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It has been seven years since *The Times of Our Lives: Life, Love and Death in Plymouth Colony* (New York: Freeman, 2000) was first published. The advance copies reached us in October of that year, just in time for Jim to see, handle and delight in the book that for so many years was in his heart to write. As you know, he passed away on November 25, 2000, two days after Thanksgiving, that holiday to which he had brought a strong dose of reality cutting through the myths surrounding the familiar traditions. His real Pilgrim story was the result of years of working with the remarkable archive of detailed contemporary *Plymouth Colony Records* that has survived, combined with archeological excavation of various sites in Plymouth. New evidence from these combined sources -- documents and archaeology -- showed a reality very different from the straight-laced Puritanical images that were the legacy of the 18th and 19th centuries.



Year after year at Thanksgiving Jim Deetz was interviewed on radio and TV and his views frequently made headlines in the *National Enquirer* reminding America that colorfully dressed “Pilgrims” enjoyed “Meals of eels & lots of booze.” Contemporary records show that eels, lobster, duck and goose washed down with plenty of beer rather than turkey and cranberry sauce featured on that first Thanksgiving menu.

After directing archaeological research and excavations at Flowerdew Hundred in the Virginia Tidewater for 15 years (1980-1995), in 1996 Jim Deetz returned to his research on Plymouth Colony. By then he had been appointed to the Harrison Chair of Historical Archaeology at the University of Virginia, a position that he held from 1994 until his death in 2000. For seven years, from 1993 through 2000, I had the privilege of working with Jim as a member of the research faculty in the Department of Anthropology at UVA and when Jim decided to focus once more on Plymouth Colony it turned out that my background and training provided just what we needed to prepare material for teaching seminars to our UVA students on the historical ethnography of Plymouth Colony.

A graduate of the University of Cape Town, I had initially trained in Library Science and then specialized for some years in cataloguing, classification and bibliography. I had published several bibliographies of black South African writers, published a manual for Library Science students *Cataloging Monographs* (Grahamstown: Rhodes University, 1975) that was adopted as a university textbook and had co-authored *African Languages: A Genetic and Decimalized classification* (Boston: G.K. Hall, 1977) before I changed fields. In 1980 I was appointed curator of Cultural History at the Albany Museum in Grahamstown, a small city that began life as the capital of the frontier of the Cape Colony, South Africa, and became active in the field of material culture. The 1820 Settlers Memorial Museum was the main cultural history museum for which I was responsible, and the impact on the history of South Africa of the 5,000 British settlers who arrived on the bleak coast of the eastern shores of the Cape in 1820 is in many ways reminiscent of that of the English colonists who made the Atlantic crossing to the eastern seaboard of North America to settle in Plymouth in 1620, three hundred years earlier. The experience that I brought to our Plymouth Colony research was obtained through my specialist interest in nineteenth century Cape English domestic material culture and the research that I had done both for historical building restoration as well as for a Master's thesis on domestic material culture in the early to mid-nineteenth century on the British frontier of the eastern Cape (Rhodes University, 1987).

As I was familiar with probate inventories and with material culture research as it pertained to the English colonists who settled the Eastern Cape Colony of South Africa in 1820, Jim Deetz asked me to begin to locate all the rich 17th century historical sources from Plymouth Colony, published and unpublished, that we could use in teaching a course on the historical ethnography of Plymouth Colony. Many of these were available as the published Records of Plymouth Colony, but there were still some transcribed but unpublished wills and probate inventories that he wanted to make available to our students together with other relevant primary sources. Using the core collection that was compiled under Jim's direction during the years in which he was Assistant Director of Plimoth Plantation, 1967-78, and drawing on all other available resources, I was ultimately able to put together a limited edition of seven bound volumes of *Plymouth Colony Wills & Inventories 1670-1685*. From the spring of 1996 through the fall of 1999 Jim and I together taught seminars on the historical ethnography of Plymouth Colony to both graduates and undergraduates. The Plymouth Colony Archive Project web site is the brainchild of one of our University of Virginia seminar members, Christopher Fennell, a former lawyer, who completed his doctoral dissertation in Anthropology at UVA in 2003. Incorporated into the web site is a substantial amount of material produced by our seminar students, and it is our goal to continue to make available to the public as much unpublished primary source material as possible.

In 2001 I moved to Williamsburg, Virginia from Charlottesville, bought a condo, returned to the workplace, experienced the pleasure of living close to some of my Deetz family, discovered great neighbors and made new friends. For the first couple of years I enjoyed working part-time at the

York Public Library. I then was fortunate enough to obtain a fulltime position with a small financial planning company that works mainly with seniors. I enjoy being an administrator and constantly meeting all sorts of interesting people. Williamsburg is expanding rapidly as it is much in demand as a retirement center. Jim's and my beloved cat, Noco, has now passed on to

the happy hunting grounds, and I have the best of feline companions in Tocayo (Toco) whom I adopted aged five from the Isle of Wight Humane Society.

