

# Newsletter 20.5.

By Horst Kleinschmidt

## Preparations for the Komaggas gathering. July 2014.

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Dear friends,

In less than three months we shall be gathering in Komaggas. The preparations are in full swing and the interest in this unique gathering is increasing. This letter is an update intended to keep everyone informed. I shall write at least once more before the event to inform you of logistics and about the programme.

Kenneth Makatees and I will shortly visit Komaggas once more to meet with the local organising committee.

First a reminder to those who are without **passports** (mostly the different Namibian contingents): please make your applications if you have not done so already.

A number of the Uirab family intend to travel from Windhoek to Springbok by Intercape bus. We need to know nearer the event what time you expect to get to the **Springbok bus station** and how many you are, so we can collect you and take you to Komaggas.

A correction: I previously claimed that our three-day programme in Komaggas meant that we would spend five nights in Komaggas. I must have been absent from school when they taught arithmetic. The total number of nights is of course **4 nights!**

The update on preparations:

1. The Komaggas Heritage committee is in discussions with the District Mayor, the Municipal authorities and the ATKV – a national cultural organisation. This involves a submission to have **a street named after Zara** during our stay, to have the **Mayor open the proceedings**, to have the **rent for the hall** waived when we

meet and to facilitate different **cultural groups** to perform traditional Khoi dances and choir's to sing to us during the celebration.

2. Two retired teachers of Komaggas are getting the 1979 local school play re-performed for us. A local teacher, John Cloete, now deceased, wrote the play as a protest against racial segregation. In it he celebrates the seemingly good and productive marriage between Hinrich and Zara Schmelen from 1814 to 1831. The manuscript has survived and some of its actors, now in their 50's are expected to perform the play for us. The text was written in Afrikaans but an English translation will be available.

3. Three teams have volunteered to provide us with breakfasts, lunches and suppers at the multi-purpose hall where we meet. Coffee and snacks will also be available at the hall (which also has 2 break-away rooms) throughout the day.

4. The graveyard **fence project** is now virtually complete as below photographs show. I want to thank the Heritage Committee of Komaggas (Mr Johan Cloete in particular) for managing the project. I also want to thank all the family members who contributed the funds for the purchase of the materials. Thanks are also due to the Springbok Co-operative farm supply company who provided free transport of the materials to Komaggas.



Teams clearing graves of bush. In the foreground (left) is the grave of Hinrich Schmelen and next to it the memorial stone to Zara, inaugurated in 2013.

5. Two film teams have indicated that they want to make TV or documentary films about our gathering and its wider context. The one team is from Germany the other is South African. More information on this to follow later.

6. At the end of the Newsletter is an updated Spreadsheet listing up to 86 participants (excluding the community of Komaggas and neighbouring villages, many of whom are related through the Schmelen and will attend the proceedings). **NB: It is not too late to join us in Komaggas. If you can at all make it to this historic event, please consider joining us.**

This 20.5 Newsletter is part of the series that concern preparations for the September gathering and previous editions can now be accessed via my website: [www.HorstKleinschmidt.co.za](http://www.HorstKleinschmidt.co.za).

Information:

1. There are several bus companies, one being Intercape, who run a regular and dependable bus services between Cape Town and Windhoek, stopping in Springbok, some 60km from Komaggas. The buses have comfortable sleeper seats. – Just in case you wanted to know.

2. Below is an invitation to a comprehensive trip organised by one of the Finnish group, Olle Eriksson. They plan to travel from Cape Town all the way to Olunkonda near the northern border of Namibia, visiting the major missionary sites from where members of our family operated. If any of you want to find out more please contact Olle Eriksson directly at: <[olle@koonono.com](mailto:olle@koonono.com)>

#### IN THE TRACKS OF THE OX-WAGON WOMEN in South Africa and Namibia

A historic journey in the tracks of Zara Schmelen, her daughter Hanna Kleinschmidt, grand-daughters Frieda Rautanen and Kitty Björklund, and other members of a great family.

Cape Town – Komaggas – Bethanie – Rehoboth – Windhoek – Otjimbingwe – Omandongo - Olukonda

**14.9. – 4.10.2014**



Ladies in front of a Namaqua dwelling (Gondwana collection)



The men of some of the ladies, depicted on stamps



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3. Peter Kallaway of Cederberg Heritage Trails is pleased to circulate the brochure below to the participants of our Komaggas gathering.

He writes:

"The attached brochure is for Cederberg Heritage Trails - to promote tourism in the Cederberg Mission reserve.

It is particularly aimed at promoting (easy) hiking (slackpacking) in the wonderful cederberg area and allowing the people in the remote villages to benefit from this by providing guiding, portage, accommodation and meals for hikers. Nobody else has any financial gain from this other than the villages themselves - particularly the women who make their homes available for the purpose.

