



Lieutenant Colonel W.J. BOGGIE

(1863 - 1928)



Major Boggie with his walking stick when wounded in the Boer War

Major Boggie was elected to Life Membership of the Club – possibly after 1910 and before 1928

Major Boggie is believed to have been a Founding Member of the Club

William James Boggie was born in Edinburgh on 20 August 1863, and was the second son of Alexander Boggie of Liverpool and Natal, and Elizabeth. He was educated both privately and in public schools in Aberdeen.

After some slight banking experience he moved to Australia and joined the Queensland Defence Force on 5 June 1889 - serving as a Lieutenant in the Queensland Garrison Artillery (Brisbane) where he compiled the Gunner's Handbook. He served with Vilhelm Larsen (another United Service Club life member). He served for five years.

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

Please do not reproduce them or distribute them outside of the Club membership.

Having been promoted to Captain on 20 July 1894, he moved to Rhodesia later in that year.

He served during the Matabele War, 1896, commanding C Troop, BFF and was present at the storming of Thahas Amamba. He received a medal for his actions and was promoted to the rank of Major.

During the second South African War (1899-1902) he was recruiting officer for the 2nd Scottish Horse, and also served in various operations in the Transvaal, Orange River Colony and Cape Colony. He subsequently served with the 5th Manchester Regiment and was commandant at Karreefontein and Riet Spruit in 1902. For his service he was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with four clasps, and the King's South Africa Medal with 2 clasps.

He was a member of the South Rhodesian Parliament from 1920-1928; commanded the Southern Rhodesian Volunteers at Gwelo, Member of the Rhodesian Pioneers Association, Director of the Gwelo Board of Executors and Building Sector, and was the editor of the *Gwelo Times*. From 1899 to 1928 he was very involved in the day to day affairs of Gwelo. He was also a Mason and founded two Lodges. He founded the Wankie Game reserve, the first in Rhodesia.

During the First World War he was involved in fighting in France with rank of Major and was given early release from the military in 1916/17.

It appears that he had returned to England in 1902 where he first proposed to Jeannie Manson - but with the subsequent wars it was a long engagement. He married Jane (Jeannie) Marr Boggie on 20 September 1917 at the Palace Hotel, Aberdeen. They had eloped. He was described as a "rancher at Craigievar Farm, Gwelo aged 55" and she was aged 40. They left for Rhodesia with the World War still raging but sadly only had eleven years of marriage. They had no children.

Jeannie continued to run the farm after William died in February 1928, aged 65, and wrote three books - *A Farm and a Husband in Rhodesia*; *Experiences of Rhodesian Pioneer Women*; and *First Steps in Civilizing Rhodesia*. She passed away on 23rd April, 1967, aged 90.

EPITAPH FOR WILLIAM JAMES BOGGIE

Thither in life how oft he turned his face, For him in death no fitter resting place." Major W. J. BOGGIE, M.L.A. Buried 10th February, 1928, on Craigievar Farm, Gwelo. Pioneer of Southern Rhodesia, 1894. Member of the Southern Rhodesia Parliament from 1920 until his death. Served in the Matabele Rebellion, the Boer War and the Great War. Held Grand Lodge rank in the Scottish constitution of Freemasons and was the founder of Allan Wilson Lodge, No. 851, S.C. and Gwelo Lodge, No. 876, S.C. "Under God's arch of gold and blue, Under the veil, where the stars peep through Year by year, when the moon is new, Lay me—and let me die. Peace—and the veld with its coat of green, And the old, high hills with the vales between Where mists of heat in their silver sheen Shall dance as they danced before."

A Rhodesian Epitaph, Cullen Gouldsbury."



CAPTAIN BOGGIE.



Major W. J. Boggie, the first Rhodesian legislator to appreciate the value of wild life and the need for areas of land to be set aside within which all animals would be protected.

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents
- National Archives Australia
- Our Rhodesian Heritage by Bob Mauser and Eddy Norris
- Quarterly List of Queensland Defence Force, Volunteer Reserves.