

THE ANGLO – AMERICAN ISHAM ANCESTRY ASSOCIATION

“WHITES OF RHODESIA”

FAMILY OF MOTHER OF JOAN

In Sept. 1870 Cecil John Rhodes landed in Durban, South Africa. He was sent from Bishops Stortford, England to recuperate from TB to join his brother who was at the gold mines in Kimberly. He arrived in Cape Town c.1870 and he was elected Prime Minister of the Cape Colony in 1890. Then in 1888 he negotiated with the Matabele Chief Lobengula (son of Mzilikasi, an ex-Zulu Chief and founder of the Matabele nation) to establish the Colony of Rhodesia. The contentious Cecil Rhodes died in 1902 – the year that his revered Queen Victoria died. It became, uniquely, a self-governing Colony in 1923, gained Independence as Zimbabwe in 1980 and, after much dispute with President Mugabe, was banished from the Commonwealth in 2002.

In c.1891 – **Walter Francis (“Wally”) WHITE** * b.1868 d.1932, left Barberton in South Africa by ox-wagon to trek for 12 weeks (3mph over 800 m) to Bulawayo. “Wally” left school at the age of 14 and found a job with a blacksmith. He saved his earnings over several years to buy a covered wagon and oxen (an ox cost £5-10). Later, he increased his single wagon to four and because of his very adventurous spirit and the good prospects of making his fortune, he trekked with goods up to Rhodesia – hazardous in those days. Like all pioneers, “Wally” suffered hardships. One of them was the rinderpest disease which hit Rhodesia and South Africa that killed off his oxen so the wagons had to be drawn by spare horses, mules or donkeys. He was paid so well that, it is said, he would light his pipe with 5 pound notes! - a likely story! During a trek one of the oxen escaped from the “laager” so “Wally” set off to recover it. Suddenly he came face-to-face with a ferocious lion so he turned and ran for his life back to the “laager” with the lion in hot pursuit. So, since then, this way has always been known locally as “Wally’s Run”, in the Matopos Hills! In 1896 “Wally” enrolled as Scout in the Matabele Rebellion (1893-96), when he met his future wife Amelia. He drove his wagons between lines of fires as escape way for the Colonialists to flee back to South Africa. One day, when on duty as the sun was setting, “Wally” and his companion were about to cross the Khami River when they spotted fires and dozens of Matabele warriors, who were encamped on the opposite bank. If they had approached that camp they would have been speared to death. This was a very “close shave”! During the Matabele Rebellion Amelia, too, had an adventure. The group that she was with had only one horse. Since they did not carry meat with them they had to hunt for it in the bush, using their only horse as transport. One evening a terrified squeal from the horse tied up to their wagon awoke her. She jumped up from her bed and saw a lion leap from the horse's neck and scamper into the bush. Another lucky escape! In 1898 – after the Rebellion, “Wally” bought a farm of 6,000 acres (the maximum area for a Boer to ride the perimeter in one day) near Figtree in Rhodesia from an Africaans farmer Mnr.Greef, (whose grave is on the nearby “Thrale Park” farm) known as “Vreigeveight” (Dutch for “Feely Given”) some 25 miles from Bulawayo and 2 miles from Figtree, the nearest station on the railway line through Bechuanaland from Cape Town to Salisbury, about a week in those early times – a part of the Rhodes “Cape-to-Cairo” dream. In c.1892, just before the rebellion – **“Wally” White met Amelia Elizabeth Lundy** ** b.1877, d.1958; born in Pietermaritzburg and moved to Barberton where she was known as “the prettiest girl in Barberton”. Amelia trekked by ox-wagon from Barberton (with her wedding dress!) to join “Wally” in Rhodesia and they were married in Bulawayo in 1898, with her brother Frederick William Lundy as a witness. Walter “Wally” White built a 3-bedroom “Colonial” style house with a separate kitchen and a bathroom at the end of a wide L-shaped “stoep” (veranda), which was replaced in c.1965 by the present larger house in the gabled Cape Dutch style, with the small store nearby being converted into a separate dwelling. “Wally” opened up the Figtree district with sound farming methods, became a breeder of first-class mules and bred a prize-winning herd of pedigree Afrikaner cattle with 20 cows and 1 bull from the “Guldenhuys” stud in SA which won trophies at the Bulawayo Agricultural Shows for many years from c.1920; a breed well-suited to the rigorous dry local climatic conditions. His cattle brand was a “W” set within an upright horseshoe. When “Wally” died in 1932 a local newspaper, the Bulawayo Chronicle, wrote that “he will always be remembered as ‘one of the old hands’ who did his duty to the land of his adoption and was respected by all – both Europeans and Natives – who had the privilege of knowing him”. A great tribute justly deserved. In 1952 - **Leslie Francis White**, b.1915 d.1997, married **Jean Cardew**, b.1920 d.2004. Leslie inherited the family farm from his father “Wally” in 1932. Their adopted sons, Martin, who farmed beef and dairy cattle, in the later years, had to contend with many “war vet” squatters living nearby the farmhouse, and is now living in Bulawayo, whereas Andrew, who was also on the farm with Martin until he had to move, went to live in England and was able to find work with an excavation company in Hampshire; neither with family.

