning Huysing (originally Hüsing) in 1690; nearly 140 morgen in size; Huysing had been in possession of the farm since 1680, and the diagram shows an L-shaped homestead and 3 outbuildings. It was transferred in 1696 to Huysing's friend (and later supporter in the anti-Van der Stel movement) Jacob van der Heyden.

In 1797 the farm was acquired by Pieter Gerhard van der Bijl, who during his ownership increased its size by means of a large quitrent addition. After his death, in 1831, Welmoed was divided between his sons, Philippus Johannes van der Bijl, who received the present Klein Welmoed (q.v.), and Pieter Voltelen van der Bijl, who received the present Welmoed — but not the old opstal. A row of 3 outbuildings, however, stood on P. J.'s share; they are still standing today. The central one has a gable with wings, a pediment and short pilasters, showing the influence of the holbol gables and therefore probably dating from c1790; the other 2 are holbol and date from c1780. The end-gables are holbol and very well-proportioned.

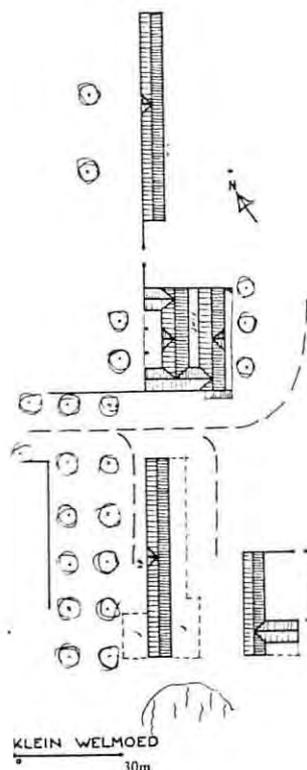
In 1834, P. V. van der Bijl built a large new house, U-shaped, in line with the other buildings and N of them. It still stands, but has been modernized; at one stage it had an upper storey (Elliott no 2423). A short side wing on the left has a pedimented end-gable with short pilasters, bearing the date 1818. The bell-tower is probably nearer the outbuildings in date. At the back is a charming enclosed graveyard, in which are the tombs of Pieter Gerhard and Pieter Voltelen van der Bijl. [De Bosdari: p71.] (Many subsequent alterations.)

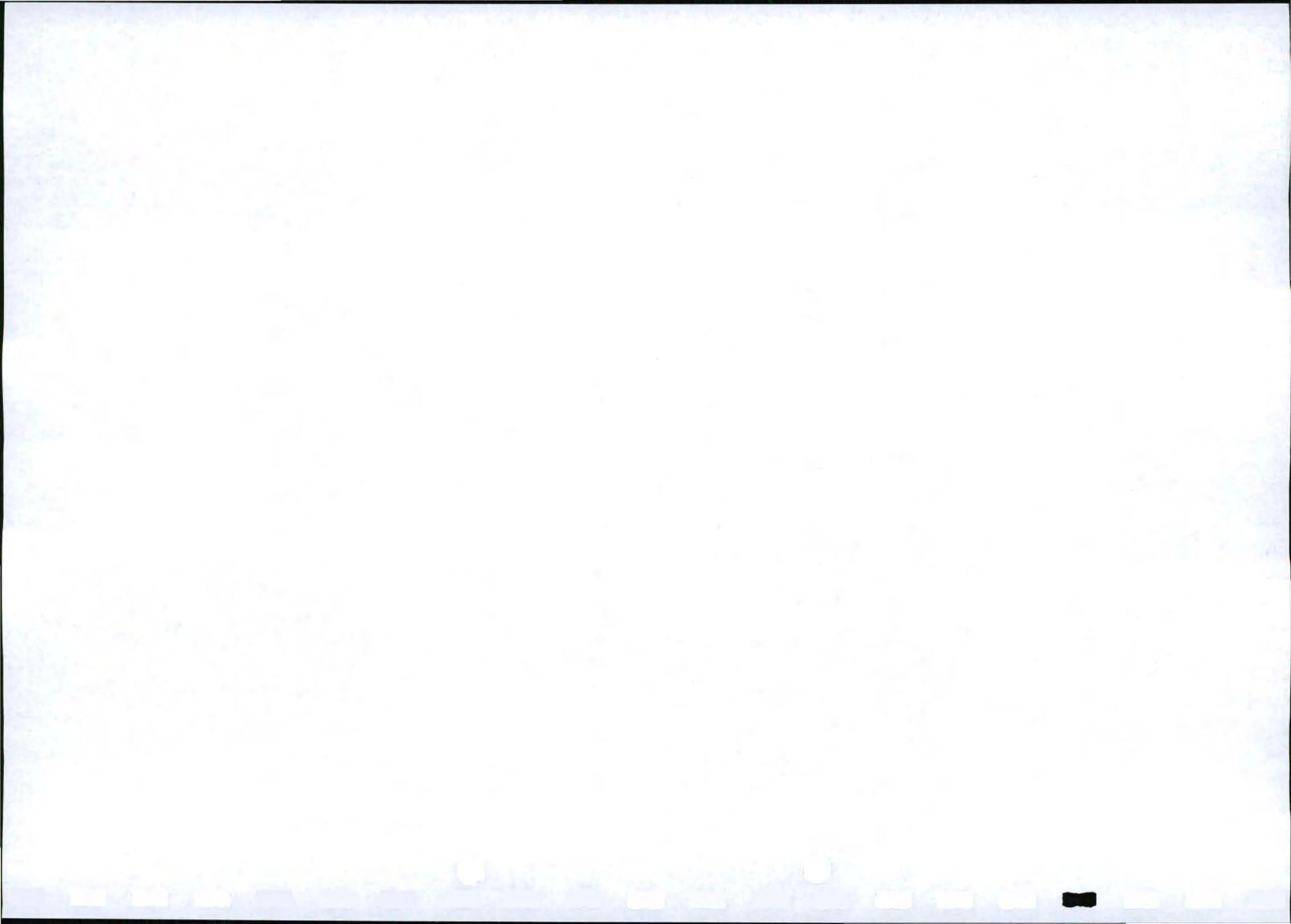


KLEIN WELMOED This farm has a complicated history; for the period before 1831, see Welmoed, part of which was transferred in that year from the estate of P. G. van der Bijl to his son, Philippus Johannes van der Bijl. This part of Welmoed, with the opstal on it, should logically have been the 'remainder' and should have kept the name Welmoed; the reason why it did not is unknown.

There is a building on the left, behind the house, which bears the date 1784 on its gable (though the gable is probably a recent replacement). This building is believed to be the oldest standing on Klein Welmoed. Of 2 other outbuildings flanking the house and in line with it, the one on the right is dated 1816, and must be the work of P. G. van der Bijl; it is reasonable to assume that the one on the left was built at the same time, though its gable is now clipped.

The house is dated 1825, and very likely incorporates the walls of an earlier house; its body is certainly older than 1825, and perhaps dates from the ownership of Jan de Villiers, A/sn, 1759-1797. It was probably an H-shaped house originally; but the ridge connecting front and back gables has disappeared (there is a history of bad damage by fire), and the space between the parallel wings is now a vaulted passage and has a flat roof. The back gable with pilasters and a pediment flanked by urns, was probably added by P. G. van der Bijl. The front gable, a replica of the back gable, is not original (Elliott, 1204). His son, P. J. van der Bijl, was probably responsible for the stoepkamers, the roof of the one on the right being an extension of the back wing of the house; perhaps he also built the vaulted passage after the fire, c1830. The external woodwork was replaced c1870, and the thatch was replaced by iron, with a slightly raised eaves level. The gables of the stoepkamers are modern; they replace late-straight ones. [De Bosdari: p71-72.]





ROYAL VISIT TO STELLENBOSCH IN 1860

In 1859 Sir George Grey, governor during the Second British Occupation of the Cape, persuaded Queen Victoria to send her seafaring son Prince Alfred Ernest Albert on a visit to South Africa. On 5 May 1860 the H.M.S. frigate *Euryalus* set sail from Great Britain on its journey to the Cape of Good Hope. En route the ship docked at several ports and on 24 June 1860 anchored in Simon's Town harbour.

Prior to Prince Alfred's proposed trip through the Cape Colony to British Kaffraria (Eastern Cape), the Orange Free State and Port Natal, the residents of Paarl, Wellington, Franschoek and Stellenbosch were afforded an opportunity to welcome the Prince and his entourage to their respective towns.

Prince Alfred's visit to Stellenbosch on 31 July 1860 was recorded as follows: "... the Royal party reached it (Stellenbosch) early in the afternoon and the inhabitants displayed as much enthusiasm as any else of their fellow colonists, to give the Sailor Prince a right royal reception among them. Stellenbosch differs widely in form and situation from its neighbour Paarl. It extends over a broad square plain surrounded by gently undulating hills. Its streets are at right angles to each other, and abundantly shaded with luxuriant rows of wide branching oaks, its houses are all of old quaint Dutch construction; and its inhabitants also almost entirely Dutch [...].

"As the Prince approached, he was received under the arches erected at



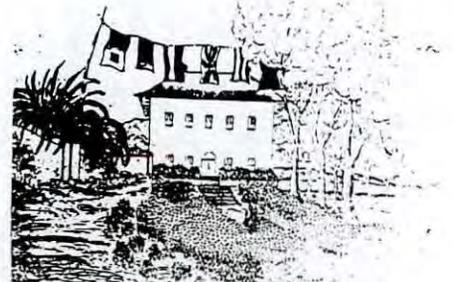
"H.R.H. Prince Alfred met at the environs and escorted into Stellenbosch by the inhabitants July 31-60"

the entrance of the town by the Civil Commissioner, Mr Ryneveld, and the Volunteers of the District with all befitting honours; and after advancing through the crowded streets, lined by Volunteer Riflemen, the procession halted at a tastefully constructed arch in front of the Dutch Reformed Parsonage of the place. This, being the most spacious residence in the town, was given up for the Prince's reception by its occupant, the Reverend Mr Neethling, and was newly furnished for the occasion by inhabitants generally.

"A carpet was laid from the arch to the house, and the Prince and suite advanced to the platform erected in the front of the stoep or terrace, and was received by Sir Christoffel Brand and Mr Bosman, the representatives of the Division of the Colonial House of Assembly, the applause of the assembled multitude

testified how thoroughly they appreciated the honour of his Royal visit.

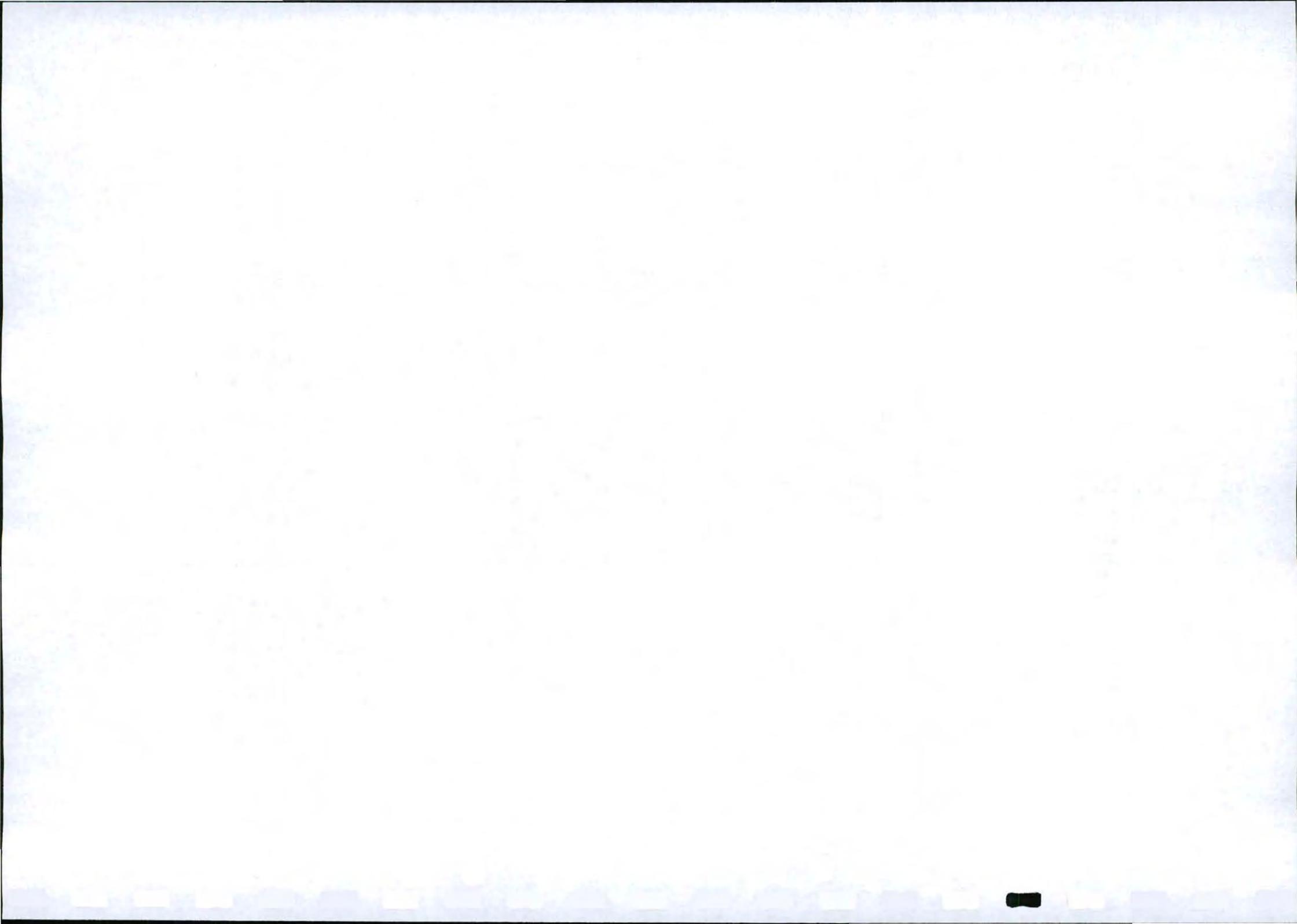
"Here a dutiful and loyal address was read, and shortly afterwards an appropriate reply was returned. [...] In the evening the Civil Commissioner entertained the Prince and a large party to dinner at his own residence.



