

## **Inventory No. 1/5**

# **Inventory of the Returns for Taxation Purposes, 1692 - 1845**

M. Potgieter and J.C. Visagie

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This inventory is written in English.

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**FONDS SPECIFICATIONS****Title:**

Returns for Taxation Purposes

**Period:**

1692 - 1845

**Fonds Code:**

1/5

**Extent:**

20.10 lin m

**Repository:**

Cape Town Archives Repository

**Record Creator (origination):**

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**Abstract:**

The earliest reference to the submission of returns of persons and possessions appears in the Journal of 12 October 1672 and concerns free burghers only. The annual returns of the various outlying districts were apparently compiled by the field - cornets of the different wards who subsequently submitted them to the magistrate of the relevant district. He in turn compiled one return for the district from the particulars thus obtained. In general the returns comprise the following particulars: names of men and women; number of boys, girls, men slaves, women slaves, boy slaves, girl slaves, horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, vines, leaguers wine, wheat, rye and barley sown and reaped. The returns often include the names of farms, the original signatures of persons and the number of firearms in each individual's possession.



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**CONTEXT*****BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY***

The earliest reference to the submission of returns of persons and possessions appears in the Journal of 12 October 1672 and concerns free burghers only. Further instructions in this regard were traced in an act of 28 February 1800, being applicable to all residents of the Colony inclusive of free blacks, persons of mixed race and other Khoekhoe. On 3 January 1805 further instructions on the submission of annual returns were issued.

An editorial of 9 September 1829 in the *South African Commercial Advertiser* mentioned the inaccuracy of the returns compiled initially for tax purposes. Legislation and reminders to compile the returns more accurately were issued, inter alia in 1830 and 1838.

The annual returns of the various outlying districts were apparently compiled by the field - cornets of the different wards who subsequently submitted them to the magistrate of the relevant district. He in turn compiled one return for the district from the particulars thus obtained. Returns of field - cornets are also available in magistrates' archives and the earliest archives of municipalities contain returns of wardmasters. No original return for the 17th century has remained preserved in the Cape Town Archives Repository. Such returns are, however, available in the National Archives of the Netherlands in The Hague in the section "Koloniale Archief", series "Brieven en Papieren Overgekomen van de Kaap".





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## CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

### *SCOPE AND CONTENT*

In general the returns comprise the following particulars: names of men and women; number of boys, girls, men slaves, women slaves, boy slaves, girl slaves, horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, vines, leaguers wine, muids wheat, rye and barley sown and reaped. The returns often also include the names of farms, the original signatures of persons and the number of firearms in each individual's possession. Many returns after 1800 contain recapitulation totals, mortality figures,, church contributions and "opgaafgelden". In later years less agricultural particulars are supplied and more information regarding amounts to be paid as taxes and amounts collected are given.

Until 1798 valuation lists are to be found in the returns of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein. After this date these particulars are supplied in the column "opgaafgelden". The returns include those of the missionary institutions of Bethelsdorp, Elim, Enon, Genadendal, Hogekraal, Pacaltsdorp and Theopolis.

From c.1827 onwards the returns are mostly in English, and incomplete and seldom signed.

On the whole the condition of the archives is good. There are, however, volumes which are in disrepair or unbound. A number of the bound returns are either partially or completely illegible due to the faint writing or damage done by water.

### *ARRANGEMENT*

The returns have been arranged and described in alphabetical / chronological order and numbered consecutively. The inventory contains both the old as well as the new volume numbers which were allocated in order to group the returns of the various districts and subdistricts in chronological order.



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**ALLIED MATERIALS*****RELATED MATERIAL***

The annual returns of the various outlying districts were apparently compiled by the field - cornets of the different wards who subsequently submitted them to the magistrate of the relevant district. He in turn compiled one return for the district from the particulars thus obtained. Returns of field - cornets are also available in magistrates' archives and the earliest archives of municipalities contain returns of wardmasters.

No original return for the 17th century has remained preserved in the Cape Town Archives Repository. Such returns are, however, available in the National Archives of the Netherlands in The Hague in the section "Koloniale Archief", series "Brieven en Papieren Overgekomen van de Kaap".



