

**Wolhuter, Joseph (Jozef) Philippus** (\*Beaufort West, 14.12.1865 - †East London, 27.6.1962), minister of the NG Kerk, was the son of George Hendrik Wolhuter and his wife, Hester Margaretha Jooste.

W. lost his parents when he was two, but overcame all difficulties, matriculating in 1888 and completing his theological studies at the Stellenbosch Theological Seminary in December 1893. After a short period as assistant minister in Johannesburg he served in the following congregations: Piet Retief (1895-1907), Ugie (1907-1908), and Lady Grey (1908-1934). During his period of service at Piet Retief the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) broke out which caused him and his wife many hardships, among them the destruction of the parsonage by the enemy.

W. accomplished his real life's work during the twenty-five years he served at Lady Grey. Under his guidance a graceful steeple church was completed in this town in 1913 and six years later a hostel was erected for indigent pupils. After his retirement on 7.1.1934 he settled in East London and when he died in his ninety-seventh year, he was the oldest minister of the NG Kerk.

Known for his sermons for children, W. was gifted in more ways than one, for in addition to his undeniable talent as an artist, which was expressed especially in music (more particularly the organ), he also painted and wrote. Although he began to write seriously only when he was eighty, he published two excellent books for children: *Albert en sy ryperd: toe en nou* (Cape Town, 1949) and *Kalie Karoo* (Pretoria, 1959). In both books he describes people and affairs as he knew them in his youth in the Karoo. His style is arresting and his narratives appeal mainly to the imagination of young people.

There were ten children of his marriage on 29.6.1897 at Uitenhage to Louisa Jacoba Krige. A photograph of him and his wife appears in Lange (*infra*).

† A. P. SMIT

Gedenkboek eeufees. N.G. Gemeente Lady Grey, 1862-1962. Queenstown, n.d.; - *Jaarboek van die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerke*, 1963; - 'In memoriam' in *Handelinge, Sinode van die NG Kerk in Suid-Afrika*, 1965.

**Wood, Harry Edwin** (\*Manchester, England, 3.2.1881 - †Mortimer, EP, 27.2.1946), astronomer, was the son of Frederick Wood. Educated at the Manchester Grammar School, W. later read physics under Sir Arthur Schuster at the University of Manchester for his M.Sc., acting for some time as Schuster's assistant and working mainly on interference phenomena of light.

In 1906 he was appointed chief assistant at the Transvaal (later Union of South Africa) Observatory in Johannesburg - the only astronomical observatory then maintained by the South African

government. Founded in 1903 as a purely meteorological establishment, it was the objective of the director, R. T. A. Innes,\* to establish astronomical work there. By 1907 W. was engaged at least partly on astronomy and remained at the Observatory when the meteorological section was removed in 1912. His main work was photography with the Franklin Adams star camera. He was responsible for the completion in the southern hemisphere of the Franklin Adams star charts and for the preparation of the Union Observatory charts. For many years he was virtually the only systematic observer of minor planets in the southern hemisphere, and of the several he personally discovered, three are named after Manchester, Pretoria, and the Transvaal.

For a long time W. was in charge of seismology at the Observatory and made a study of earth tremors due to mining on the Witwatersrand. In 1914 he went up the Zambezi to Barotseland to extend the magnetic survey of South Africa. During the First World War (1914-18) he served in East Africa but was invalided out in 1917 with malaria. He was Union Astronomer (director of the Observatory) from 1928 until his retirement on 3.2.1941 when he leased a farm at Mortimer.

W.'s scientific work is published principally in the Union Observatory circulars. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (1909), a member of the *Astronomische Gesellschaft* (1913), and a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa (1930). He served terms as president (1929-30) of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science (of which he was honorary secretary for twenty-three years), of the Astronomical Society (1929-30), and of the South African Geographical Society (1933). In 1937 the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, conferred an honorary D. Sc. on him.

On 19.2.1909 he married Mary Ethel Green-grass, a fellow student at Manchester. They had no children. Photographs of W. appear in *S.A.W.W.* and *The Star* (both *infra*).

M. W. FEAST

*S.A.W.W.*, 1944; - Obituaries: *The Star*, 28.2.1946; *Monthly Notes* [Astronomical Society of South Africa], 5, 1946; *South African Journal of Science*, 43, 1947; *Monthly Notices* [Royal Astronomical Society], 107, 1947.

**Wood, William** (\*Cape Colony, 1824(?) - †Cape Town, ?), Zulu interpreter, ivory trader, and hunter, was the son of Richard Wood, a carpenter at Port Natal employed by the trader J. Collins.

W. and his mother joined his father at Port Natal in September 1830, arriving in the cutter *Circe*. W. spent his first six months in Natal avidly learning Zulu, and was summoned for a short visit to Mgungundlovu by Dingane,\* the Zulu king, who had never before seen a White boy. On

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4.3.1836 he began to attend the Rev. G. Champion's\* school at the Umlazi mission as the only White pupil.

