The Henry-Steyn Trek of 1895

In my previous article I touched on the participants of this Trek in connection with my Great Grandfather’s brother, Cornelius Hermanus Marais, who, with his wife and four children, participated in the Henry-Steyn Trek to Southern Rhodesia in 1895.

I have now completed research into all the members of the party through the Zimbabwean Death Notices available at https://www.familysearch.org. It has been a fascinating exercise and almost all the members have been located in these records. The information has helped to find the links between the various families.

The joint leaders were John Henry (1829-1900) an Englishman aged 66, and Johannes Gerhardus Frederick Steyn (1836-1973) aged 59. Steyn was a 4x great grandson of Douwe Gerbrandt Steyn who arrived at the Cape between 1668 – 1670 from the Netherlands. These two men formed the committee that initially visited the northern part of Gazaland to see inspect possible areas of settlement. They travelled by boat from East London in the winter of 1894, sailing to Beira and then travelling by river, transport wagon and foot to the farm of Thomas Moodie, who was the leader of the first trek that made its way up to Gazaland in 1892, creating the settlement of Melsetter. Satisfied that there was a future for their families in the area Henry and Steyn returned to the Kroonstad district where the decision was made to organise a party to move off as soon as possible. The trek was to assemble at Schoemansdrift at the Vaal River on the 8th May 1895.

Both leaders were accompanied by their wives and children.

John Henry (1829-1900)

John Henry was born in 1929 in Cockermouth, Cumberland, England. According to his ZIM DN 7/206 his parents were Joseph and Barbara Henry. He married twice, first to Emma Elizabeth Helmore who died on 31 July 1889 aged 39 years, and then to her sister Emily who accompanied him on the Trek. The Helmore family has a tragic history. The father of these sisters was Holloway Helmore who was appointed missionary to Africa with the London Missionary Society. He first went to South Africa in 1839 with his wife Anne Garden. In 1858 he was appointed to open a mission to the Makololo north of the Zambezi. He and his wife and 4 children travelled with Roger Price and his wife Isabella to Linyati, where they expected to meet David Livingstone. Whilst waiting for Livingstone to arrive eight people in the missionary party fell ill and died. amongst these were Holloway, his wife and two of their children. Roger and Isabella Price decided to abandon the mission and travel back to Kuruman mission with the two orphaned Helmore children – probably Emily and Emma Elizabeth. Isabella Price died on the way, and the remains of the party reached Kuruman in Feb 1861.

John Henry first married Emma Elizabeth Helmore. She died on 31st July 1889. The description in the NAAIRS index VAB reference H387 confirms this - "nooeiensvan Helmore. Eggenoot John Henry". There was one child born of this marriage, Emily, but she died as a baby. John then married Emma’s sister Emily. The couple baptised the following children at Kroonstad (entries found in the eGGSA Birth, Marriage and Burial registers).

Thomas Holloway Helmore Henry Bapt. 1 Mar 1893 born Feb 1892
TWINS Travis and Frederick Paul Retsey Helmore Bapt. 10 Mar 1895, born 25 Aug 1894.

John Henry, Emily, Tom, Freddie and Travis are listed in the party on the Henry-Steyn Trek that assembled just 2 months after the twins were baptised.

On the 9th Sept. 1897 the three year old Frederick died at “Tom’s Hope” Farm, Melsetter. John Henry died on 9th Dec 1900, leaving his widow Emily with two young children – Thomas (7) and Travis (6). Emily married Norman Norcliffe Rutherford before April 1904 when he was the informant on the “Form of Information of a Death” for Thomas Holloway Helmore Henry, described as “step father”. Thomas died of fever at “Tom’s Hope Farm”, Melsetter on 12th Apr 1904 aged 12.There were no children born of Emily’s marriage to Rutherford, and when she died in Umtali Hospital on 5th April 1928 she left one living son – Travis Helmore Henry. There is a note on her ZIM DN 32/232 – “Has not lived with NN Rutherford for years. Travis Henry (son) been supporting her”. 

The description in the NAAIRS index VAB reference H387 confirms this - "nooeiensvan Helmore. Eggenoot John Henry". There was one child born of this marriage, Emily, but she died as a baby. John then married Emma’s sister Emily. The couple baptised the following children at Kroonstad (entries found in the eGGSA Birth, Marriage and Burial registers).
Travis Helmore Henry married Mary Ethel McMann on 4th Feb 1930 at Mutambara Mission, Umtali. She was British according to her ZIM DN 1109/67 but born in Ohio, USA. She died on 13th June 1967 aged 73 at Borradale Hospital, Marandellas. Travis died on 10th March 1970 at Glen View Farm, Chipinga aged 78. The couple had two children survive them (no deceased children are listed on either DN's); John Travis Henry and Ruth Anne Henry who married twice between June 1967 and March 1973, firstly to NN Howells and secondly to NN Burgess. If anyone has further information on this family I would be delighted to hear about them.