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**APPENDICES**
**CONCORDANCE**

The returns have been arranged and described in alphabetical / chronological order and numbered consecutively. The inventory contains both the old as well as the new volume numbers which were allocated in order to group the returns of the various districts and subdistricts in chronological order.

<b>Old Ref. No.</b>	<b>New Ref. No.</b>
84A	109
84B	110
82A	113
86A	116
289A	186
364A	394
25	37
26	38
27	39
83	107
84	108
85	111
86	115
87	118
88	119
89	120
90	123
91	122
92	124
93	127
94	125
95	126
148	117
153	183
154	184
155	185
156	187
157	188
158	189
159	190
160	191
161	192
162	193
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<b>Old Ref. No.</b>	<b>New Ref. No.</b>
164	195
165	196
166	197
167	198
168	199
169	220
169	200
170	201
171	202
172	203
173	204
174	205
175	206
176	207
177	208
178	209
179	210
180	211
181	212
183	213
184	214
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187	217
188	218
189	219
190	221
191	112
192	222
193	223
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198	228
199	229
200	231
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204	232
205	233
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<b>Old Ref. No.</b>	<b>New Ref. No.</b>
290	317
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292	319
331	316
344	318
348	369
349	370
379	121
380	114
431	371
445	40
448	442





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DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBORDINATE COMPONENTS

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**ALBANY**  
All records after 1806.

**BEAUFORT (WEST)**  
All records after 1806.

**CLANWILLIAM**  
All records after 1806.

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**CAPE TOWN / CAPE DISTRICT****CAPE TOWN**

Records after 1806 are not listed

- 37** 1800 List of permanent residents (supplies also addresses) item nos. 1 - 1213.

**CAPE DISTRICT**

Records after 1806 are not listed

See J183 for a list of free burghers in the Cape District, 1692.

- 39** 1805
- 40** c.1806 Date determined by approximation.  
Undated loose sheets.  
Wards, Saldanha Bay, Rondebosch and Noordhoek.

**CAPE TOWN AND CAPE DISTRICT**

Records after 1806 are not listed

See J443 for diverse returns and lists of names of Cape Town and Cape District, c. 1752, 1797 and 1800.

- 38** 1800 List of Company officials, tem nos. 1 - 586.  
Continued in J37.
- 37** 1800 List of Company officials, item nos. 587 - 658.  
Follows on nos. J38.  
J37 and J38 are published as *Cape Directory, 1800*, Cape Town 1969.

**CALEDON**

All records after 1806.

**CRADOCK**  
All records after 1806.

**GEORGE**

All records after 1806.



**GRAAFF - REINET**

In July 1786 a portion of the district Swellendam became the new magistral district of Graaff - Reinet.

Records after 1806 are not listed

<b>107</b>	1787	
<b>108</b>	1788	
<b>109</b>	1790	Undated. Established that the return is for 1790.
<b>110</b>	1792	
<b>111</b>	1794	
<b>112</b>	1794	Not the same as J111.
<b>113</b>	1796	
<b>113</b>	1798	Return of Company Servants. Includes: 1. General Muster Roll, no. 29, c. 1786. 2. Returns of persons of mixed race, 1791 - 1793, 1795, 1797 - 1798. 3. List of Khoekhoe in various wards. Undated. 4. List of stock returns, 1787 and 1791.
<b>114</b>	c. 1797	Undated. Date determined by approximation.
<b>115</b>	1798	Includes an index.
<b>116</b>	c. 1798	List of Khoekhoe only. Undated. Date determined by approximation.
<b>117</b>	c. 1799	Undated. Date determined by approximation.
<b>118</b>	1800	Final return. J27 includes returns of hired Khoekhoe, Graaff - Reinet, 1800 - 1810.
<b>119</b>	1800	Not the same as J118.

