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Philippolis Legacy Project:

The Draaij family Also Draai and Draay

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8 February 2022

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A. The Draai family in the town of Philippolis

Four individual owners have been identified:

- Piet Draaij
- Witbooy Draay
- Andries Draay, and
- Jan Draai.

The different spellings may indicate that they belong to different families, or are only distantly related. However, given the variability of spellings of names, it is quite possible that they are closely related.

All information below is drawn from the Philippolis deeds register in the Bloemfontein archive.

1. Piet Draaij

Piet Draaij owned three properties in town: Erven 182, 183 and 184. He purchased all three from Adam Kok in 1860, and sold them all to William James Dodds in 1866. It is likely that Piet would then have left for Kokstad around that time. These three properties are now owned by the Post Office and the Telkom tower is situated here. The front of the properties are in the main street (Voortrekker Street), while the back are on Colin Fraser Street. In the 1860s, the address was **18, 19 and 20 Onder-Kerk Street**.

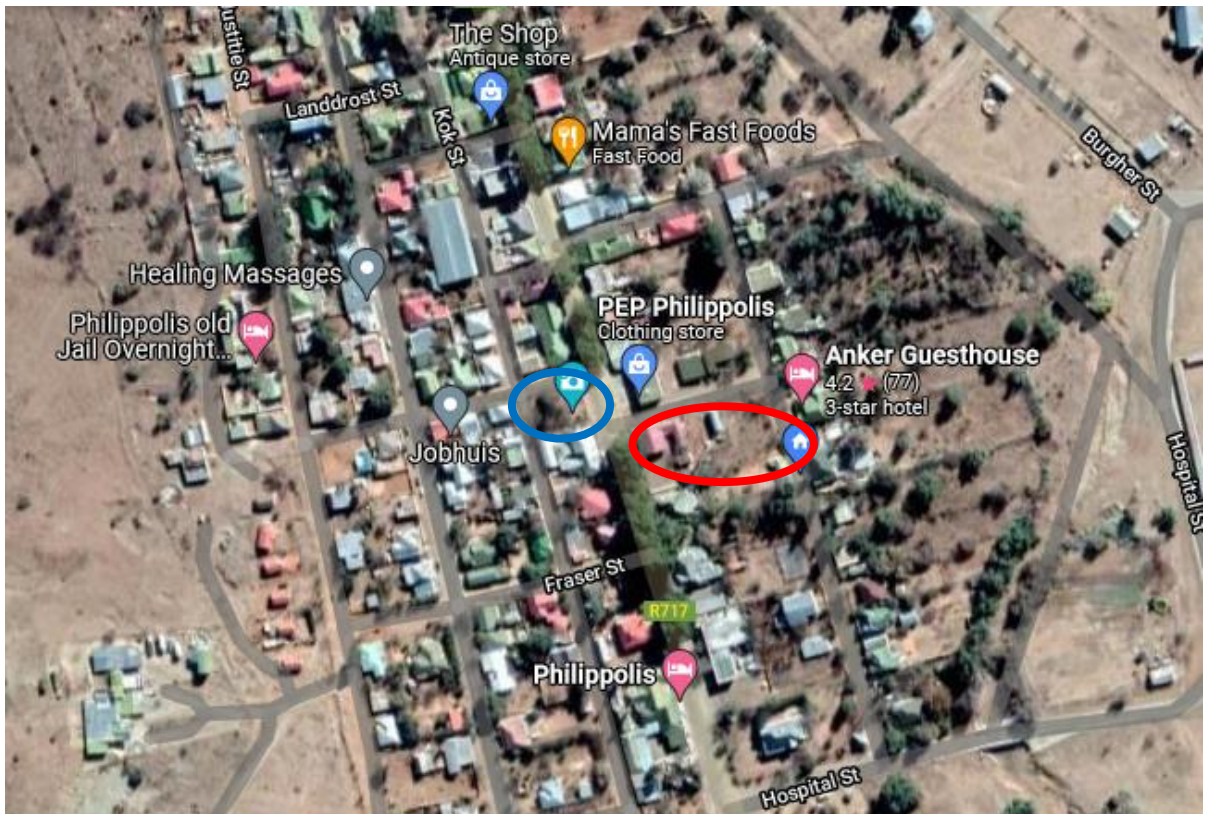
See RED circle on the photograph below.

2. Witbooy Draay

Witbooy Draay owned erf 25, which he purchased in 1861 from the Griqua government, and sold in 1890 to David Gilliland.

This erf is now the Emily Hobhouse Park.

See BLUE circle on the photograph below.



3. Andries Draay

Andries bought Erf 20 in Rowelsfontein (the smallholdings area, west of Philippolis), in 1861 from the Griqua Government, and sold it in 1873 to a Mrs Smith. Today it is called Erf 320.



4. Jan Draai

Jan purchased erf 273 in 1861 from the Griqua Government, and sold it in 1867 to Esaias Rynier Snyman. This erf is located on the east side of the little Otterspoort River, in Burgher Street. It is today opposite the horse showgrounds. I do not think there is a structure on it. It would have been a good irrigation erf, alongside the river, in the old days.



2. The Draai family in the Philippolis district

Several farms have a version of “Draai” in their names. It is possible that this may have referred to very early Griqua residents with that name (or variants of it). For example:

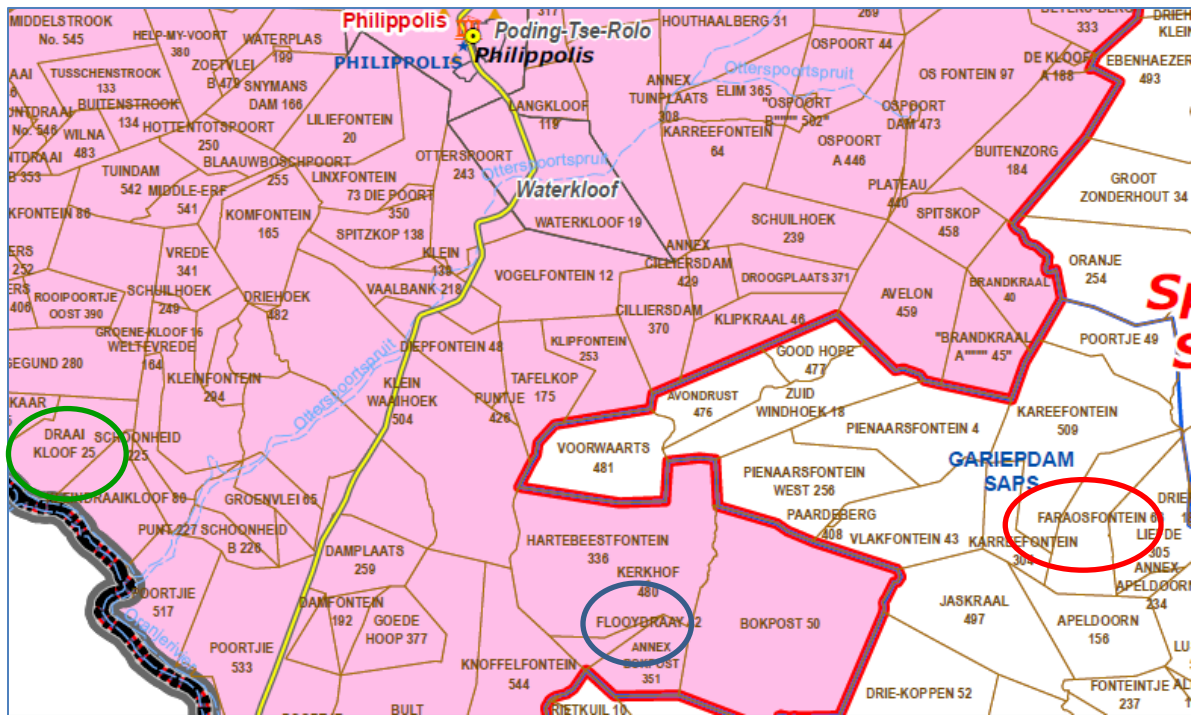
- Flooydraay (first registered in 1861, today part of the farm Bokpost)
- Draaikloof (first registered in 1856, south-west of Philippolis).

