

A story of a Rhodesian Farmer

Real Photograph Picture Post Cards

This exhibit provides real photograph picture postcards from an early farmer in Rhodesia, **Victor Ralph Barton** (born 1888 in Bombay, India), to his family in Devon, England. The photographs on the postcards, and the comments thereon, give an insight into life on an early Rhodesian farm. Barton would have taken the photographs and they would have been printed, probably by the local chemist, onto a pre-printed (on one side) card. He started farming at the Premier Estate near Old Umtali, and then moved to his own farm in the Mazoe District. Some of the early cards show photographs from the voyage out to Africa and his stay in Mozambique.

Barton's family lived at **Kingsford Hill House, Burrington, Chulmleigh, High Bickington, North Devon**. His father was Captain Francis Alexander Barton (retired from H.M. Army, born in Mexico in c 1861), his mother, Amy Maria Barton (born in Buenos Ayres, Argentina c 1853), his sisters Frances Amy Barton (born in Poona, India c 1885) and Audrey Isabel Barton (born in Colebrook, North Devon c 1890), and his brother, Cecil Francis Barton (born in Colebrook, North Devon c 1893).

{The family details given here were sourced from **ancestry.com.au** The passenger list for the *Kenilworth Castle* arriving at Southampton on 31st August, 1925, lists Victor Ralph Barton returning to England; his occupation is listed as 'farmer' and home as 'Rhodesia'. He died in Bulawayo on 14th May, 1933 at the Ingutsheni Mental Hospital.}

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Premier Estate, Old Umtali,
24th May, 1909

This card has images from the Queen's Hotel in Beira, Mozambique.



Queen's Hotel, Beira.



Queen's Hotel, Beira. Facing the sea.

**If you could hint to Aunt Mary..
without offending it would be a
good thing as I am loaded with
them at present. Besides customs
is charged on all new things.**

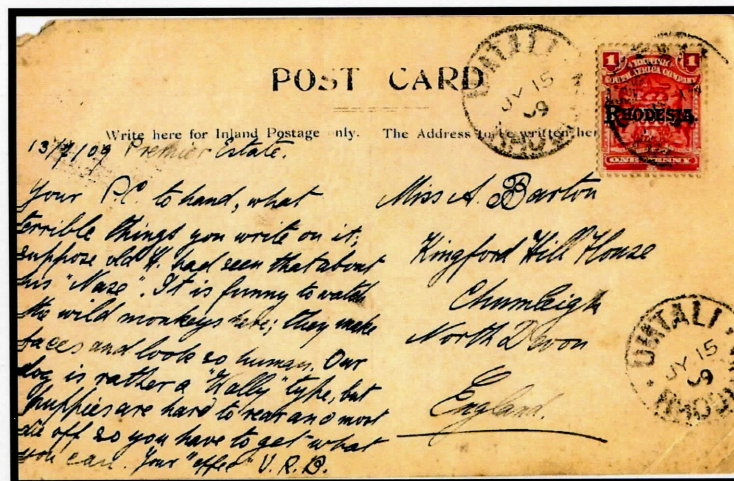


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Premier Estate, Old Umtali,
13th July, 1909

This card has images from the sea voyage out to Southern Africa. Premier Estate was established by Cecil John Rhodes.

..It is funny to watch the wild monkeys here; they make faces and look so human..



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Premier Estate, Old Umtali, 19th July, 1909



Rhodesia is not all sand, anyway not here. This river takes a lot of beating; the Umtali river just below my farm is always like coffee and is not interesting. All enjoying excellent health.. Illustrated papers are always very acceptable even if old.



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11 July 1910



These are not the best mealies we can produce, in fact about the worst...everything is horribly damp now and leather gets mouldy in one night.