**Johannes Gerhardus Frederick Steyn b1c3d4e2f5g5 (1836-1973)**

In "Many Treks Made Rhodesia" by S P Olivier Johannes is accompanied by his wife Herculina Steyn and the following children:

**h7. Coenraad Christoffel or Cornelius Steyn** (1875-1951), who later married Frederika Theunissina Herselman who was on the Martin Trek of 1894

**h8. Christian Johannes Fouche Steyn** (1878-1970) who later married x Anna Susanna Coetzer who was on the same trek. xx Chathorina Elizabeth Susanna Beukes; xxx Jacoba Johanna Cronje.

**h9. Theunis Frederick Jacobus Steyn** (1880-1961) who later married Stephina Martina Marais who was on the same Trek. xx Susanna Surara Fourie (sic).

**h10. Lucas Cornelius Steyn** (1882-1952) who later married Magdalena Cornelia Wilhelmina Herselman who was on the Martin Trek of 1894.

**h11. Maria Magdalena Steyn** (1884-1972) who later married Thomas Thorning Huxham

Many of Johannes G F Steyn's other children were also in the party. They are in **bold** below. Those that did not accompany the family on the Trek to Rhodesia are also listed.

**h1. Herculina Johanna Sophi a Steyn** (1859-1948) married to Wentzel Christoffel Coetzer

h2. Anna Maria Catharina Steyn (1861 - ..) she was married to Izak Francois van der Merwe.

**h3. Johannes Gerhardus Steyn** (1864-1953) with is wife Anna Cornelia Maria Malan and 4 children:

- Martha Susanna (1885-1954) who married Jean Charles Frederick du Preez who was on the Martin Trek of 1894.
- Herculina Johanna Sophia Steyn
- Johannes Gerhardus Frederick Steyn (1891-1919)
- Anna Cornelia Maria Steyn (1894-1966) who married Paul Coenraad Odendaal who was on the Mynhardt-Utrecht Trek of 1894.

**h4. Pieter Willem Steyn** (1868-1910) and his wife Engela Helena Lombard and two children:

- Johannes Gerhardus Frederick Steyn (1891-1962)
- Anna Catharina Steyn (1895-..)

**h5. Hendrik Willem Steyn** (1869-1929) and his wife Christina Petronella Coetzer with one child

- Aletta Elizabeth Steyn (1893-1929) who married Johan Theodorus Herselman who was on the Martin Trek in 1894.

**h6. Schalk Steyn** (1872 - ..)

Also on the trek was Johannes Gerhardus Frederick Steyn’s older brother

**Hendrik Balthazar Steyn b1c3d4e2f5g4 (1832-1912)** with his wife Anna Susanna van Heerden with two minor or unmarried children:
h10. Cornelius Herculaaas Steyn
h11? Anna Susanna Steyn who later married Philipus Martinus Branke who was on the Martin Trek of 1894.

Other children of Hendrik Balthazar who were also on the Trek:

h2. Pieter Willem Johannes Steyn (1859-1925) and his wife Cornelia Maria Johanna Lombard. She was the daughter of Stephanus Johannes Marthinus Lombard (1839-1901) and Anna Catharina Susan Remerta Bester (1831-1910) who were also in the party.

   Children:
   - Antonie Christoffel Steyn (1889-1965)
   - Hendrik Balthazar Steyn (1882-1943)
   - Stephanus Johannes Marthinus Steyn
   - Paul Michael Steyn (1894-1956)
   - Anna Catharina Steyn (1881-1942). She married Frederick Jacobus van Eeden who was on the Martin Trek in 1894
   - Cornelia Maria Johanna Steyn
   - Johannes Gerhardus Steyn
   - Pieter Willem Johannes Steyn (1886-1969).

h4. Herculina Johanna Steyn (1863-1954) wife of Jan Harm Coetzer (1858-1932)

   Children:
   - Hendrik Balthazar Coetzer (1885-1921)
   - Anna Susanna Coetzer (1887-1914) married Christiaan Johannes Fouche Steyn
   - Jan Harm Coetzer (1890-..) married Johanna Catherina Magdalena Grobler
   - Pieter Willem Johannes Coetzer (Piet) (1892-1980) Died in South Africa - did not stay in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)
   - Aletta Elizabeth Coetzer (Lettie) (1893-..) who later married Edward Rossiter.

h7. Coenraad Christoffel Steyn (1873-1934) and his wife Aletta Elizabeth van Heerden (1880-1942) (As well as being the nephew of the joint leader Johannes Steyn, Coenraad was also the nephew of his uncle's wife Herculina. Coenraad Hendrik's father, Hendrik Bethazar Steyn, was married to Anna Sophia Maria nan Heerden, sister of Herculina.) They were not accompanied by any children.

