

**RECOLLECTIONS OF
ADVENTURES, PIONEERING
AND DEVELOPMENT IN
SOUTH AFRICA, 1850-1911**

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Recollections of adventures, pioneering and development in South Africa, 1850-1911 by H. W. Struben

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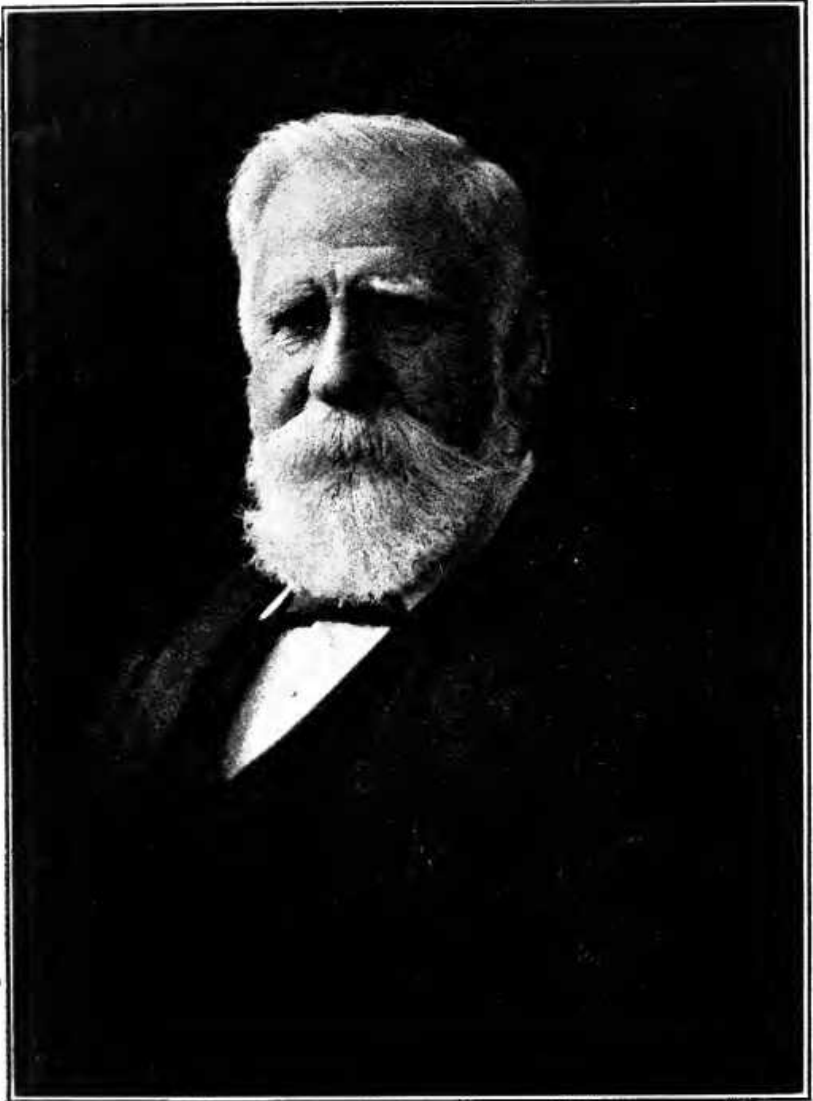
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H. W. STRUBEN

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RECOLLECTIONS OF ADVENTURES.



H. W. Strubben
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RECOLLECTIONS OF ADVENTURES

PIONEERING AND DEVELOPMENT
IN SOUTH AFRICA

1850 - 1911

BY
H. W. STRUBEN

Revised and Edited by his Daughter Edith



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T. MASKEW MILLER,
CAPE TOWN

BASIL BLACKWELL,
OXFORD, ENGLAND.

1920

CHAPTERS.

