

Inventory No. 1/4/1

**Inventory of the Archives of the Receiver of Land
Revenue,
1682 - 1830**

Dr. P. Venter

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This inventory is written in English

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FONDS SPECIFICATIONS**Title:**

Archives of the Receiver of Land Revenue

Period:

1682 - 1830

Fonds Code:

1/4/1

Extent:

16.45 lin m

Repository:

Cape Town Archives Repository

Record Creator (origination):

Receiver of Land Revenue

Abstract:

To control hunting in the Cape of Good Hope, licences were issued from the year 1680. With the expansion of the country at the end of the 17th century, grazing licenses were issued and both were registered in the "Oude Wildskutte Boeke". This title was retained when only grazing licenses were entered. Grants to loan farms were also noted in the "Wildskutte" registers. The monies obtained from the licenses for hunting and grazing, the quitrent paid annually for loan farms and buildings, formed the main source of revenue in the country.

CONTEXT

BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

After the treaty of peace with the Hottentots in 1677 the generally popular sport of hunting increased. This resulted in a sharp decrease in the amount of game and the fear of extinction. From 1680 hunting at certain times of the year was prohibited and when permitted, the colonists were required to obtain hunting licences issued by the Commander.

To encourage emigration to the Stellenbosch district at the end of the seventeenth century, colonists were permitted to graze their cattle in the outlying districts provided permission was obtained from the Governor and registered with the Secretary of the Council of Policy. [2]

From 1703 the register of hunting licences in the series "Oude Wildskutte Boeke" included grazing licences. The title of the "Oude Wildskutte Boeke" was retained even after only grazing licences were registered.

Persons wishing to own a loan farm (leningsplaas) obtained the necessary permission and on payment of 24 stivers ("stuivers") (halfpennies) a written authority was granted by the Secretary of the Council of Policy, in which permission and the conditions to graze on the farm was contained. The permit had to be renewed annually and was only valid after payment of the 24 stivers. The Secretary noted the grant in the "Wildskutte" register and forwarded the authority to the official in charge of the district in which the farm was situated. [3]

On 20 December 1791 the first sworn clerk, George Frederik Goetz, was instructed to draw up a plan indicating the Company's main sources of revenue. [4] Goetz's report, laid before the Council on 20 February 1793, found the main sources of revenue to be:

1. The quitrent paid for grazing rights.
2. The quitrent paid annually for the land formerly on loan, but later granted to the inhabitants in ownership on condition that all subsequent owners pay the annual quitrent of 24 stivers.
3. The quitrent of ninepence (4 skellings) for each morgen of land adjoining farms granted to the farmers on long lease tenure (erfpag) for 15 years and the option of extending the time.
4. The tenth, twentieth and fortieth penny on the sale of immovable property and homesteads on loan farms known as " 's Heeren Gerechtigheeden".
5. The money received from annual leases.

He further indicated that the income noted in the "Oude Wildskutte Boeke" comprised a sizable proportion of the Company's revenue.

The Commissioner also pointed out the impossibility of performing all the revenue tasks in the office of the Secretary of the Council of Policy and suggested the appointment of a special official with the title of Receiver or Bookkeeper of the General Revenue or something similar. His report also included several suggestions concerning the administration of the country's revenue. [5]

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2. M.K. Jeffreys (red): Kaapse Argiefstukke. Kaapse Plakkaatboek, I,p. 263.
 3. C 207 Bylae tot Resolusies, 20.2.1793, Goetz verslag, 11.12.1792, pp. 399 - 400.
 4. C 94 Resolusies, 20.12.1791, p. 670.
 5. C 207 Bylae tot Resolusies, 20.2.1793, Goetz verslag, 11.12.1792, pp. 393 - 446.

As a result of Goetz's report, the position of Bookkeeper of the General Revenue (Bookhouder van de Generaale 's Lands Inkomsten) was created on 4 March 1793 and Oloff G. de Wet was appointed. [6]

The most important aspects concerning the receipt of land revenue were:

