

Before and long after the *Voortrekkers* and their descendants had turned to rename the river Ncome “*Bloedrivier*”, **at least two oral versions** about the battle on and around 16 December 1838 circulated among the earlier inhabitants of that region on the one hand and the trekker- and settler-communities on the other.

Generations of history-writers and -teachers have with only a few exceptions generally preferred to adopt and promote **the trekker-version** uncritically with the result of it presently being treated in text-books and research as the only valid account of the *iMpi yaseNcome* [1838].

Two simple and yet not so simple questions deserve a conclusive answer: **What took place** [or did not take place] at Ncome on and around 16 December 1838? **When and on what reason and for what purpose** was the river Ncome renamed „*Bloedrivier*“?

[Ben Khumalo-Seeqelken](#) , 2003.