Household budgets in South Africa

Johan Fourie

Amsterdam 12 February







12 Feb 2016

Probate inventories

- Probate inventories (MOOC 8)
 - Lists of assets at death
 - MOOC 8
 - Fourie (2013)
 - Remarkable wealth
 - High levels of inequality
 - Swanepoel (forthcoming)
 - Credit network
- Auction rolls (MOOC10)
 - Mitchell, McCants, Fourie

Hendrik Möller

7 December 1713

Invantaris gemaakt door Margrita Marqua weduwe van Hendrik Möller in presentie van Gillis Sollier, H:k Möller en Johanis Möller als volght

	f
Het huijs hier aan de Caap	6000
3 dosijn stoelen met eenige kussens	100
3 ledekanten met behangsel	150
4 kadels	20
7 bedden met sijn toebehoren	300
1 kast en een kleen kas	100
4 gemeene kisten	50
5 tafels kleijn en groot	60
en parteij porseleijn en d:o potjies	90
eenigh silver werk	120
2 dosijn tinne schootels klijn en groot	60
4 dosijn tinne borden	25
en parteij racken en schilderijen	70
4 spiegels kleijn en groot	25
en parteij glaase en tinne kanne	10
en parteij kandelaars en koper werk	30
3 kopere keetels	30
8 eijsere pottens	40
en parteij rommelingh	100
Somma	f7391

Invantaris van de plaas

	f
de plaats	4000
11 slaaven kleijn en groot (unnamed)	2400
120 beesten kleijn en groot	1440
400 schaapen	500
10 paarden	50
1 paarde wagen met 4 tuijgen	100
2 ouwee osse wagens	120
2 ouwe ploegen	45
1 ouwe egh	10
30 sacken	50
en parteij graaven en picken	12
emmers en balies	10
en parteij rommelingh	20
Somma	f16148
De schulden waar deese boedel mee belast is bedraaght	6000
Resteert	f10148

Aldus overgegeven ter Weescamer aan Cabo de Goede Hoop, den 7 xber 1713, met presentatie van eede niets ter werelt agtergehouden ofte verswegen te hebben.

- Tax censuses (opgaafrolle)
 - Incredibly rich records of inputs and outputs
 - INPUTS: Household size, European labourers, slaves, Khoisan, wagons, carts, wheat, rye, barley sown, vines
 - OUTPUTS: wheat, barley, rye reaped, wine, brandy, cattle, horses, sheep, pigs
 - Census every year roughly same format 1663-1828
 - Cape of Good Hope Panel project
 - Funded by South African National Research Foundation, Swedish Handelsbanken, Swedish Wallenberg Foundation
 - 2015-2019



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Opportunities

- Labour, mobility and inequality
- Intergenerational mobility (matched to genealogies)
- Intergenerational wealth and credit networks (matched to probates)
- Migration, disease, exogenous shocks
- Challenges
 - Mostly European descendants
 - Ends before industrial take-off (mineral revolution)



Missionary records

- 1849 Mission census
 - Fourie, Ross, Viljoen (2013) investigate literacy and numeracy
 - Fourie and Swanepoel (2015) investigate persistence of human capital accumulation

Name of each male resident, head of family	Age	Trade	How long has he been resident at the Ins.	Can he or she read or write	Is he married or not?	Number of children	Number above 12 years	Number above 12 who go out to work	Number under 12	Do his wife and grown-up daughters go out to service & where are they?	she	Has he ploughing land at Inst.	What crop did he get this year and what was the value thereof?	£	ம்	d.	Horses	Cattle	Goats	Pigs	Where are they kept?	£	ú	d.
1 Mozambiquer	50	Carrier	10	Read	Yes	4	2	2	2	No	Yes	Yes	Wheat & barley	9	0	0	0	48			Farmerfield	1	0	0
2 William Parker	40	Labourer	10	Read	Yes	5	1	2	3	1 Son, Gr. Town	Yes	Yes	Wheat	з	Ο	0		2			Farmerfield	1	О	0
3 Parkes	50	Carrier	10	No	Yes	2	1	1	1	1 Dr, Farmerfield	Yes	Yes	Wheat	2	0	0		14			Farmerfield	1	0	0
4 Zaccheus Africa	45	Ditto	10	No	Yes	9	2	2	7	1 Dr, Gr. Town	No	Yes	Wheat	4	0	0		22			Farmerfield	1	0	0
5 Charles Jas	40	Labourer	10	Read	Yes	8	2	2	6	1 Dr, Gr. Town	Yes	Yes	No					7			Farmerfield	1	0	0
6 John Lumve	45	Carrier	6 mon.	Read	Yes	5	1	1	4	No	No	Yes	Wheat	4	0	0		16			Farmerfield	1	0	0
7 Jacob Matlabuhu	40	Labourer	3	No	Yes	3	1	1	2	1 Dr, Farmerfield	Yes	Yes	Wheat	1	10	0		10			Farmerfield	1	0	0
8 Abram Malakane	45	Ditto	10	No	Yes	4	2	2	2	1 Dr, Gr. Town	No	Yes	Wheat	1	0	0		13			Farmerfield	1	0	0
9 Matheus Selelo	60	Carrier	10	No	Yes	4	-	-	4	No	Yes	Yes	Wheat	3	0	0		19			Farmerfield	1	0	0



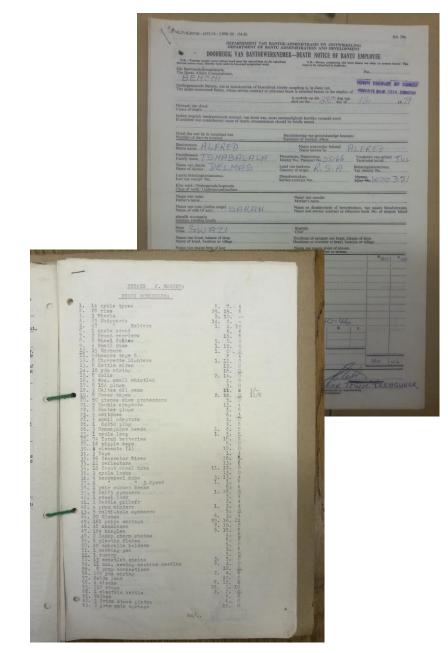
Cape archives

- Estate accounts
- Liquidation records: 1700-1910
 - 50 obs per page, 200 pages per book, 13 books



The missing

- Early colonial censuses
- Voters rolls
 - Information on occupations: mobility, inequality
- Church records
 - Baptism, marriage and death
- Estate accounts
 - Posel (2006)
 - More than 40000 records for Joburg and 8000 for Pretoria



The missing

- Challenges
 - Microdata often missing
 - Never recorded
 - Often destroyed
 - Where information is available: sample selection
 - Household formation unique
 - Migrant labour, remittances, polygamy
 - Payment often in-kind
 - Post-1994 better surveys, but:
 - Because state provides free-of-charge, asset indices
 often most reliable
 - For example, poverty falls rapidly if access to services (and not income) is used