Maria Magdalena Steyn (1855-1920) married to Thomas Ignatius Ferreira (1854-1935) She was the niece of joint leader Johannes G F Steyn, the daughter of his brother G3. Johannes Steyn and his wife Margarita Elizabeth van Heerden.

   Children:
   - William Peter Ferreira (Willem) died before 1920
   - Maria Magdalena Ferreira later married Moolman
   - Johannes Steyn Ferreira (Jan),
   - Thomas Ignatius Ferreira
   - Catharina Berthalina Elizabeth Ferreira later married Markham
   - Marthinus Louis Ferreira (Louis).
**Full List of participants - Henry-Steyn Trek 1895**

Showing relationship of members to Thomas Gerhardus Frederick Steyn in [RED]

**John Henry JOINT LEADER** (1829-1900) and his wife **Emily Helmore** [Family Unrelated]

Children:
- Thomas Holloway Helmore Henry (Tom) (1892- )
- Frederick Paul Ratsey Helmore Henry (Freddie)(1894-1897) Twin
- Travis Helmore Henry (1894-1973) Twin

**Johannes Gerhardus Frederick Steyn JOINT LEADER** (1836-1917) and **Herculina Johanna Sophia van Heerden** [Wife] (1841-1905)

Children:
- **Coenraad Christoffel Steyn** [Son] (1875-1951) married Fredrika Theunissina Herselman who was on the Martin Trek in 1894
- **Christiaan Johannes Fouche Steyn** [Son] (1878-1970) who married Anna Susanna Coetzer, daughter of Jan Harm Coetzer.
- **Theunis Steyn** [Son]**(1880-1961) married Stephina Martina Marais** (see ** below – daughter of Trek member Cornelius Hermanus Marais)
- **Lucas Cornelius Steyn** [Son] (1882-1952) married Magdalena Cornelia Wilhelmina Herselman who was on the Martin Trek
- **Maria Magdalena Steyn** [Daughter] (1884-1972) married Thomas Thorning Huxham

Other children marked §

**Johannes Gerhardus Steyn** [Son] §(1864-1953) and his wife **D-in-LAW Anna Cornelia Maria Malan** (Annie)(1867-1943)

Children:
- Martha Susanna Steyn (1885-1954) married Jean Charles Frederick du Preez who was on the Martin Trek of 1894.
- Herculina Johanna Sophia Steyn,
- Johannes Gerhardus Frederick Steyn (1891-1919),
- Anna Cornelia Maria Steyn (1894-1966) married Paul Coenraad Odendaal who was on the Mynhardt-Utrecht Trek 1894.

**Pieter Willem Steyn** [Son] §(1868-1910) and his wife **Engela Helena Lombard*** (1867- .)

Children:
- Johannes Gerhardus Frederick Steyn (1891-1962)
- Anna Catharina Steyn (Annie) (1895-.).

**Hendrik Willem Steyn** [Son] § (1869-1929) and **Christina Petronella Coetzer** (Christiana) (1874-1946)

Child
- Aletta Elizabeth Steyn (1893-1929) married Johan Theodorus Herselman who was on the Martin Trek in 1894.

**Hendrik Balthazar Steyn** [Brother] (1832-1912) and his wife **Anna Susanna van Heerden** (Sannie) (1839-1899). Other children of this couple are marked ±

Children:
- Cornelius Herculaaas Steyn
- Anna Susanna Steyn (Sannie) married Phillipus Martinus Branken who was on the Martin Trek of 1894.

**Pieter Willem Johannes Steyn** (Willem) ± (1859-1925) and his wife **Cornelia Maria Johanna Lombard***

Children:
- Antonie Christoffel Steyn (1889-1965)
- Hendrik Balthazar Steyn (1882-1943)
- Stephanus Johannes Marthinus Steyn
- Paul Michael Steyn (1894-1956)
- Anna Catharina Steyn (1881-1942). She married Frederick Jacobus van Eeden who was on the Martin Trek in 1894
- Cornelia Maria Johanna Steyn
- Johannes Gerhardus Steyn
• Pieter Willem Johannes Steyn (1886-1969).

Coenraad Christoffel Steyn ± (1873-1934) (son of Hendrik Balthazar Steyn and Anna Susanna), with his wife Aletta Elizabeth van Heerden (1880-1942) (Coenraad was the nephew of Leader Johannes Steyn's wife Herculina. Coenraad Hendrik's father, Hendrik Balthazar Steyn, was married to Anna Sophia Maria van Heerden, sister of Herculina.)