Tired of school, and with his father's permission, W. left in 1836 and as a full partner to Robert Russel became a trader and hunter. In August 1836 W. was again at Mgungundlovu, when he demonstrated to Dingane the efficacy of his pocket pistols. He was also a member of the expedition launched in 1836 against the Swazi chief, Sobhuza I,\* by some of the Natal British on Dingane's orders.

He was hunting in the region of the Umdloti River when his mother arranged that he should go to Mgungundlovu to act as interpreter to the Rev. F. Owen\*, who had established his mission there in October 1837; his regular interpreter, R. B. Hulley, would be away from December that year. W. was consequently a horrified eye-witness of the execution on 6.2.1838 of Pieter Retief\* and his party on the orders of Dingane. The Voortrekkers had ignored his warning that day to be on their guard against Dingane, whose manner had led W. to suspect that he was planning action against them. Although terrified, W. retained sufficient presence of mind to save the lives of those at the mission. Instead of faithfully interpreting Owen's acerbic response when Dingane attempted to explain the killings, he substituted his own words of feigned approval. Nevertheless, for a few days their fate hung in the balance until, on 11.2.1838, Dingane gave them permission to leave for Port Natal.

Soon afterwards (15.4.1838) W.'s father and his uncle, William Wood, were among those killed at the Tugela River in an unsuccessful raid by the Port Natal settlers on the Zulu. A Zulu army then moved on Port Natal, and between 17 and 24.4.1838 W. and his mother took refuge with other settlers on board the brig *Comet* while the Zulus sacked the settlement, including the Woods' home. A fortnight later W. and his mother trekked from Port Natal with the Edwards family to Grahamstown, a journey that took four months. They then travelled to Algoa Bay (later Port Elizabeth), and from there on the *Comet* to Cape Town.

W. recorded his experiences in *Statements respecting Dingaan, King of the Zoolahs, with some particulars relating to the massacres of Messrs. Retief and Biggars, and their parties* (1840). This work is important not only as an essential first-hand account of the circumstances of the death of Retief and his companions; it has descriptions of Zulu customs and life at Mgungundlovu, anecdotes about Dingane, and information on the settlement of Port Natal.

It is not known what happened to W. after he arrived at the Cape.

J. LABAND

Natal Arch., Pmbg.: Bird pap. Vol. 12: 'Account from the journals of the Rev. F. Owen'. *Church Missionary*

*Record*, Oct. 1838; - J. BIRD, *Annals of Natal*, 1495-1854. Vol. 1. Pmbg., 1888; - G. E. CORY (ed.), *The diary of the Rev. Francis Owen*, M.A. C.T., 1926; - G. MACKEURTAN, *The cradle days of Natal*, 1497-1845. Lond., 1930; - *The Daily News*, 27.7.1963; - A. R. BOOTH (ed.), *Journal of the Rev. George Champion*, 1835-39. C.T., 1967; - *The Natal Witness*, 20.2.1970; - E. C. TABLER, *Pioneers of Natal and Southeastern Africa 1552-1878*. C.T., 1977.

**Woodrow, Alan Clement Carr** (\*King William's Town, 23.11.1899 - †Durban, 18.7.1978), architect and heraldic designer, was youngest of the six children of Edwin James Carr Woodrow, an attorney and town clerk of King William's Town, and his wife, Winifred Kilduff.

Educated at Dale College, W. began to study architecture at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and then went on to the Architectural Association, London, on a Malcommess Scholarship, to become an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

In 1928 he registered with the Institute of South African Architects and set up practice in Durban. His first major commission, completed in 1932, was the remodelling of St Joseph's Catholic Church in stone in the English Gothic style of various periods. The key building of his early career, however, was Dulcalan, the house he built for himself in 1937. Although planned for the Durban climate, it preserved an early English character.

Adventurous and with a passion for outdoor life, W. enlisted with the South African Defence Force during the Second World War (1939-45), attending the military college and rising to the rank of second lieutenant.

During his eleven years of partnership with Austin Collingwood (1954-65) most of his work was ecclesiastical, his first major commission being the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Musgrave Road (1958). With this building he started what was to become his personal style, one which he expounded to the full in Our Lady of Fatima in Durban North (1962) and Our Lady Star of the Sea at Amanzimtoti (1973).

He was as interested in the embellishments of churches as he was in the buildings themselves, and gave ample opportunity to artist and craftsman (Baldinelli at Holy Trinity, Berberekai at Fatima), showing great concern for human scale and for detail; he himself was a quick and ardent draughtsman and an accomplished water-colourist.

He was first elected to the committee of the Natal Provincial Institute of Architects in 1929, and served as its president in 1950, 1951 and 1960; eventually he was honoured with a citation by this institution (1967).

A sensitive man and a perfectionist, his was a rare combination of artist and architect. As a member of the Heraldry Societies of Great Britain and Southern Africa, he prepared the coats of