"Reception of H.R.H. Prince Alfred at the Neethling House Stellenbosch July 31-60"

"Next morning early, the Royal party sallied forth and galloped down the rich valley of the Eerste River to the hospitable home of Mr Laurence van der Bijl, where a bountiful breakfast was in waiting - a necessary preliminary to the fox-hunt which was to follow [...] The hounds were brought out, the Prince mounted his steed in full hunting costume, and was attended by the master of the pack and members of the hunt, and all the party present."

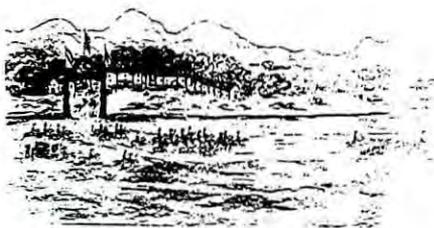
This two-day visit to Stellenbosch was also recorded in pictorial form by an unknown artist. These four pictorial Stellenbossiana are included in a set of 11 pen and



watercolour paintings depicting the Prince's short visits to towns within the Paarl and Stellenbosch districts.

The first drawing shows the Royal party approaching Stellenbosch after their visit to Paarl on the morning of 31 July 1860. It is assumed that the Prince and his party are seated in the open coach. They appear to be escorted into the village by members of the Stellenbosch Volunteer Corps. According to the drawing, the mounted riflemen of the Corps sounded off a gun salute to officially welcome Prince Alfred to Stellenbosch.

The second drawing is a pictorial recording of the reception of the Royal party at the parsonage of Johannes Henoch Neethling. Here they are welcomed by many residents of the town, members of the Volunteer Corps as well as the band of the corps. Reverend Neethling built this impressive double storeyed house at the top end of Dorp Street (demolished in 1959). It was described as having "one of the finest gardens in Stellenbosch" and it was here that Prince Alfred resided for the night before departing the following morning.



"H.R.H. Prince Alfred proceeding to hunt with the Cape Town Foxhounds from Mr Van der Byls house, Aug 1-60"

It is probable that the hunting party left from the farm Welmoed, then owned by the Van der Bijl family, after a hearty breakfast on the morning of 1 August 1860. Fox-hunting had become very fashionable at the Cape and hunting dogs were most probably hired from the *Union Hunt*, a hunting club in "D'Urbanville", to entertain the Prince and his party for the morning.

According to the date on the fourth drawing they must have left the village soon after the fox-hunt as the final drawing in the series of 11 depicts their arrival back in Cape Town on 1 August 1860.



"Inhabitants of Stellenbosch taking leave of H.R.H. Prince Alfred Aug 1-60"

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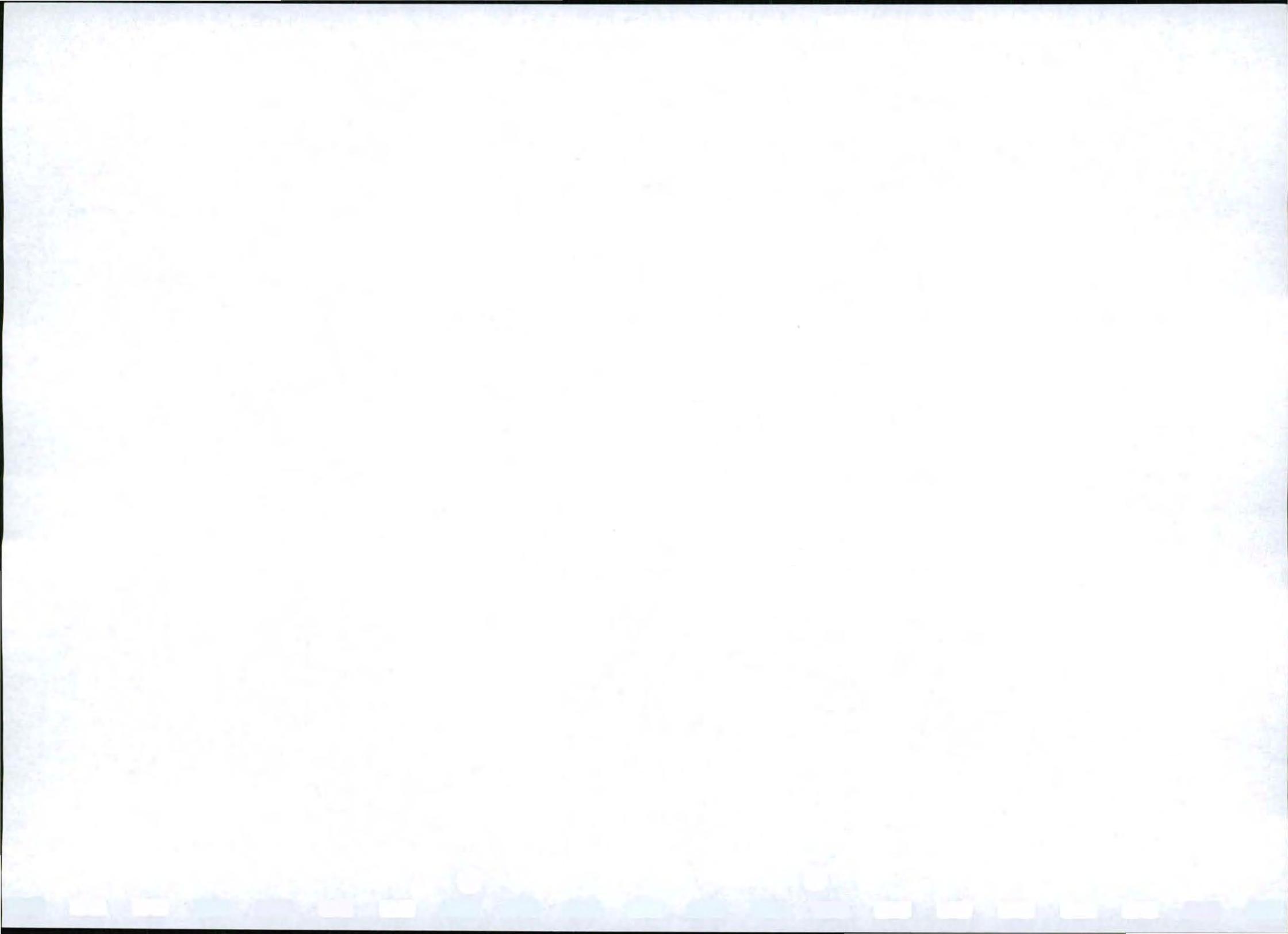
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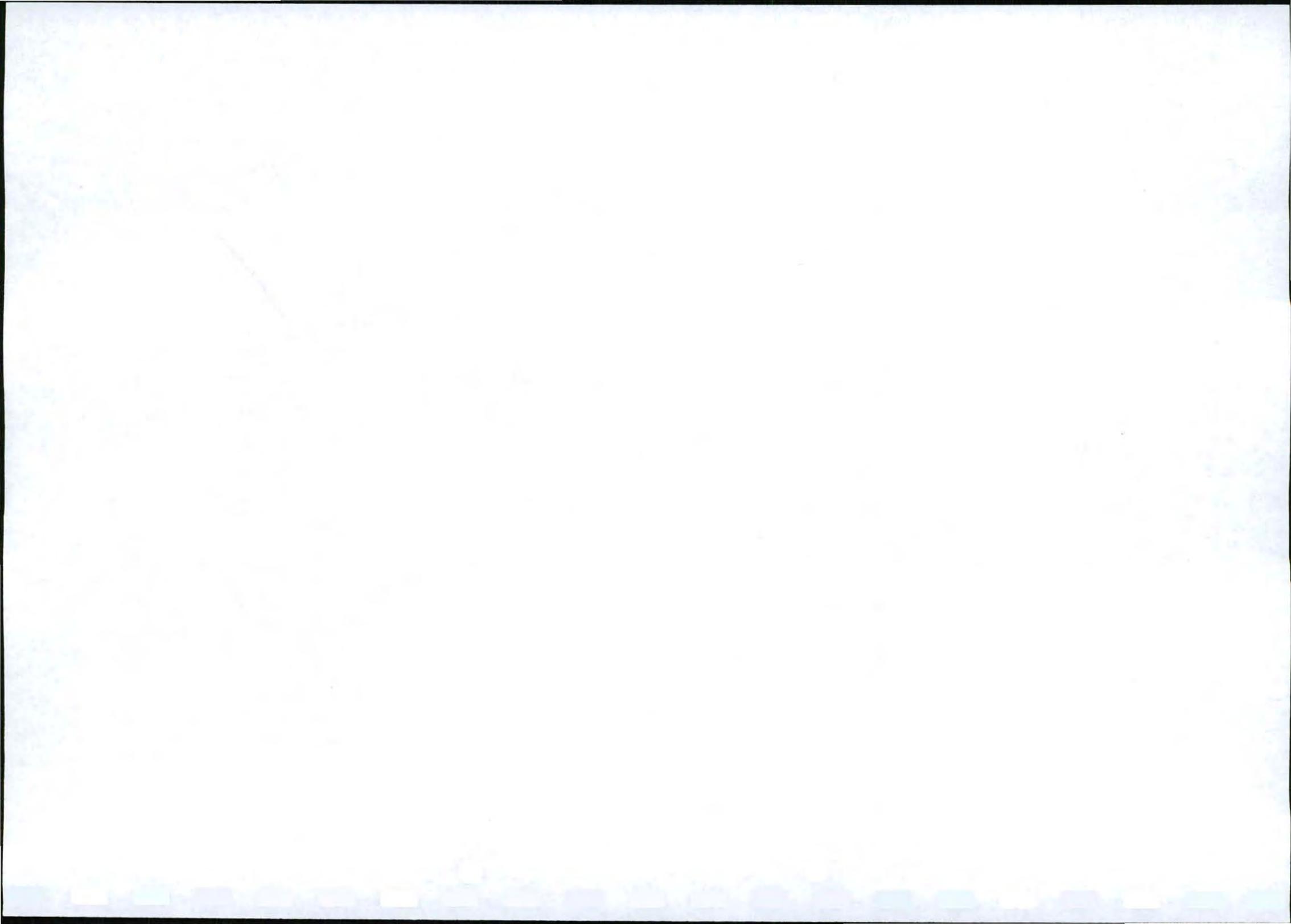
SOLOMON, S.: The Progress of His Royal Highness Prince Alfred Ernest Albert through the Cape Colony, British Kaffraria, the Orange Free State, and Port Natal in the year 1860, Cape Town, 1861