Wentzel Christoffel Coetzer (1845-1904) and his wife Herculina Johanna Sophia Steyn § (Johanna) (1859-1948)

Children:
• Johannes Gerhardus Coetzer (1881-1953)
• Wentzel Coetzer (not mentioned on his mother's DN ZIM 78/241)
• Johanna Petronella Coetzer married McGregor,
• Anna Maria Catharina Coetzer (Annie) married du Preez ,
• Pieter Willem Coetzer (Piet),
• Martha Louisa Coetzer married Hoole,
• Willem Coetzer (not mentioned on his mother's DN ZIM 78/241).

Jan Harm Coetzer and his wife Herculina Johanna Steyn ±

Children:
• Hendrik Balthazar Coetzer (1885-1914) married Christiaan Johannes Fouche Steyn
• Jan Harm Coetzer (1890-..) married Johanna Catherina Magdalena Grobler
• Pieter Willem Johannes Coetzer (Piet) (1892-1980) Died in SA - did not stay in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)
• Aletta Elizabeth Coetzer (Lettie) (1893-..) married Edward Rossiter.

Thomas Ignatius Ferreira (1854-1935) and Maria Magdalena Steyn (1855-1920) She was the niece of joint leader Johannes G F Steyn, the daughter of his brother Johannes and and his wife Margarita Elizabeth van Heerden.

Children:
• William Peter Ferreira (Willem) died before 1920,
• Maria Magdalena Ferreira, later married Moolman
• Johannes Steyn Ferreira (Jan),
• Thomas Ignatius Ferreira,
• Catharina Berthalina Elizabeth Ferriera later married Markham
• Martinus Louis Ferreira (Louis).

Johannes Gerhardus Frederick Kloppers (c.1850 - 1930) and his wife Anna Sophia Jansen van Vuuren(1865-1898) (Annie).

Children: All the children are from Johannes's previous wife Aletta Elizabeth Kloppers born van Heerden (1847-1888). She was the sister of Herculina, Johannes Gerhardus Frederick Steyn's wife.

• Martha Kloppers
• Aletta Elizabeth Kloppers (1878-19570 unmarried.
• Anna Maria Kloppers (Annie) alive in May 1930.
• Coenraad Christoffel Kloppers (Chrisdoffel) (c.1877-1919)
• Pieter Willem Kloppers (Willem) (1880-1967)
• Johannes gerhardus Frederick Kloppers
• Pieter Schalk Kloppers (1884-1964)

Stephanus Johannes Marthinus Lombard (1839-1901) and his wife Anna Cathartina Susana Remerta Bester (Annie) (1831-1910).

Children:
• Anna Catharina Lombard (Annie) (bef. 1895 - bef. 1910)
• Stephanus Johannes Marthinus Lombard (c.1872 - 1949)
• Barend Jacobus Lombard (1885 - 1964)

Other children on the Trek marked *

Cornelius Hermanus Marais and Catharina Susara Lombard* (1858-1925)

Children:
Anna Catharina Susanna Marais (Annie) (1881 -1917) married Johannes Gideon Andries de Beer

- Barend Daniel Marais,
- Catrina Susanna Marais,
- Stephina Martina Marais (Stephina married Theunis Steyn** above)

Willem Adrian Prinsloo and his wife Hester Susanna Prinsloo (Hessie) (1846 - 1914)

Children:
- Wilhelmina Prinsloo
- Martinus Prinsloo (Hans( (c.1870 - 1919)
- William Johannes Prinsloo (Willem) (1895-1907)
- Frederick Francis Prinsloo(Frelk) (1893-1958)
- E. Coetzer.
- Ignatius du Pre.
- Jaap Hauptfleisch.
- Daniel van der Zandt.
- Pieter Louwrens Ferreira

There were newspaper articles (see his profile page) about Pieter Louwrens Ferreira who claimed that he went to Southern Rhodesia in 1895 with his first wife Martha Johanna (nee Greef) as part of the 1895 trek. His name does not appear in the lists given in S P Olivier's "Many Treks Made Rhodesia."

His DN can be seen on his profile page. His first wife, Martha, died on March 11 1896 aged 24 of Malaria. He married his 2nd wife Maria Margaretha Magdalena on 3rd Jan 1898 in Enkeldoorn.

Children: (all born in Southern Rhodesia)
- Lawren Ferreira (born 1912)
- Violet Taylor nee Ferreira (born 1913)
- Henry Ferreira (born 1915)
- Batalia Howard nee Ferreira (born 1917)
- Ester Woods nee Ferreira (born 1919)