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- 120** 1801  
Also contains a list of names of sailors, soldiers with passes and others, c.1801 and a list without names containing information on moneys, church contributions, cattle, livestock, etc. c.1803.  
List of persons who had contributed. Supplies financial particulars, inter alia, with respect to Commando Tax and church contributions
- 121** c. 1802  
Undated. Date determined by approximation.
- 122** 1802 - 1804  
Includes list of town inhabitants.
- 123** 1803  
Also contains an undated list of names of persons and amounts of money.
- 124** 1805  
Includes list of town inhabitants.
- 125** c. 1805  
Undated. Date determined by approximation.
- 126** c. 1805  
Not the same as J125.
- 127** 1806

**SIMONSTOWN**  
All records after 1806.

**SOMERSET (EAST)**  
All records after 1806.

**STELLENBOSCH (AND DRAKENSTEIN)**

Stellenbosch became a magisterial district in 1685 and was originally known as Stellenbosch and Drakenstein

***STELLENBOSCH***

- 183** 1692  
List of Free Burghers settled in the district of Stellenbosch and their occupations. The lists were copied by Theal from the original returns preserved in the National Archives of the Netherlands, 20.1.1882.
- 186** 1722  
Undated. Date determined by comparing with muster roll for 1722, VC 49.
- 186** c.1783  
Undated. Date determined by approximation. The return for 1783 is missing from the returns for these later years.
- 225** 1800  
Final return.
- 226** 1800 - 1802  
Draft return (1800, 1802).  
Includes:  
1. Returns of former Company Servants and others who remained here with the consent of the Government, 1802  
2. Returns of salary stoppages of Company Servants, 1801, 1802
- 230** 1803  
Lists of returns of the field - cornet for the Stellenbosch Ward only.
- 231** 1804  
Lists of returns of field - cornets only.  
J302 includes lists of returns of field - cornets, c.1804.  
Includes a return of baptised persons of mixed race and a few letters addressed to the magistrate.
- 232** 1805  
Includes:  
1. Diverse Muster Rolls of Burgher Companies and lists relative thereto, 1804 - 1806.  
2. General returns of Roads and Ways, 1806 - 1812.
- 233** 1806  
Final return.
- 234** 1806  
Draft return.

***DRAKENSTEIN***

- 183** 1692  
Lists of Free Burghers settled in the Drakenstein District and their occupations. Includes a list of Free Burghers settled in the Cape District and their occupations. The lists were copied by Theal from the original returns preserved in the National Archives of the Netherlands, 20.1.1882.
- 220** 1793  
Draft return.  
Incorrectly bound and apparently incomplete.  
Includes a return for Stellenbosch, 1781.
- 226** 1800, 1802  
Draft and final return.
- 227** 1801

***STELLENBOSCH AND DRAKENSTEIN***

- 188** c.1714  
Undated. Date determined by approximation.
- 184** 1716 - 1718, 1720 - 1721  
Includes fragments of returns for 1703 and 1704 as well as a few letters received by the magistrate about personal possessions.  
A return c.1714 is bound in J188.  
A return c.1715 is bound in J197.  
The return for 1719 is missing.
- 185** 1719  
The last pages of the return for Stellenbosch are missing.
- 185** 1723
- 187** 1724 - 1726, 1728 - 1729  
The return for 1727 is bound in J282.  
The return for 1728 is bound incorrectly.
- 188** 1730 - 1732  
Pages of the return for 1731 are bound incorrectly.
- 189** 1733, 1736, 1738  
Includes an assessment list, 1736.  
These lists are present in the returns for Stellenbosch and Drakenstein until approximately 1798 and indicate moneys received. Up to about 1765 the lists are alphabetical according to first name and from around about 1766 alphabetical according to surname. The lists mostly serve as an index to the return, since the relevant folio number in the return is indicated next to the name of the person. As far as could be established the assessment lists do not appear after 1798. The returns after 1798 do not all provide the amounts of moneys received. In the returns which do contain this information, such is indicated in the column Opgaafgelde (Return moneys). As is described in further remarks and footnotes, taxes were also levied for special services, e.g. for the protection of the Drostdy (Residency), the maintenance of roads, etc.