MARGARET NEETHLING



The burial of a person was attended with a great deal of pomp and ceremony, and the customs observed were in many respects similar to those in Holland. The undertaker, "aanspreker", notified relatives and friends of the death and invited them to attend the last rites. During the next century, when printing was introduced, the notification and invitation was printed and taken around.⁴⁴ In this form precise details of the exact age of the deceased (the months and days being given), the hour of death and the time when the body was to be removed were given. In the country in Holland the event was passed on from one neighbour to another.⁴⁵ This custom of sending out the notices and also posting them up in places where the people generally gathered is still in vogue in some parts of South Africa. The notice is often tacked on to the church door. In Holland the "Bidder", in his long black coat, white tie and tall silk hat, can be seen today delivering these intimation notices. There was the Bidder and the Aanspreker; the former bade the relatives and friends to come to the funeral, which the latter conducted. At the Cape all these functions were performed by the Koster⁴⁵ (Sexton), who was also known by the title of Aanspreker when conducting a funeral. He was obliged to register the death at the orphan chamber upon penalty of losing his office.⁴⁶

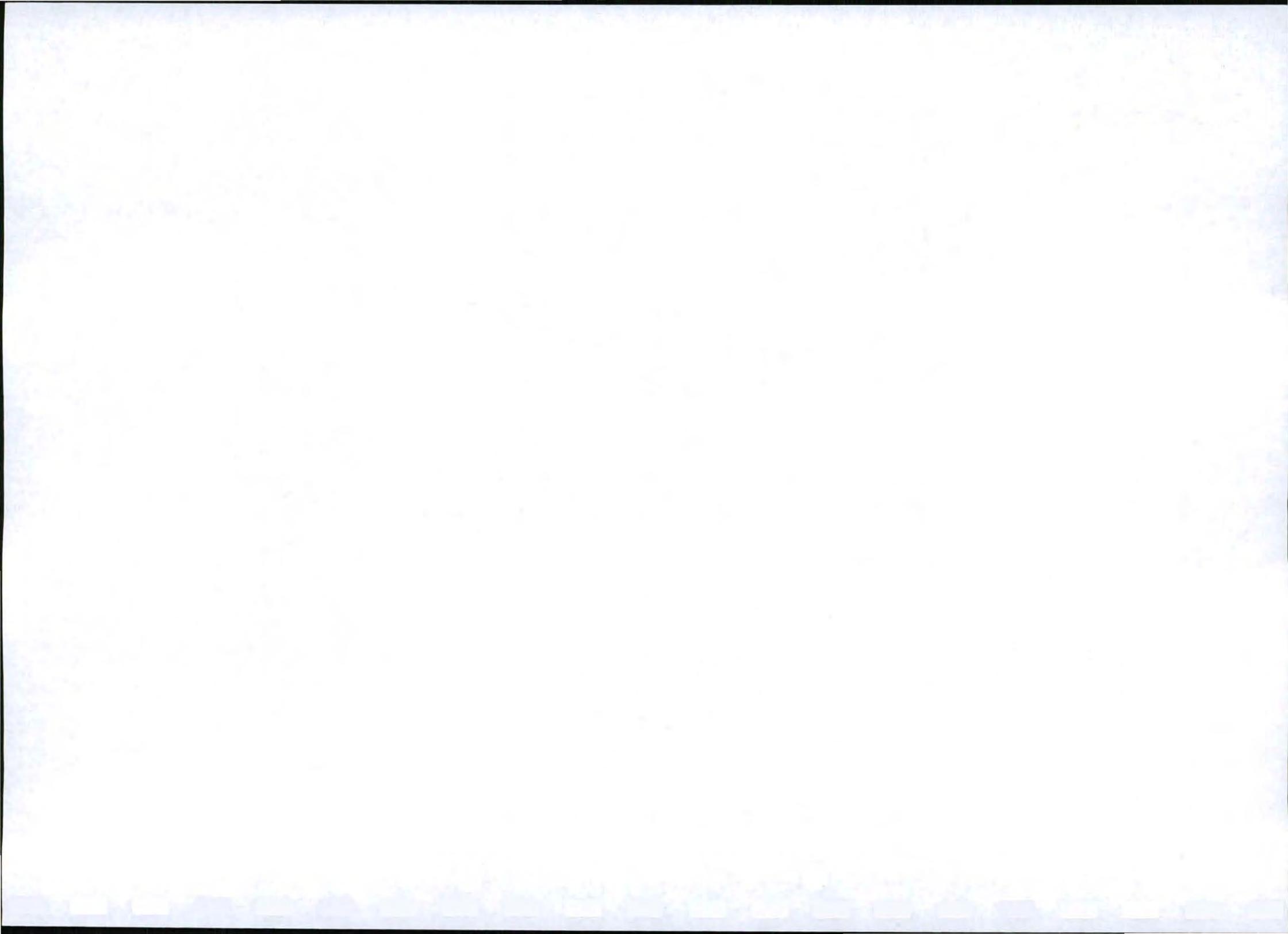
Black clothes were worn as a sign of mourning, and upon the death of a relative the whole household, including the slaves, were put into black. The personal ornaments, such as earrings, necklaces, knee and shoe buckles, were black. It must have cost the family a fairly good sum. In 1767 a gentleman living at Cape Town thought it advisable to purchase from Holland the mourning for his large family. He ordered the following goods: 1 piece of ladies' cloth or *drap de dames*, 1 do. gentlemen's crepe for gentlemen's hats, crepe for ladies for bonnets and handkerchiefs, 1 dozen ladies' black knitted gloves, 1 dozen gentle-



men's black shammy gloves, 1 dozen whole mourning fans, 1 dozen half do. (2 dozen whole mourning fans), 2 dozen mourning shoe buckles, 1 dozen mourning knee buckles, 24 dozen black double shirt buttons, 2 dozen pieces black mourning ribbon for hats, 1 dozen black neck clasps, etc., etc.⁴⁷ At the funeral the men's hats had a broad crepe band round them and reached as far down as their waists, sometimes tailed on the ground.⁴⁸ One still sees the survival of this in the broad crepe band worn by the undertaker, and the deeply creped hats of the country folk.

There was a custom of placing a heavy coin over each of the eyes of the dead person in order to keep the lids closed.⁴⁹ This is still practised in some places. The coffin, which was lined inside with white, was made of teak. Branches of myrtle or lavender were arranged round the corpse. In distant country places, where a coffin could not be readily obtained in case of need, the farmer had one made during his lifetime and kept it on the loft. Often this became the storage place for such things as dried fruits. In 1771 Mr. Blackenberg ordered from Holland iron mountings for a coffin, six handles, nine screws and a screw wrench key.⁵⁰ The custom of having one's coffin prepared during lifetime still prevails in some places. When on a visit to the interior, Mr. Hudson mentions that he observed at a farmer's house some fine oak planks placed across the beams of the farmhouse. The farmer informed him that they were intended to make a coffin for his wife and himself. His grandfather had planted the acorns and his father had felled the trees, and some of the planks then enclosed the remains of his father. He was also shown a fine shirt and shift, nearly three yards long, delicately made of India longcloth, which the farmer told him had been presented by his mother when he was married, and they were intended to enshroud their dead bodies.⁵¹

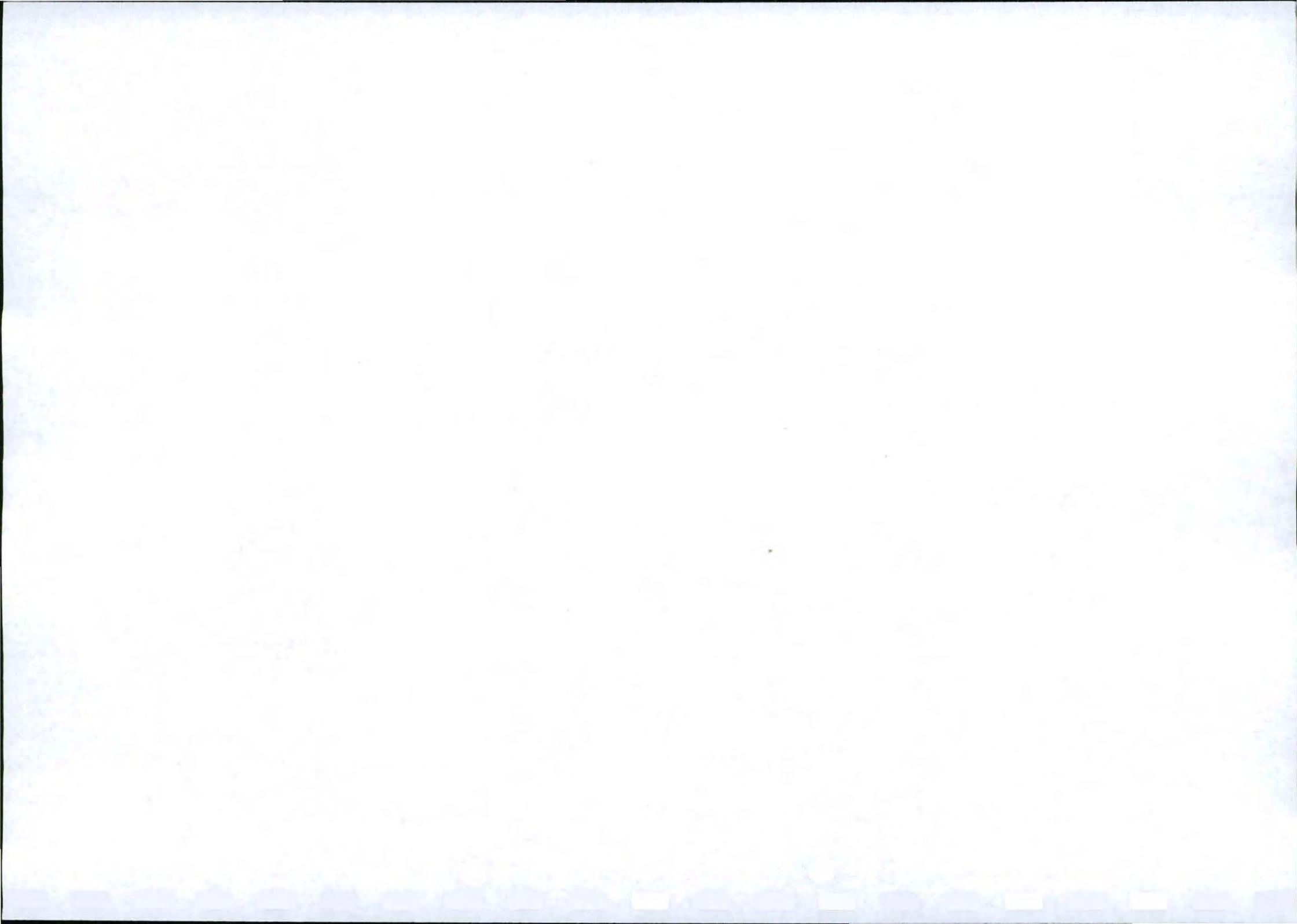
The tolling of the bell at a burial today is a survival of an ancient custom. Formerly the bells at The Castle and church were rung at fixed times during the days that the body awaited interment.⁵² In Holland the church endeavoured to abolish the practice; some people believed in the old superstition that the tolling drove away the evil spirits.⁵³ Up to 1835, people at Cape Town were still buried in the Dutch Reformed Church. There was also a graveyard round the church,



and in 1755 a cemetery was opened in what is now Somerset Road. Only persons of official standing and members of the most respectable burgher families were buried in the church.⁵⁴ A single grave in it, 3 feet by 7 feet, cost 200 guildens, and the owner was obliged to have a proper vaulted cellar made at his own cost.⁵⁵ Such graves as were not allotted to private individuals were retained by the church and sold as "huur graven", hired graves, or were hired out. A huur graf cost a stranger who happened to die here 500 guildens,⁵⁶ and for burying an adult in it a fee of 75 guildens, whereas only nine guildens was demanded for interring in the churchyard.⁵⁷ As a rule, governors and high officials were buried in front of or near the pulpit.⁵⁸

Generally burials took place about five o'clock, although some were in the evening. Before the close of the 18th century a practice crept in of burying in the church at night by torchlight. This was prohibited, as the risk of setting the church alight was great, and also when it took place at the week-end, there was not sufficient time to close up the grave before the Sunday services.⁵⁹ Burial at night was a very old custom in Holland, and Wagenaar, in his description of Amsterdam, mentions it as an "ancient and commendable custom".⁶⁰ Lantern-bearers formed part of the procession, and their number was regulated by the number of pairs following the corpse.⁶¹ At the funeral of the widow of Captain Dominiques Pasques de Chavonnes at the Cape in 1715, there were twenty-one lantern-bearers (lantaarn draagers).⁶² In front of the house and along the route to the grave sea sand was strewn, but in 1755 this was only allowed at the burial of a governor or member of the Council of Policy.⁶³ Brugmans tells us that, at a funeral of a young girl, virgins in white silk garments and with hair loosely hanging laid flowers on the coffin.⁶⁴ Something similar must have prevailed out here, for repeatedly one finds in connection with the burial expenses a "strooyster", "strooymeisje" or "strooyhonne" being paid.⁶⁵

