WEBSTER, Joseph

Born *c*. 1832, ?England. Died 14.08.1900, Pietermaritzburg.

1851.07.07 Arrived at Port Natal on board the *Jane Morice*. (*NW* 11.07.51). Joseph Webster did not emigrate under the auspices of J.C. Byrne & Co’s Natal Emigration and Colonization Company. (S.O’B.S.)

1857.07.03 A farmer of *Spitzkop* he m. Margaret Maddon [*sic*], aged 18, whose mother consented. (R. St P. Pmb.)

1858.01.00 A trader of *Spitz Kop* [*sic*], Upper Umgeni. (R. St P. Pmb.)

1858.11.25 William Beckwith, Joseph Webster & Roland Graham bought the Rem. of *Van Vuuren’s Post* (3 096 acres) together, agreeing that Beckwith & Webster were to have half and Graham the other half, Lot B. Because Beckwith and Webster were frequently out of Natal the transfer and division of the property were delayed. (RSC I/8/20 No. 1837)

1861 *c.* Jan. Beckwith moved to the OFS where he set up a branch of Beckwith & Webster. (RSC I/8/6 No. 449)

1861.06.00 A farmer of *Van Rooyen’s Post* [*sic*]. (R.St P. Pmb.)

1862.04.15 E.R. Dixon applied for an attachment order against the firm Beckwith & Webster which owed him £1 034–odd. He said that Webster had arrived in Natal from Overberg with a large quantity of produce and was concealing himself with a view to preventing a settlement of Dixon’s claim. Dixon also believed they had a large quantity of wool in Pmb. (SC I/8/6 No. 449)

1862.04.16 An attachment order on the wool was given, despite the fact that the Sheriff had received a claim from T.V. Brayhirst that the wool belonged to him. (*Ibid*.)

1862.07.17 Summons served at their residence on Beckwith & Webster to appear in the Natal Supreme Court on 31.07.1862. They were not there to receive it. (*Ib*.)

1862.07.17 Letter of this date from A.B. Roberts (Beckwith & Webster’s attorney), Bloemfontein, to A. Walker (attorney), Pmb., stating Beckwith & Webster live in the Orange Free State and wish Walker to defend them. Webster is due in Natal at any minute. T.V. Brayhirst has their P/A. Walker believes they have a good defence against sequestration – they have counter claims against Dixon for wool shipped to England. With a provisional sequestration order Dixon went to the Free State and got a warrant of arrest against Beckwith & Webster and their goods, disposed of some of their property and took 500 sheep that were on their way to Natal. Beckwith & Webster did not appear in the Natal Supreme Court. Dixon’s petition was refused with costs. (*Ib*.)

1862.09.00 Still in partnership with W. Beckwith. (SC IV/23/2 No. 191)

1862.11.21 He and Gilbert Townes were in partnership as farmers. They made an agreement to lease ten acres of *Plessis Laager* from W.E. Hall from 25.12.1862 (date of transfer to Hall 03.02.1862) for the natural life of Hall and for two years after his death. Rental £3.10s. half yearly. (RSC IV/2/68 No. 555)

1862.12.12 Remainder of *Van Vuuren’s Post* (3 096 acres) transferred from P.A. Zeederberg to R. Graham, W. Beckwith and J. Webster. (Deeds Office, *Van Vuuren’s Post* No. 942). T.V. Brayhirst, with P/A from Beckwith and Webster effected the transfer but did not see to the division of the property as agreed between Graham, Beckwith and Webster. (RSC I/8//20 No. 1837)

1863.10.16 Raw & Wilkinson [auctioneers] to sell Beckwith & Webster’s estate (1 548 acres) near the Zwartkop Location, portion of *Van Vuuren’s Post*, with all its valuable timber. (*NCPA* 16.10.63)

1864.12.14 Still of *Van Vuuren’s Post*. (*NCPA* 14.12.64)

1865.07.02 Out shooting pheasant with Thomas Dobson on the farm of John Naude when Webster’s gun accidentally fired and Dobson was shot in the right arm with a charge of large buck shot. (AGO I/4/7 pges 1029 – 31)

1865.07.13 In a deposition made by Dobson he said there was no bad feeling between them and he believed it to have been an accident. (*Ibid*.)

