


FRESHFORD HOUSE MUSEUM: DONATIONS BY THE HARRISON FAMILY

E. du Toit

Freshford at no. 31 Kellner Street, Bloemfontein was designed and built by the architect John Edwin Harrison for his young bride, Kate Caroline (nee Marchant), from England. The house, named after the village Freshford in England, where Caroline Harrison was born, was completed in 1897 and the Harrison family stayed there until August 1901. At the end of the Anglo Boer War the Harrisons left for England for a short while. Most of their furniture was sold in Bloemfontein before they left. At present Freshford is being restored by the National Museum as a period house museum.



Brass snuff box with the initials J.G. (John Gosling).

During 1984 Lt-Col. G.M. Harrison and Mr. E.R. Harrison donated several items to the National Museum to be displayed at Freshford House Museum. Some of the items are already in the possession of the National Museum, while the others will be presented once the restoration of the house has been completed. The donations consist of several valuable possessions of the Harrison family which will add a personal touch to the furnishing and decoration of the house. The National Museum expresses its grateful thanks to the Harrisons for these donations. 

The photographs show some of the items already received.



Silver christening mug which belonged to Lt. Col. G.M. Harrison's grandmother.



18C. gold watch of Edwin Harrison.



Silver thimble which was used by Kate Caroline Harrison. The silver mark indicates that it was made in Birmingham in 1901.



Meerschaum and amber pipe of a fox carrying off a duck in a case.



Silver medal given to the winner of a cycling race, won by J.E. Harrison. According to the silver mark it was made in Birmingham in 1902, the silver Smith's initials being W.J.D.



Silver serviette-ring which belonged to John Edwin and Kate Caroline Harrison. According to the silver mark it was made in Birmingham in 1901.



Silver hat pin of Kate Caroline Harrison, decorated with a silver stag. A stag head was embodied in the Harrison crest.