

WHAT A WEEK!

The past week has been an eventful week in Bishop's rich heritage:

Friday 1 September: 168 years ago the sale went through for the purchase of Woodlands Estate by the Diocese of Cape Town, for 1 100 Pound Sterling.

Mrs. Sophie Gray reported in her *Records*:

“ On the 1st of September (1949) the Bishop completed the purchase of a house with 24 morgen 52 roods of land called Woodlands, situated in the Parish of Rondebosch in the Cape Division, for the purpose of establishing the Collegiate School there, the number of pupils having increased to an extent which rendered its removal from Protea desirable.”



Donald McIntyre writes in his *A Century of Bishops* on p.11 (Published 1950):

“*Woodlands* was originally a small farm of exactly two morgen, situated approximately where the senior cricket field is now. It was granted, on 24 May 1791, by Governor Cornelis Jacob van der Graaff, to the burgher, Jan Fredrik Peens. Subsequent owners obtained grants of surrounding land. By this process when the Bishop bought it it had attained the considerable dimensions mentioned by Mrs. Gray. In 1896, the College Council, being pressed for funds, divided about two morgen in the north-western corner into plots, which were sold.”

This date is certainly very significant, as Robert Gray reports himself in *Life of Robert Gray*, Vol. I, p.245/6:

“I have just made another plunge. I have purchased fifty acres of land, in an excellent situation within four miles of Cape Town, for our College. **If I had delayed another day I should have lost it.**”

Today the First Team Hockey Astro turf is named after Woodlands. Many ODs might recall this as being the St Thomas graveyard, and later the *Graveyard* field.

Friday 1 September: 145 years ago, Bishop Robert Gray died.

Charles Gray, who joined the school in the second term (August) of its existence, and became the first ever day-boy, describes the event in his *Life of Robert Gray*, Vol.II, p. 573:

“Thus closed the earthly scene; and one of God's choicest and most devoted servants passed from this world's weary strife (to him, above most, how weary!) to rest, in his own words of humble hope, at the Feet of his Dear Lord for ever. It was at 6 o'clock on the morning of Sunday (14th after Trinity) September 1st, 1872, that the greatest Bishop perhaps of recent times was called to join the Church Triumphant.”

1 September is marked on the Bishops calendar as Bishop Robert Gray Day.



Saturday 2 September: 15 years ago Mark Shuttleworth returned to Bishops to give the first “Hip 2BSquare” exhibition of his month-long national road show.

Olga Peel reported in the September 2002 *Diocesan College Magazine* reports on p. 25:

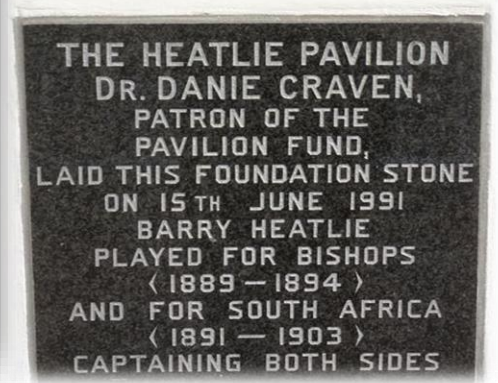
“Later in the morning, Mark buried a time capsule outside the Physical Science block. Various people had included items of value both to Mark and to Bishops.

The time capsule was inscribed with 3 significant dates: 26 April 2002 –lift off date, 2nd September 2002 and 9th September 2040 - the date when Mark will open the capsule.



Mark inspired a whole generation of Bishops boys on the 2nd September from College to Prep to Pre-Prep.”

Saturday 2 September: 8 years ago Basil Bey and Tim Hamilton-Smith laid the foundation stone for the rebuilt Heatlie Pavilion.



Sunday 3 September: 145 years ago Robert Gray was buried at St. Saviour's Church, Claremont.

Again we turn to Charles Gray's *Life of Robert Gray* Vol. II, p. 574, for an account of the funeral:

"On Tuesday, September 3rd, the Bishop's body was laid to await the Resurrection beside that of his wife in Claremont Churchyard. All that could be shown of public honour was rendered, -flags half-mast high, tolling bells, and universal black, - but there was something far beyond that in the real heartfelt mourning of all classes, all religious professions, and all nationalities. After their own fashion, everyone felt that the Father of all was gone from them. The burial was attended by thousands, yet the deepest stillness and hush prevailed. The procession included every possible class, from the Governor-General and his staff; Commodore, and every official; - all the religious bodies in the place – the Vicar-Apostolic and his Clergy – and many poor Malay and Africans, many a poor native who had found a friend in him now being carried to his grave."



"The Burial Service was said by the Rev. Canon Ogilvie, and the Lesson read by the Rev. A. Wilshere, and the hymn sung –

"Brief life is here our portion,
Brief sorrow, short-lived care;
The Life that knows no ending,
The tearless Life, is there!"

His grave, like that of his wife, is marked by a block of granite, bearing a full-length white marble Cross, with the inscription:

ROBERT GRAY, D.D.
FIRST BISHOP OF CAPE TOWN AND METROPOLITAN'
Fell asleep, September 1st, 1872
"My Beloved is Mine"

On Sunday the ODU placed some of **Gus Allen's (1982F) Proteas** on Robert's grave.



Tuesday 5 September: 121 Barrie Heatlie led the South African Rugby team in their very first International Victory.

Some extracts of the match from Chris Greyvenstein's *Springbok Rugby*, p. 19/20:

“When Heatlie captained the South Africans for the final test in 1896, he decided to supply his team with jerseys from the Old Diocesan Club. It was a happy coincidence that the jerseys were green and that South Africa therefore won her first international wearing what were to become the national colours.”

“The writer added, however, that the South Africans had deserved to win. ‘It was not a case of a well-whipped team snatching a lucky victory,’ he wrote. ‘It was apparent from the first ten minutes that the Englishmen had met their match.’”

“The reporter who described the scene for the *Cape Times* readers added: ‘It was some time before the exhausted players could make their way to the station.’ From that it would appear as if Heatlie and his 14 heroes had to rely on public transport to get home after their historic triumph. One would prefer to believe that it was a special train, meant for them alone. They certainly deserved nothing less.”

Wednesday 6 September: 181 years ago Robert Gray and Sophia Wharton Myddleton (Sophy Gray) got married.

The following is an extract from Thelma Gutsche's book, *The Bishop's Lady*, p.25, 26:

“When the time came – on 6th September 1836 – Robert himself was supported only by his namesake cousin, the incumbent of the nearby Sunderland with his wife Mary, and by his brother Charles who conducted the marriage service in the little Whitworth church.

It was witnessed by Mrs Myddleton and Sophy's sisters, Henrietta and Kitty; Keirso Watson and John Wilkinson, husbands of her half-sisters Elizabeth and Frances; and by her cousins Mr and Mrs William Wharton and John Wharton. As befitted his cloth and Sophy's aversion to social occasion, the ceremonies were quiet and modest. After the wedding breakfast at Old Park, the bride and groom changed into their riding habits and galloped off on the first stage of their horseback honeymoon. It took them about 20 miles across the Tees to an inn at Greta Bridge where a tributary met the river in historic country. There they spent their first night. They were very much in love.” Their honeymoon lasted nearly a month, and during that time they had ridden nearly 400 miles on horseback!

