

AN EXTREMELY RARE 1877 CLASP SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL GROUP AWARDED TO SIR EDMOND SINCLAIR STEVENSON, FRIEND & MEDICAL ADVISER TO CECIL RHODES & SIR LEANDER STARR JAMESON WHO AFTER HOLDING NUMEROUS IMPORTANT POSITIONS, WAS KNIGHTED IN 1905, THE FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN PHYSICIAN TO BE SO HONOURED. SERVING AS A LIEUTENANT-COLONEL IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL CORPS DURING THE GREAT WAR HE RECEIVED A SINGLE B.W.M. OVER 40 YEARS AFTER HIS 1877 MEDAL



SOUTH AFRICA 1877-79, CLASP, 1877 'CIVIL PRACTR. E.S. STEVENSON.', BRITISH WAR MEDAL 1914-20 'LT-COL. SIR. E.S. STEVENSON SAMC'

Edmond Sinclair Stevenson was born at Geneva in July 1850, son of William Ford and Aeneasena Stevenson of Fosse, Caithness. Clearly imbued from an early age with a sense of adventure and longing to travel, Stevenson was variously educated at Geneva, Paris, Berlin, London and Edinburgh - it was at this latter place that he studied Medicine and Surgery in particular. By family repute, it was on a visit to South Africa that he then volunteered for service during the Ninth Xhosa War (Medal and Clasp) where he became a senior medical officer; he then decided to settle in South Africa and in 1880 married Emily Anna d'Urban Musgrave Eaton.

Stevenson swiftly found his feet in the colony, becoming not just a well-known physician but a pillar of society and the wider community: he became President of the Medical Council of

South Africa; was additionally President of the British Medical Association and South African Medical Congress; held the post of Physician-in-Ordinary to the High Commissioner, Lord Milner; and to crown these achievements was made Knight Bachelor in 1905. Perhaps unsurprisingly, due to his position he is also noted - via personal correspondence - as both a friend and medical adviser to Cecil Rhodes and Sir Leander Starr Jameson - indeed his name appears upon Rhodes's post-mortem, carried out at 12.30am on 27 March 1902.



Seeing further military service during the Great War - being appointed Temporary Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel in the South African Medical Corps - Stevenson died in April 1927. The accompanying archive includes:

- 1) An original portrait photograph of Stevenson, in Court Dress and wearing a miniature South Africa 1877-79 Medal
- 2) His original Grant of Dignity as a Knight Bachelor, vellum with original large wax seal, contained in its original red morocco-leather box with gilt edging and Royal Coat-of-Arms at centre.

3) His original certificate appointing him a Justice of the Peace for the District of Wynberg, dated 17 March 1905.

4) His original Commissioning document, appointing him to be a Temporary Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel in the Union Defence Forces, dated 1 November 1914 and signed by The Viscount Buxton as Governor-General.

5) Two original letters, one confirming a grant of £200 per annum to Stevenson for "services as Medical adviser to the late Mr. Rhodes and Sir Starr Jameson"; one from Lord Milner to Lord Bertie concerning Stevenson and mentioning him thus: "Dr. Stevenson had, I think, the best practice in South Africa in my time, and was held in high esteem both personally and professionally."

6) A small file of research comprising copies of the aforementioned letters; an extract from Who Was Who; a letter from Stevenson's son with some details of his father's life; and a copied photograph of Cecil Rhodes's death certificate.



Stevenson is incorrectly noted in several sources as having served during the Boer War and probably confused with his previous service during the South African War (1877-8). His son, who wrote a detailed biography of his father (included with the research), mentions service in the latter and WW1 only. The CDV photo, in which he certainly appears to be older than 50, shows him wearing a miniature SA 1877 only and he has not been found on an rolls for the Boer War. Seeing no overseas service during the Great War, he was entitled to the British War medal only



