

**MOUNTAIN PASSES, ROADS & TRANSPORTATION IN THE CAPE:  
A Guide to Research  
(Fourth Edition:: February 2009)**

This research document has been divided into four main parts:

Section A: **INDEX OF CAPE MOUNTAIN PASSES**

Section B: **SCHEDULE OF CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATES**

Section C: **CHRONOLOGY**

Section D: **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

all preceded by an explanatory **INTRODUCTION**.

These data have been collected in an effort to **list** (and hence also **record**) some of the documentation and other information available to those interested in the history particularly of mountain passes, but also of roads and transportation.

**The aim was to produce a Guide for the use of future researchers in this field.**

Generally speaking the study has concentrated on the history and records of the Dutch East India Company period, of the short Batavian Government interlude, of the Cape Colony (which properly should be called the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope) and of its successor, the Cape Province (which properly should be called the Province of the Cape of Good Hope).

**It thus covers the period from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to 1994.**

#### **SECTION A: INDEX OF CAPE MOUNTAIN PASSES**

Mountain passes were priority items in the research. The Index is intended to give an **alphabetical** listing of the 500 or so mountain passes and poorts in the Cape Province discovered using the sources and time available. This list is without doubt the most complete in existence.

Where applicable alternative pass names and/or spellings have been noted. All those passes about which histories and/or details have been found have opposite their names the date of an entry in the Chronology. Further relevant dates (if any) are shown at the end of this Chronology entry as "See also" dates.

#### **SECTION B: SCHEDULE OF PIONEERING AND CONSTRUCTION DATES**

The Schedule is not a listing of all items included in the Chronology: it covers only mountain passes, and major roads and bridges. It is a **chronological** one-line-name-and-date type of schedule, a sort of historical summary of major roadmaking activities in the Cape. The dates routes were pioneered, or the construction was completed, are recorded; and these also indicate where the reader will find further information in the Chronology.

#### **SECTION C: CHRONOLOGY**

Entries in the Chronology summarise information about the subject being considered. The various references from which each bit of information was gleaned are recorded, so that the researcher will know where to read further about the subject, if so desired, "see also" annotations list the dates of other relevant chronological entries, or indicate sources where further information can be found.

With the continuing emphasis on mountain passes and poorts in the Cape, the intent was to record particularly the following data, where these were available:

- the date any particular pass was pioneered,
- the construction period and other details, including (where discovered) the cost,
- the date of first opening,
- the date of any major washaways, and
- dates of any subsequent major betterments or reconstructions.

It is felt that the bibliographic references given after each entry, together with the listing of the passes under various publications in the Bibliography, should give the researcher initial guidance in investigating in greater depth the history of any pass.

Entries were also made of occurrences of particular relevance to roads and transportation, especially in the Cape, such as:

- the dates certain major roads were constructed, improved or reconstructed,
- the dates certain major or key bridges were constructed,
- various Colonial Acts and Provincial Ordinances relating to the Central Road Board, Divisional Road Boards, Divisional Councils, Regional Service Councils and District Councils,
- various Acts pertaining to National Roads,
- various Commissions of Enquiry into roads and road transportation,
- the tenures of John Montagu, Charles Michell, Andrew Geddes Bain, Thomas Bain, et altera,
- the first use of mechanical traction on roads in South Africa, the advent of the motor car, tram and trolley bus, and similar noteworthy and relevant transport events,
- certain relevant items from elsewhere, such as important data relating to sea, rail and air transportation.

#### **SECTION D: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The bibliography lists those of the many publications and other items relevant to the area of interest which it is felt could be helpful to those wishing to do further research in this area.

The annotations are intended to indicate the field covered in an item where this is not obvious from the title. Where only a portion of the publication addresses the subject area of interest the relevant chapter or chapters, or page numbers, have been indicated. And to maintain the emphasis on mountain passes, the names of passes referred to in the text have been noted.

Where an item has been annotated as being "in the *Ross Collection*" this refers to the considerable number of books, papers and other publications which just seemed to accumulate during my research. The *Collection* will be stored in the University of Cape Town library, where it will be readily available to future researchers.

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The 240 page book *The Romance of Cape Mountain Passes*, published by David Philip in 2002, was based on a small portion, a smidgen, of these data.

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