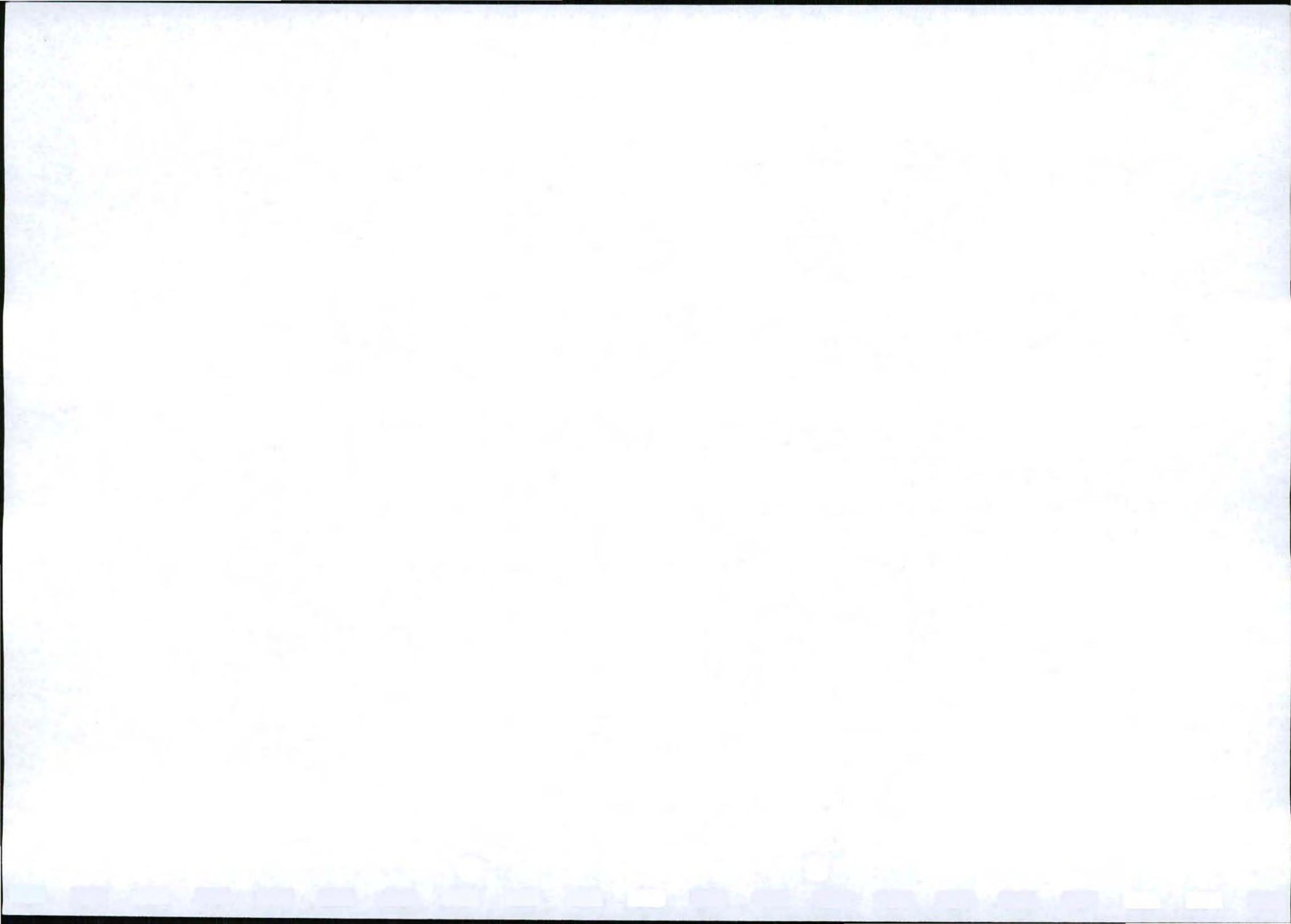
The funeral procession of a governor, military or naval officer, was an imposing sight. The accoutrements of the deceased, such as the helmet, coat of mail, spurs, sword, gauntlets and escutcheon, were each carried on a long pole by officers preceded by the charger draped with a black cloth.⁶⁷ Carriages were not used,⁶⁸ everyone walked to the grave, the coffin being carried on a bier. In 1724, at the funeral of



Fiscal Cornelis Beaumont we find, however, that the corpse was placed on a hearse and was followed by twelve coaches.⁶⁹

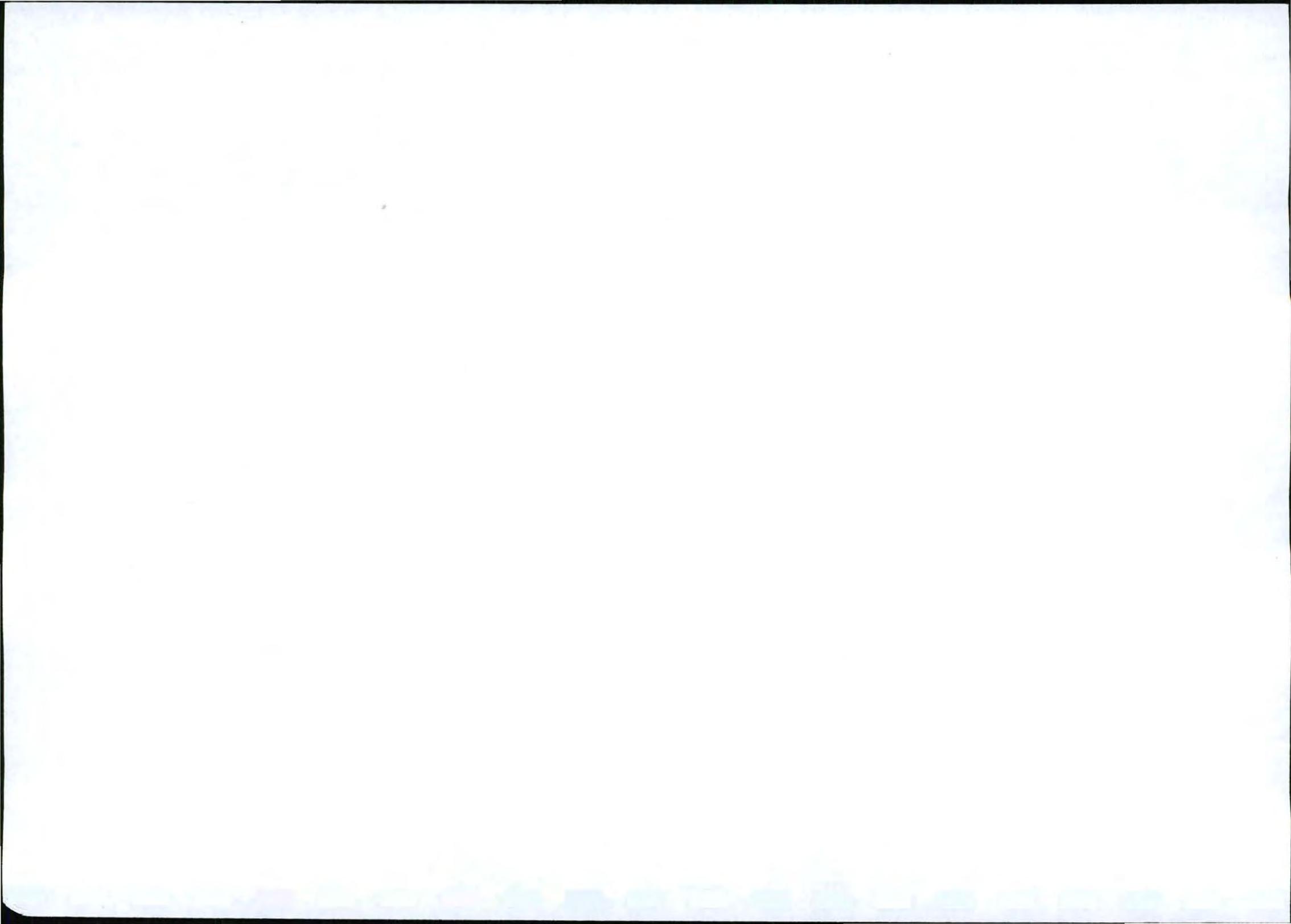
On the day of the funeral, the bearers, numbering between fourteen and sixteen, met at the house a little time before the ceremony. Each one was given a pair of black gloves,⁷⁰ a long silk "weeper" or black band tied round the hat, the ends reaching as far as the back of the waist, sometimes farther. They were served with bread and wine. The coffin, covered with a black pall with silk tassels, was borne out and placed on a bier. It was carried a few houses distant and lowered. The undertaker then called out the names of those who were to follow in the cortege. In making out this list he had to exercise great care that each one was placed in proper order of rank and precedence.⁷¹ "I have been told of an instance where a man of some rank had been rather late in his attendance, and the undertaker had actually halted the funeral procession in order to place him according to his rank in the cortege."⁷² Relatives came first, followed by friends in mourning. They walked in pairs, only men being present.⁷³ The undertaker, carrying a wreath of white flowers and leaves of laurier and cypress, preceded the procession. Pall-bearers walked on either side of the bier. Kolbe in his "Beschrijving van de Kaap de Goede Hoop" complains of the quietness of the Cape funerals, and Brugmans remarks that in Holland at one time well into the 17th century, the body was lowered into the grave and a hymn sung. In time, he says, this also died out, and there was no ceremony at the grave, without a service, cold and simple. In 1822 a writer on the Cape says, "No clergyman attends professionally, nor is any church service performed, a mason stands prepared and the tomb is closed."⁷⁴ Services were held in the church at the burials of Governors Tulbagh and Van Oudtshoorn. According to custom, after the coffin was lowered, a few handfuls of earth were thrown on it by the bystanders and the gravedigger did the rest.⁷⁵ Everyone returned to the house of mourning, where refreshments were provided⁷⁶ and the bearers paid.

Up to about the first half of the 18th century, the refreshments served really constituted a meal, and the custom was of great age. At the end of 1600, it was beginning to die out in Holland, only rased bread and wine being handed round.⁷⁷ Although Kolbe says that only



bread and wine were served, yet the accounts rendered for funeral expenses show that the following were provided: Tea, coffee, wine, beer, brandy, cakes, bread, cheese, fowls, ducks, geese, turkeys, hams, raisins, almonds, olives, sausages (soucijs de bolonje), tobacco, pipes and snuff.⁷⁸ As this custom died out in the town and surroundings, the meal consisted of cakes, rasped bread (*geraspte brooden*), one or two cold meats, wine, then pipes and tobacco. Borchers remarks that with the more wealthy everything was in such profusion that it was customary to take a share of cakes home for the family (*pour les enfants*). Adam Tas in his diary of 1705 records that he sent to Stellenbosch "5 pails of wine in a half-awm barrel, likewise one Cape ham, 3 fat quarters of roast mutton and 3 loaves, so as they may make merry withal", at the funeral of his uncle's servant, who had been drowned. Hudson makes this scene take place before the burial. He says, "Here is provided a good substantial treat, flesh, fowls and cakes, excellent wine; indeed, some are so particular in this respect that they keep a cask of very old wine never to be drunk except on these melancholy occasions. I was once shown a cask in a wine farmer's store which had been there for near fifty-seven years, kept for this especial purpose."