We have no evidence that Flooydraay or Draaikloof belonged to the Draay family – this is just speculation at this stage.

According to the title deeds, the farm Pharaosfontein/Faraosfontein was owned by **J Draay**. Draay purchased this farm in 1855, and sold it the same year to Esaias Renier Snyman. It is possible that Draay owned the farm for a long time before 1855, and that it was only registered in 1855 – just before he sold it.

It is interesting that all three these farms (Flooydraay, Draaikloof and Pharaosfontein) were in the southern and south-eastern side of Philippolis. It is possible that the Draaij family lived on these farms situated near each other.

Draaikloof marked in green in the map below, **Pharaosfontein** in red and **Flooydraay** in blue (the Orange River is in the bottom left hand corner):



Map: Department of Justice, https://www.justice.gov.za/maps/fs/FS_Sub_27_Oct_2016_X-Philippolis.pdf

3. The Draaij family in Griquatown (1814-1820)

The following Draaij names were recorded by the London Missionary Society (LMS) in Griquatown (the list was transcribed by Karel Schoeman): These names are typically written as **Draaijer** or **Draayer**, and was probably related to the modern name **Dreyer**.

The entries are a bit confusing, since the parents' name is sometimes given first, and the baptised person's name is sometimes given first.

1. Catharina Draaijer, baptised 27 February 1814, at the age of 36 years
2. Catharina Draayer, baptised 15 December 1816, the daughter of Klaas Draayer and Catharina Jantjes

3. Catharina Draayer, baptised 15 December 1816, the daughter of Klaas Draayer and Elsie Draayer, born Jantjes
4. Margareetha Draaijer, baptised 2 July 1809, daughter of Jager Boer and Lea Kok, but her father is Hans Draaijer
5. Elizabeth Draayer – see Eliz Bloem born Draayer:
 - 5.1 Lys Draayer see Lys Bloem born Draayer (Note “Lys” = “Elizabeth”): Lys Bloem (born Draayer) and husband Jan Bloem, baptised their children Johannes, Hans, Mathys and Kaatje Bloem on 15 December 1816
 - 5.2 Lys Bloem born Draayer and husband Jan Bloem, baptised their daughter Christina Bloem on 10 July 1818
 - 5.3 Lys Bloem born Draaijer and her husband Jan Bloem baptised their son Berend Bloem on 23 January 1820.
 - 5.4 Elizabeth Bloem (probably Lys) born Draayer, baptised 10 July 1815; wife of Jan Bloem. (There was a famous brigand called Jan Bloem, living near Postmasburg; he was of mixed German and Khoi parentage. It may have been the same person).
6. Griet Draaijer – see Griet Pauwel born Draaijer
 - 6.1 Griet Pauwel, born Draaijer, wife of Jan Pauwel, confirmed on 24 November 1816
 - 6.2 Griet’s husband, Jan Pauwel, was confirmed on 24 november 1816
 - 6.3 Lea Pauwel was baptised in May 1817; her mother is Griet Pauwel born Draaijer.

Here are the original entries (in Dutch) from Karel Schoeman’s transcriptions (which are sometimes quite confusing in the original LMS records):

Draayer *sien* Dreyer (NOTA: 'Draaijer/Draayer' word konsekwent gebruik en is moontlik d
 korrekte spelling)
 Dreyer: Catharina Draaijer, 1814.02.27 ged, 36 jaar
 Dreyer: Catharina Draayer, 1816.12.15 ged, dv Klaas Draayer & Catharina Jantjes
 Dreyer: Elizabeth Draayer *sien* Elizabeth Bloem geb Draayer
 Dreyer: Elsie Draayer geb Jantjes, 1816.12.15, & Klaas Draayer, ov Catharina Draayer ged
 Dreyer: Griet Draaijer *sien* Griet Pauwel geb Draaijer
 Dreyer: Hans Draaijer, 1809.07.02, doop Margareetha dv Jager Boer & Lea Kok, 'haar vader
 Hans Draaijer'
 Dreyer: Klaas Draayer, 1816.12.15, & Elsie Jantjes, ov Catharina Draayer ged
 Dreyer: Lys Draayer *sien* Lys Bloem geb Draayer

Blom: Elizabeth Bloem geb Draayer, 1815.09.10 ged, vrou van Jan Bloem

Blom: Lys Bloem geb Draayer, 1816.12.15, & Jan Bloem, ov Johannes, Hans, Mathys & Kaatje
 Bloem ged
 Blom: Lys Bloem geb Draayer, 1818.07.10, & Jan Bloem, ov Christina Bloem ged
 Blom: Lys Bloem geb Draaijer, 1820.01.23, & Jan Bloem, ov Berend Bloem ged

Pauwel: Griet Pauwel geb Draaijer, 1816.11.24 aangeneem, vrou van Jan Pauwel
 Pauwel: Griet Pauwel geb Draaijer, 1817.05.***, moeder van Lea Pauwel ged (*geen vader aangegee
 nie*)
 Pauwel: Jan Pauwel, 1816.11.24, man van Griet Draaijer aangeneem
 Pauwel: Lea Pauwel, 1817.05.** ged, dv Griet Pauwel geb Draaijer (*geen vader aangegee nie*)

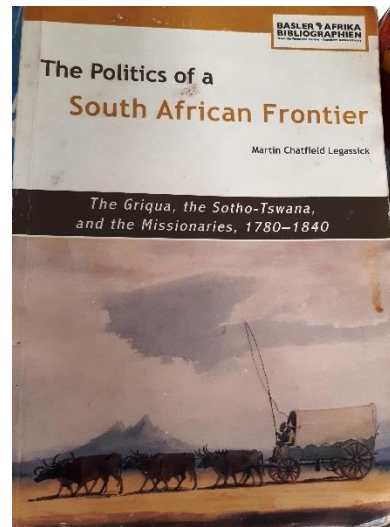
4. Mentions of Draaij/Dreyer before and during the Griquatown era (middle 1700s to 1827)

There is no mention of the Draaij/Dreyer family in Karel Schoeman's book *The Mission at Griquatown 1801-1821*. This means that they were probably not of the leadership cadre at the mission.

In fact, they were mentioned several times in the context of the Bergenaar movement – a rebellion against Andries Waterboer, the *Kaptyn* of Griquatown. This would also explain why the Draaij/Dreyer family came to Philippolis, because it was Adam Kok II and his Bergenaar followers who settled at Philippolis in 1826.