	PAGE
I. The family—Early days in Natal	1
II. Captain Struben and the Natal Magistracy - - -	8
III. Captain Struben requisitioned to become first President of the Orange Free State - -	15
IV. Boyhood days in Natal - -	18
V. Early Pretoria Days - -	27
VI. Pioneers' difficulties of Travel -	32
VII. Trekking to Cape Colony, 1857-8 -	37
VIII. Big Game Shooting Trips -	41
IX. Hunting Buffalo - - -	47
X. An Unlucky Trip - - -	58
XI. Giraffes—Lions and other game -	62
XII. An Unpleasant and Adventurous Ride - - - -	68
XIII. Bushveld and other treks - -	74
XIV. Hyenas—In a cave and elsewhere	81
XV. Zoutpansberg, and Ivory Trading -	85
XVI. Alex Struben's trip to Zoutpans- berg and Zambesi - -	88

	PAGE
XVII. Boer Voortrekkers and Commandoes	94
XIX. Commandoes and Civil Wars -	102
XX. British & other European Pioneers and Visitors to the Transvaal -	112
XXI. Early Farming Ventures and Struggles - - -	115
XXII. Native Wars and Unrest - -	121
XXIII. Discovery of Diamond Fields— Early Kimberley Days -	130
XXIV. Gold Discoveries at Lydenburg -	137
XXV. First Sekukuni War, and fall of President Burgers - -	141
XXVI. Annexation of the Transvaal -	148
XXVII. Zulu War of 1878-79 - -	154
XXVIII. Travels in Europe, 1880 - -	160
XXIX. Return to South Africa and First Boer War - - -	163
XXX. The Retrocession - - -	174
XXXI. A General Survey and Summary of Events - - -	178
XXXII. Discovery of the Witwatersrand Gold Fields - - -	191
XXXIII. Afterword and Last Years -	203

INTRODUCTION.

At the request of my life's friend and dear companion, my staunch, loving little wife, and our dear children, I have given myself the task of writing a resumé of facts and incidents which have come to my knowledge during a residence in South Africa since August, 1850.

I will avoid personalities as much as possible and will merely mention the part I have taken personally in the works of development, especially in the Transvaal, to give an idea of the position from which I have viewed passing events. I have avoided statistics which have been amply supplied by blue-books, newspapers, and other writers. I have tried to condense this synopsis, and find that it has, nevertheless, grown in dimensions far beyond what I intended, and yet a vast amount of pertinent matter had to be left out, and I find that although most distasteful to me, in writing from memory of personal experience, the "Ego" is unduly prominent if perhaps unavoidable.

As regards what I have written about the Transvaal during a residence of thirty-five years from 1855 to 1889, and since then in annual visits till 1910, I would mention that I closely identified myself with the civil and political life of the Dutch farmers or Boers. ("Boeren" as they are usually termed), with whom I was on the most friendly footing, and with whom I worked in various capacities, as Member of Volksraad for the district of Pretoria,

as President of the Land Commission, as first Director of the Delagoa Bay Railway, 1875-76, as first Chairman of Mines, Witwatersrand, (Johannesburg) etc., etc. Although advances were made to me, but being (as a member of the Legislature) pledged to the country, I took no part in the annexation of the Transvaal by Sir T. Shepstone in 1876-7, and during the term of the British occupation I held no office of emolument, and I refused the offer of the first seat in the Executive Council made me by Sir Bartle Frere. I had among the Dutch Afrikanders many friends at the time, and I fully appreciate the good qualities they possess. Although in my absence in Europe and the East, during the war of 1880, I was treated as one to be distrusted, an English alien, and half ruined, I can conscientiously say that I am *not* prejudiced against the Dutch Boer, and I trust that any statements I have made will be accepted as dictated by an open mind, without animus and being correct as far as my memory serves, and in remembrance of many acts of kindness received, and of mutual friendship during years of strenuous effort and of vicissitudes in a young country; playing the difficult role of a pioneer of civilisation in remote regions on a savage borderland.

ROSEBANK,

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,

February, 1911.