1. The Bookkeeper, always a member of the Council of Policy, was responsible for the direction and administration of the country's revenue. He was to be provided with copies of all acts, publications, resolutions, accounts and other documents. Income included: quitrent on loan farms, the annual recognition of farms and lands, " 's Heeren Gerechtigheeden" from the sale of homesteads, the lease of privileges and other income received in the Company's favour. The annual and overdue quitrent on loan farms was to be registered.
2. The Bookkeeper was to eliminate uncertainty in connection with loan farms and to receive all particulars from the Fiscal and Landdrosts.
3. Landdrosts were to investigate all applications for loan farms and on establishing that farms could be granted without prejudice to others, issue a certificate which was to be laid before the Governor together with the application. The Bookkeeper then issued an authority, on receipt of the certificates from the Landdrost, and kept the certificate in his office.
4. No farm was to be granted unless a year's quitrent had been paid in advance. The grant expired if payment did not occur within a month after the issue of the authority. This was to be certified by the Cashier.
5. No one could leave a loan farm before notifying the Bookkeeper and paying overdue moneys.
6. Annually the Bookkeeper sent to the various landdrosts a list of all renewed quitrents, moneys received and changes of land ownership, which could be used for comparison purposes.
7. The rent for farms or lands granted in ownership was to be registered separately according to the district in which the farm was situated. On 1 August of each year the Bookkeeper provided each landdrost with a list of such farms in his district. Lands granted on long lease tenure were also registered separately.
8. The Bookkeeper was present at all leasing and would receive the leasing conditions after they had been noted in the Council of Policy. He was to issue authorities, granted to the Cashier, to pay the lease money into the Company's chest. The Cashier was to inform the Bookkeeper monthly of all receipts.
9. The books were to be balanced annually, with a precise account of the year's revenue and arrears laid before the Council. The Bookkeeper was assisted by the First and Second Assistant Bookkeepers. [7]

In terms of a proclamation of 10 October 1795, I.P. Baumgardt was appointed as the receiver of the revenue annually paid by farmers for permission to graze their cattle on Company's land as well as other land revenue. His title was Receiver of Land Revenue (Ontvanger van Landinkomste). [8]

This post was abolished on 31 December 1827 and the duties attached to it transferred to the Treasurer. [9]

6. C 102 Resolusies, 4.3.1793, p.50.

7. C 103 Resolusies, 27.7.1793, p/137 (vide also RLR 83).

8. S.D. Naude (red.): Kaapse Argiefstukke, Kaapse Plakkaatboek, V, p.7

9. CO 4885 Col. Sec. - Receiver, Land Revenue, 26.11.1827, p. 239.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

SCOPE AND CONTENT

As is evidenced from the inventory, the order of volume numbers does not follow in strict sequence, e.g. volume 146/1 follows directly on volume 39 and volume 148 precedes volume 44/1, etc.

Since the compilation of the original inventory in 1936, a number of volumes, later discovered, were described in an appendage to the inventory.

On revising the inventory an attempt was made to incorporate these latter volumes within appropriate series thus adhering to the basic principles of arranging and describing archives. This procedure subsequently gave rise to the inconsistent order of volume numbers.

An alternative method to rectify the position would have been a total renumbering of the volumes comprising the archives. This method, however, would have proved impracticable, since the entire archives has undergone rebinding.

The oldest documents, including the "Oude Wildskutte Boeke", 1680 - 1686, have not remained preserved.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBORDINATE COMPONENTS

HUNTING, GRAZING AND LOAN FARM LICENCES

For an explanation on the sequence of volume numbers see the section Documents Discussion.

1 - 8/2

Licences: Hunting and grazing

1687 Oct. - 1730 Jul.

1	1687 - 1712
2	1712 - 1714
3	1714 - 1718
4	1718 - 1721
5	1721 - 1724
6	1724 - 1727
7	1727 - 1728
8/1	1728 - 1729
8/2	1729 - 1730

9/1 - 39, 146/1

- 147/2

Licences: Loan Farms.

1730 - 1816

9/1	1730 - 1731
9/2	1731 Feb. - 1731 Aug.
9/3	1731 - 1733

For missing entries covering the period October 1733 - April 1738
see volume RLR 38/2.

10/1	1738 - 1741
10/2	1741 - 1744
11/1	1744 - 1745
11/2	1745 - 1747
12/1	1748 - 1749
12/2	1749 - 1751
12/3	1751 - 1752
13/1	1752 - 1754
14/1	1754 - 1755
14/2	1755 - 1756
15/1	1757 - 1758
15/2	1758 - 1760
16/1	1760 - 1761
16/2	1761 - 1762
17/1	1762 Feb. - 1762 Aug.
17/2	1762 - 1763
18/1	1763 - 1764
18/2	1764 - 1765
19/1	1765 - 1766
19/2	1766 - 1767
20/1	1767 - 1768.
20/2	1768 - 1770.
21/2	1770 May - Dec.
21/2	1771 Jan. - 1771 Nov.
22/1	1771 - 1772
22/2	1772 - 1773.