Martin Legassick's book *The Politics of a South African Frontier* (2010) has several mentions of Dreyer":

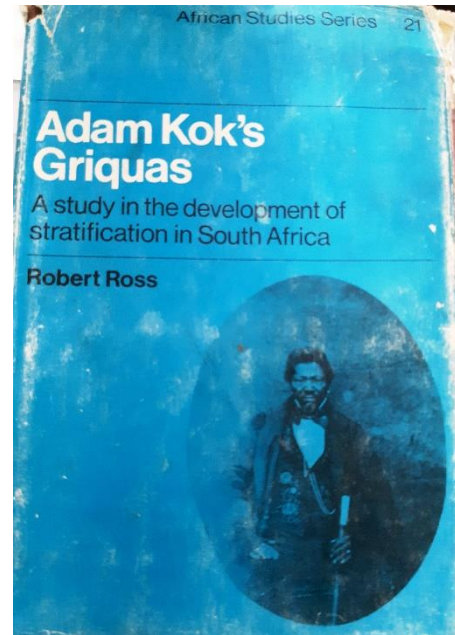
1. Page 55, referring to Kamiesberg in Namaqualand: "It is in the Khamiesberg area [around the middle of the 1700s] that we must presume that families originated such as the Engelbrechts, the Goeymans, the Stuurmans, **the Dreyers**, the Hendricks, the Cloetes, the Balies, all of whom appear again later in the middle Orange".
2. Page 85, referring to Rietfontein in 1802, the mission station just before Griquatown was established: "Those Bastards [i.e. Dutch-speaking coloured people, who were later called "Griqua"] who were not related to either family [Kok or Berends] appear to have attached themselves in an informal manner to one or the other: Frans Jood, for example, or **Hans Dreyer**, or Hans Lucas or the Goeymans, the Hendricks and the Pienaars. No doubt this was because the Kok and Berends families were the first to arrive and the wealthiest, and because along the often-dry Orange [River] there were few places where water could be found to pasture cattle and establish residence; the protection against San cattle raids and after 1799, the raids of Afrikaner, would also have been factors".
3. Page 171: It seems the Dreyers were part of the Bergenaar rebellion against Andries Waterboer at Griquatown, in 1822. Rebel Griqua and some Bergenaars were based in the Langeberg (west of Griquatown), raiding the nearby BaTlhaping. "Some who joined the Klein Bergenaars had motives other than a desire for cattle. One Klaas Dreyer, for example, a follower of Berends, returned to the Langeberg to to take his revenge on [Chief] Mahura, who appears to have been his *maat* [ally] but who had violated the agreement by abducting Dreyer's wife".
4. Page 206: By 1827, the Bergenaars in the Langberg were attacked by Andries Waterboer of Griquatown. A number of Bergenaars, including **Klaas Dreyer**, were killed. [By then, a Bergenaar faction under Hendrick Hendricks and Adam Kok was making its way to Philippolis, and some Dreyer/Draaij family members would have been part of that movement eastwards].



5. Draai/Draay individuals at Philippolis, 1826-1861

1. Piet Draai

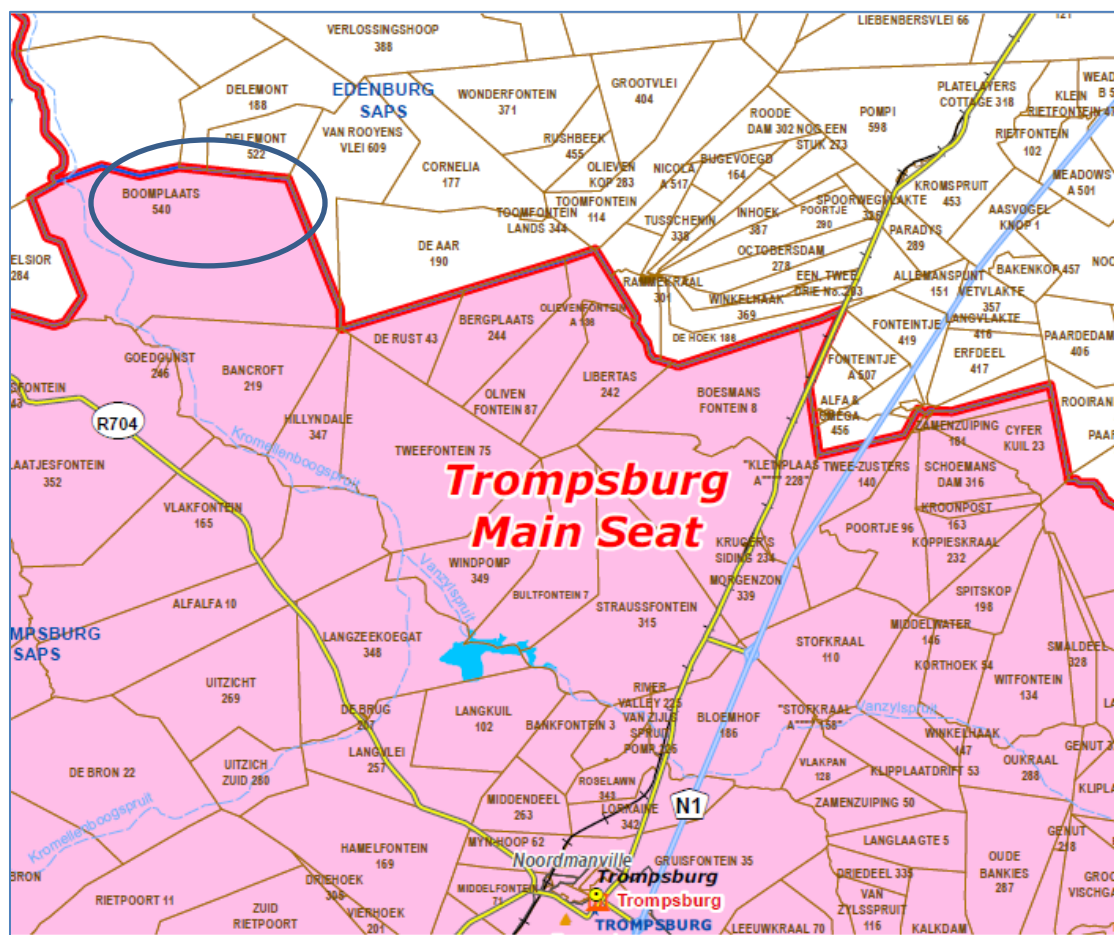
A useful source is Robert Ross, *Adam Kok's Griquas: A study in the development of stratification in South Africa* (1976).



1. Page 85: In July 1848, as tensions between the Dutch (under Andries Pretorius) and the British intensified, Adam Kok II was away from Philippolis, consulting with Waterboer, at Griquatown. "Hendricks and **Piet Draai, now emerging as one of the leading councillors of the Captaincy**, were prepared to enter into an arrangement of neutrality, which would need to be ratified by the *Kaptyn*."
2. Page 91: There were stories of Griqua losing their land in complicated political processes involving the British, some Boer tenants, and the Griqua land-owners, after 1850. "Piet Draai had a similar tale to tell over the farm at Boomplaats". Boomplaats is located just west of Trompsburg (south-west of Bloemfontein).

Ross provides the following reference for this: *Memorial of Draay, no date, GH 10/6*. This refers to the Government House files at the archives in Cape Town. I tried to find it on the Archives inventory, but failed to do so. It would be worth going to the Cape Archives (Roeland Street) and finding this document.

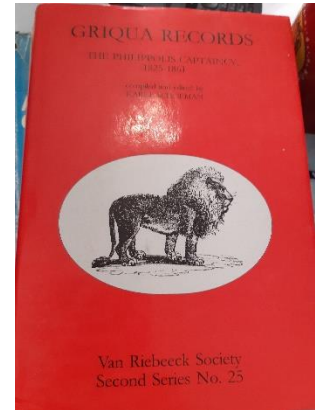
Boomplaats is a very historic farm, as there was a battle between the British and the Boers there in 1848 (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Boomplaats). On the farm, there is a monument about the battle. On the map below, the N1 highway goes north-south (Bloemfontein is to the north). The farm Boomplaats surrounds a massive mountain which looks like Table Mountain in Cape Town. It can be seen from at least 40 km away:



Map: Department of Justice:

https://www.justice.gov.za/maps/fs/FS_Sub_27_Oct_2016_X-Trompsburg-MainSeat.pdf

Karel Schoeman's book *Griqua Records: The Philippolis Captaincy, 1825-1861* (1996) provides several pieces of official correspondence of the Griqua leadership at Philippolis, in which Draay family members are mentioned. Typically, they would be part of Griqua Raad meetings, and therefore sign off on correspondence.