Sir E Sinclair-Stevenson
 born 1850 died 1927
 (knighted 1905)
 First physician - Surgeon to the King, Lt Col. SA
 Son of William Ford Stevenson
 + Anne Maria Sinclair, daughter of the Hon.
 Col. Arthur James Sinclair of Forres
 Caithness. Educated Edinburgh. Studied
 Surgery with honours at Edinburgh, London
 Paris & Berlin. **T AND F**
 Came to S. Africa in 1880. **F** joined
 Col. Con. ^{3rd} regiment fighting in the **Boer**
 war (medals) **L** later returning to S. Africa
 to settle at **Stellenbosch** & **Rondebosch**
 Became Physician in ordinary to the High Commission
 Lord Milner. Cecil Rhodes doctor. President
 of the S. African Association & S. African Medical
 Congress. **J. H. W. W. W.** Hon Surgeon
 to the Medical Corps during the first world
 war. Married Emmie D'Urban Eaton
 grand daughter of Sir Benjamin D'Urban
 in 1882. 3 sons & two daughters
 B

No 7 Godfrey's Cottages
Narcus Drive, Ustermarus C.P.

4-9-75

Dear Mr. Owen. Thank you for the cheque safely received.
I alas! have no photo of my father as all the photos of
him are ~~lost~~ pasted into a book. I have with cuttings
etc about him but I can tell you a great deal about
him & his career from this too.

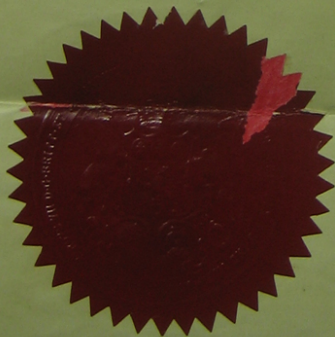
My father (Sir Edmund Sinclair-Stevenson) was born at Fange
Canal, Geneva in 1850, the son of William Ford Stevenson and
Eleanor Sinclair daughter of Col. the Hon James Sinclair of Fosse
Cadhmes. He was educated in Geneva & later at the Sorbonne in
Paris. Finally he decided on a medical career. He then studied
medicine & surgery at Edinburgh university, London, Berlin, Brussels
& Paris (with honours) degrees. On a visit to Africa he joined under
Col Coningham's force as medical officer during the Wafer & Zulu Wars
(medals). He returned to Africa as he decided to settle in
the country. In 1880 he married Emmie D'Urban Estlin
great grand daughter of Sir Benjamin D'Urban & practised as
surgeon & physician at Randburg. He soon became a celebrated
surgeon with patients from Durban as well as the Transvaal
In 1905 he was appointed as the first Surgeon in the Transvaal
the Republic, President of the S. A. Medical Association, S. A.
Medical Association, N.D. F.R.C.S., D.C.H., Physician to the
High Commissioner (1 subsequent General Governor) Lord
Milner, Doctor & friend of Cecil Rhodes. Hon. Member of
Pembroke College, J.P. for Wynberg. Ret. Hon. Col
of the S. A. M.C. in the 1st. World War.

apprehend, or cause to be apprehended, all and every Person committing any crime, or Rioting, Brawling, or otherwise disturbing the Public Peace in your presence, and to deal with them according to Law; and to grant Warrants for the apprehension and detaining in Prison of all Felons, Rioters, Vagrants, Disturbers of the Public Peace, and offenders of what kind and nature soever, to be dealt with according to Law.—And I hereby strictly command all Field-cornets, Constables, Peace Officers, Military Officers, and all other His Majesty's loving subjects in this Colony to be aiding and assisting you in the preservation of the King's Peace as aforesaid.—*In Witness* whereof, I have caused these letters to be made Patent.

Given at the Cape of Good Hope, this *seventeenth*
day of *March* One Thousand Nine Hundred
and *Five*.

By Command of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

W. J. S. J. van



E R SYFRET & CO

EDWARD RIDGE SYFRET,
GERALD DARCY ORPEN,
Incorporated Accountants, Certified Accountants (Cape)
CECIL LOUIS SHORT,
HENRY ARCHIBALD JESSE,
Certified Accountants (Cape)

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
SYFRETS, CAPE TOWN,
TELEPHONE NO 103 & 4571,
P. O. BOX 206.

119, ST GEORGE'S STREET.

CAPE TOWN. 8th April 1925.

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO P.O. BOX 206 CAPE TOWN.

Sir E. S. Stevenson
Strathallen
Rondebosch.