The group I am involved with has provided funding LOANS to supply solar power for heating and renovation of buildings for this purpose.

I just image that there is an excellent opportunity here for tourists to enjoy something unique - a mix of Lutheran mission history (it is now Moravian but ...), wonderful mountains , AFRICA AND WONDERFUL LOCAL HOSPITALITY.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CEDERBERG AREA

JUST 100 YEARS ago extensive cedar forests covered the mountains of Cederberg and abundant wildlife and good pastures were to be found in the valleys. This sparsely populated region is among the oldest areas of human habitation in Southern Africa which offers rich opportunities for those interested in hiking, archaeology, architecture, ecology, history and sociology.

The Cederberg area is home to several thousand archaeological sites that range in age from very early scatterers of stone tools along the rivers to very late rock paintings that date from the expansion of colonial society into the interior. This stone age prehistory is difficult to date beyond BCE 40 000, but almost certainly extends beyond a million years at which time our ancestors were probably scavenging rather than actively hunting and were closely tethered to the sources of good quartzite that they used to make tools. With time these archaic hominins became more recognisably humans, developed methods of hafting stone tools as spear tips, improved their knowledge of the local plant foods and became recognisably the ancestors of recent San communities. It is probable they became not only fully behaviourally and anatomically modern but also developed into the ancestors of modern Homo sapiens, spreading from the Cape to the rest of the world.

These nomadic San (Bushman) – hunters – and Khoikhoi – herders have bequeathed us many thousands of detailed and striking rock paintings throughout Southern Africa.

In mid-17th Century, colonial settlers from the Cape Town area, known as trekboers expanded northwards with vast herds and came into conflict with San and Khoi families over hunting, grazing and water rights. Men who traded with the Cape in hides, ivory, cattle and wood clashed with those who clung to an independent lifestyle.

In 1830 the Rhenish Mission Society established a mission station in the Cederberg under the guidance of Theobald von Wurm and Johan Gottlieb Leipoldt and with seven Khoi (or Hottentot) families that came to be known as Wupperthal. This was to be the headquarters of

a chain of missions stretching from Worcester to the central Karoo and the Namibian border. Wupperthal became a haven for many Khoi and San people, and the community soon grew to include many of the displaced peoples seeking refuge from the disruptions of their societies by the arrival of new forms of farming, warfare and trading associated with the establishment of a British colony at the Cape. The settlement grew further with the abolition of slavery in 1838 and the arrival of emancipated slaves who played an important role in the life of the community.

Trading relations were established with the neighbouring town of Clanwilliam and with Cape Town with the sale of hides and wood from the large Cedar groves. Veldskloens are still made at the village shoe factory, but the cedar trees were overexploited and few remain.

The Anglo-Boer war (1899–1902) saw many leave to work for the British army, but when the war ended so did the work. There were tough times, with the Depression of the 1930's and the introduction of apartheid in the 1950's. The collapse of the logging industry and the temporary closure of Wupperthal's famous shoe factory sapped the economic strength of the community. Many left for nearby towns or went to Cape Town. Those who remained often experienced poverty and isolation.

Serious conflicts often broke out between various groups, all claiming to lead the community. People in and around Wupperthal were at times at odds with the traditional church leaders. After much discussion and dissent the Rhenish Mission handed over to local leaders who saw to the affairs of the community in conjunction with the Moravian Mission Church (1965). The headquarters of the Church therefore moved from Wupperthal to Genadendal, in the Overberg. Since the end of apartheid in 1994 there have been attempts to promote community development, tourism and develop the noobos tea industry, but little has changed for most people living in these communities. (Article with acknowledgements to Prof. John Parkington and Peter Kallaway).

Denis Le Jeune



Blockhouse, remnants of the Anglo-Boer war.



Painted human figures, male (left) and female (right).



The Clanwilliam cedar, Widdingtonia cederbergensis, gives its name to the region.



The donkey cart is ubiquitous to both the Karoo and Cederberg as a mode of transport among rural communities.



CEDERBERG HERITAGE ROUTE  
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## CEDERBERG — HERITAGE FOR THE FUTURE

THE CEDERBERG HERITAGE ROUTE (CHR) was established in October 2007 as a Voluntary Association Not For Gain with a written Constitution and in accordance with the relevant South African legislation. Founding member organisations include the Moravian Church at Wupperthal, the Wupperthal Tourism Association, the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board, the Clanwilliam Tourism Association, Cederberg African Travel and the Clanwilliam Living Landscape Project (CLLP). In addition, membership of the organisation is open to individuals, being persons who have a keen interest in the Cederberg area and subscribe to the objectives of the organization. Currently there is no membership fee and it is hoped that this policy will continue in the future.