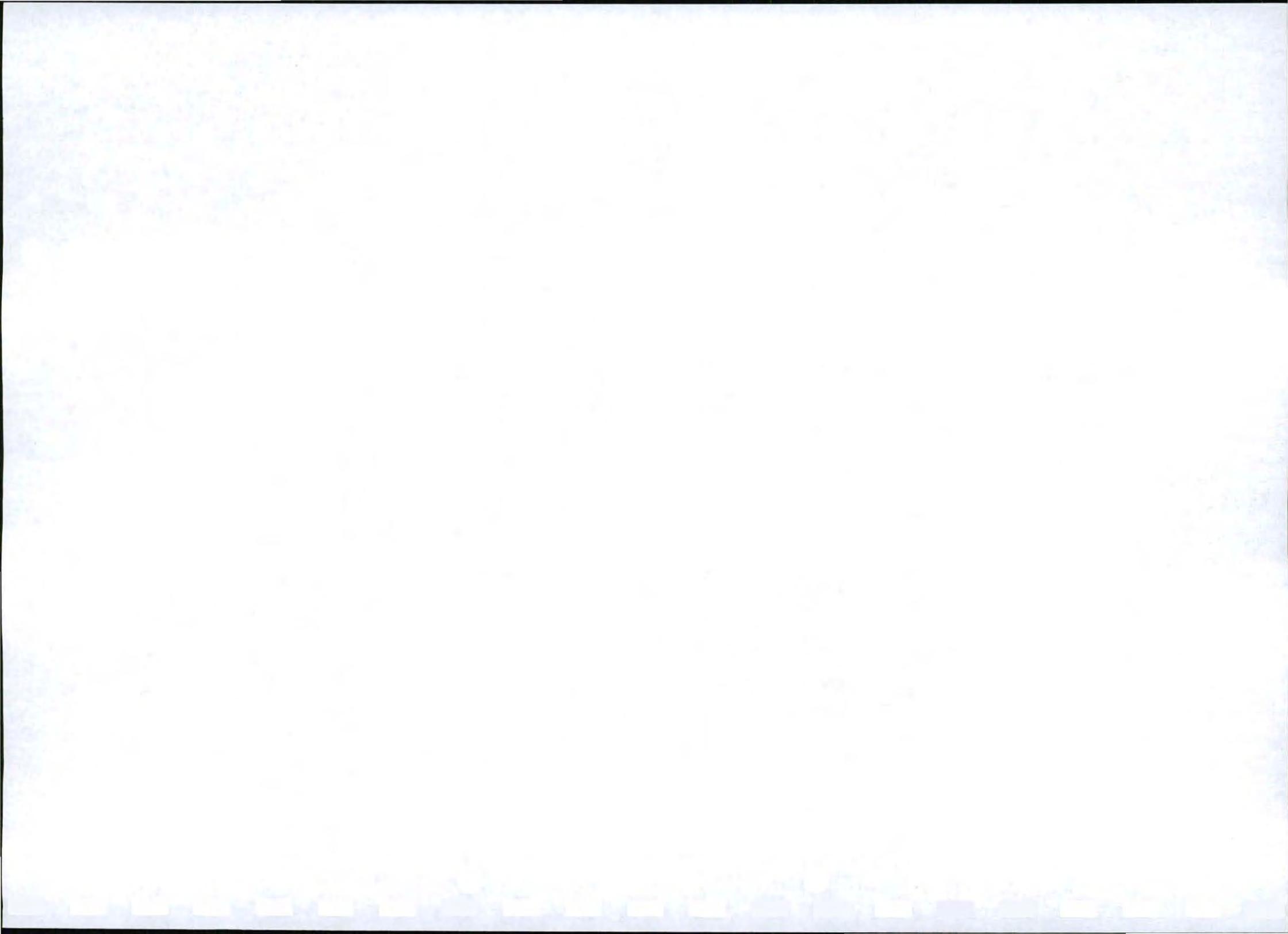
In conclusion, an illustration of a quaint custom, which took place at a funeral in 1780, may be given. A widow, at the funeral of her husband, whose estate had been previously declared insolvent, placed the key of the house upon the coffin. She left the house before the corpse was taken away. By doing this she abandoned, as it were, the whole estate to the creditors. The key was afterwards handed to the President of the Court of Justice by the undertaker.



EEN OUDERWETSE BEGRAFENIS

(Uit de Oude en Nieuwe Afrikaanse Doos, deur ds. G. A. Maeder, Kaapstad 1917.)

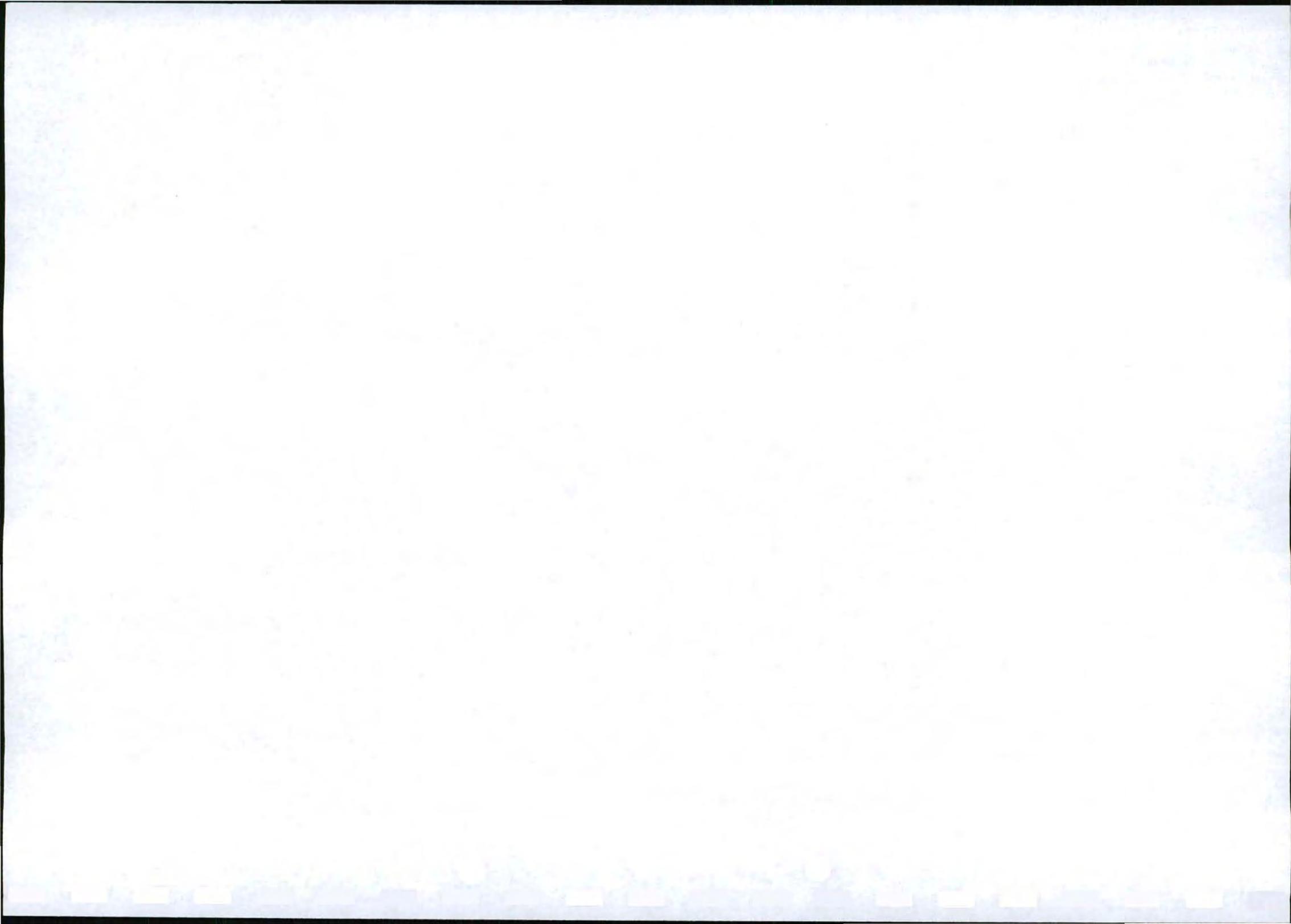
Stellenbosch, de eikenstad van Van der Stel, treurt en is in rouwgewaad. Haar bemind predikant, die nog de Kerkeradsvergadering bijwoonde, en alles in gereedheid bracht voor de Ring van Kaapstad, die zitting zou hebben in Oktober, 1857, is wat onverwacht ziek geworden, en de krankheid neemt zo toe, dat hij noch de hoge vergadering noch zijn kansel bereiken kan; en hij overlijdt stil en zacht, in goede ouderdom, ontslapende op de genade van de Heiland, Wiens onnaspeurlike rijkdom hij zo getrouw gepredikt en zo voorbeeldig betoond heeft. De treurmare verspreidt zich langzaam, want het zijn nog niet de dagen van stoom, telegraaf en foon; maar van omnibus, postkar, expresrijder en brieven, waarop minstens één driehoekig postzegel, blauw van kleur en drie penningen waard, moest gezet zijn, eer dat de missievé hare bestemming bereikt. Het is de 11de December en de zomerhitte is zo fel, niettegenstaande de prachtige eikeboomen hunne schaduwen werpen op de mooie pastorie, die front maakt naar „de Braak” en gelegen is op de hoek van Hoofd en Molen straten, dat het lijk moet besteld worden op de achtermiddag na de vorige dag, waarop de „oude dominie” in de vroege morgenstond is overleden. Dr. J. F. Reitz, hoewel een klein en zenuwachtig man, is reeds daags te voren van Somerset West overgekomen, om alles, als Konsulent, te regelen; en heden plagen zijne zenuwen hem niet; want hij moet gewichtig en gewijd werk verrichten. Expressen zijn verzonden geworden naar de naburige dorpen: Paarl, Franschhoek, Wellington, Zwartland, Durban. Dollie, de behendige slamse drijver van de bus, moet eigenhandig brieven brengen aan Dr. S. P. Heyns en Di. Spijker, van Manger, Morgan en G. W. Stegmann in de Kaapstad, en Ds. A. Faure vriendelik verzoeken om zijn ambtsbroeder, Dr. P. E. Faure, aan de Wijnberg te doen weten van de plechtigheid, welke hy moet komen bijwonen. De wakkere Hollander-koster, W. Beukes, had ook alreeds kopieën van het begrafenisbriefje overal in het distrikt laten verzenden, hoewel hij self, met steekhoed, in kort broek en lange kousen, zwart manél en lage schoenen



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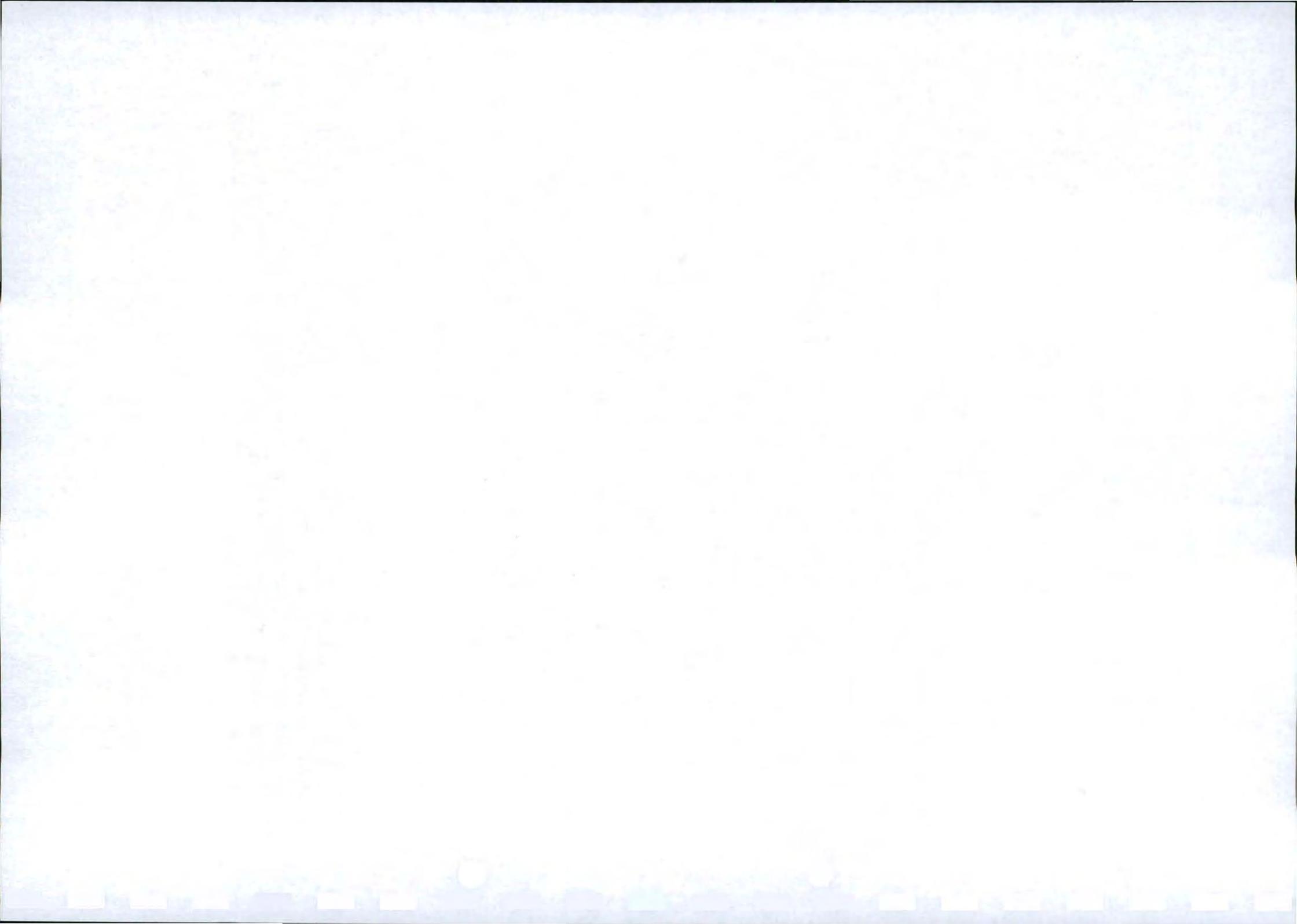
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met zilveren gespen, van huis tot huis was gegaan met de uitnodigingen om eerst bij het sterfhuis tegenwoordig te zijn te 4 ure, en dan naar het kerkgebouw; of als de zusters der gemeente het beter dachten, in de kerk hare zitplaatsen in te nemen tegen half 5. Hij was ook speciaal gegaan naar de Rhijnse pastorie, aan de andere zijde van de Braak, om vaders Luckhoff en ter Linde zo wel als „Canon” Peters, niet ver van daar, hartelik te vragen „achter het lijk te gaan.” Zelfs de Wesleyaanse zendeling wordt niet vergeten.