Full time work in a new field with its own challenges and learning curve left little time for expanding my Plymouth research. The public's interest in and response to our web site continues to draw me in though, through the variety of enquiries that we receive. For family reasons I recently returned to bibliographical research, focused this time on some of the non-linguistic material that our family still holds and that I have with me in Williamsburg that belonged to three remarkable family members – my great-grandfather, philologist Dr. Wilhelm Bleek, his sister-in-law Lucy Lloyd, and his daughter Dorothea Bleek, my great-aunt. Together they left a collection of San (Bushman) linguistic and ethnographic research that spans more than seven decades, 1870 through 1948.



The Bushmen were original inhabitants of Southern Africa and as the Dutch settlers encroached on their hunting grounds and the Bushmen defended their rights, they were systematically hunted down and killed. Bleek realized that the Bushman language and folklore, never before recorded, would be permanently lost to the world unless he took action. There were /Xam Bushmen informants close by – convicts from the Breakwater Prison in Cape Town. Far in advance of his time, Bleek saw the necessity of working closely on a daily basis with them as informants and obtained permission for them to live at their Mowbray home in Cape Town. He trained his sister-in-law Lucy Lloyd to record their language and together they committed the complex language to writing, building a lexicon of words on slips of paper and recording their folklore in notebooks. After Bleek's early death in 1875, Lucy Lloyd continued the work that they had begun, ably supported by her sister Jemima Bleek. The publication of Bleek and Lloyd's *Specimens of*

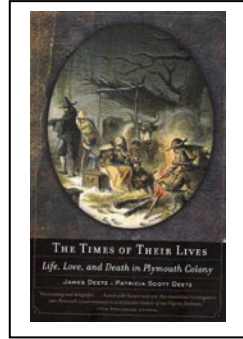
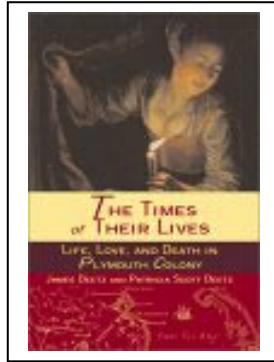
Bushman Folklore (London, 1911) was a major achievement. One of the Bleek daughters, Dorothea Frances Bleek, who worked closely with her aunt and had assisted her in preparing *Specimens of Bushman Folklore* for publication, made it her life's work to continue with the study of Bushman life and languages. Dorothea Bleek had trained as a teacher at the University of Berlin where she also took a course in African Languages. Not only did she play an active role in recording Bushman rock art, but went on a number of linguistic expeditions to find and interview Bushman in remote areas of Southern Africa. She edited and published much of her father and aunt's research and continued, completed and published the Bushman lexicon they had begun in 1870. *A Bushman Dictionary* (New Haven: American Oriental Society) was published in 1956, eight years after Dorothea's death.

Over a period of years, 1936 through 1988, Dorothea Bleek and then her niece, my mother, Dr. Marjorie Scott, donated to the University of Cape Town Libraries what has become the [Bleek Collection](#) (B.C. 151). In 1999 the national and international importance of the Bleek Collection was recognized when it was selected to be included on UNESCO's Memory of the World [Register](#). The World Heritage List includes over 800 properties forming part of the cultural and natural heritage that the World Heritage Committee considers as having outstanding universal value.

The Bleek Collection is now more generally referred to by scholars as the Lloyd and Bleek Collection in order to more accurately represent the major contribution of Lucy Lloyd whose collection of notebooks recording linguistic and ethnographic data from her many interviews with San (Bushman) informants form the core of the Collection. The contents of much of the Collection has been indexed, digitized and made accessible on line through a digital scanning project commenced in 2002 by the *Lucy Lloyd Archive Resource and Exhibition Centre* ([LLAREC](#)), a research center located at the Michaelis School of Fine Art at the University of Cape Town, directed by Pippa Skotnes, Professor of Fine Art.

