

23 March

Br GERARD HOOYE

23 January 1853 – 23 March 1882



Born in Zaandam, Holland, Gerard Hooye joined the Society in 1878 and was one of the second group who came to the Zambezi Mission, arriving in 1882. He did not reach the mission area itself as he was drowned in the Vaal (photo below of the Vaal in 1899) near Christiana. Hot and dusty from the journey, he took the opportunity of a swim in the river and a little Boer girl saw him plunge in and disappear.

She came running to the camp and a search was made but there was no sign of the body that day, a Thursday. Three days later, on Sunday, the body floated to the surface and was retrieved by Br Allen and Fr Kroot who had remained behind with just this

possibility in mind, while the rest of the party continued the journey north.

The little girl said a man had been drowned at the same spot a year before.

Depelchin wrote to Fr General about Br Hooy saying, he had already 'rendered great service to our mission'. He is buried close to where he met his death on the brow of a hill.



A "POST," VAAL RIVER.