23/1	1773 - 1774.
23/2	1774 - 1775.
24/1	1775 - 1776.
24/2	1776 Mar - 1776 Dec.
25/1	1776 - 1777.
25/2	1777 - 1778.
26	1778 - 1779
27/1	1780 Jan. - 1780 May
27/2	1780 - 1781.
28/1	1781 Jan. - 1781 Oct.
28/2	1781 - 1782.
29	1782 - 1783.
30	1783 Mar. - 1783 Oct.
31	1783 - 1784.
32	1784 Mar. - 1784 Nov.
33	1784 - 1785.
34/1	1785 Apr. - 1785 Nov.
34/2	1785 - 1786.
35/1	1786 - 1787
35/2	1787 - 1788
36/1	1788 - 1789
36/2	1789 - 1791
37/1	1791 - 1792
	Includes an entry dated 27 June 1792.
37/2	1792 - 1793.
38/1	1730 - 1732
	Volumes RLR 38/1 - 39 and RLR 146/1 - 147/2 contain entries which are duplicates of those appearing in volumes RLR 9/1 - 37/2.
	Volumes RLR 38/1 - 39 and RLR 146/1 - 147/2 are incomplete.
38/2	1732 - 1752
39	1747 - 1748
146/1	1763 - 1784
146/2	1784 - 1786
147/1	1787 - 1788
147/2	1788 - 1816
	Records after 1806 are not listed

INDEXES TO LOAN FARM LICENCES

40 - 42

Indexes to Loan Farm Licences
1738 - 1793

Volumes RLR 40 - 43/2, which refer to volume RLR 10/1 - 38/2, contain entries arranged according to the christian names of persons to whom licences were issued.

40 A - G
41 H - M
42 N - W

43A

Index A - Z.
1738 - 1793

This volume refers to volumes RLR 40 - 42 and contains entries arranged according to the surname of persons to whom licences were issued.

43/1 - 43/2

Indexes to Loan Farm Licences
1730 - 1773

43/1 A - J
43/2 J - W

ANNEXURES TO LOAN FARM LICENCES**44/1 - 67, 148** Annexures to Loan farm Licences
1745 - 1827

The volumes in this series contain declarations concerning applications for land, petitions and letters received both from private individuals and officials. Overlapping of periods is due to the manner in which the annexures have been issued.

Records after 1806 are not listed.

148	1745 - 1804
44/1	1753 - 1775
44/2	1779 - 1782
44/3	1782 - 1787
45/1	1787 - 1790
45/2	1787 - 1790.
45/3	1787 - 1790.
45/4	1790 - 1792.
46/1	1791 - 1793.
46/2	1791 - 1793.
47/1	1786 - 1794
47/2	1786 - 1794
48/1	1794.
48/2	1794 - 1795
49/1	1795 - 1796
49/2	1796 - 1797
50/1	1793 - 1799
50/2	1790 - 1799
51/1	1798.
51/2	1798.
52	1799 - 1800
53/1	1800 - 1801.
53/2	1800 - 1801
54/1	1799 - 1802
54/2	1802 - 1805
54/3	1804.
54/4	1804 - 1805
54/5	1805
55/1	1805 - 1806

NOTE BOOKS

68 - 72, 77 Note Books
1755 - 1818

The volumes in this series contain particulars concerning names of farmers, farms and conditions under which land was granted.

68 1755 - 1770

69 1755 - 1780

70 1790 - 1794

71 1794 - 1798

72 1798 - 1804

77 1793 - 1818

Includes an entry dated 6 November 1827.

REGISTERS OF QUITRENT AND LOAN FREEHOLD FARMS**74 - 76**

Registers of Quitrent and Loan Freehold Farms
1743 - 1824

Records after 1806 are not listed

74 1770 - 1804.

75/1 1777 - 1811

76 1743 - 1785

76

Register: Loan Freehold Farms
1743 - 1785

DIVERSE LISTS OF LOAN AND DESERTED FARMS

Volumes RLR 78A; 142A; 155 and 157 contain particulars concerning names of occupiers, names of loan farms, dates of licences granted, dates and reasons for the withdrawal of loan farms and dates of the desertion of farms.

Volumes RLR 78, 73, 155 and 157 are arranged in alphabetical sequence according to regions in the various districts of the Cape Colony.

**78, 78A,
142A, 156**

List: Loan Farms
1770 - 1811, undated
78 undated.