All the Bleek-Lloyd (San) Bushman linguistic material that our family owned as well as many personal letters, photographs and other items were donated to the Bleek Collection at the University of Cape Town Libraries. Over the years our family has given a wide variety of researchers access to items from the small, more personal collection of Bleek-Lloyd material that remains with us. Early in 2007 I commenced work on a catalog of what we hold at the request of Professor Pippa Skotnes, founder of the Lucy Lloyd Archive, Resource and Exhibition Centre (Llarec) at the Michaelis School of Fine Art at the University of Cape Town. The *Catalog of the Bleek-Lloyd Collection in the Scott Family Archive* (Williamsburg: Deetz Ventures, Inc. 2007) has now been published in a limited edition. Bound copies can be obtained on request but the cost of production, shipping and handling make it preferable to have it available online to researchers in .pdf format. You can download this large file (4 megabytes) from our [links](#) web page or open it directly in your internet browser through the following link:
<http://www.histarch.uiuc.edu/plymouth/BleekLloydCatalog.pdf>

Selected Publications by James Deetz & Patricia Scott Deetz
Patricia Scott Deetz
Patricia E. Scott



- 2001 *The Times of Their Lives: Life, Love and Death in Plymouth Colony*, by James Deetz and Patricia Scott Deetz. New York: Anchor Books. Paperback.
- 2001 The True Story of the First Thanksgiving. *Muse*, vol. 5, no. 9, November 2001, pp. 8-114.
- 2000 *The Times of Their Lives: Life, Love and Death in Plymouth Colony*, by James Deetz and Patricia Scott Deetz. New York: W.H. Freeman.
- 1995 Documents, Historiography and Material Culture in Historical Archaeology (with James Deetz). *Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers*, vol. 79, 1995, pp. 100-115.
- 1993 Discovering British Culture Transformation in Grahamstown, 1820-1882. In J. Sherman, Ed. *A World Too Wide*. Johannesburg: University of the Witwatersrand Library, 1993, pp. 257-72.
- 1991 Household Archaeology in the Eastern Cape (with Margot Winer and James Deetz). *The Phoenix: Magazine of the Albany Museum*, vol. 4, no. 2, 1991, pp. 5-13.
- 1990 Building, Furnishing and Social Change in Early Victorian Grahamstown (with James Deetz). *Social Dynamics*, vol. 16, no. 1, 1990, pp. 75-89.
- 1985 The Role of Constraints in the Establishment of a Historic House Museum. *South African Journal of Cultural History*, vol. 2, no. 1, 1985, pp. 29-38.



Web Site Articles on Plymouth Colony

- ❑ [The True Story of the First Thanksgiving](#)
- ❑ [Glossary and Notes on Plymouth Colony](#)
- ❑ [Maps of New England and Plymouth](#)
- ❑ [Plymouth Town Early Descriptions, 1620-1628](#)
- ❑ [Descriptions of the Fortified Town of Plymouth, 1620-1628](#)
- ❑ [Conjectural Plan of the Fortified Town of Plymouth, 1622](#)
- ❑ [Population of Plymouth Town, Colony and County, 1620-1690](#)
- ❑ [Vernacular House Forms in Seventeenth-century Plymouth Colony: An Analysis of Evidence from the Plymouth Colony Room-by-Room Probate Inventories 1633-1685 \(with James Deetz\)](#)
- ❑ [A List of Mayflower Passengers, 1620](#)
- ❑ [Passengers on the Mayflower: Ages & Occupations, Origins & Connections](#)
- ❑ [Mayflower Passenger Deaths, 1620-1621](#)

Web Site Articles on James Fanto Deetz

- ❑ [James Fanto Deetz 1930-2000: Curriculum Vitae & Personal History.](#)
- ❑ [A Summary of James Deetz's Work & Publications.](#)

Plymouth Colony Wills and Inventories

- ❑ [Index of Plymouth Colony Wills & Inventories, 1670-1685.](#)

This article was published as the introduction to the seven-volume set of Plymouth Colony Wills and Inventories compiled for the use of students attending the UVA Deetz seminars on Plymouth Colony. It contains notes on its compilation and a guide to dates and terminology used in the wills and inventories. A complete Index to the Wills and Inventories then follows.

1999 *Plymouth Colony Wills and Inventories*, compiled by Patricia E. Scott Deetz. 7 vols. Charlottesville: Department of Anthropology, University of Virginia, 1999. Vol. I, 1670-1673; Vol. II, 1674-1675; Vol. III, 1676-1677; Vol. IV, 1678-1679; Vol. V, 1680-1681; Vol. VI, 1682-1683; Vol. VII, 1684-1685.

The seven volume set of Wills and Inventories covering the years 1670 through 1685 was bound in a limited edition for seminar use. Each volume contains an index to the wills and inventories that are published in it. A consolidated Index has been published on our Plymouth Colony web site and some of these wills and probate inventories have been included in The Plymouth Colony Archive Project and may be accessed through the following links:

<http://www.histarch.uiuc.edu/plymouth/wills.html>

<http://www.histarch.uiuc.edu/plymouth/probates.html>



*Seventeenth-century scrivener at work
From the title page of the Works of John Boys, 1622*

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