

# HERITAGE of ZIMBABWE

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THE HISTORY SOCIETY OF ZIMBABWE  
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# Editor's Foreword

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This is the 40th annual volume of *Heritage of Zimbabwe* and our 80th volume since your Society began to publish some 65 years ago, (somewhat delayed in its release due to your Editor's involuntary indisposition for most of 2021).

This edition leads with an impressive, well-researched, handy and valuable record of the 1980 elections by regular contributor Paul Hubbard, one of our two leading historians living south of the Shangani, (into which great time and effort has clearly been put).

Equally well-researched is our second article, on the earliest visitors to the Victoria Falls, a labour of love by leading historian Mike Tucker, now living in London but still a prolific contributor to your Society. Mike's web-site [zimfieldguide.com](http://zimfieldguide.com) is widely considered the leading site for material on the heritage of our country – indeed we could fill every edition of *Heritage* solely with his output – and it is highly recommended to our readers.

A short piece follows on the history of Government House, which we trust will be of interest.

Geoff Brakspear completes his excellent two-part story (see *Heritage* 35) on his forebears, the Sanderson and Clayton families, in an engaging record of two characterful and valuable contributors to the development of commerce in Salisbury in its pioneer days.

Your Editor has yet to encounter a member more knowledgeable than Robin Taylor on matters of trains and transport in Zimbabwe and Robin's article on early road motor services is a most welcome addition to that aspect of our heritage.

A short but most absorbing article follows from the pen of Rob Burrett (our other man south of the river) on his investigation into the Franklin graves.

Your Editor's comments on Robin Taylor apply equally to Peter Fey with regard to geology and the geological survey history of Zimbabwe. Immense research goes into his written work for *Heritage*, (which we anticipate will be included in book form in the not-too distant future). In this edition Peter flawlessly describes the Zam-Tiki expedition down the Zambezi (led by the late Alex Siemers) and the stories of the 8th Director of the Geological Survey and the laws of extra-lateral mining rights.

New contributor Sheila Kabell writes of the work of her late husband the renowned Terence Colin (T. C.) Kabell in "One of the Dam Men," (a "dam" man very worthy of her tribute, who was involved in the design and construction of many of the finest dams and other waterways in our country).

Chris Halse contributes the first part of a history of lake shipping on Kariba with the story of the conception, construction and delivery (from Sicily) of the hydrofoil *Sea-Flight* (and, locally built, her sister ship the car ferry *Seahorse*). More on this subject will appear in *Heritage* 41. Much commendable work went into this intriguing article which will certainly be of great interest to readers, in particular those who have travelled the vessels.

Part One of the story of Marcel Mitton is next, a Frenchman who first moved to Zimbabwe in 1904 and made his home and fortune here, (being one of the founders of Radio Limited as well as other enterprises). His son was the well-known accountant, Tony Mitton. It is compiled from his writings by Noeline Barry and of necessity, due to



its length, quite heavily further edited, for which your Editor hopes he will be forgiven if he has not selected captivating and less well-known aspects of life in the early days. (The whole diary is available for perusal by those interested). Part 2 will appear in *Heritage* 41.

George Hindley and Benny Leon (our expert on all matters Kadoma) provide a fine tribute to the life of Samuel Hasson, a workhorse and devoted family man who, from humble beginnings, made a great success of his life through sheer hard work, mostly in the Midlands.

New contributor Ross Cooper writes fondly of his youth in Chipinge – his mother taught at the primary school and his father was the local vet – and he invites identification of certain of his finds as a boy collecting artifacts in the bush around his home.

Well-known agronomist Dr Doug McClymont (with whose writings readers will of late be familiar from our Society Chatline) makes a first, and impressive, appearance in *Heritage*, with an exhaustive history of the registration of pesticides in Zimbabwe over the last half century, a topic very valuable in that, as far as your Editor is aware, it has not before now been covered in any composite detail.

Another new contributor is Morag Flight (whose hospitality and beautiful garden have been enjoyed recently by those attending her Garden Club talk in 2021 and the March 2022 Annual General Meeting). Morag has been very active for many years in Garden Club matters, both in Zimbabwe and overseas, (flying the flag most successfully). Her account, often amusing, will be much appreciated, (albeit that our black and white magazine makes impossible the reproduction of the many colourful creations of the ladies of the Garden Club over the years).

Another new contributor, Peter White, (Emeritus Professor in Public Transport Systems at the University of Westminster) provides a detailed and most accomplished article on rural and long-distance bus transport in Zimbabwe, a welcome addition to what your Editor believes is a very limited field of locally published knowledge on that particular topic. We look forward to more from Peter in future.

We close with Robin Taylor's tribute to the late Bill Sykes, two incisive book reviews by Paul Hubbard and the annual reports of your Chairmen.

Your Editor, as always, pays tribute to his secretary Felicity Naidoo for her invaluable help, to the expert and inimitable Rhona Chapman, whose patience and skill as a typesetter ensures the appearance each year of the Society Journal, to the authors without whose knowledge and great efforts the production every year of a journal of quality would also not be possible, and to our sponsors and donors, in particular the ever-generous Duncan Clarke and Ray Roberts, (and those of our members who faithfully purchase the journal) not forgetting cash contributions from our Mashonaland Branch, for their support and, again, without whom, the wherewithal for your journal could not elsewhere be found.

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