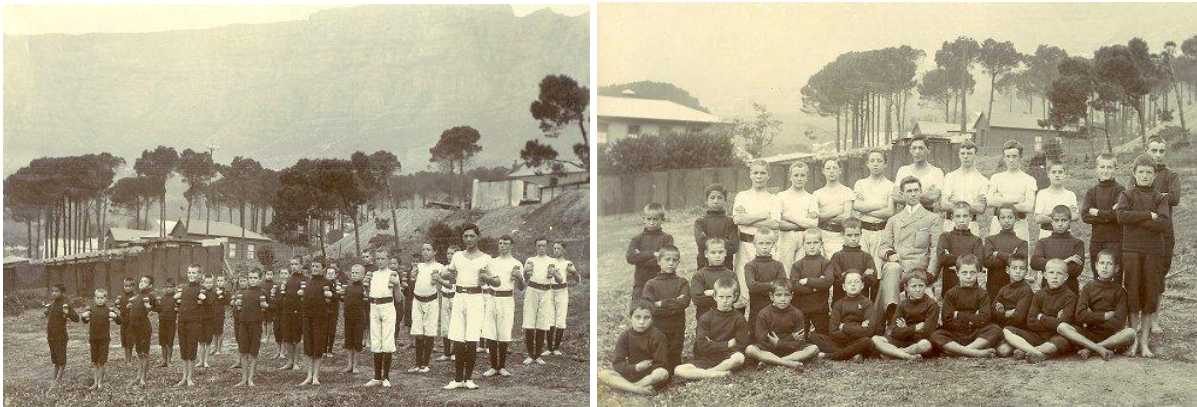


The story before the Gordons Shield

In the early 1900's there was a local Cape Town business man Mr. W. G. Haines who had founded the Kloof Supply Stores in Kloof Road, Tamboerskloof.

He was deeply interested in training boys who lacked the advantages of good family homes, and he started a boys' club named 'The Gordons'. He particularly stressed mental, moral, and physical training. He also offered his services as a gym instructor to the boys of the St. Michael's Home, an orphanage in the area. Feeling that these boys missed contact with boys outside the home, he ran joint training sessions for the Gordons and the boys of St. Michael's.



These two photographs were taken in 1904 by another Kloof Road resident a Mr. F. A. Rayner. The photographs show on the left, a dumb-bell drill session. The Gordons are in white and on the right, the same boys as a group with the founder of Gordons - Mr. W. G. Haines in the centre.



Mr W G Haines

Both the Gordons Club and St. Michael's Home grew very rapidly. St. John's Hostel at the top of Kloof Street was established for the older boys, the juniors remaining at St. Michael's. The Gordons became the Gordons Institute and covered a wide field of activities.

Today (2008) the Saint Michaels Home is on the Main Road in Plumstead, and the Gordons Institute has its home on Liesbeeck Park Road at Mowbray.

In 1914, Mr Haines offered a Trophy for competition by Boy Scouts of the Cape. This was accepted, and was first competed for in 1915, and named the 'Gordons Shield'. Thus, on 18th September, 1915 competitors met at the Clee Road Rifle Range which is now part of the Groote Schuur Hospital site. The competition covered only one activity – First Aid. The first winners of the Shield were 2nd Cape Town (Y.M.C.A.) Troop.