

Ever since viewing the classic film *ZULU* when it first came out in 1964, I, like most members of the Anglo Zulu War Historical Society, have become hooked on and fascinated by anything and everything which may be only remotely connected with Zulus and the Anglo Zulu War. Therefore, with this in mind, I thought that fellow members may be interested to know of a small area of interconnecting streets and roads in the Basford area of Nottingham, my home city, which have been named after characters and events concerning this incredible saga.

Despite spending hours in the Nottingham City Archives, I could find no documentation as to who named these roads and why. I have come up with the inescapable conclusion that this cluster of roads in the city were named simply because at that time it was considered fashionable to use such momentous periods in our history to glorify the events for posterity by naming roads and even buildings, in their honour. Certainly, according to one or two foundation stones and date plaques, building seems to have commenced around 1883, a mere four years after the Zulu War. Most of the houses lining the roads and streets are typical Victorian terraces, whose front doors open directly onto the pavement, a few properties, particularly those on Zulu Road itself, possess front gardens.

The three longest roads in this section which also run parallel with each other are Isandula Road, a corrupt spelling of Isandlwana and which was used by none other than Benjamin Disraeli himself. Chelmsford Road named after Frederick Augustus Thesiger, the 2nd Baron Lord Chelmsford, commander of the South African Field Force, and the aforementioned Zulu Road. For obvious reasons, the latter is by far the best known and there are even two adjoining properties on this road known as Zulu Cottages. A colleague of mine once lived on Zulu Road, although he rather disparagingly referred to it as "*Spear-chucker Avenue*". At least, he was aware of the connection.

The remaining streets, which abut or bisect these roads, are as follows;

Pearson Street, named after Colonel Pearson, famous for his besiegement at Eshowe.

Durnford Street, named after Lieutenant Colonel Anthony William Durnford, killed at Isandlwana and who has been held responsible in some quarters for the latter debacle, although new findings seem to point the finger in other directions.

Chard Street for Lieutenant John Rouse Merriot Chard, garrison commander during the 22nd-23rd January 1879 at the battle of Rorke's Drift.

Lord Chelmsford gets another slice of the cake as **Chelmsford Terrace** is also named after him.

Finally, **Ekowe Street** named after the siege of Eshowe. On some old maps, Eshowe is spelt Ekowe.

Only a stone's throw away but not interconnected is **Bulwer Street**, named after Sir Henry Bulwer, Governor of Natal and who was basically opposed to war with the Zulus, and a couple of miles away, another old Victorian street just off Ilkeston Road is known as **Redoubt Street**. Could this have been named in honour of Chard's famous redoubt at Rorke's Drift?

I have taken the liberty of photographing all these roads and streets for posterity; one day, they may be bulldozed and lost forever. With this latter theme in mind I have begun to photograph on colour transparency, as many graves, memorials and suchlike as I can locate, for many are now bearing the ravages of time and the corrosive action of the elements is obliterating lettering and other features.

The above roads are not difficult to find, being very close to the main Nottingham Ring Road and are worth a visit if you are in the area. You could perhaps also tie it in with a visit to Nottingham Castle where there is an old Ishlanghu Zulu Shield believed to have been taken during the capture of Cetshwayo. There is also a staff, a knobkerrie and several assegais, one with a bent blade, said to have been recovered near the body of the Prince Imperial. All these are in the Sherwood Foresters' Museum at the Castle.