This volume contains information on the situations of loan farms in the Cape, Stellenbosch, Swellendam and Graaff - Reinet districts.

78A 1770 - 1794
142A 1785 - 1811
156 undated.

73, 155

List: Loan Farms Resumes by Government
1793, undated
73 undated
155 1793 Dec.

157

List: Deserted Farms
1793 Dec.

**LEASE CONTRACTS AND CONDITIONS FOR GOVERNMENT
FARMS AND LANDS**

79A Lease Contracts: Government Farms
1795 - 1802

79 Lease Contracts: Lands
1806 - 1811

80/1 - 82 Lease Conditions: Lands
1795 - 1832

Volumes RLR 80/1 and 80/2 include lease conditions for salt - pans.
Records after 1806 are not listed.

80/1 1795 - 1808

PURCHASE CONDITIONS FOR LANDS

151/1 - 152/3 Purchase Conditions for lands
1769 - 1830
151/1 1769 - 1806
151/2 1806 - 1814

INSTRUCTIONS: LAND REVENUE**83/1 - 86**Instructions: Land Revenue
1682 - 1806**83/1** 1686 - 1793**83/2** 1793 - 1794**84** 1794 - 1795**85/1** 1803 - 1804**85/2** 1804 - 1806**86**

1682 - 1804

This volume is incomplete

LETTERS RECEIVED**87/1 - 101**Letters Received
1793 - 1828

Records after 1806 are not listed

87/1

1793 Feb. - 1795 Feb.

Includes a few letters received for 1772, 1775, 1798, 1809, 1812
and 1814**87/2**

1795 Feb. - 1795 Aug.

88

1793 Nov. - 1794 Sept.

89/1

1794 Sept. - 1799 Jan.

89/2

1799 Jan. - 1814 Feb.

90/1

1806 Feb. - 1807 Aug.

LETTERS DESPATCHED**102 - 109**Letters Despatched
1793 - 1828

Records after 1806 are not listed

102	1793 Jul. - 1794 Nov.
103	1793 Apr. - 1795 Jan.
104	1795 Jul. - 1802 Sept.
105	1803 Apr. - 1806 Jan.
106	1806 Apr. - 1813 Sept.
107/1	1806 Feb. - 1808 Nov.

FINANCIAL PAPERS

Records after 1806 are not listed.

- 110 - 114** Ledgers
1793 - 1825
Records after 1806 are not listed
110 1793 - 1800
111 1800 - 1807
- 115 - 122/2** Journals
1792 - 1825
Records after 1806 are not listed
115 1792 Sept. - 1796 Sept.
116/1 1796 Oct. - 1798 Sept.
116/2 1798 Oct. - 1800 Sept.
117/1 1800 Oct. - 1802 May
117/2 1802 Jun. - 1803 Dec.
118/1 1804 Jan. - 1806 Feb.
118/2 1806 Mar. - 1807 Dec.
- 123 - 131** Day Books: Loan farms.
1800 - 1828
Contains: Rental paid for Loan, Perpetual Quitrent, Quitrent, Loan Freehold and Government Farms (Betaalde Rekognie van Lenings - , Ewigdurende Erfpag - , Erfpag - , Leningseiedom - en Regeringsplase)
Records after 1806 are not listed.
123 1800 Oct. - 1805 Feb.
124 1805 Mar. - 1807 Dec.
130/1 - 2 1800 Oct. - 1807 Sept.
Volumes RLR 130/1 - 2 and 131 consist of entries for rent paid on immovables existing on loan farms. (Betaalde's Heeren Gerechtigheeden.)
- 153, 159 - 162** Cash Books: Land Revenue
1798 - 1828
Records after 1806 are not listed
Contains: Land Revenue (Landsinkomste)
159 1798 Oct. - 1799 Aug.
160 1799 Oct. - 1800 Sept.
161 1800 Oct. - 1801 Sept.
162 1801 Oct. - 1803 Apr.
- 138 - 141, 154, 163** Statements: Annual Land Revenue Statements
1779 - 1826
Statements are arranged according to districts.
Records after 1806 are not listed.
163 1779 - 1794
138 1793 - 1808

-
- 158** Arrear Land Revenue Statements
1788 Jul.
Contains paid arrear land revenue entries for the period 1781 - 1788
- 145** Register and Accounts: Inspection Accounts
1722 - 1813
- 149 - 150** Receipt Books: Rentals
1785 - 1828
Includes authorisations by the governor for the receipt of rentals for 1749
Records after 1806 are not listed.
- 149** 1785 - 1828