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- 190** 1734
- 191** 1735  
Includes an assessment list, 1735.
- 192** 1737  
Includes a list of persons who still have to pay sheep and cattle money as well as lion and leopard money for 1737.
- 193** 1739  
Includes an extract with respect to Burgher effects, 1739 as well as a few lists of persons who have yet to pay taxes.
- 194** 1740 - 1742  
Includes:  
1. General Muster Roll, 1740: Lists of Dragoons and Infantry  
2. Assessment list, 1740.  
  
General Muster Rolls for the period 1740 - 1760 are missing in the archives of the Magistrate, Stellenbosch
- 195** 1743 - 1748  
The first 7 pages of the return for 1745 1743 are bound at the end of the return. Also contains:  
1. Summary of totals for 1743 - 1745. General Muster Rolls of Companies of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, 1744, 1745, 1746, 1748. (The companies are the various military divisions of Dragoons, Infantry and common soldiers.)  
2. Assessment list, 1747.
- 196** 1749 - 1751  
Includes:  
1. A list of persons who have yet to take the burgher oath, 1748.  
2. General Returns of Roads, Ways and Drifts, 1749.  
3. General Muster Rolls of Companies, 1749, 1750, 1751.  
4. Assessment lists, 1750, 1751.  
5. Minutes of meetings of Magistrate and Heemrade for certain dates in the period 20.5.1748 - 11.1.1751 and dealing with claims. Includes declarations and diverse returns for medical services, etc.  
6. Returns of such persons living in the Cape District and the taxes they have to pay, for the year 1751, for their cattle and sheep in stockposts in Stellenbosch and Drakenstein.  
7. Returns of out - standing sheep and cattle moneys, 1751.  
8. Lists of such persons resident in the districts of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein owning cattle in the district of Swellendam and here declared for the year 1751.  
9. Cattle falling under the district of Swellendam, 1751.  
10. Index to return for 1751 (Besides the assessment lists which usually serve as index, many returns contain indexes which only provide persons' names and the relevant folio number in the return.)

- 197** 1752; 1754 - 1756; c. 1715  
Includes:  
  1. List of persons 1755 who had not yet 1756 taken the burgher oath on 31.10.1753 .
  2. General Muster Rolls of Compagnies, 1752, 1743, 1754, 1756.
  3. Assessment lists, 1755 and undated.

The returns for 1754 and 1756 are not in order and are bound incorrectly
- 198** 1753  
Assessment list, Drakenstein, 1753 is bound in J214.
- 199** 1757 - 1758  
Includes:  
  1. General Muster Roll of Companies, 1757.
  2. Assessment lists, 1757, 1758.
  3. List of persons who on 31.10.1758 have to take the burgher oath
- 200** 1759 - 1760  
Includes:  
  1. Assessment lists, 1759, 1760.
  2. General Muster Rolls of Companies, 1759, 1760.
  3. Returns of such persons residing in the Cape District for their cattle and sheep..., 1757.
  4. Returns of out - standing sheep and cattle moneys, 1757.
  5. Name list of such persons who in time of enemy attack must march from the districts of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, except the four Companies of Dragoons, towards the Cape, 1760. (Similar lists appear in other returns under the description 'General Muster Rolls'.)
  6. List of persons who from the Infantry Company must proceed towards the Cape, 1760.
  7. Such persons with the exception of Field - Corporals who by general summons must remain at home to protect the interior, 1760.
- 201** 1761 - 1763  
Includes:  
  1. Assessment lists, 1761, 1762, 1763.
  2. List of such persons resident in the district of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein owning cattle in the district of Swellendam and here declared, 1762.
  3. Assessment list of people of outside districts, c.1763
  4. Assessment list of slaves of the Cape, c.1763.
  5. General Muster Roll of Companies, 1761, 1762.
  6. Returns of outstan - ding sheep and cattle moneys, 1762.



