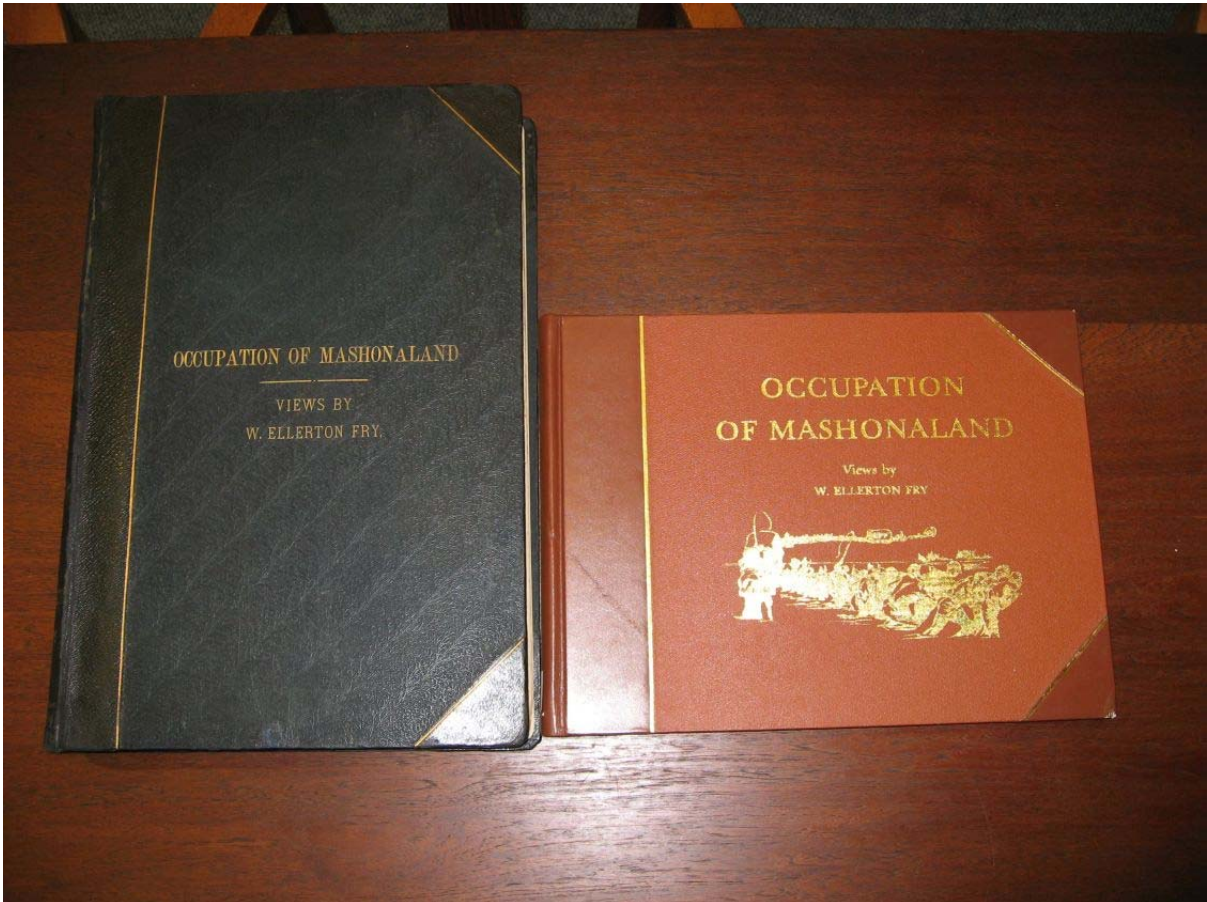


## WILLIAM ELLERTON FRY (1846-1930)

Research notes



W Ellerton Fry, was born in Somerset in 1846 and he emigrated to South Africa in 1872. He dug for diamonds at Kimberley; was a prospector, farmer and trader; became Secretary and Computer of the Royal Observatory, Cape Town; and Lieutenant-Intelligence Officer of the British South Africa Company's Expeditionary Force, documenting this journey in writing, photograph and diagram. In Murray, he includes a hand-drawn map of the route taken from Macloutsie River to Fort Salisbury between June - September, 1890. He died in Mowbray, Cape in June 1930. [KAB MOOC 6/9/3731 Ref: 26891 FRY, WILLIAM ELLERTON. ESTATE. 1930](#)

Some of his exceptional photographs were published as a collection entitled Fry, William Ellerton . Occupation of Mashonaland: views by W. Ellerton Fry. Publ: unknown. October 1891. The book is exceptionally rare, numbering of the order of a dozen copies world-wide.

## REFERENCES:

1. Fry, William Ellerton . Occupation of Mashonaland : views by W. Ellerton Fry. Publ: unknown. October 1891
2. Fry, William Ellerton . Occupation of Mashonaland : views by W. Ellerton Fry. With the addition of maps, new text and captions; biography and a bibliography prepared by Peter McLaughlin. Imprint Bulawayo : Books of Zimbabwe, 1982.
3. Murray, R W. South Africa: From Arab domination to British rule. Publ: Edward Stanford, London. 1891 [pg. 167-192]
4. South African Archives Repository, Cape Town

## POSTSCRIPT

In January 2008, an original copy of Occupation of Mashonaland : views by W. Ellerton Fry was offered for sale on eBay and later withdrawn.

Though in relatively poor condition, what made this book unique were the penned in comments throughout, identifying personnel, places and events. From what I was able to determine from the nature of the annotations, I suspect that the original owner was either Capt A E Burnett, Chief Transport Officer, killed during the Shangani Patrol skirmish (November-December 1893) or his brother Lieut R G Burnett, part of the Headquarters Staff in charge of native labourers (Ref: Reconstituted Nominal Rolls of Pioneer Column), Lieut George Burnett being the most likely.

Research suggests that copies of Ellerton Fry are in SA Library of Parliament; SA National Library, CPT; Durban Municipal Library; Pietermaritzburg Library; Brenthurst Library; several (3?) Zimbabwe National Archives together with glass plates and loose photographs; and a number of American and British libraries.