

35 /

LEATHERN,
WILLIAM

35

LEATHERN,
WILLIAM

A 59/33/1-7

59/33/1-73

23.5.10

William Featherin Sandringham House, 400 yards from where
train stops at
bottom of Long Foregate (started for S.A. in 1819)
My father arrived at P. Elizabeth in 1820, I

I was born
3rd Oct 1827
my father was
born 3rd Oct
1804. He was
married 3rd Oct
1826.
My father's
name was
William.

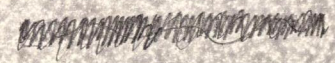
arrived in Natal in 1842, about July, before Pmbury
was taken. It may have been 1843.

I met Pmbury first in Durban. I forget the year.
I lived in West St.

I went with ^{the} Shepstone across ^{the} Mgeni Kalie after
some chief ^{SI} never went on any expedition with H.F.F.
I am 82; will be 83 on 3rd Oct next.

H.F.F. frequent came to see me. When my father
was in Durban I did not know anything of him.
I left Durban & returned ^{here} after getting married &
opened a Butchers shop. I knew & saw most
of H.F.F. when waggons driving all over the country
eg Durban, Pmbury, also, Phamfontein, also Pretoria.
He never travelled with me. He used to get his meat
from one of his kaffirs who came to see him. He
was a great friend of my father.

Fynn, when he came from Westwoudt, his farm,
used to come & see us. He often stayed in town a
week at a time. He was an early rice liker.



He used to have a cup of coffee with me in the early morning. He never related to me his experiences. I remember his meeting me when I was with my waggons at Fields Bush, near Pieterstown. He got off & stayed. Akaffi came past ~~with~~ ^{with} A. had a Spanbok in his hand ^{one he always carried}. The kaffir did not greet him & ~~he~~ ^{he} asked why, when he saw a white man, he did not greet him. The native was cheeky, saying, "What have you got to do with me?" Fynn asked him who he was. The native replied ^{that} "It had nothing to do with him." I saw, "Do you know who I am?" he said, "No I know nothing about you." I got up & walked to him & said, "Do you know Mbulazi?" He said, "No." Fynn ~~then~~ ^{then} said, "Have you heard of him?" Fynn ^{now} made a snip & caught hold of him & said, "I'm Mbulazi, & I learn you, when you see a white man to ^{SALUTE} ~~greet~~ him." He then gave him a down-right good thrashing, whereupon ^{he} ~~he~~ ^{he} would be careful to do this in future. The native went down on his knees to him then. The other ~~men~~ ^{men} were looking on laughing, for they all knew

with my Dr. Mansie's book

(H. 72) This did a great deal of good. F. was a very honest & straight forward man. He told ~~me~~ ^{just} what he thought. I liked him very much. He very often gave me advice ^(when I sought it). He used to ask how I was getting on & wanted to know. He was a big man, broader than Swalafwala ⁽⁴⁾ & strong. He spoke the ~~N~~ ^N language splendidly. He knew how to handle a ~~N~~ ^N. He & Sir J. D. were the two best I ever saw with ~~N~~ ^N. There may be men that have known ~~N~~ ^N better than ~~he~~ ^{he} did but I don't think so. He knew all about them. ^{he was} F. always had an old, quiet nag; never a furious rider. Dick King ⁽⁵⁾ could ride anything. If Sir J. D. had been left in ~~transvaal~~ ^{the} ~~transvaal~~, there would have been no war. Sir Owen Lanyon was a very austere man; ^{he would} no sooner give his hand to a Boer than he would to a piece of dirt. ⁽⁶⁾ ~~He~~ ^{He} never told me his experiences in the early days in Zululand or Natal; at any rate I can't recollect anything. He did not say how he first came to Natal, overland or by sea, nor did he make mention of Nandi's death or the attack on him at Mbitankhola. ⁽⁷⁾

24.5.10.

59/33/4-7

Mr. Feather's Controversy - (9) ~~Mr. Kirkman~~
 N. 7. 7. ^{the} tells me sickness came into Zululand; they
 could not tell cause. The Kaffir doctors were called
 together & told to find ^{medicines} to stop it. At last they
 got together & the King ^(Ishaka or Dingane) was going to kill them because
 they were no good. They then told ~~him~~ him it was
 impossible for them to do away with the disease
 or find any ^{medicines} for it, so long as his people
 were wearing these bare white rings, ~~that~~ that
 was the cause of the sickness & ~~that~~ until they
 were made away with, the sickness would
 never be got rid of. They wished him to send
 word out all over the country to bring all the
 armlets, leg-rings, neck-rings of this white
 metal, & that they were to have holes dug & bury
 the rings & not allow anyone to come near
 the place & have it guarded & then the
 sickness would cease, but not before. This was
 done on the winter (This disease was
 supposed to be small pox). After this the

sickness went away - That is how the doctors escaped
 being killed.

I tried to find this when in Durban but could
 never get any trace. There must have been a great
 lot. The silver was, I believe, found in lead which
 contains a lot of silver.

I believe the locality where silver was buried
 was Ntabankulu. Snake ^{are} said by Brooks (surveyor)
 to be about there.

I only once went to Mr. Fynn's place. He used to
 deal with me. He was humorous, ^{would} like every now &
 then, ^{and was} very good company. I always liked to see him.
 I used to learn from him. He ^{He} walked erect, ^{did not}
 stoop ordinary pace walking.

We came to Natal just after Dick King's ride to
 Grahamstown and the same year. (10)

Joe Kirkman ^(referred to as) was father of the Kirkmans
 of Umzimto. He used to be with Grant the missionary
 of ^{who} (lived near Umzimto, where ^{Drift} road goes to Isipingo). He
 knew Zulu very well. He & Fynn told me the story about
 the silver. He also said he met a blind woman
 on the coast who knew the silver bangle story, but

Being blind it was necessary for her to taste various metals before she discovered the one similar to metal of bangles. As soon as she tasted a silver spoon she declared that to be the metal, but she would not or could not say where silver had been buried.

Matham himself told me he went across in the boat. He became a tin smith.

John McKenzie, who had a sugar plantation near Mkomazi & used to have a store ~~near~~ at place where Shepherds is now) are the two who rowed Dick King across when going on his famous ride. I knew Matham well. I know only one boat was rowed across. There were two horses, but I am not sure. I think King got his boy (Ndungeni) at Zimpingo.

Alfred Matham went to live at Port Elizabeth & I think he must still be living. The native had been with King along the coast ~~road~~ route & King knew it well.

Matham was strong & heavily built. ^{He was} Older Younger than he looked. Younger than me.

Joe Cato was a carpenter. I was apprenticed to him. Orlando arrived after I did & was made foreman in his brother's shop. Orlando must know a good deal of H. F. F. I was with Joe Cato only a year. My indenture was for 5 years, but ~~if~~ it was mutually agreed I should leave &

He came up in 1848 to live in Portburg.

god helps my father. I had learnt all Cato could teach me.

I tied the yokes on the 'trek-tow' for the wagon to bring the troops up to take Portburg from the Boers, this was just after we arrived in 1842.

Dick King came back from the Cape by land. [See Russell's 'Old Durban' where the Catos are referred to as having taken across 2 horses and 2 boats when Dick King started off on his Ride.]