The principal objectives of the organisation are:

- to promote sustainable eco-tourism in the Cederberg region of the Western Cape, South Africa, incorporating fields of interest such as flora and fauna, geology, botany, rock art, history, culture, heritage and archaeology;
- to promote multi-day hiking trails (known as slack-packing trails) in the Cederberg region, with overnight accommodation, catering and portage of hikers luggage, utilising facilities provided by the local communities;
- to promote and facilitate the training of suitable local escorts to guide the hikers from one night stop to the next;
- to involve and benefit the local communities;

The first project, implemented in 2008, was the establishment of three community-based, multi-day hiking trails. A fourth trail was added in 2009 and two more in 2012.

The five shorter trails can range from two to five nights duration, depending on optional extra days that may be chosen. The Cederberg 100km Walk is an eight night-seven day trail of about 100km in length.

The Cederberg Heritage Route is deeply involved with community development in that our trails make extensive use of services provided by the small, remote communities in the Moravian Church area of the eastern Cederberg, centered on the mission village of Wupperthal. These services include accommodation, catering, luggage transport and guiding, which provide some much needed cash income for these rural communities.

Peter Hart, Chairman



## Attendees:

<u>Yes and 'close to' yes</u>	<u>Maybe</u>	<u>Cannot come</u>	<u>Comments</u>		
<b>Amy Meyers Nicolai</b> - Amy is a descendant from one of the siblings of missionary Franz Heinrich Kleinschmidt. He came to Africa; they all emigrated to the USA in the 1830's		Edith Kleinschmidt - Kleynhans	Amy comes from Houston, USA. Edith Kleinschmidt Kleynhans, a relative of Amy's, is daughter of Ralph Kleinschmidt who was a missionary doctor who spent 40 years in northeast Congo before that country attained independence. He was from the USA Kleinschmidts. Edith is South African and married Ralph. Today she lives near Pretoria. She is elderly and frail and is not able to join Amy to Komaggas.	1	
<b>Inge Heller and Dr Rainer Heller</b>			They are from Cologne, Germany. Inge and Rainer's grandmother was Mathilde, who in turn was the grandchild of Franz Heinrich Kleinschmidt junior, the 5th child of the Kleinschmidt missionary couple.	2	17.9. midd. arrive CT. Depart 23.!
<b>Kenneth, Valda and daughter Anna Makatees</b> from Cape Town. And <b>mother Makatees</b> from Swakopmund, Namibia	Maybe others		Kenneth grew up in Komaggas. He is senior manager at the SA Broadcaster in Cape Town. Kenneth and Horst liaise closely with the Heritage Committee in Komaggas. Kenneth hails from the Bam family. His great, great grandfather was Christian Bam who married the Schmelen's third daughter, Friederike.	4+	
<b>Bisey and Wilhencia Uirab + Otto and wife, Dr. David and Hilja Kapadhi Uirab + Emma and David Joodt.</b> The Uirab's descend from Ludwig, 7 <sup>th</sup> child of Heinrich and Hanna Kleinschmidt	Maybe others also		Ludwig Kleinschmidt, the seventh child of missionary Franz Heinrich and Hanna is their ancestor. The Uirab's live in Namibia The Swartboois family tree, compiled by Otto Uirab goes back to early 1700.	15 - 20	
<b>The Finnish contingent.</b> The Rautanens and Bjørklunds are the descendants of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> children of Heinrich and Hanna K.	ca 10		The Finnish group will travel from Cape Town and after Komaggas will travel all the way to Northern Namibia where the Finnish mission was active. Juha and Martina come from Helsinki. Anu and Sari come from the very north of Finland.	maybe 15	15. 9 tour group arriv in CT
<b>Dr. Immo Kleinschmidt</b>	Mags, Lissy, Joe		All from the UK, Immo is brother to Horst. His wife Mags and their children might be able to attend	ca 2	

