

M.D. NASH. *Bailie's party of 1820 settlers: a collective experience in emigration*. A.A. Balkema: Cape Town and Rotterdam, 1982. 174 pp. Illustrated. R19,50 (exclusive). ISBN 0 86961 140 2.

A considerable number of books about the 1820 settlers have already been published — especially in connection with their struggle against the Cape government and the Xhosa. Mrs Nash's study, however, makes the quarrels between two contending parties a basis for the politics of the Albany settlement. She also comes up with an astonishing analysis of class-distinction among the settlers — a prejudice brought with them from Britain. This book not only puts the prevailing problems on the eastern frontier in broader perspective, but also takes into account the government policies in both South Africa and Britain, although the central theme remains Bailie's settler party. Based on an MA thesis, the publication forms the 26th volume in the series *S.A. biographical and historical studies*.

Chapter I deals with the general background in Britain as well as the disputed eastern border. Reasons why only upper-class settlers were able to assimilate with the so-called joint-stock parties are also given here. Descriptions of the 84 settlers of the party as well as their social and economic background are found in Chapter II. As far back as their journey on board the *Chapman*, two different classes can be distinguished. The chapter ends with the settlement of the immigrants in Albany and their early hardships and discontent with government policy. Chapter III has valuable information for the regional historian on the occupation of that part of the country and the establishment of towns like Bathurst and Cuylerville. Against the background of the difficult initial stage and the lack of sufficient labour, friction between the upper-class immigrants (as in Bailie's party) and the local authorities, and between employers and employees, soon emerged. This led to the formation of opposing political factions in Albany, largely based on class differences (the labourers versus the land-owners).

The divergent policies of the Governors, Donkin and Somerset, a further reason for friction, are discussed in Chapter IV. Here we see how the lower class eventually ended up in the towns to fill a variety of occupations. Chapter V deals with the politics of Albany from 1823 to 1824, in particular the struggle between the so-called "Radicals", who supported Somerset's policy, and the "Serviles" who were in favour of Donkin's leadership. It was the "Radicals" who represented the settlers' interests against the "Serviles" or "landdrost's supporters". Apart from a description of land grants to the immigrants, interesting pieces of information on such matters as the navigation of the Fish River, Somerset's visit, and the development of trade are given in Chapter VI. It is easy to see why Bailie's party of 1820 settlers formed the backbone of the Albany settlement. In the concluding chapter the author pays attention to the good and bad fortunes of the settlers at the Cape. Although Bailie's scheme failed, the contribution made by his party to the Colony was indeed exceptional in both quality and quantity.

It is unfortunate that the author gives source references only for direct quotations, because it is not always easy to obtain a copy of a fully-documented MA thesis. Some interesting and valuable details about personal data, party lists, life on board the ship, and land grants are included in the five appendices. The biographical list of party members (33 pages) could be useful to a series like the *South African biographical dictionary*. The book ends with an impressive and well-arranged bibliography and a fairly complete index. It is neat in appearance but like most other slender history publications, the price of almost R20 is perhaps a little high. The study is highly scientific in character and puts the 1820 settlers in a new perspective against the general background: clash of interests, class differences, and the nineteenth-century influence of philanthropy. For the regional and the local historian, and everybody else interested, this book can be considered a welcome contribution.

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