The following photocopies are all obtained from this book.

A meeting in Springfontein, 25 October 1842, Schoeman page 48:

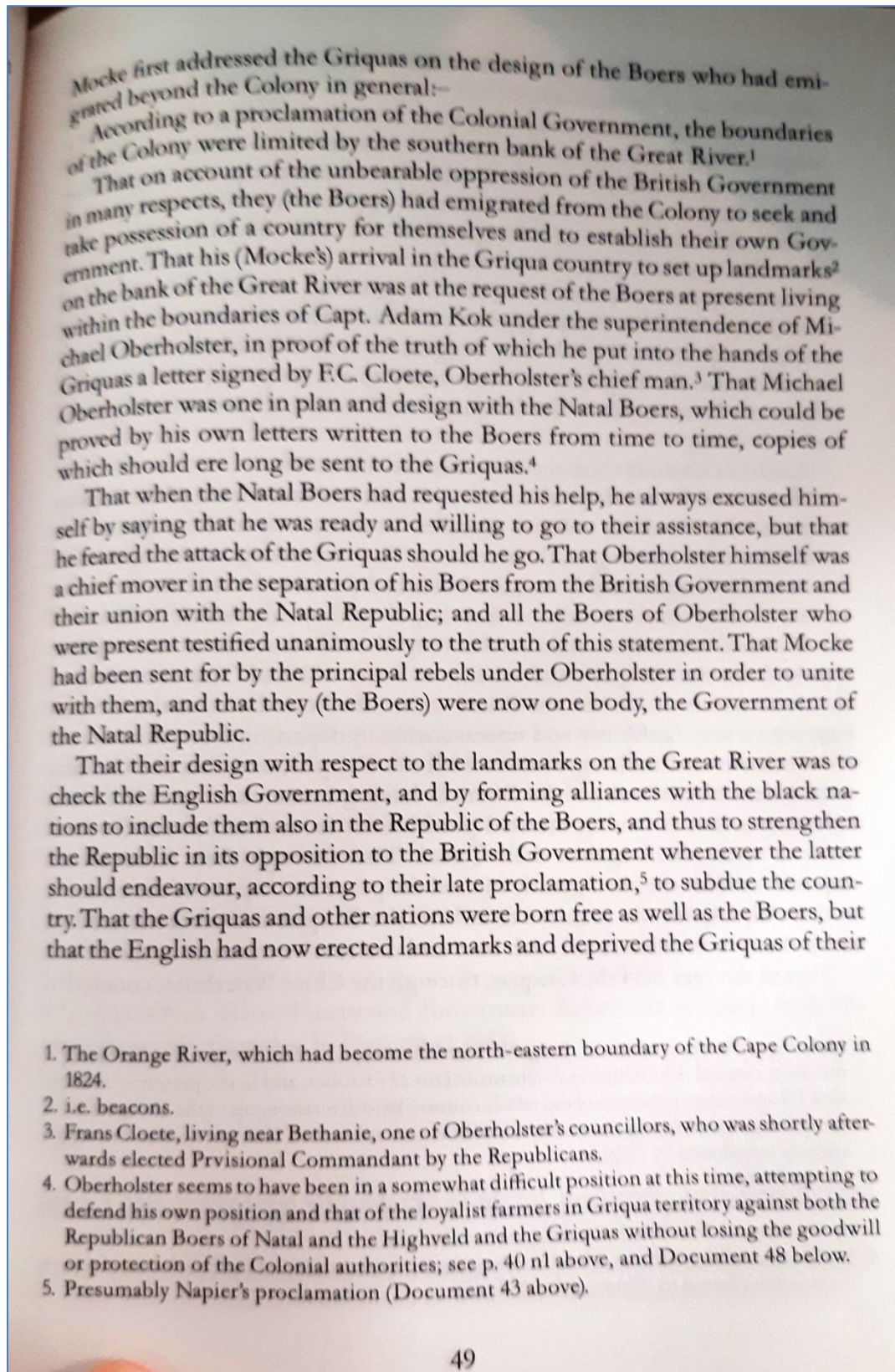
46. Report on a meeting between Hendrik Hendrickze and others, and J.G. Mocke (Springfontein, 25 October 1842)¹

Translation

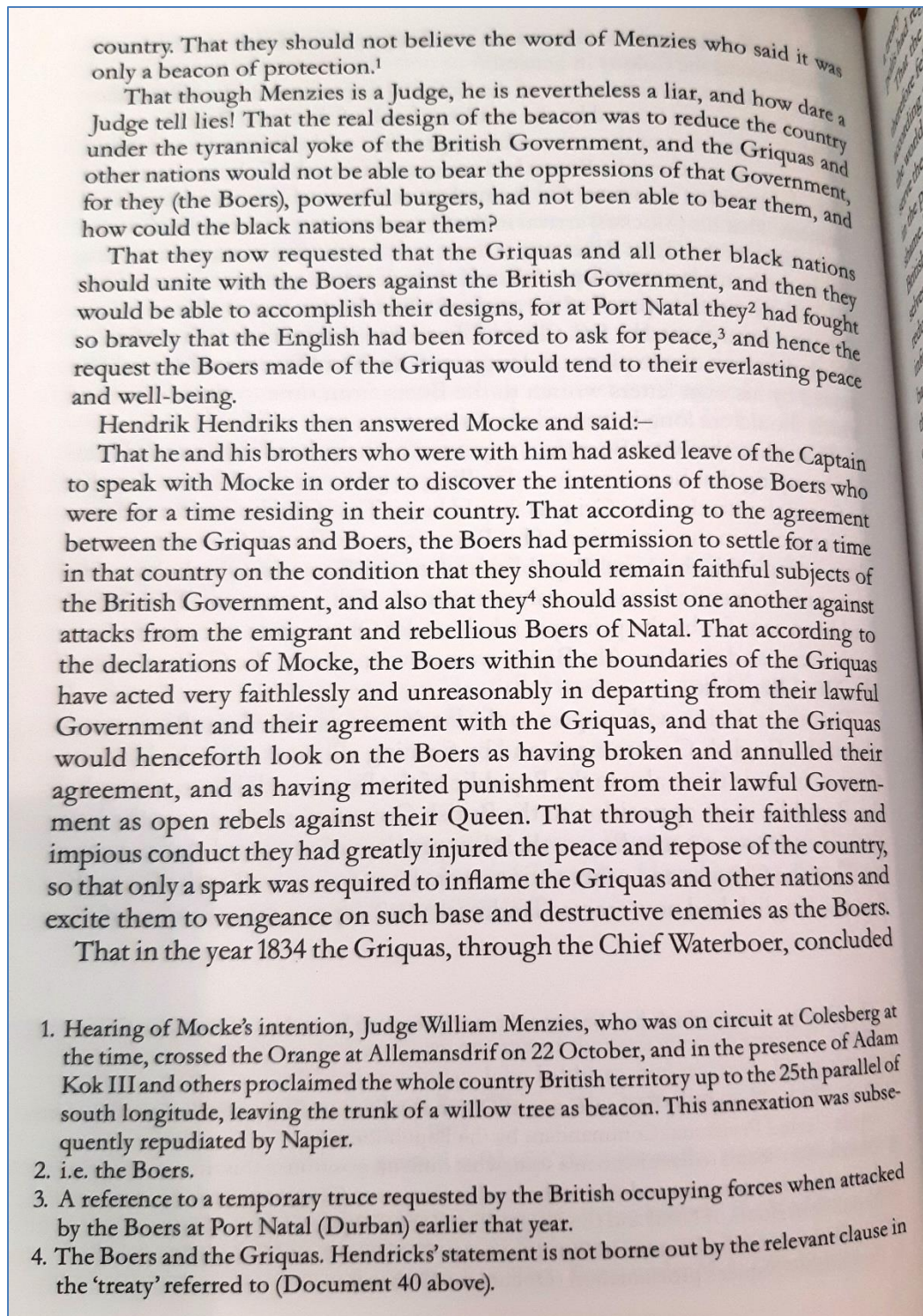
Notes of a conversation between the Commandant Mocke,² living in the country of Moshesh, Chief of the Basbutus,³ and the Griquas Hendrik Hendriks, Hans Domberg, Piet Draay and Jan Isaaks, at Spring Fontein, October 25th, 1842

