

# **The Lower Albany Chronicle - May 1820 - Parts II, III, IV**

1 May 1820

Col. Jacob CUYLER rode with Lt. John BAILIE to the Fish River mouth to discuss the latter's harbour project.

2 May 1820

Col. Jacob CUYLER assembled the people of Bailie's Party, and told them again officially of the conditions of settlement under which heads of families were eventually to receive a hundred acres of land, if the conditions were fulfilled, of the method of drawing rations against deposits which had been made in the United Kingdom, and the necessity of having their guns always at hand as they went about their daily work. He then took his leave to lead the other parties of the convoy to their respective locations.

The people of Bailie's Party resolved to name their camp Cuyler Town to his honour. Crause's Party was sat down immediately adjacent to Bailie's Party.

4 May 1820

Bartholomew GUNNING wrote to his former employers in England, describing what he considered to be his misfortune in the Settlement, and saying that he was trying to get permission to move to Cape Town.

9 May 1820

Owen's Party had been set on its location on the right bank of

the  
Spanish Reeds stream, Mandy's Party at its source, and Rowles'  
on the  
right bank of the Kap River, now Thornhill and Enterprise, and  
Scott's  
astride it. Col. Jacob CUYLER had made his camp on Thorn  
Ridge, on  
Bathurst Commonage, near the sources of the Lynedoch River, a  
point from  
which the Settlement could be overlooked from the Bushman's to  
the Fish  
River, from the shore up to the Waai Plaats Hill. The Acting  
Governor,  
Sir Rufane DONKIN, had arrived there and had selected a site,  
just west  
of Thorn Ridge, for a centre for the civil administration of  
the  
Settlement. As the seat of Magistracy, it was to supersede  
Grahamstown  
as the capital town of Albany, and it was named Bathurst in  
honour of  
Earl Bathurst, Secretary for the Colonies.

Surgeon Daniel O'FLINN had moved up to Grahamstown, and was  
living in a  
marquee there.

Mandy's Party named their camp centre King George Town.

11 May 1820

The leading party of another batch crossed Blaauw Krantz River  
and  
halted at Blue Rock Post. These were led by Thomas \*PHILLIPPS  
and had  
come by the northerly and not coastal route, The batch  
numbered about  
five hundred under party leaders Samuel BRADSHAW, James  
GREATHEAD,  
William HOLDER, George SOUTHEY, Richard HAYHURST, Charles  
DALGAIRNS,  
Thomas MAHONEY, Major George PIGOT, Charles MOUNCEY and  
Jonathan  
WAINRIGHT, and they were to move to Lower Albany in the  
ensuing days.

Thomas \*PHILLIPPS' Party remained at the post for the night,  
to deal  
with an overturned wagon, while he drove his sheep as far as  
Waai Plaats  
Post and returned to them.

12 May 1820

Capt. Henry SOMERSET, with thirteen men of the Cape Regiment, overtook \*Phillipps' Party on its way to its location at Trompetter's kraal, where camp was made near to the burned homestead. They were originally to have settled in Lemon Valley, right bank tributary to Torrens River, but that was now allotted to Bradshaw's Party. By the homestead were about two acres of vines planted by Barend LINDEQUE.

14 May 1820

Col. Jacob CUYLER and Henry ELLIS, the Deputy Colonial Secretary, camped near \*Philipps' location.

15 May 1820

Mary OWN of \*Philipps' Party left for Grahamstown where she obtained employment while on her way to her location, Lampeter.

19 May 1820

Subdivision of Bailie's Party was sanctioned as it was found to be too large for administration. Portions were now supervised by Lt. John BAILIE, Thomas ADAMS, James FORD, William HARRISON and Thomas WAKEFORD.

20 May 1820

Sir Rufane DONKIN reported the establishment of the town of Bathurst and the allotment of five hundred acres of Glebe for a Clergyman. He asked for the appointment of a Chaplin of the Church of England.

23 May 1820

Capt. Charles TRAPPES arrived at Bathurst from Fort Frederick to assume administration of the Settlement. He established his office in a marquee near the spring, on the south side of York Street. A ration

Store, on the north side of Donkin Terrace, was opened for a monthly issue of meat, flour, tea, sugar and candles. The distance of the more remote locations was going to mean a long journey on foot for many of the settlers. Walking to Bathurst. the men would get back to their families on about the fourth day, and lacking a vehicle or pack-animal, would get back to their families with only as much as they could individually carry.

26 May 1820

Surgeon Daniel O'FLINN was appointed Provisional Medical Officer for Bathurst at £45 per annum, with ninepence per day for forage for a horse.

George KOLBE, Francis and William STANLEY, Allen WALL and William WHILEY reported from Spanish Reeds Place on their difficulty in procuring rations.

27 May 1820

Hayhurst's and Wainright's Parties were on their locations.

28 May 1820

Some of Hayhurst's Party had been located on the right bank of Kap River, at a distance from their leader at Trappes Valley. They now asked to be placed under the direction of George WATSON. They were John BISSITT, Andrew COUNCEL, Thomas DERBYSHIRE, Robert and Thomas ECCLES, Robert FOXCROFT, Stephen and William GRADWELL, Robert KELBRICK, James MURRAY, John OXLEY and John WALKER. Lt. John BAILIE had been granted land adjacent to his location, and named it 'The Hope'. From there he wrote submitting lists of his Party. At this date his own subdivision

consisted of Matthew ADAMS, William BALL, James BIDDULPH, Lt. John BIDDULPH, R.N., Simon BIDDULPH, Robert BOVEY, John CHASE, Capt. Henry CRAUSE, 2nd Garrison Battalion, James LOW, Thomas MATTHEW, Thomas MEAD, Surgeon Edward ROBERTS, James SHOIRTMAN and Francis WHITTAL, with their families.

Pigot's Party reached its location at Blue Rock Post, and Major George PIGOT took over the post as his residence. He had brought £5,000 to lay out on improvements among the settlers.

Christopher FRANZ remained at Port Elizabeth with Frederick KORSTEN.

Conclusion of May 1820 entries.