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- 202** 1764 - 1765  
Includes:  
1. General Treasury Account of Drakenstein, 1764.  
2. Assessment lists, 1764, 1765.  
3. Indexes, 1764, 1765.  
4. Index, Stellenbosch, 1796.
- 203** 1766 - 1768  
Includes:  
1. Indexes, 1766, 1767, 1768.  
2. Assessment lists, 1768. (These assessment lists mention that the Magistrate and Heemrade of Stellenbosch obtained permission with a decision of the Council of Policy dated 8.11.1768 to furnish a certain amount of money for the highly necessary and important task of protecting the village and mainly the local Drostdy.)  
3. General Returns of Roads, Ways and Drifts, 1768
- 204** 1769 - 1770  
Includes:  
1. Returns of out - standing sheep and cattle as well as lion and leopard money, 1768.  
2. Indexes and Assessment lists, 1769, 1770.  
3. General Muster Rolls of Companies, 1770.  
4. General Treasury Accounts with a few quotations, 1770 - 1779.
- 205** 1771  
Includes:  
1. General Muster Rolls of Companies, 1771, 1772.  
2. Indexes and Assessment list 1771 and c.1772.
- 206** 1772
- 207** 1773 - 1774  
Includes:  
1. General Muster Rolls of Companies, 1773.  
2. List of livestock, Stellenbosch, 1773.  
3. Indexes and Assessment lists, 1773, 1774. (Includes assessment lists of inhabitants and company officials relating to the construction of a road between the Cape and Rondebosch, 1773. Also contains instructions to the messenger responsible for the collection of taxes, which refer to the form which receipts must take as well as a copy of a letter addressed to the Council of Policy on how the road was to be constructed.)

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**208** 1775

**209** 1776

Includes:

1. Assessment lists, 1775, 1776.
2. Index, 1775.
3. General Muster Rolls of Companies, 1775, 1776.
4. List of livestock, Stellenbosch, 1776.

**210** 1777 - 1778

Includes:

1. Indexes and Assessment lists, 1777, 1778.
2. General Muster Rolls of Companies, 1777.
3. Notices and Warnings 1700, 1708, 1717 and undated.
4. List of livestock, Stellenbosch, 1777.
5. List of Field - Corporals and Field - Cornets, 1814 - 1817.
6. General Returns of Roads and Ways, 1775 - 1784.

**211** 1779

Includes:

1. Indexes, 1779
2. List of livestock, Stellenbosch, 1779.
3. List of arrear sheep and cattle money, 1779 - 1783.
4. List of persons in arrears with their contributions to the construction of a road between the Cape, Rondebosch and Salt River, 1779.
5. Assessment list, (fragment) 1779.
6. List of persons summoned for road tax, 1777.
7. List of persons who will assist with the filling of ditches and the levelling of slopes around the Drostdy, 1779.
8. List of persons who contributed towards the purchase of a night - light for the guard at the "Pulver" magazine.
9. List of persons who assisted with and contributed towards the reparation of the Eerste River, 1790, 1791.

**212** 1780

Includes:

1. Assessment lists and indexes, 1780.
2. General Treasury Accounts, 1780 - 1792.
3. General State and Constitution, 1780 - 1792.
4. List of livestock, 1780.

- 
- 213** 1782  
A return for Stellenbosch, 1781 is bound in J220  
Includes:  
1. Indexes and Assessment lists, 1781, 1782. (The indexes and assessment lists are probably those for 1781 and do not pertain to the return in J220.)  
2. Lists of residents of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, Hottentots - Holland, Roodesand and Twenty - Four Rivers who have to contribute to the billeting of the citizen force in Cape Town during the present war.  
3. List of livestock, Stellenbosch, 1782.
- 214** 1784  
A return c.1783 is bound in J186  
Includes:  
1. Indexes and Assessment lists, 1783, 1784.  
2. Assessment list, Drakenstein, 1783.
- 215** 1785 - 1787  
Includes:  
1. General Muster Rolls, 1787 1785.  
2. Indexes, 1785, 1786, 1787.  
3. Assessment list, 1787.  
4. List of livestock, 1787.
- 216** 1788
- 217** 1789  
Includes:  
1. Lists of livestock, 1788, 1789.  
2. General Muster Rolls, 1788, 1789.  
3. Indexes, 1788, 1789.
- 218** 1790 - 1791  
Includes:  
1. General Muster Rolls, 1790.  
2. Summaries of summons, c.1779.  
3. List of livestock, 1790.  
4. Indexes and Assessment lists, 1790.
- 219** 1792 - 1793  
Includes:  
1. Lists of livestock, 1792, 1793.  
2. Indexes, 1792, 1793.  
3. Assessment lists, 1793.  
4. List of outstanding sheep and cattle money, 1785 - 1792.  
J443 also contains name lists, 1790, 1793, 1794.