Dear Sir Edmond,

In a communication I had from the Rhodes Trustees by last mail they advised me that they had decided to make you a grant of £200 per annum in view of your services as Medical adviser to the late Mr. Rhodes and Sir Starr Jameson.

I have now pleasure in sending you enclosed a cheque for £50, being an instalment due in respect of the first quarter of this year.

Yours faithfully,

E R Syfret

1 Enc.

17 Great College St.,
Westminster,
S.W.

2 Sept. 1915.

Dear Lord Bertie,

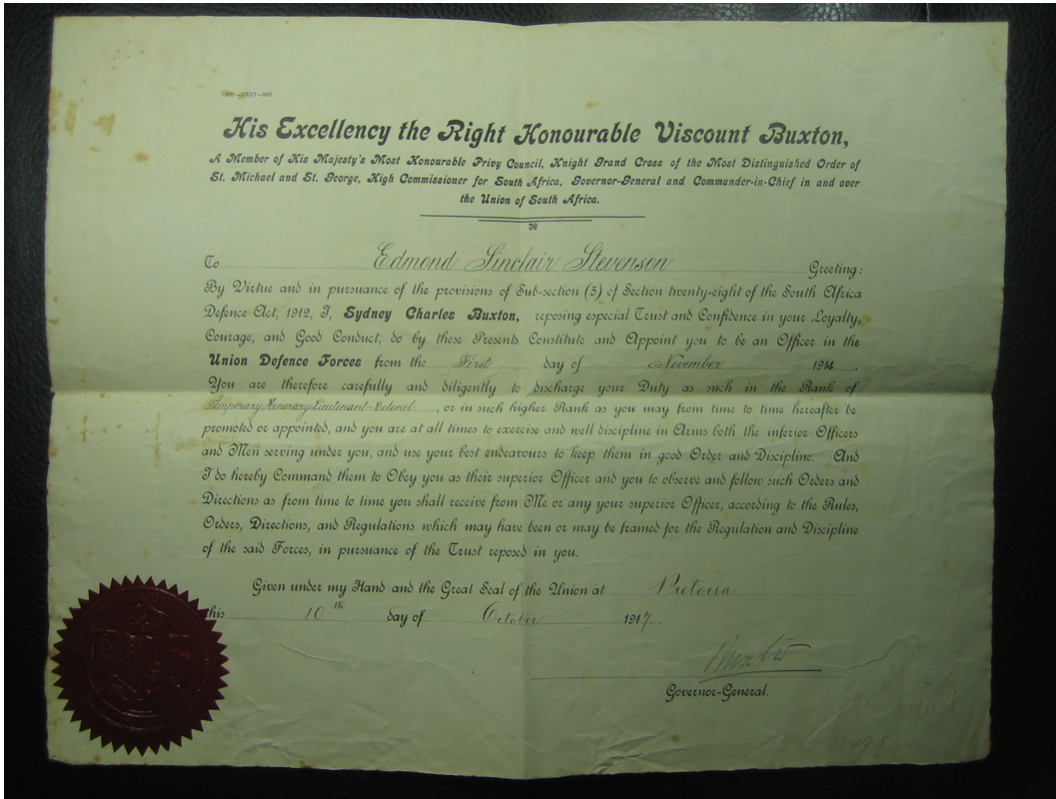
I venture to give this letter of introduction to you to Dr Sinclair Stevenson, whom I knew well at the Cape during my period of Governorship there. Dr Stevenson had, I think, the best practice in South Africa in my time, and was held in high esteem both personally and professionally. He rendered good service during the South African War, and has come over to this country in the hope of being useful during the present crisis.

The War Office apparently cannot find a place for him, so he is going over to France to see if he can be of any help there. I don't know what may be the position with regard to the French medical service and military hospitals, but from some reports I have heard, I conclude that they are rather shorthanded.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

Milnes



Just 170 1877 clasped medals out of a total of 38,957 South Africa 1877-9 medals issued, making this an extremely scarce clasp



Condition NEF. An extremely rare group to an important South African Physician in both a Medallic and historically sense and almost certainly the only 1877 clasp medal awarded to a man who was later knighted