Vanaf 9 ure in de vóórmiddag van die merkwaardige, hoewel droeve dag, hadden ettelike karren van heinde en ver de stille straten, met de winkels slechts tot 12 uur open gehouden, doorgereden. De Herolds, Louws, Morkels, Mijburghs, Beyers', Neethlings, de Villiers, Kriges, Faures, Mosterts, Rouxs, Jouberts, Carinussen, Marais en andere „elite” huisgezinnen waren uit het distrikt en van de naburige afdelingen aangekomen, om de laatste eer aan de overledene te bewijzen. Te vier ure staat Dr. Reitz op de stoep van de pastorie en geeft het versje op: „Diepe wijsheid zijn uw paden,” dat ingezet wordt door de voorlezer, voorzanger en koster, Beukes, en met aandoening doch in wat langen draaien door de grote schare die bijeen vergaderd is, gezongen wordt. De straat vóór het huis, en ook de straat aan de linkerzijde is vol van mensen in zwart gekleed, met hoge keilen op de hoofden, witte zo wel als zwarte, die tans met ontblote hoofden samen doen aan het zingen. Wat verder af aan de rechterzijde staan de leden der Engelse Kerk, vóór op de Braak zelve de kleurlingen van het Rhijnse genootschap, en op de linkerzijde de Wesleyaanse naturellen onder bestier van de grijze zendeling Edwards. Op de stoep van de beide voorzijden der pastorie staan de predikanten, leraars, kerkeraadsliden, dragers en belangstellende vrienden. In de voorkamer met de venster ramen op-geschoven, zowel als in de eetzaal, zitten de schoonzoon, Mijnheer en Mev. A. J. Louw van de Paarl, de zuster oude weduwe Mijburgh van Elsenburg, de flinke zonen Tobias, Frank en Willem Herold en de ook reeds naar het graf waggelende „ou Daantje van Rhijneveldt” de magistraat, en andere naast bestaanden: mannen, vrouwen, jongelieden en kinderen te zamen. De oude vrouwen zijn niet allen daar; want zij zijn meestal direkt naar het kerkgebouw gegaan. Men vindt ook maar weinigen van het vrouwelik geslacht buiten, want het is nog niet de nieuwe gewoonte geworden dat men „pel-mel” in dichte drommen „achter 't lijk loopt.”

De leraar die alhier de dienst moet leiden is de predikant van de Paarl. Hij is een eigenaardig man; want hij meent dat niemand mag begraven worden tenzij hij „gekopt” is aan zijn hart om zeker te weten dat hij waarlik overleden is, en hij heeft het gedaan met toestemming van de neef des overledenen, Philip Mijburgh van Elsenburg. Ook meent hij dat er geen dienst moest zijn bij het Kerkhof en slechts een gebed gedaan moet worden bij het sterfhuis, nadat men

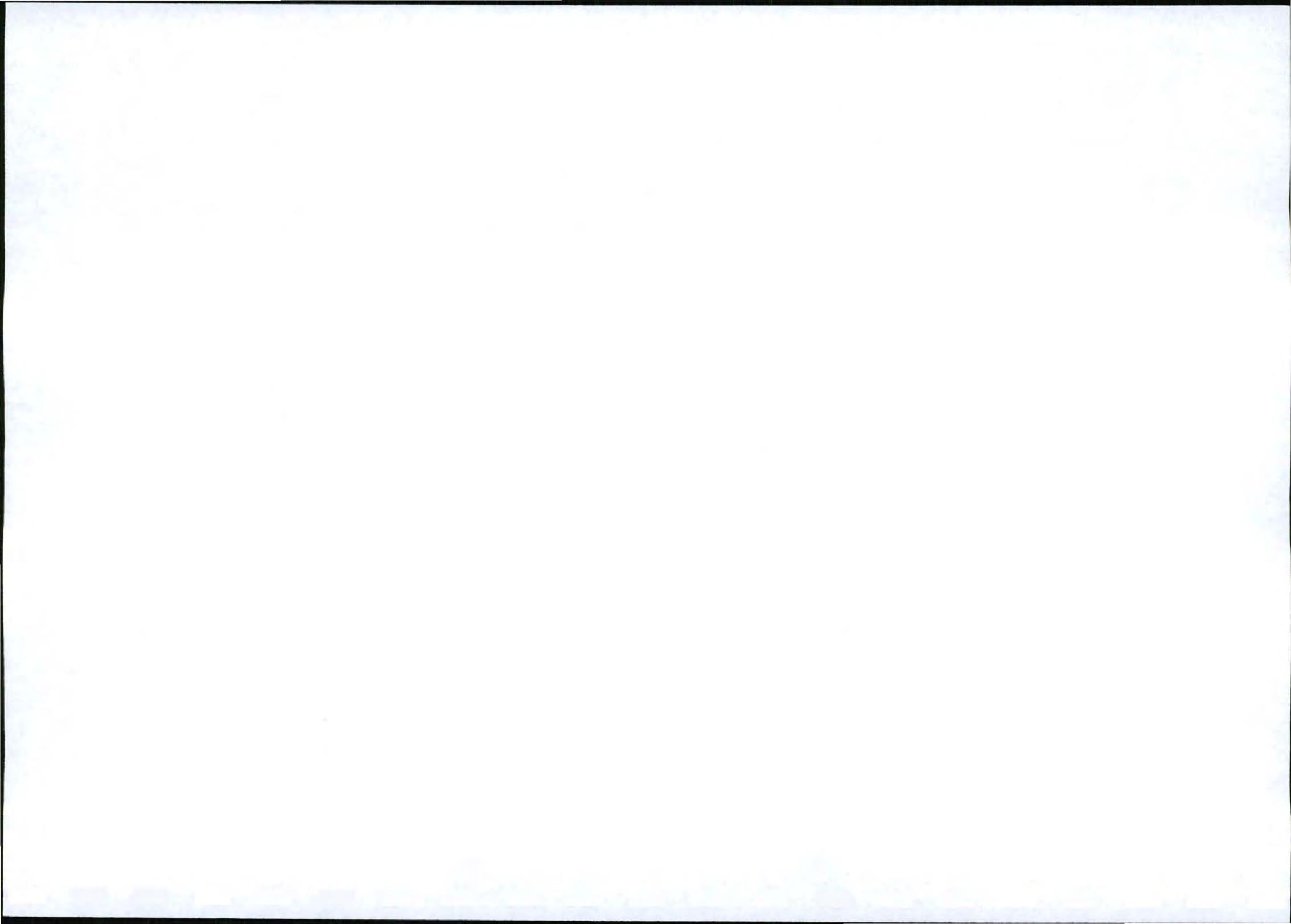


de lijkgangers goed getrakteerd heeft op koffie en koek en zelfs op cigaren; en de dragers, wier lamfers van hun pluis hoeden tot aan de heup moeten hangen, een ieder, minstens een kroon (vijf shillings) hebben ontvangen, zowel als een paar zwarte handschoenen. Daarom doet Ds. G. W. A. van der Lingen niets dan een lang, geleerd, doch gevoelig gebed; waarin hij bijna een ieder, die eenigszins in verwantschap staat met de overledene, herdenkt, en Gode beveelt; al die tijd zijn klein rond zwart „kepje” op zijn hoofd latende. Er is een zucht overal wanneer het gebed dan uiteindelijk klaar is, want het wordt laat.

Koster Beukes heft aan: „Komt treên wij dan gemoedigd voort” en gaat onder het zingen het deksel van de lijk-kist toeschroeven. De doodkist is van sterk kajaten hout gemaakt met handvatsels van ijzer daaraan gehecht; en op het platte deksel staat eenvoudig met wit verf getekend de naam van Tobias Johannes Herold, V.D.M., en de datum van geboorte en overlijden. De lijkdragers bestaande uit de sterkgespiede zonen en neven des overledenen, acht te zamen, halen de zware kist uit de donker gemaakte slaapkamer, waar een kwart uurtje voor dat de dienst was begonnen men de laatste blik op het bleek en gezwollen aangezicht had geworpen, en de naastbestaanden, vooral de zusters en nichten, de laaste kus hadden toegediend. Een eenvoudig zwart lakenkleed, zonder een enkele krans bloemen daarop – want men kent deze Engelse gewoonte nog niet – ligt los gehangen op de kist, wanneer zij zonder enig gemurmer van raad, behoorlik in de ouderwetse lijkwagen wordt gestoten. Aan de vier hoeken van het wagentje nemen nu ouderling P. J. de Villiers en zijne drie mede ouderlingen de slippers in de hand, en de acht diakenen plaats en zich aan de buitenkant der ouderlingen, vier aan elke zijde.

Zodra het lijk-wagentje de draai maakt in de Molenstraat, houdt de drijver, Ruiters, de oude knecht, de twee schimmelpaarden, die gewoon zijn aan het werk, stil, om tijd te geven aan „die kinders van ou mijnheer om die lijk te volg”: want de dodenbegrafer heeft bevel gegeven: „De nabestaanden worden vriendelik verzocht, zich twee aan twee te paren achter het lijk.” Naast aan worden gerankschikt de leraars der verschillende gezindten: achter hen de oudkerkeraadsleden der gemeente Stellenbosch en de naburige parochieën. Het wagentje gaat een vijftig treden naar voren, en nu schaart zich de gemeente twee aan twee in volgorde: het is slechts hier en daar een meid of een „jong” die wat uit de koers is, of een nieuwsgierige die bij een boom staat.