1. This account appeared in the Cape Town newspaper the *South African Commercial Advertiser*, which was edited by Dr Philip's son-in-law John Fairbairn, and was most likely obtained from Philip's close confidant the Revd Peter Wright, who had taken up his duties as missionary at Philippolis in the winter of 1842.
2. The name has been misread and printed as 'Moeke' throughout this report, and has been corrected where it occurs.
3. Mocke and his Republican followers were at the time living between the Modder and Vet Rivers, on area apparently considered part of Sotho territory, and formed a party quite distinct from and opposed to the loyalist Riet River Boers under M.A. Oberholster.

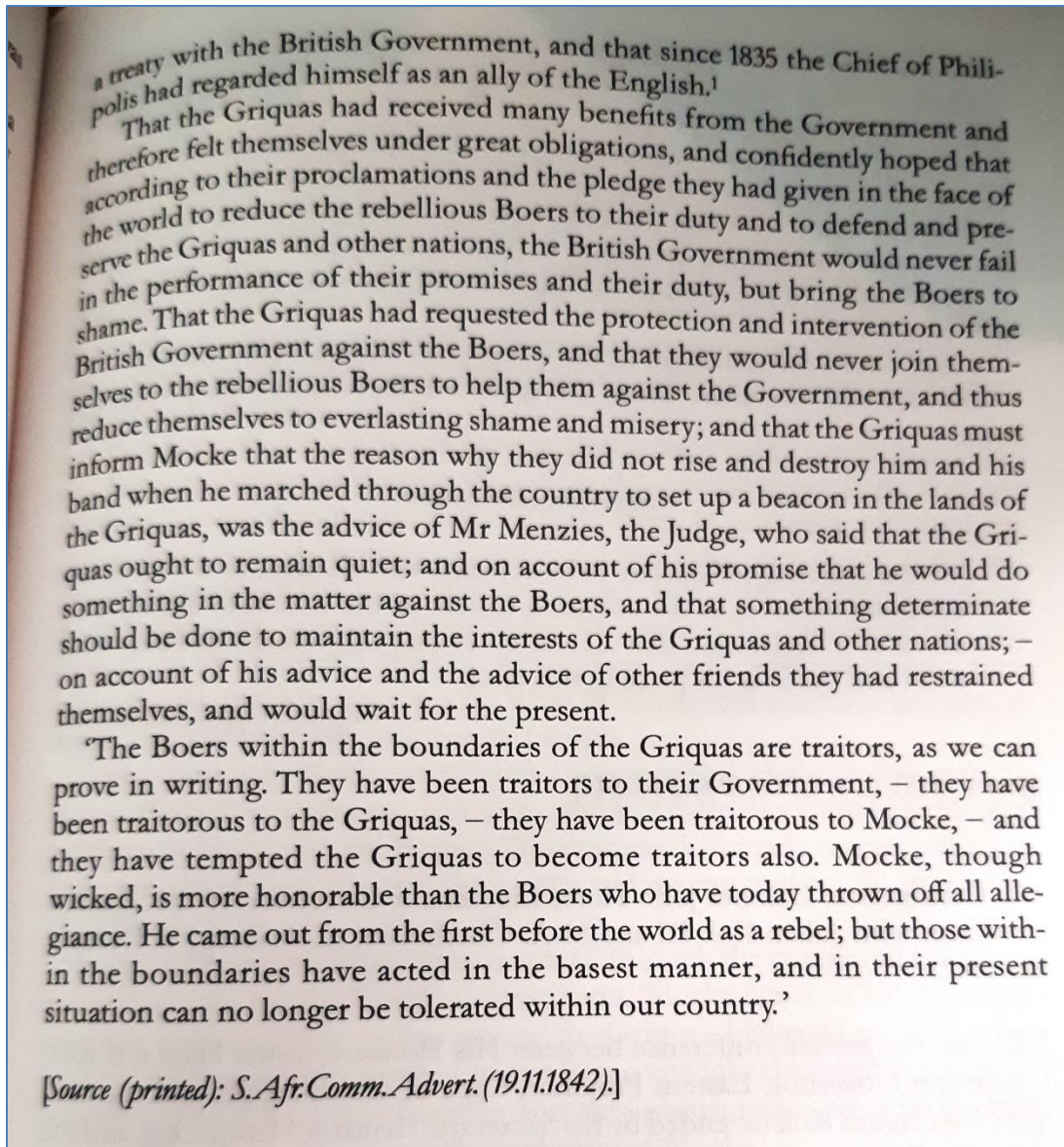
The document continues below (page 49):



The document continues below (page 50):



The document continues below (page 51):



[Source (printed): *S. Afr. Comm. Advert.* (19.11.1842).]

Philippolis 5 June 1853: [translated from Dutch; Schoeman page 274]:

106. Adam Kok III and Council: Acknowledgement . . . (Griquatown, 5 June 1853)

I, Captain Adam Kok of Philippolis, with his Council members present, the Honourable Messrs Lukas Hans, Piet Draay, Petrus Pienaar en Lukas van der Westhuisen, recognise and hereby declare in name of the Griqua nation and it has in general our complete approval, consent and concurrence that Mr Nicolaas Waterboer, son and heir to the deceased Captain Andreas Waterboer, has been appointed Captain and Paramount Chief of the Griquas of Griquatown and the surrounding territory of the same, and we pledge ourselves to maintain with him the same unanimity, good relations and friendship as with his late father.

Adam Kok, Captain; W. Heemroo, Acting Secretary.

Philippolis 1848 (Piet Draay signed the letter at the bottom; Schoeman page 113):

81. Adam Kok III and Raad: Memorial to Sir Harry Smith on difficulties with Boers in Griqua territory (September? 1848)⁵

The memorial of the Chief Adam Kok and Council in the name of the Griqua people of Philippolis and its vicinity.

Respectfully sheweth: That memorialists desire most respectfully to show His Excellency that they have read His Excellency's proclamation proclaimed at Bloem Fontein.

That memorialists wish most respectfully to make known to His Excellency that in this proclamation they understand and see nothing that belongs to the welfare of the Griqua people, altho' the Griquas have been greatly

1. i.e., to accompany Hendrickze to the proposed meeting.
2. On the approach of Pretorius and his followers, Adam Kok and the members of his Raad had retired to Colesberg.
3. Possibly the previous document.
4. On 29 August 1848 Pretorius and his followers were defeated at Boomplaats by Sir Harry Smith and a force which included 250 Griquas.
5. After the defeat of Pretorius, Smith proceeded to Bloemfontein and Winburg, in each of which places British sovereignty was reproclaimed. The copy of the memorial here transcribed is undated, but it was written after the reproclamation of sovereignty at Bloemfontein on 2 September, and Smith replied to it from Bloemfontein on 13 September.

The document continues (Schoeman page 114):

wronged by the Boers, as well in their private property as in their cornfields, which can be proved if required.

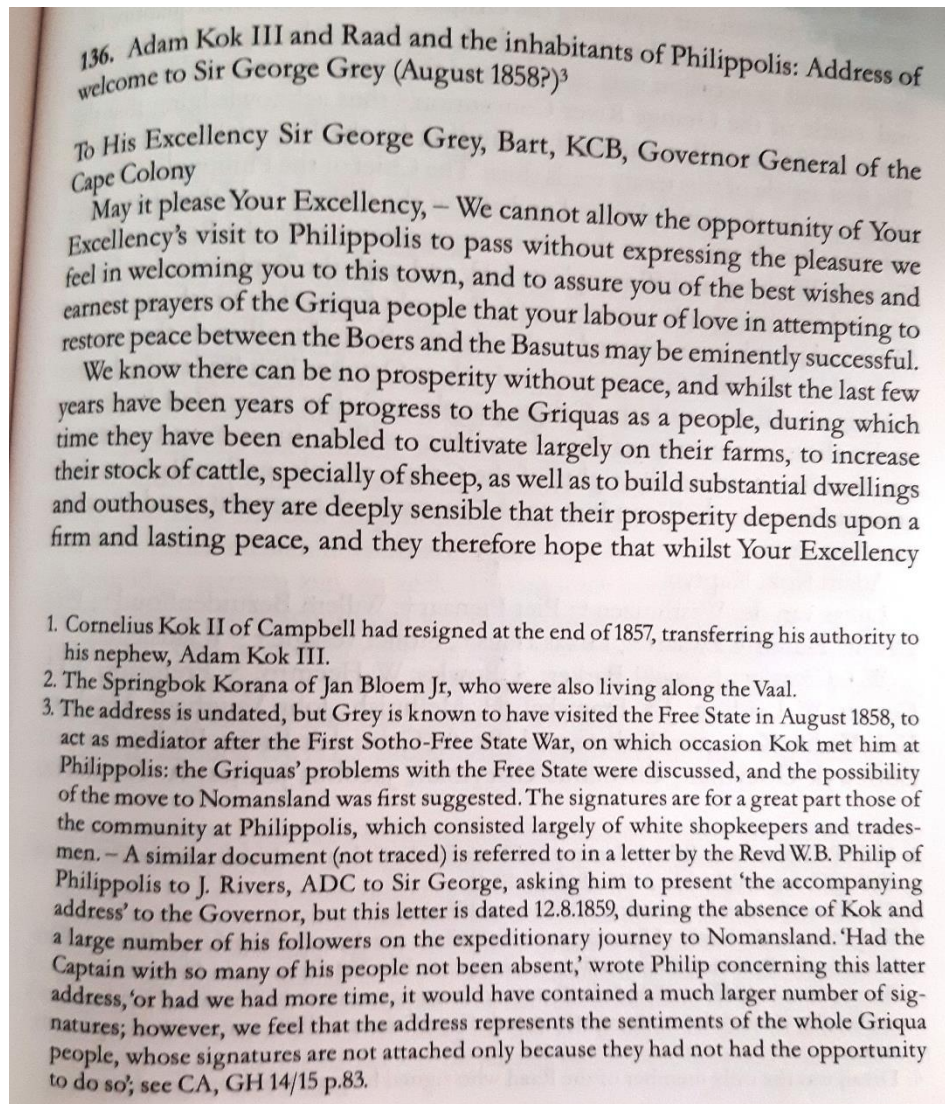
That memorialists wish most respectfully to request, as it is in all points impossible for the Griqua people to live together with the emigrant Boers, that it may please Your Excellency to remove the Boers out of the unfeasable territory, if not so, then that Your Excellency ought to remove the rebel Boers out of the abovementioned territory, those who were in the rebel camp and those who rendered assistance to the rebel camp. If Your Excellency cannot render assistance to memorialists in this, we know not how we must behave ourselves under such trying circumstances, the more because the conditions of the treaty through which the Emigrants can retain their places within the Griqua territory is that they continue loyal British subjects and that they preserve peace. All these conditions have been broken by the rebel Boers who have taken up arms against their own Government, on account of which many precious lives have been lost by Her Majesty's troops as well as Griquas.

Memorialists wish that Your Excellency will so manage it that from henceforth we might live in the enjoyment of peace. By so doing, memorialists will pray for the success of Your Excellency.

(Signed) Most respectfully: Adam Kok, Kaptyn; Hendrick Hendrickse, Secretary. Members of Council: Piet Draay; Piet Pienaar; Petrus Pienaar; Cootje Cloete; Wentzel Heemro.¹

[Source (MS): CWM4 Odds 542-543 (No.3) (LMS 25/1/E); with copy of reply by Smith (13.10.1848). Copy of reply (MS) also in: CWM4 Odds 561 (Document IV) (LMS, Freeman Papers 1/2/C).]

Philippolis 1858 (English in original; Schoeman page 191):



The document continues (see particularly footnote 4 at the bottom of the page, Schoeman page 192):

has passed the Colonial frontier in the honorable capacity of peacemaker, you will suggest and arrange some plan by which peace with our neighbours may be rendered more secure, and that sense of our security in our property will be the greatest stimulus to our progress.

This hope has been strengthened by observing from time to time Your Excellency's administration of Colonial affairs, and also by reading the letter of Mr Labouchere¹ to Your Excellency dated October the 10th, 1857, in which, whilst bringing forward two reasons why the Griquas may be supplied with a larger amount of ammunition for legitimate objects, he says, 'It seems there is nothing to prevent our supplying the Griquas with an additional quantity. 1st, because the treaty of 1843 with Adam Kok says he may be supplied with more ammunition as occasion may require, and this treaty is preserved by the second article of the Orange River Convention;² thus acknowledging that the treaty of 1843 is still considered as binding by the Imperial Government. The first article of this treaty reads thus: 'The Chief of the Philippolis Griquas engages to be the faithful friend and ally of the Colony', and that these were not mere words was put to the test in engagements with the Boers at Zwart Koppies, Winburg and Bloomplaats [*sic*], and with the Tambookies at Hanglip,³ and since no single instance can be brought forward in which the Griqua Chief and people ever swerved in the slightest from this alliance, they rejoice to find Her Majesty's Government so lately as October 10th 1857 still acknowledging its alliance with the Griqua people, and they cannot but hope that under these circumstances Your Excellency will do his utmost to prevent any aggressions upon the rights of the Griqua people, and will make such arrangements as shall conduce to the increase of prosperity and security amongst them.

Adam Kok, Kaptyn.

Lukas van der Westhuizen+; Piet Pienaar+; Willem Bezuidenhoud+; Piet Draaij;⁴ Hendrik Zwaart+; Lukas Hans+; Stoffel Vesagie+ – Raadsleden.

W. J. Crossley; [*illegible*] Barker; S. Rowles; W. Heemro; S. Pretorius; W. O. Corner; W. Leiding; J. S. Framskel; H. Melhuish; John Vaughan; Abraham Kok; Willim Kok; Abel Kok; Gert de Bruin; Gabriel de Bruin; Phillip Corner; Lodewyk Goeyman; Cornelius Goeyman; Jacobus Jantjes; A. Lendertz;

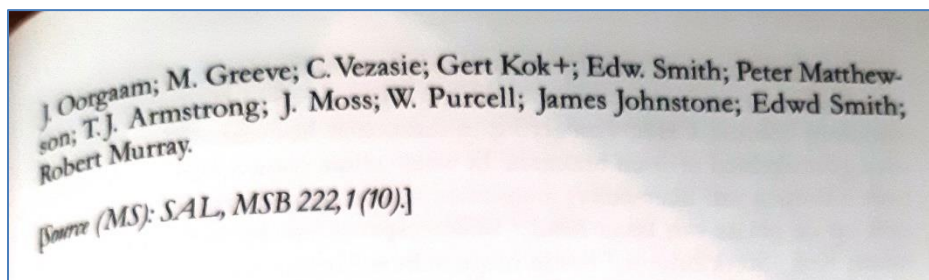
1. H. du P. Labouchere, British Secretary of State for the Colonies; the letter referred to, dated 10.10.1857, is published in A.118-1861, pp.10-11.

2. The Bloemfontein Convention (Document 108 above).

3. Respectively, the battle of Swartkoppies in 1845; an attack on the Republican Boers at Winburg by the Resident, Captain Warden, supported by 150 Griquas, in 1846; the battle of Boomplaats in 1848; and Warden's ill-starred campaign against the Thembu ("Tambookies") at Hanglip (Hangklip) in the north-eastern Cape Colony in 1851, again with Griqua assistance.

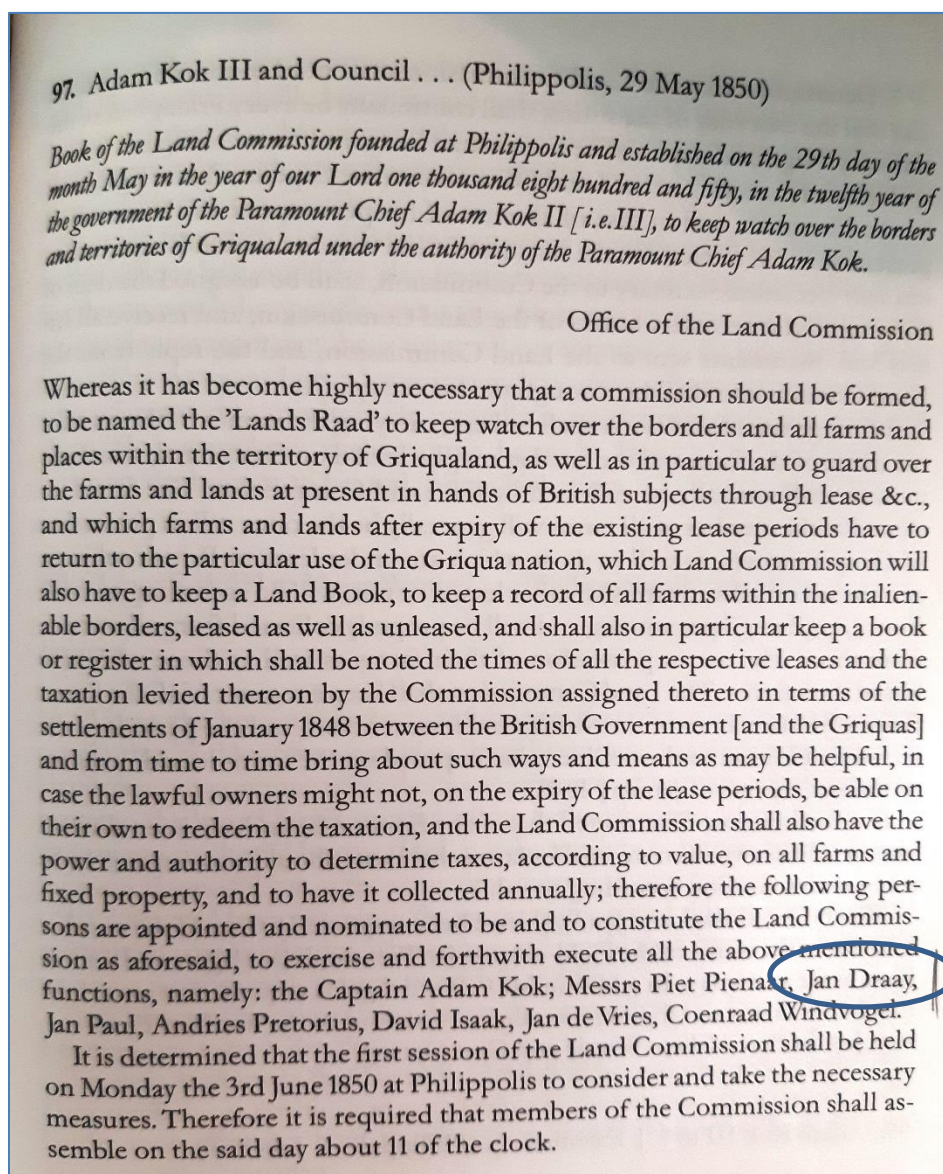
4. Draaij was the only member of the Raad who signed his own name on the address.

The document continues (Schoeman page 193):

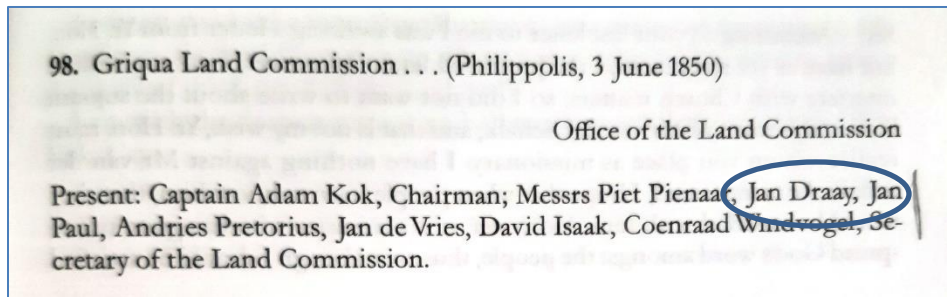


2. Jan Draay

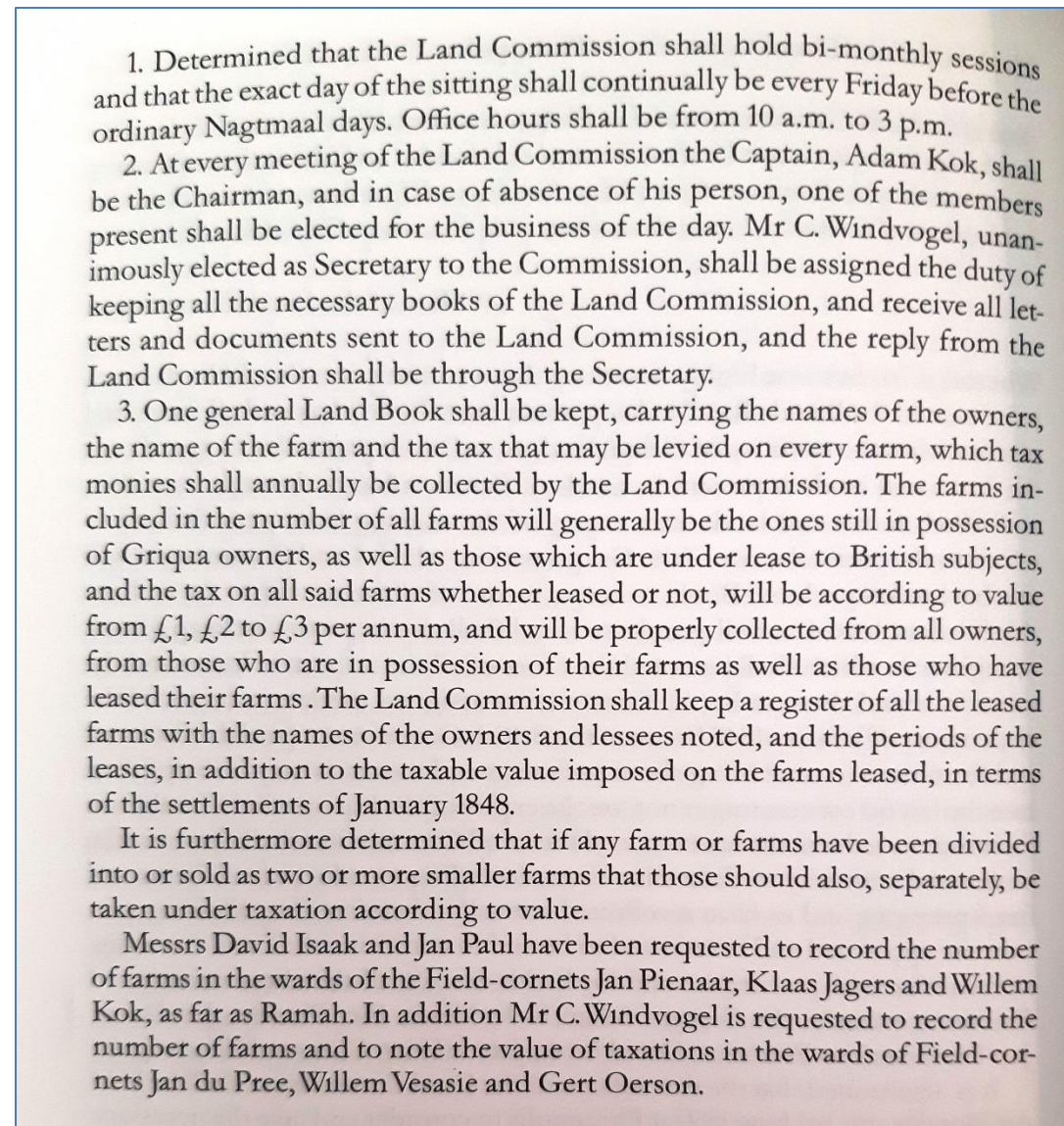
From Karel Schoeman, page 97, translated from Dutch, 29 May 1850:



