PYBUS, Mrs Hannah Marshall (Widow)

Born *c*.1799, Leeds, England. Died 15 October 1877, *Hallcar*, Greytown, Natal.

1799*c*. Born. (Date calculated from GGRD). Leeds. (Barnes, Handley)

1799.03.25 Christened at Hunslet, Yorks., dau. of John Marshall. (Barnes). Before coming to Natal Hannah had been twice married – first to a Mr Thompson (Barnes, Handley) and then to Chapman Pybus who d. 1842*c*. at Fleetham [*sic*]\*\*, Yorks. (CSO v. 2282)

1827*c*. Dau. Sarah Best Thompson b. (Date calculated from Tomb RC)

1839*c*. Dau. Martha Ann Pybus b. (Date calculated from CSO 2282)

1842*c*. Death of Chapman Pybus. (Date calculated from CSO 2282). He was the son of John Pybus and had a brother Henry. (MSCE 5282)

1850.12.31 The barque *Amazon* arrived at Port Natal from London. (EI 73). Among the 60 passengers on board were Mrs Pybus, aged 47 [*sic*] and Mary [*sic*] aged 11. They were from Stirling. (Bird)

1851.01.08*c*. James Eckroyd\* travelling from Durban to Pmb. took a lift in a wagon and in front were a middle-aged lady and two girls[*sic*]. The driver said they were from Yorkshire and were going to the Wests. Eckroyd concluded they were Joseph [Ellis] West’s\* wife’s relatives and they proved to be her mother and sister who had come out on the *Amazon*. (JED 19.01.51)

1851.03.21 A letter was awaiting her at Pietermaritzburg Post Office. It was addressed c/o J.E. West. (*NW* 21.03.51)

1853.02.25 Marriage of Hannah Pybus, widow, to Jacob Cole\*, widower, builder. Witnesses: John Thomas and Thomas Handley\*. (R. St J’s, Pmb.)

1855.06.06 Dau, Martha Ann Pybus m. Thomas Handley. (R. St J’s, Pmb.)

1876.03.08 Jacob Cole d., *Beaumont*\*\*\**,* in his78th year, late of Bristol. (*NW* 17.03.76)

1877.10.00 Hannah M. Cole d. October 1877 aged 78. (Tomb GTC)

1877.10.15 Hannah M. Cole d. aged 78. She was a widow of *Hallcar*. (GGRD). Widow of the late Jacob Cole of *Beaumont* d. in her 79th year at *Hallcar*, Greytown. Mother of Mrs J. Ellis West, *Beaumont*, and Mrs Handley of *Hallcar*.(*NM* 20.10.77)

CHILDREN

*FIRST MARRIAGE*

**Sarah Best** (b. *c*. 1827, England – d. 10.05.1898, *Beaumont*, Beaumont, Natal)

1822.00.00 Sarah’s future husband Joseph Ellis West b. in Hull. (BSN p.147)

1822.11.17 Joseph Ellis West b. (EHBB).

1827*c*. Sarah Best b. (Date calculated from Tomb RC)

1849.05.13 In the Intermediate is also a Mr West and his wife a newly married couple – very loving and affectionate and general favourites on board[the *Washington*]. He was a member of the Society of Friends, but forsook his church for his wife, it being contrary to the laws governing their society to marry any but a member. (Moreland\* papers). [John Swales Moreland was Byrne’s agent in Natal.]

1849.07.23 The Durban Custom House list of passengers per-*Washington* includes John [*sic*]

Ellis West, aged 26 and Mrs J. [*sic*] B. West, 22. (Moreland papers)

1849.07.27 The list of passengers on board the *Washington* as transcribed by Professor

Hattersley includes Joseph Ellis West, 26 and Mrs West, 22. (*NW* 27.07.49)

1898.05.00 Sarah Best d. aged 71. (Tomb RC). Sarah Best West d. aged 73 at *Beaumont*. (RGRD)

1907.03.00 Joseph Ellis West d. aged 85. (Tomb RC)

1907.03.22 Joseph Ellis West, b. in Hull, m. Sarah Best [Thompson] at Leeds, d. aged 84yrs3mths, Richmond, at the home of Mrs Linscott. Lived with Ernest Sink. (MSCE 29/83)

*SECOND MARRIAGE*

**Martha Ann** (b. *c*.1839, *Grange House*/*Craig Mill*, near Stirling, Scotland. d. 26.05.1920. *Hallcar*, Greytown, Natal.)

1826*c*. Martha Ann’s future husband Thomas Handley\* b. at Blackburn, Parish of Rotherham, Yorks. (Date calculated from CSO 2282)

1839*c*. Martha Ann Pybus b. (Date calculated from Ib.). b. at *Grange House*. (Ib.). b. at *Craig Mill*. (WSA p. 125)

1850.12.31 Arrived at Port Natal with her mother on the *Amazon*. Her name was given as Mary [*sic*] and she was aged 11. (Bird)

1855.06.04 Thomas Handley, 29, of Greytown, b. at Blackburn in the parish of Rotherham, Yorks, and Martha Ann Pybus, 16, b. at *Grange House*, near Stirling, Scotland, dau. of Hannah Cole, widow of Chapman Pybus who d. at Fleetham [*sic*], Yorks, 13 years ago, took out licence to marry. (CSO 2282)

1855.06.06 Martha Ann Pybus and Thomas Handley m. Witnesses J.Ernest Westington and Joseph Ellis West. (R. St J’s, Pmb.)

1859.03.00 Thomas Handley with wife and two children left Durban for Cape Town on the *Impèratrice Éugenie* and returned on the *Oak* from London on 00.02.1860. (EI 74)

1891*c*. In her reminiscences Martha Ann recalls that when she first went to Greytown in June 1855 there were only two houses, one occupied by Dr Kelly [Kelly, Dr Thomas Tear\*] and their own, exactly opposite where the Town Hall now stands. Mr Handley had a clerk in his store by *c*. 1856. Early in 1859 she went to England for a year. The first dinner of the Umvoti Agricultural Society was held in Mr Handley’s new wattle and daub store, she thinks in May 1855, and Lt Gov. Pine was present. (MAHR)

1898.11.00 Thomas Handley d. November 1898 aged 72. (Tomb GTC)

1898.11.12 Thomas Handley d. at his residence in Greytown. Came to Natal in the 1850s and was well known in the early days as a member of the firm of Handley & Dixon, carrying on a good business in Pmb. In the early 1860s he settled down in Greytown where he built up the large business of Messrs Handley & Sons, having branches at Helpmekaar and Dundee. He was known for his honest dealings and sympathetic heart. He had practically retired from business 10 years earlier leaving it in the hands of his sons, with Thomas L. Handley taking the position of head of the firm. He leaves a wife, seven sons and three daughters. (*NW* 15.11.98) Died aged 72 years, merchant of Greytown. (GGRD)

1915.06.15 Martha Ann made her will at Greytown. Beneficiaries included her cousin Martha Jane Pybus b. 16.10.1838, England, dau. of Henry and Jane Pybus. Martha Jane received an annuity which on her death was to pass to Louisa Mary Turpin, b. 18.01.1869, England, whose mother was a Pybus. (MSCE 5282)

1920.05.00 Martha Ann d. May 1920 aged 81.Buried in the same grave as her husband. (Tomb GTC)

1920.05.26 Martha Ann Handley d. at *Hallcar*, aged 81, b. England. (Ib.). d. aged 81 years at *Hallcar*, Greytown, widow of the late Thomas Handley. (*NW* 29.05. 1920)

NOTES

\*After a surname indicates that person as the head of a family and therefore qualified for an

entry in Shelagh Spencer’s biographical register.

\*\*The *Gazetteer of Great Britain* shows a Feetham in Yorks.

\*\*\*By 1874 the name Beaumont had embraced the district which is still an important sugarcane

farming area near Eston, Natal.

SOURCES

**Books and Directories**

BSN – Hattersley, Alan F. *The British Settlement of Natal*: *a study in imperial migration*.

Cambridge: University Press, 1950.

WSA – *Women of South Africa*: *a historical, educational and industrial encyclopaedia and*

*social directory of the women of the sub-continent*. Cape Town: Le Quesne & Hooton-Smith,

1913.

**Cemeteries**

Tomb GTC – Gravestone in Greytown cemetery

Tomb RC – Gravestone in Richmond Cemetery

**Church Registers**

R. St J’s, Pmb. – Register St John’s, Pietermaritzburg. Presbyterian.

**Newspapers**

*NM – Natal Mercury*

*NW – Natal Witness*

**Personal Communication**

Barnes, Mrs Pam

Handley, Jennifer May

**Private Source Material**

EHBB – Effie Hackland’s birthday book. Private ownership.

JED – Eckroyd, James. Diary

MAHR – Handley, Martha Ann.Reminiscences via Mrs D Scogings, Diocesan Archives, Pmb.

Moreland papers. In Pietermaritzburg Archives Repository

**Shipping Lists**

Bird – Christopher Bird’s list as transcribed by Prof. Hattersley

EI – European Immigration

**Unpublished Official Papers**

CSO – Colonial Secretary’s Office

EI – European Immigration

GGRD – Greytown Government Register. Deaths

MSCE – Master of the Supreme Court. Estates

RGRD – Richmond Government Register. Deaths

Compiled from Shelagh Spencer’s records on the British Settlers of Natal 1824-1857.

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