Wanneer de stoet volkomen in orde is, hoort men de klokken van de Engelse, Rhijnse en Wesleyaanse kerken, een ieder, een droevig slag luiden elke halve minuut. Er zijn geen rijtuigen te zien dan enkele, waarin vrouwelike betrekkingen rijden, of zeer oude mannen, die niet de distantie te voet kunnen lopen. Als men bij de school van ou Humphrey MacLachlen nadert en de woning van Koos Hakje (Faure) en het Magistraat kantoor passeert, om in de straat, die van

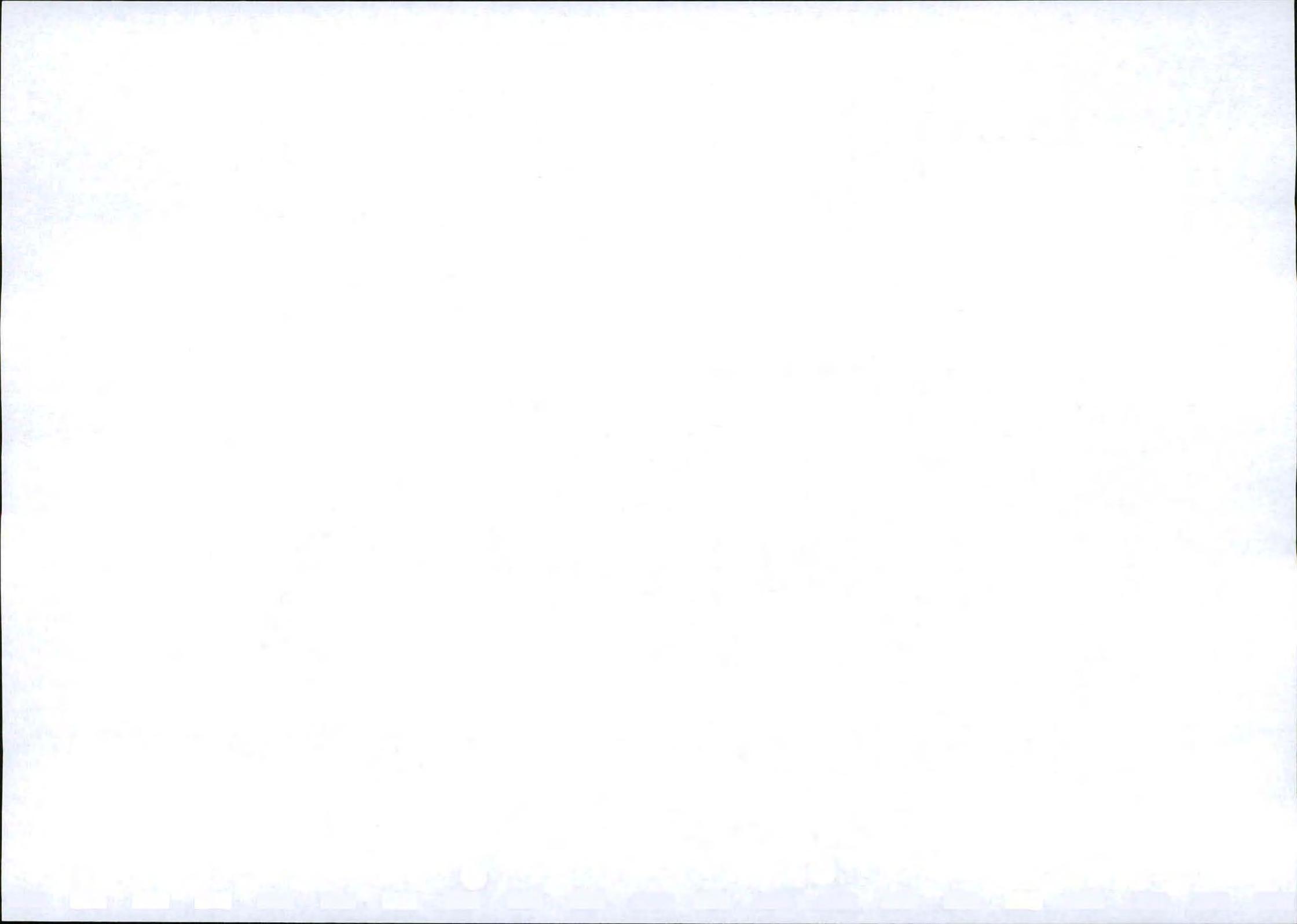


de Molensloot tot aan de Drostdij loopt, te geraken, staan daar een paar „ordenans” (politie dienaren) om de orde te handhaven. De klok van de grote kerk, welke niet in een toren maar tussen twee sterke witte muur-pilaren hangt bij de ingang van het kerkgebouw, geeft ook tans haar droevig en eenzaam geluid. Menigte van kap-karren met de paarden ingespannen zijn aan de disselboom vast gemaakt bij de eikebomen, al langs beide zijden van de straat tot nabij het huis van de heer Jan Mader en de oude Leeskamer. Aan de rechterzijde ginds staat de oude Drostdij nog zoals zij was in de tijd van de stichter des dorps; want zij heeft nog niet haar professorale vleugels, en Di. John Murray en N. Hofmeyer zijn respektievelik te Burgersdorp en Calvinia om afscheid te nemen. Een prachtig wijngard met rijpende druiven staat welig te groeien achter de lange witte muur waar nu de schone en stevige pastorie staat, en een heining van witte rozen omslaat de voorplaats van de Drostdij; waar de 200-jarige, statieuse, dikke, hoge eik als het ware huult, door de stille zuid-ooste wind daartoe aangezet; en op de hoge stoep met zijn twaalf witblauw leien stenen staat de cipier van de nabijzijnde tronk het treurig toneel aan te kijken.

Stil en bedaard gaat de rouwklagende menigte door de grote voordeur der kerk binnen, en ook door de kleiner deuren van het met riet bedekte godshuis in, en zelfs door de nauwe ingang in de konsistoriekamer achter, door welke vooral de leraren instappen, terwijl het lijk ingedragen wordt en op twee met zwart kleed bedekte „bokken” zacht gelegd wordt. Er zijn verscheidene mensen die niet plaats binnen kunne vinden; want de vrouwen hebben het gebouw meer gevuld dan men had gerekend; doch zij hebben de delikate bescheidenheid gehad om de voorste banken open te laten voor de familie, de leraren, ambtenaren en ouden, die dan allen de zitplaatsen innemen. Buiten ziet men de stevige witte muren die de kerk omringen en waartegen van binnen naar de kant van de straat de familie-grafkelders aangebracht, met prachtig wit pleister blinken; en indruk maken op het gepeupel, vooral de gekleurden, die tegen de muren leunen en over dezelfde kijken in het kerkhof en staren op de open deuren der kerk.

Binnen vindt men tegen de konsistorie wand en op de vloer het prachtig nieuw orgel, waarvoor de overledene zo geijverd heeft, en daar kant en klaar betaald staat. De oude heer F. Hauptfleisch bespeelt op oude en meesterlike wijze het luid instrument; en achter het rood gordijntje met zwart kleed daaraan gebracht, haalt hij daaruit de treurige tonen van „de doodmars in Saul”.

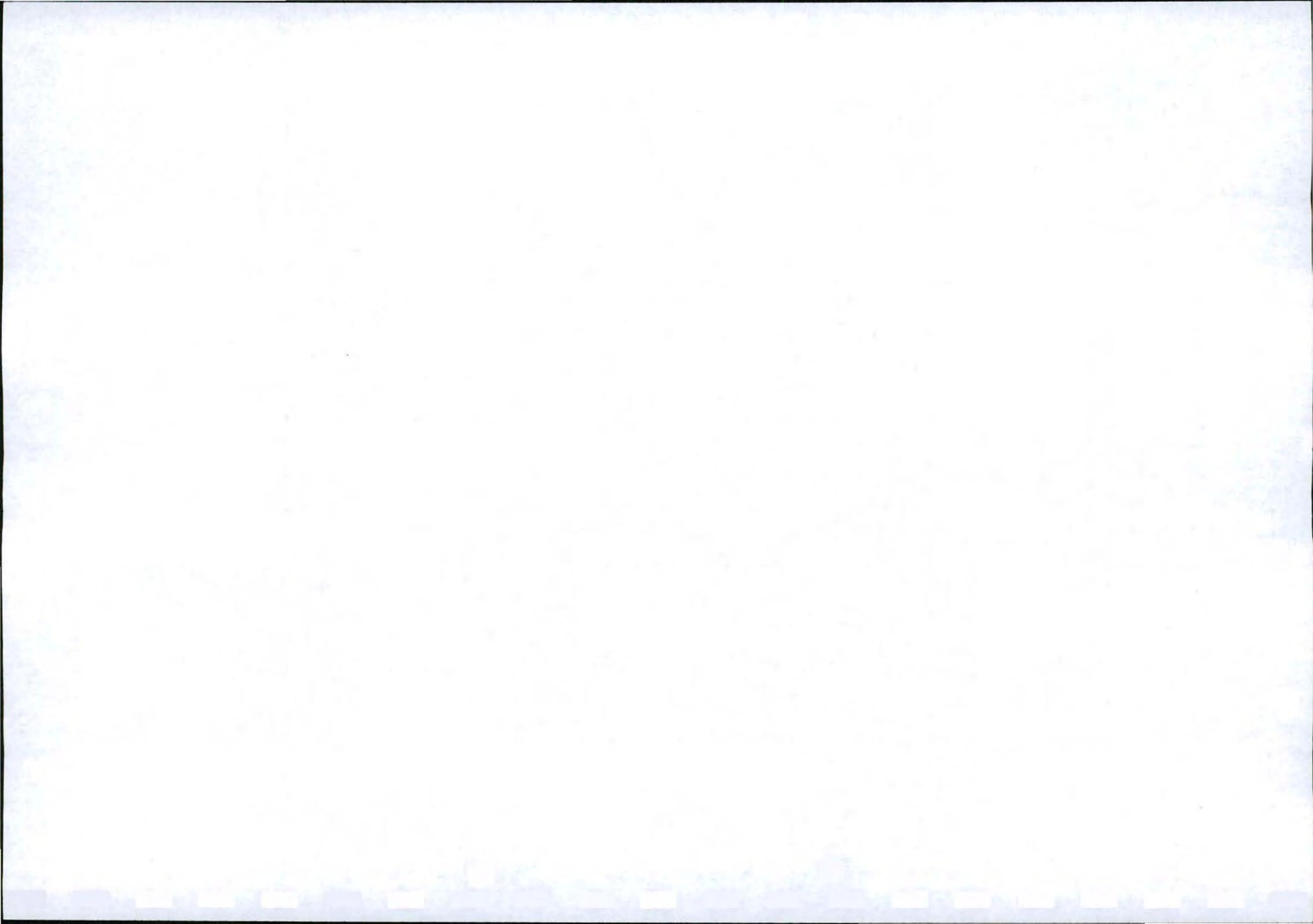
De grote gemeente luistert er naar, niet staande maar zittende, terwijl Dr. Philip Faure van de Wijnberg de kansel heeft beklommen en de menigte aanziet, die het oog slaan op zijn indrukwekkend gelaat met zijn lang, witgrijs vloeiend baard, doch zonder moustache op de bovenlip. Het preekgestoelte is met lamfer omboord, en koster Beukes is reeds achter de lessenaar, die ook in het zwart behangen is, en heeft zijn zwart pluis hoed, met lange, zwarte sleep



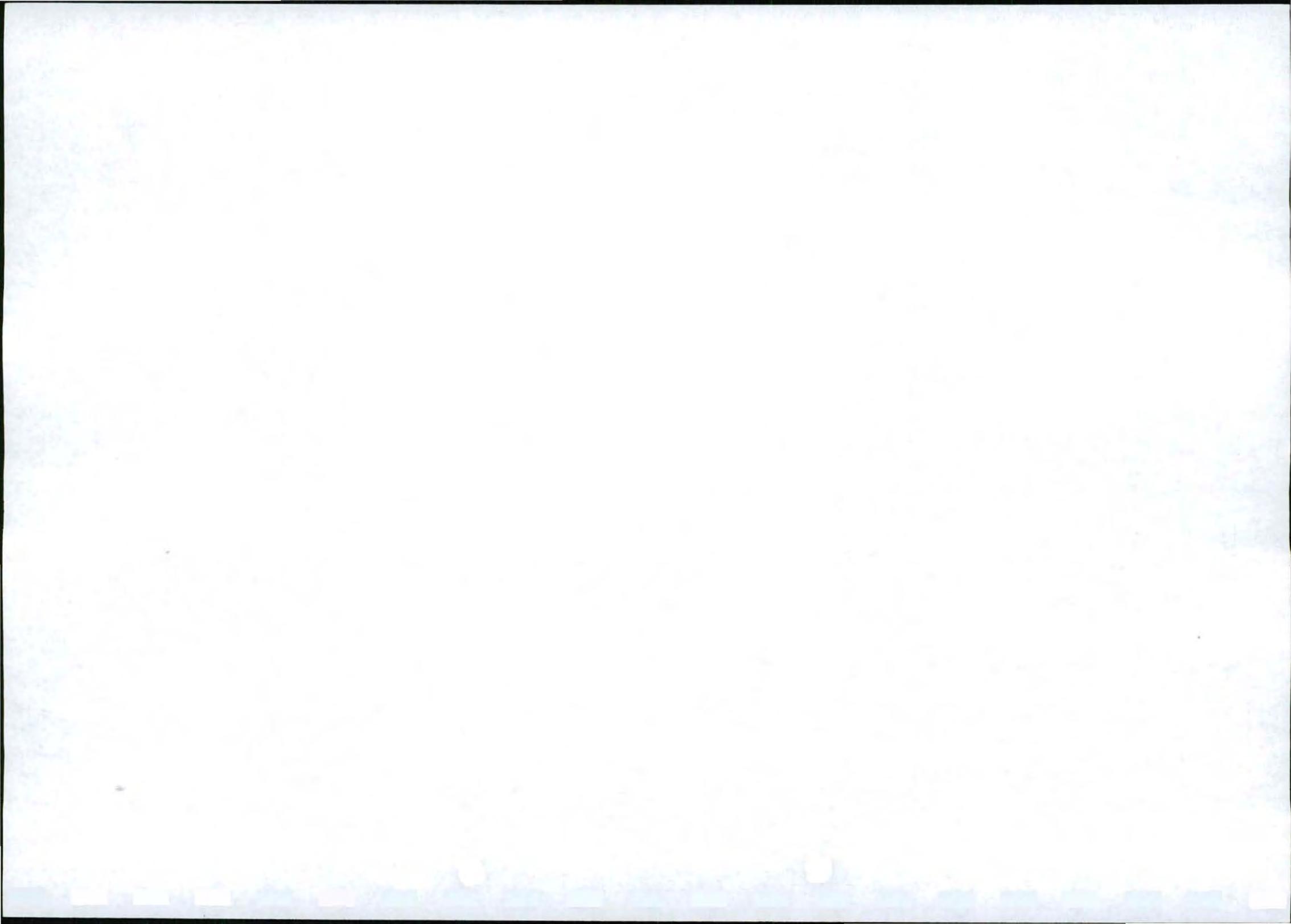
die bijna tot op de grond raken moet, op de stoel achter hem geplaatst. Aan de rechter kant zitten in de voorbanken de predikanten, zendelingen en ouderlingen en oud-ouderlingen; aan de andere zijde van de zijgang de oude Magistraat en Landdrost, en de dorps en distrikts autoriteiten. Aan de linker kant aan de andere zijde van de zijgang zitten de dragers en de diakenen en oud-diakenen; en aan deze zijde de nabestaanden, mannen, vrouwen, jongelingen en kinderen in de drie of vier voorzitplaatsen. De vier voorbanken rondom de opene plaats waar het lijk is, zijn ook met rouwvloers bedekt.