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- 221** 1794 - 1795  
Final return (1794) and Draft return (1794, 1795).
- 222** 1797  
Includes:  
  1. Indexes and Assessment lists, 1794, 1795.
  2. Specific return of Honourable Company Servants....employed locally and domiciled, 1794, 1795.
  3. List of livestock, 1795.
  4. Returns of names under stoppage of salary, detained ashore and others who remained at this place, 1797.
- 223** 1795  
Final return.
- 224** 1796 - 1798  
Includes:  
  1. Index, Drakenstein, 1796. (The index for Stellenbosch, 1796 is bound in J202.)
  2. Assessment lists, 1796, 1798.
  3. List of former Servants of the Honourable Company with references to their present domicile and former ranks, 1798.
  4. Return of former ordinary Honourable Company Servants and others who remained here with the consent of the Government, 1798.
- 228** 1803  
Lists of returns of field - cornets only.  
Lists compiled by the field - cornet of each ward. The information is mostly completed on printed forms and occasionally the location of farms is indicated.
- 229** 1803 - 1804  
Final and draft returns for 1803.  
Includes:  
  1. Returns of salary stoppages of former Company Servants, 1803.
  2. Night - Watchmen's Treasury Account - also notes proving receipt of moneys, 1802 - 1812.
  3. Chimney Tax Treasury Debit - also notes proving receipt of moneys, 1808 - 1815.

**SWELLENDAM**

On 31 August 1745 Swellendam became a magisterial district having previously formed part of the district Stellenbosch and Drakenstein.

Records after 1806 are not listed

- 316** c.1752  
Undated. Date determined by approximation.  
Includes lists of births and deaths in the various wards, 1830.
- 317** 1762, 1765, c. 1788  
Undated. Date determined by approximation.  
Incomplete.  
J443 also contains lists of names, 1790, 1791.
- 318** c. 1805  
Undated. Date determined by approximation.
- 319** 1806  
Final return.
- 320** 1806  
Draft return. Includes, as most of the other returns of Swellendam, figures relating to mortality, church contributions and assessment moneys.  
Apparently incomplete.

**TULBAGH**

In July 1804, Tulbagh was proclaimed a magisterial district having previously formed part of the district of Stellenbosch.

Records after 1806 are not listed.

<b>369</b>	1805	
<b>370</b>	1806	Final return.
<b>371</b>	1806	Draft return.

**UITENHAGE**

(Grahamstown, 1814; 1817 - 1818; 1823)

In February 1804, Uitenhage was proclaimed a magisterial district having previously formed part of the district of Graaff - Reinet

Records after 1806 are not listed

**394**

1805 - c. 1818

Returns of the wards Tsitsikamma and Krommerivier and Bruintjies Hoogte only 1805.

**WORCESTER**

All records after 1806.



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**RECAPITULATION**

- 442** Stellenbosch  
1806 - 1824  
Recapitulation of the return.
- 442** Uitenhage  
1805 - 1816  
Recapitulation of the return.

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**LISTS OF NAMES, RETURNS OF BURGHERS****443**Cape District  
c.1752

Undated. Date determined by approximation.

**443**

1800

Return of those belonging to the Free Corps as well as of the Free Blacks, persons of mixed race and other Khoekhoe living by themselves and unemployed. 1800

Also contains:

1. List of names of Free Blacks, 1797.
2. List of names of Company Servants, Occupations are also indicated. 1797.
3. Returns of citizens, Cape District, 1800.
4. Lists of names, District Swellendam, . 1790, 1791.
5. Lists of names, District Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, 1791, 1793, 1794 and an undated list.
6. Summary, 1786, 1787 and undated. Probably with respect to the Cape District. (Similar to recapitulation, this summary is a return of the totals for the relevant years.)