From 1892 - **Walter "Wally" and Amelia WHITE**; their 7 children were:-

1- Muriel Anne b.1899 d.1941 m.Clem Wood, a farmer on "Thrale Park" farm, next to "Vreigevicht", and a miner – children - Walter, Edith and Ray.

2- Edna Dorothy b.1900 d.1969; did not marry.

3- **Rhoda Constance** b.1902 d.1985, m.**Leonard James Genet** **in 1927 - children:-

- **Joan Elizabeth** b.1931 and **Graham George Morris** b.1934

4 - Walter Eric b.1903 d.1974, m. Elsie Beavan in 1929 – children; Kerry&Marge+Gill,Deborah,John; Pene Horton+David,Robert,Sally,Mary,Toby; William&Mary+Mark,Liam,Dominic,Tristan.

5- Dudley Frankish b.1907 d.1986, m. Carol (Bonnie) in 19??, children – Rollo, Barbara, Beverley.

6- Joyce Elizabeth b.1908 d.1984, m. Jack Sticklen in 1933, children:-

- Elsie May b.1935, m. Ronald Holmes in 1958, d.1978 children:- Debbie, Linda

- Ian b.1937, m. Carol ? ,children:- Heather, ?, Sandy

7- Leslie Francis b.1915 d.1997 m. Jean Cardew b.1920 in 1952- adopted twins Andrew and Martin b,1958

****The LUNDY family:-**

In 1850's - **Frankish Lundy** b.1834 d.1904 emigrated with his family from England to Natal, South Africa, m. Anne ("Annie") Lowe in Pietermaritzburg in 1862, d.1893 in Barberton. They had 8 children:-

1- John Frankish, b.1864 d.19??

2- Frederick William, b.1865, d.1901, moved to Rhodesia as a transport rider and died of Blackwater Fever. 3- Annie Ada, b.1868, m. William Frankish in 1889, d. after 1919 in South Africa.

4- Bertha Louisa, b.1875, m. James Agnew in 1889, d.1935 in South Africa.

5- **Amelia Elizabeth**, b.1877 in Pietermaritzburg, moved to Barberton, m. **Walter Francis White** in 1892 in Bulawayo, with her brother Frederick William Lundy as a witness, she died in.1958.

6- Edith Jessie b.1879, m. Alfred Brewer in ?, d.1961 in Rhodesia, their child:-

- May (Brewer) Young b.?, m. Norman Young in ?, children: Annette,John,Leslie,Graham,Colin,Dagma.

7- Charles Sidney, b.1882, d.?

After **Amelia** died Frankish moved to Bulawayo to live with his son-in-law Walter Francis White and family and he died on the "Vreigevicht" farm which then belonged to his daughter Amelia. He was well known with his long white beard and had been a successful transport rider, leaving a heavy wagon with it's oxen. Edna White did not approve of demolishing the old family home and never lived in the new farm house.

*****The GENET family: -**

Leonard James ("Len") Genet, b.1898,d.1968. m. **Rhoda Constance White** in 1927 in Bulawayo.

Leonard served from age 16 in the London Scottish Regiment in WW1, at the Somme he was wounded shot in the chest, so was invalided out, then in 1922 emigrated to Rhodesia and joined the District Division, the British South Africa Police, BSAP, as a trooper. Whilst stationed at Figtree he met Rhoda White on the "Vreigevicht" family farm and they married in Bulawayo in 1927. He patrolled the districts on horseback to maintain law & order and dispense justice. They were posted to several Police Camps until he retired as Chief Inspector in 1958. "Len" was awarded the British Empire Medal for Services to the Police, served in the St.Johns Ambulance Brigade and, in retirement, was appointed Secretary to the Umtali Club, Rhodesia

Their two children are:-

1- **Joan Elizabeth**, m. Norman Isham in 1956, their children:- Elizabeth, Richard, Vere -all in England.

2- **Graham Morris**, m. Pauline Watson in 1963, their children:- Heather & Marianne - in Zimbabwe.

- Malcolm & Nicholas - in New Zealand.

1898 - THE "VREIGEVIUGHT" FAMILY FARM - 2012

In spite of the extensive european-owned farm occupations by government-backed cabals the family farm "Vreigevicht" remained in the hands of the family members and was still occupied and farmed by them, albeit later under difficult circumstances with so-called "war-vets" squatting in fields nearby the farmstead, until 2012: this was a great achievement in spite of many setbacks, droughts and exacting economic times. It is very sad to have to record that "Vreigevicht" and the neighbouring "Thrale Park", originally owned by Clem Wood then by his son Walter, were expropriated by the Government in early 2012, thereby ending the White/Wood family farming there for **113 years** - which was for virtually the lifetime of the country itself.

It needs to be understood that although the **expropriation** was declared by the Government as necessary in order to "return the land to the people", in fact, the homesteads are not occupied and the land is left very seriously underused for farming, resulting in the need for extensive food imports from South Africa and considerable **USA food-aid** grain is needed to feed the evicted people of this once food-exporting country.