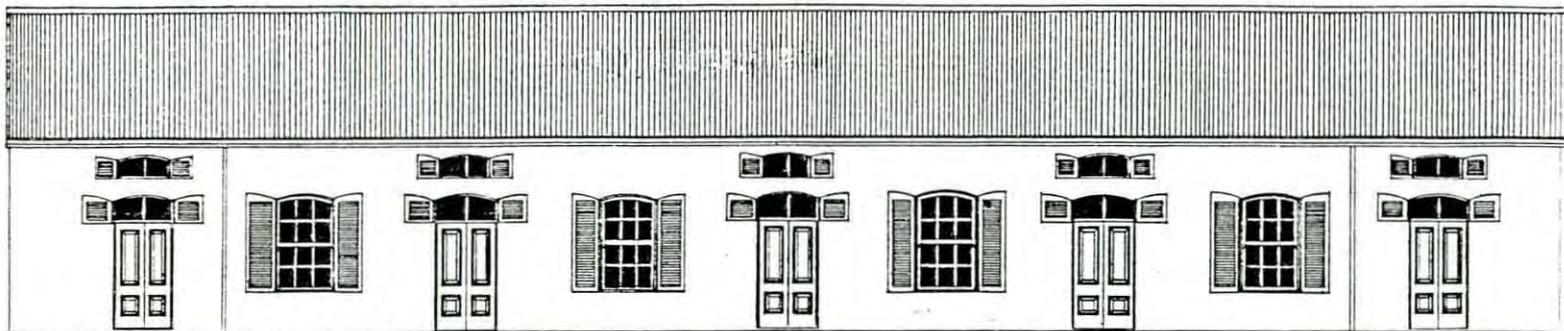
Zodra het orgel klaar heeft met spelen geeft de koster, die tegelijk de voorlezer en voorzanger der gemeente is, het versje op: „Stille rustplaats van Gods doden,” dat ook veel langzamer gezongen wordt dan de heer Jannasch zou willen denken, en tussen de lijnen speelt het orgel een kort melodie van drie tot vier noten. Een doodse stilte heerst wanneer de vorse redenaar Ps. 90 leest, zoals alleen kan een die in Utrecht met mede studenten aan de hollands-belgische oorlog heeft meegedaan zowel als aan Nederlandse studie; want het zou heiligschennis zijn om het „plat Afrikaans” van de huidige dag te wagen. Hij kiest tot tekst vers 10: „Aangaande de dagen – en wij vliegen daarheen”; en in een treffende en welsprekende rede zinspeelt hij op de 46 jaren gedurende welke de ontslapene zijn geliefde kerk in meer dan een gemeente en het laatst te Stellenbosch heeft gediend; spreekt een woord van vermaning tot leraren, gemeenteleden, zielen en vrienden; en met tranen in zijne ogen een troostwoord aan de bedroefde grote familie Herold. Hij geeft het versje op: „Hoe zal 't mij dan, o dan eens zijn?” en vader Luckhoff neemt zijne plaats in. Deze gaat de gemeente voor in een plechtig gebed dat trilt van aandoening, en zijne diepzinnige Duitse gedachten en gewaarwordingen over een ware Hollandse vriend sterk aanduidt.

Nadat hij de zegen uitgesproken heeft, wordt de lijkstaf weder opgenomen en nu eerst staat de ganse gemeente op, wanneer dezelve door de vóórgang uitgedragen wordt. De familie volgt, vrouwen zo wel als mannen, en de grote stoet, zoals reeds beschreven, vult bijna het gehele kerkhof. Daar in de hoek staat de familie kelder waarvan de massieve deur door de koster wordt geopend, en de doodkist wordt geplaatst naast die van de reeds overledene echtgenote, die ligt op een dozijn andere kisten, welke nog allen in tamelijk goede toestand verkeren. Nu treedt de korte en lijvige tweede predikant van de Kaapstad, Dr. S. P. Heyns voor, en met krachtige stem roept hij uit, zo dat allen het horen: „Stof zijt gij en tot stof zult gij wederkeren,” want er is nog geen Hollands-Engels formulierboek door de Synode ingevoerd: „De Heer heeft gegeven, de Heer heeft genomen; de naam des Heren zij geloofd: Vaarwel, broeder en vriend; tot wederziens”: en het oudtestamentiese: „De heer zegene en behoede u” wordt biddend door de getroffene schare ontvangen. Het laatste woord blijft aan de koster: „Uit naam van de familie Herold worden allen bedankt die de laatste eer



hebben bewezen aan de overledene, en die het kunnen stellen, worden verzocht om een kopje koffie en beschuitje bij het sterfhuis te komen genieten." Tans naderen de betrekkingen; zuchten worden geslaakt door de waardige zonen; de dochters wenen en een zegt: „Onze lieve vader." Zelfs ou Daantje van Rijnveldt snikt hard op, want hij en de dominee hebben gesamenlik, voor een lange tijd, als magistraat en predikant de civiele en kerkelijke aangelegenheden bestierd. Langzaam en treurig verwijdert zich de schare; de karren worden losgemaakt van de bomen en ketens daartussen gespannen; men rijdt en loopt huistoe. De zon laat haar laatste stralen schijnen op de witte kelder en de heldere muren, die ze opvangen en weerkaatsen, totdat de avondschaduw stil en zacht van de groene bladeren der machtige en treurende eiken een periode in het leven van Stellenbosch sluiten. De koster sluit kelder en kerkpoort toe en legt de sleutels in de kas van de konsistorie kamer neer: want de oude leraar „is tot zijne vaderen en volk vergaderd."





NAVORSINGSENTRUM VIR HISTORIESE ARGEOLOGIE • RESEARCH CENTRE FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY
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28 May 1998

9/2/084/176

Dr J. Deacon
National Monuments Council
Box 4637
Cape Town 8000

Dear Dr Deacon

WELMOED GRAVEYARD

Please find included the final report on *Welmoed Farm: Investigation of the 19th c. graveyard of the Van der Býl Family* (March 1998). I made a few comparisons to other graveyards, which is also of interest.

With kind regards

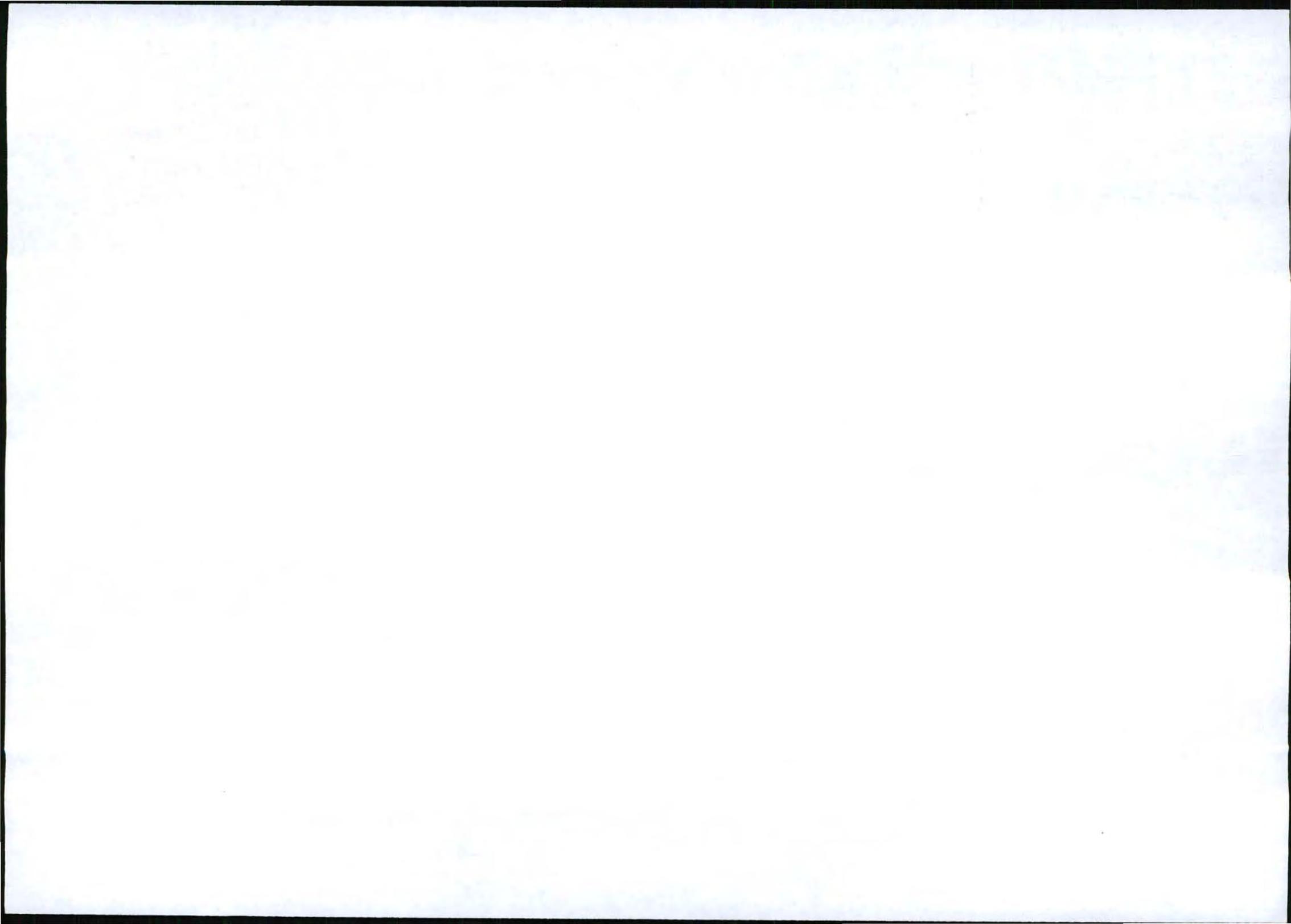
Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H.N. Vos'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

H.N. Vos
Historical Archaeologist & Consultant

LNMCWEL.DOC





9 2 084/176

Dr J. Deacon

3 June 1998

Mr H N Vos
Research Centre for Historical Archaeology
Stellenbosch Museum
P O Box X5048
Stellenbosch
7600

Dear Mr Vos

REPORT: WELMOED GRAVEYARD, STELLENBOSCH DISTRICT

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your report dated March 1998 on the above project. It makes very interesting reading and a copy has been forwarded to the Western Cape Regional Office of the NMC.

Your co-operation in keeping the NMC informed of your work is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

for DIRECTOR
JD/jd

copy: NMC Regional Manager: Western Cape

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO