

isiZulu names in Cornwall

24th April, 2000

On my short holiday in the south-western corner of England last week I was often reminded of you and your interest in place-names as I almost every single day came across a name with South African roots. Some of these are:

° "Inyanga"

A house in the town Penzance in the county of Cornwall bears in bold letters encaved in the granite doorway the name "INYANGA" that is without any doubt the isiZulu word for "healer". Almost every other house in this town and in the whole county as such has a name written near or above the front-door, recalling some event or other. "Inyanga" stands in Chapel Street.

° "Umfula Place"

At the centre of the old coastal town of St. Ives at the Atlantic Ocean is a street with a bus-rank and wide pavements bearing the name "Umfula Place", "umfula being an isiZulu word for "river". In the archives of the Town Library I read an article by Cyrril Noall in the local newspaper, *The St. Ives Times and Echo and Hayle Times* of April 29, 1977, on place names of St. Ives: "... Umfula House and Place were built around 1880 by a Mr. Bawden who had also spent some time in South Africa".

New address as from 1 August:
P.O. Box 915-1157
Faerie Glen
Pretoria 0043

31 May 2000

Dear Dr Khumalo

Thanks for your letter with the intriguing information about the Zulu names in Cornwall. I had not known of any Zulu names in England, but was aware that the Anglo-Boer War had left quite a few South African names around the country - for example, while a student in Leeds I came across a suburb with a cluster of street names such as Ladysmith, and `The Kop`, which is the name for part of a famous football stadium (I think in Liverpool), was given that name by returning soldiers.

I am a member of the new South African Geographical Names Council, which replaced the old National Place Names Committee. We have had three meetings so far, but are taking a long time to establish the `ground rules` for operating, so do not have much to show for our labours yet.

Kind regards
Yours sincerely

Elwyn Jenkins