

APPENDIX - some of the events that took place in this period

1854 – The Xhosa ‘cattle killing’ phenomenon started, leading to the deaths by starvation of tens of thousands of Xhosa. To survive many of them were forced into indentured labour in towns like Cradock

1864 – 65 – After a period of extreme hardship caused by drought among other things, Cradock enjoyed a building boom. A new Town Hall, Municipal Offices and Council Chambers were built. The first cricket match was recorded at Cradock.

1867 – Diamonds were found at Hopetown setting off a diamond rush. Cradock saw many foreigners passing through, and many from the district were drawn to the diamond fields

1868 – The new Dutch Reformed Church was completed. A major feat of design, building and community support, it is admired by all who see it.

1872 – Communications improved enormously as the telegraph line to Port Elizabeth was linked to Cradock

1874 – In Cradock a great flood took place doing huge damage to houses on the banks of the Great Fish River and washing away the new bridge. Rocklands Girls School opened.

1877 – Gaicka-Galecka War (9th Border War) broke out and the Cradock Volunteers formed up again.

1879 – British Army defeated the Zulus at the Battle of Ulundi in Natal; The Morosi Mountain campaign ended in Basutoland.

1879 – The Basuto War broke out and the Cradock Volunteers mobilised.

1881 – The eagerly awaited railway line from the south opened amid much jubilation and festivity. .

1886 – Gold is discovered on the Witwatersrand and the gold rush led to further migration from the country areas. Schools closed and smaller towns gradually lost impetus.

1894 – Rising tension is reported between the Dutch (Afrikaans) and English speaking communities. Up until this time there were many reports of amicable co-existence, but trouble looms

1896 – The Rinderpest cattle epidemic swept across the country decimating herds

1899 – Start of the Anglo Boer War, with terrible consequences for South Africans of all communities and colours.

1902 – Anglo Boer War ended. Population of Cradock- 3062 'Europeans' and 4604 'Non-Europeans' Most of the Flemmers had moved away from Cradock

1914 – Electricity finally arrived!