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15th September, 1910

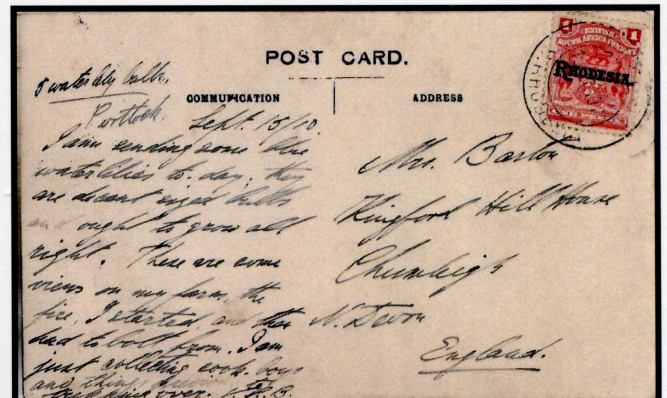


On the river. Maurice Jones.



Wild fire. Maurice Jones.

I am sending some blue waterlilies to-day; they are decent sized bulbs and ought to grow all right. These are some views of my farm, the fire I started, and then had to bolt from..



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23rd September, 1911

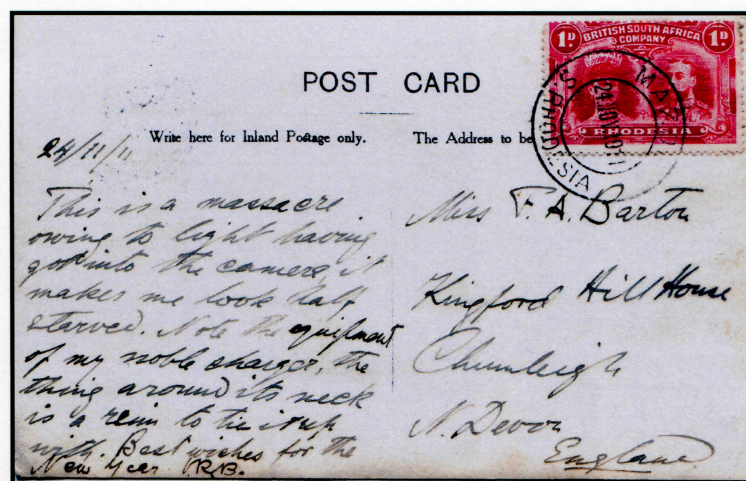
My luck with meat has been absent this week, but I have been too busy to go out...It is getting beastly hot – only about two months until the rains.



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24th November, 1911

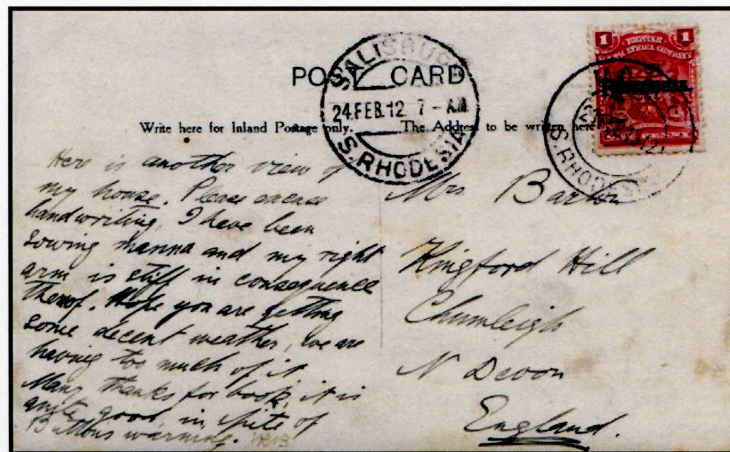
...owing to light having got into the lens it makes me look half starved..



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24th February, 1912

Here is another view of my house. Please excuse handwriting, I have been sowing manna and my right arm is stiff in consequence.



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6th December, 1912

Carrying the mealies to the Store

This is not the ambulance but our method of shifting mealies when bigger. The slave in front is my driver. The staff here at present consists of 11, and even with that I am shorthanded. Most farms have 15 to 30..



Carrying mealies to the Store.



A story of a Rhodesian Farmer

7th December 1912

The growing weather now the ground is wet and hot. All lions seem to have fled for the time, so I can sleep in peace.