1865.07.16 Dobson, who was recovering satisfactorily in Grey’s Hospital (Pmb.) when he made the deposition, suddenly died. (*Ib.*)

1866.01.31 Roland Graham made application for an order interdicting the sale of the title held by Beckwith & Webster to the Sub. (1 548 acres) adjoining Lot B (1 548 acres) of *Van Vuuren’s Post*. Aletta Hansmeyer holds a mortgage on the part of the farm leased by T.V. Brayhirst and which is to be sold on provisional judgement of the MSC. The application was refused with costs. (RSC I/8/20 1837)

1866.02.12 The land was sold by auction to Aletta Hansmeyer for £465. (RSC I/8/21 No. 1868)

1869.06.00 He was a builder. (PGR births)

1869.08.00 He was a trader. R. St P. Pmb.)

1871.07.00 Now a farmer of *Bless Bosch*, Pmb. Co. (R. St P. Pmb.) A labourer. (PGR births)

1873.03.00 Now of *Sterk Spruit*. (R. St P. Pmb.)

1873.12.21 Of Kimberley, given P/A by the Durban merchant A.W. Evans to conduct business there for the firm Evans & Maynard. (RSC IV/7/7 No. 145)

1874.12 31 J.F. Churchill and F. Giesen as executors of estate of A. W. Evans gave P/A to Joseph Webster to run the business in Kimberley. (RSC IV/7/8 No. 200)

1875.06.05 He was a farmer of  *Boschfontein* near Caversham. (R. Ang. H.)

1876.09.21 He was farm bailiff of *Boschfontein*. (R. Ang. H.)

1878 end Farmer, *Boschfontein*, Caversham. (DNA 1879)

1883.09.00 A timber merchant residing at *Blesberg* in Lion’s River Division, Pmb. County. (AGO 1/4/33 No.306)

1891.04.30 Joseph Webster of Lidgetton, farmer, and John William Webster of Lidgetton, transport rider, passed a bond of £96.17s. in favour of William Merrick & Co. of Pmb., merchants, for goods and money supplied. They have a farm *Blesberg* leased from Alfred Pearse. (RSC IV/3/13 No. 591)

1899.08.00 Made a will. He was of the farm *Dunira*, on the York Road near Pmb. (MSC 157/1900)

1900 Died aged 68. (Tomb CRC)

1900.08.00 A gentleman, d. Aug. 1900 aged 68. (PGR deaths)

1900.08.14 Died in Pmb. aged 68. (MSC 157/1900)

1917.07.00 Widow Margaret b. in England d. aged 79. (PGR deaths)

It may interest you to know that on the same day that Margaret Maddon [*sic*] m. Joseph Webster

her mother Rachel Maddon [*sic*], widow, laundress, m. William Beckworth [*sic*], farmer,

*Spitzkop*, Umgeni. (R. St P. Pmb.). Margaret had two brothers, bootmakers, who lived in Pmb.,

surname Maddock. (MD). The given name of one of them was Thomas. (AGO I/4/11 p. 167).

Thomas d. (or was buried) on 19.11.1940 aged 92. Buried in Beckwith plot. (Tomb CRC)

SOURCES

**Books and Directories**

*DNA Natal Almanac, Directory and Yearly Register.* P. Davis & Sons: Pietermaritzburg, 1879.

**Cemeteries**

CRC Commercial Road Cemetery, Pmb.

**Church Registers**

R. Ang. Howick Register St Luke’s Anglican Church, Howick.

R. St P. Pmb. Register St Peter’s Anglican Church, Pmb.

(Available at Natal Diocesan Archives, Pmb. <archives@dionatal.org.za>

**Newspapers**

*NCPA Natal Courier and Pietermaritzburg Advertiser*, 1859-1865.

*NW*  *Natal Witness*, 1846-

 **Official Documents**

AGO Attorney General’s Office

MSC Master of the Suprreme Court, wills (In the Master’s Office)

PGR Pmb. Govt. Register, births/deaths

RSC Registrar of the Supreme Court

(1, 3, & 4 available at Pmb. Archives Repository)

**Personal Communication**

MD Dent, Mabel born Stuart (deceased)

S.O’B. S Shelagh O’Byrne Spencer

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