

# The Lower Albany Chronicle - April 1820 - Part I & II

5 April 1820

A hundred men of the Cape Regiment left the Mission for the Kowie River.

25 April 1820

A convoy of ninety-six wagons, hired from Dutch farmers, came over Bushman's River at Jager's Drift, passed Theopolis Mission, and outspanned at Reed River Post. They carried the baggage of some four hundred settlers walking beside them, together with rations, tents to be employed until dwellings could be erected, and other gear.

In charge was Col. Jacob CUYLER, accompanied by Johan KNOEBEL. These settlers comprised a number of parties, which had been recruited separately in the United Kingdom, each party under an appointed leader who was responsible for it. They had disembarked at Fort Frederick out of the first of over twenty transporters which were to arrive there.

The party at the head of this column was one of over two hundred from London under Lt. John BAILIE, R.N., placed in the lead as it was to be the first to unload on its appointed location. The parties had undergone change enrolment, in numbers and in composition. Some of those listed had failed to embark for various reasons, some previously unlisted persons had taken up vacancies, people had died at sea, and children had

been born and, after disembarkation, others had left their Party, losing their rights as settlers, and had failed to travel to the Settlement at all. Other parties travelling were those under Lt. Charles CRAUSE, R.N., Thomas OWEN, John MANDY, Thomas ROWLES and George SCOTT.  
26 April 1820

The convoy moved to the Kowie River and the wagons entered the river at the drift. In the passage, Francis, son of Francis STANLEY of Owens' Party, was drowned, the only fatality in what was frequently a hazardous crossing. The length of the convoy resulted in many wagons not enjoying the period of lowest ebb. It then moved on round the head of the next small stream, Rufane River, to prepare for the crossing of the George River at the drift above the tide mark.

30 April 1820

Having crossed the George River at the drift, and passed round the blind mouths of the Lynedoch and Wellington Rivers, Col. Jacob CUYLER's convoy outspanned a mile from the left bank of the Wellington and four miles from the shore, near the site of Cuylerville Church. Here Bailie's Party reached its location after a journey of thirteen days and about 130 miles from Fort Frederick [Port Elizabeth].

Lt. John BAILIE had been allowed to choose this location, which lay near the mouth of the Fish River, where he hoped to be able to investigate the possibility of establish a port. This party's baggage was unloaded and tents were pitched. There were enough of these for one to be shared between women and children of several families until private shelters could be erected. On the east of this location, across the Fish River, were the Xhosa people with whom the Colony had been at war

only some  
seven months earlier.

A measure of protection for the Settlement was afforded by patrols along the Fish River Valley, which were being made by men of the Royal African Corps, stationed at Kaffir Drift Post. The population of the Mission at this time was seventeen Europeans, 186 Gonaquas and 120 other Africans.

Conclusion of April 1820 entries.