Philippolis 3 June 1850, translated from Dutch (Schoeman page 271):



The same document continues (Schoeman page 272):

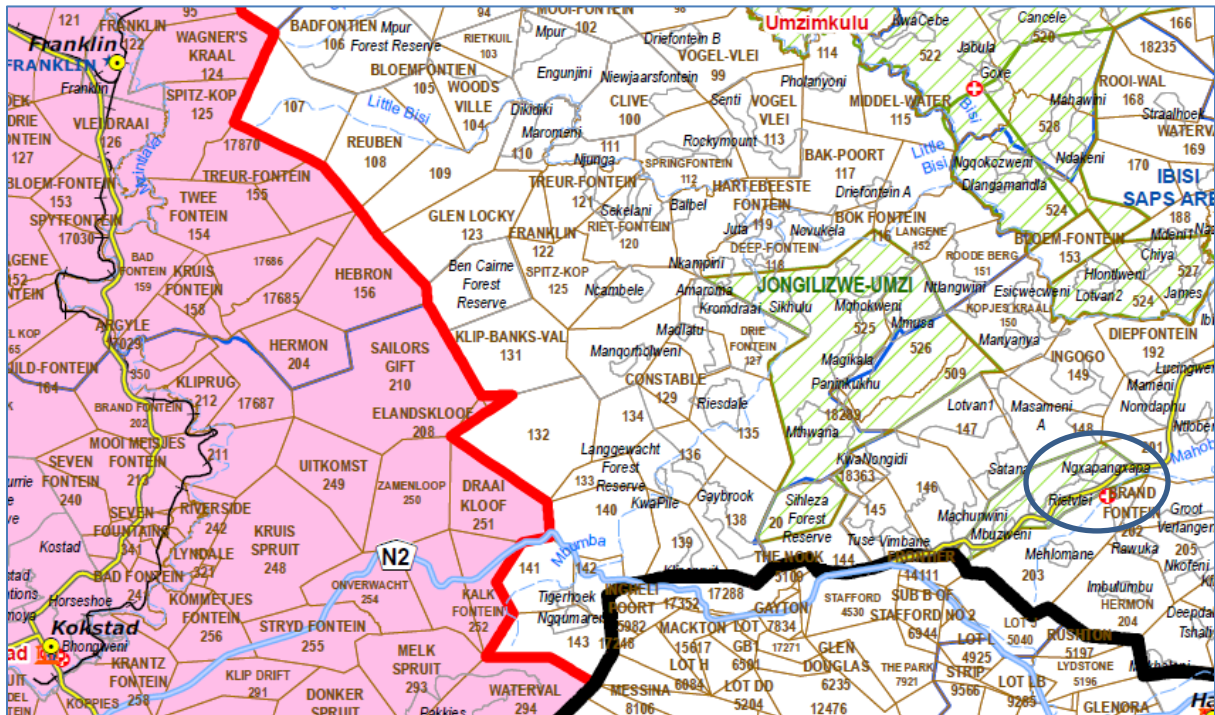


6. The Draai family after leaving Philippolis

Richard Ross (page 105) mentions the Draai family near Kokstad, in relation to the farm Riet Vlei.

I found a farm Rietvlei to the east of Kokstad, but I am not familiar with that area so I can't comment on whether that may be correct or not.

Ross (page 113) also mentions that Witbooi Draai acted as the *Boschmeester* (forestry official), who allocated licences to people to cut down trees. "Draai himself was a capable local administrator Four years later he successfully fulfilled his commission from the *raad* to prevent the entry of cattle from Natal, and so halted the spread of Radwater sickness".



Map: Department of Justice:

https://www.justice.gov.za/maps/kzn/KZN_HGsub_012018_Greater%20Kokstad.pdf

Ross page 131: In the Griqualand East rebellion of 1878, most rebels came from the young men of the community. Many families were split. "Only 25 of the 140 prisoners possessed any landed property, and one loyalist expressed surprise at the presence of Witbooi Draai and a few others among the rebels, 'because they had farms'".

7. Further Draai records in the Cape Town archives (for future research)

Note that the NAAIRS search engine for the Bloemfontein archives do not indicate any Draaij or Draay.

The following are found in the Cape Town archives ("KAB"). We cannot always be certain if these items relate to the Philippolis Draai family. One would have to visit the archives themselves and draw those items to see if they look relevant. So these are potential leads that one can pursue:

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| DEPOT | KAB | |
| SOURCE | MOOC | |
| TYPE | LEER | |
| VOLUME_NO | 7/1/240 | |
| SYSTEM | 01 | |
| REFERENCE | 59 | |
| PART | 1 | |
| DESCRIPTION | | DRAAY, VICTOR. WILL. |
| STARTING | 18580000 | |
| ENDING | 18580000 | |
| REMARKS | FILED 1858. | |

| | | |
|-------------|----------|------------------------------|
| DEPOT | KAB | |
| SOURCE | MOOC | |
| TYPE | LEER | |
| VOLUME_NO | 6/9/266 | |
| SYSTEM | 01 | |
| REFERENCE | 473 | |
| PART | 1 | |
| DESCRIPTION | | DRAAY, WILLEM. DEATH NOTICE. |
| STARTING | 18890000 | |
| ENDING | 18890000 | |

| | | |
|------------------------|----------|---|
| DEPOT | KAB | |
| SOURCE | CO | |
| TYPE | LEER | |
| VOLUME_NO | 4086 | |
| SYSTEM | 01 | |
| REFERENCE | 176 | |
| PART | 1 | |
| DESCRIPTION | | MEMORIAL. J FREDERICKS FOR P DRAAY. REGARDING |
| RESTORATION OF FARM IN | | GRIQUALAND. |
| STARTING | 18560000 | |
| ENDING | 18560000 | |

DEPOT KAB
SOURCE MOOC
TYPE LEER
VOLUME_NO 13/1/274
SYSTEM 01
REFERENCE 28
PART 1
DESCRIPTION DRAAY, WILLEM. LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT.
STARTING 18710000
ENDING 18710000

DEPOT KAB
SOURCE MOOC
TYPE LEER
VOLUME_NO 7/1/198
SYSTEM 01
REFERENCE 71
PART 1
DESCRIPTION DRAAIJ, PIETER. INVENTORY.
STARTING 18490000
ENDING 18490000
REMARKS FILED 1849.

END