<b>Vaughn, Mackie, Mark Kleinschmidt</b>	Plus spouses, others?	All from Cape Town. These Cape Town Kleinschmidts are also known as the Gow-Kleinschmidt's. At present we are not sure how or if we are related.	ca 5	
<b>Heidi and Steve, Marc and Connie, Tamara and Clay &amp; Pierceys = 8</b>		Heidi and Steve, Tamamra and Clay and the Pierceys live in Oregon, USA. Marc and Connie live in Austria. Heidi is sister to Horst. Tamara and Marc are her children. The Piecey's are friends	ca 6	Heidi & Steve: 18.9 at 01.15. dep: 14 Oc at 13.30
<b>Ursula Tüper</b>		Ursula lives in Berlin. She is the author of the book The Invisible Woman - Zara Schmelen. Her great, great grandfather married Elisabeth, the second of the Kleinschmidt missionary couple.	1	5.9 @16.5! dep 5.10 @ 18.25.
<b>Peter and Auriol Muller</b>	and 3 daughters?	The family will come from Windhoek, Namibia. Peter's ancestor was Georg, the 8th and youngest of the Kleinschmidt missionary couple.	2+	
<b>Horst &amp; Christine</b>	>	H & C live in Cape Town. Zindzi is Horst's daughter. She and her family live in San Francisco, USA.	2	
		Zindzi, Jeremy and Jude		
<b>Lula Gabreyesus</b>		Lula is a friend living in Cape Town. She is originally from Eritrea.	1	
<b>Dr. Ben and Ubbo Khumalo-Seegelken</b>		From Germany and SA, not relatives but long-time associates of Horst, since Christian Insitute days	2	
<b>Noel and Beryl Williams</b>		Friends in Cape Town of Horst and Christine with a strong Khoi connection. Noel is willing to drive a micro-bus to Komaggas .	2	
>	>	Prof. Chris Saunders, Pam, and John and Cathy Daniel	1	
<b>Malcolm McCarthy and Emmanuelle Daviaud</b>		Malcolm and Emmanuelle live in Kalk Bay, in H&C's neighbourhood. Malcolm has offered to help with the making of a South African film on the Komaggas event.	2	
<b>Film Team Uta Rüchel and camera man</b>		From Berlin Germany. Rüdiger is the man behind the camera	2	
	Kai Grunwald - London	Kai is related via Horst's mother		



	Prof. Henning Melber	Martin Zimmermann	Brother to Ursula Trüper. Germany  Born Namibian, Director of the Dag Hammerjöld Foundation in Uppsala, Sweden	
	Katusha and Karl Walsh with daughter Sarah, Perth, Australia		Katusha is the oldest daughter of Immo Kleinschmidt	
	Biddy Green and husband		Cape Town academics with a keen interest in local history	
	Sybille and John Rutherford		Namibians living in Cape Town	
<b>Carol Martin</b>			Carol offers to take 3 passengers to K. She is Cape Town based, not a relative, and is involved in various solidarity causes in South Africa and Palestine.	1
<b>Ds Petrus Booys and wife</b>			Ds. Booys is a former Reverend of Komaggas and now lives in Cape Town. He was a driving force behind the memorial to Zara that was inaugurated in Komaggas last year.	2
<b>Dr. Peter and Solveig Kjeseth</b>	Lars Kjeseth, son visiting from Los Angeles		They own the Sunny Cove Manor and have followed our family journey in detail over years.	2
<b>Paul Swartbooi</b>			Poet and community leader from Steinkopf	1
<b>Di Oliver</b>	Elke Geising		Di is indirectly related, through her sister.	2
	Ulf Storm		He lives in Windhoek. His mother was Elisabeth (nee Kleinschmidt), sister to Horst's father.	
	Calvin van Wyk		Father was a Minister in Komaggas. Calvin has researched our family history extensively. He is curator at the Tulbagh Museum	1
<b>Ds CRA Present</b>			Ds Present's name is on the mail distributor. He is the Reverend of the Calvinist Church in Komaggas, co-hosts at the September event.	
<b>Johan Cloete</b>			His email appears on the list. He distributes emails to the Komaggas Heritage Committee.	
<b>Ds. Grove and wife</b>	plus children who grew up in Komaggas		Will sort out accomodation themselves	2

>	>	Diana Ferrus	Poet and baladeer from Cape Town. Her poem to Zara Baartman received international acclaim.	
Veronika Armbruster und ihre Mitstudentin Lisa Dörfler		Peter & Marinanne Ewald	Peter's mother was Erika von Zedlitz, first daughter of Mathilde, (Tilla), born Kleinschmidt, daughter of Franz Heinrich and Mathilde (senior). Franz Heinrich (junior) was the 5th child of the missionary couple.	
			Veronika is a descendent of Johannes Kleinschmidt, currently studying in Namibia but otherwise at home in Germany	2
John Yeld			Journalist from the Cape Argus (Cape Town)	1
		Mrs Siegmeyer and husband	Custodian/historian in Kassebruch, the town where Hinrich Schmelen was born. Near Bremen, then the county of Hanover.	
Topnaar people of the Kuiseb delta near Walfish Bay			Kenneth has visited them. They are part of the Bam family	ca 5
Yes 56 - 86				max86

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Best wishes to you all,

I enjoy hearing from you,

Horst