



The original settlement of Gatooma (derived from the Kadoma Hills), situated in the Midlands of Southern Rhodesia (97 miles from Salisbury and 190 miles from Bulawayo) owes its very existence to the rich gold reefs which were discovered by prospectors and miners in the late 19th/early 20th century and, also partially, to the fact that the site of the future town lay in the direct path of the national railway line linking Bulawayo to Salisbury, which had been laid in place in 1902.

So begins Peter Sternberg's very comprehensive and interesting History of the Gatooma/Kadoma Library. His tale outlines the highs and lows in the 100 year old existence of the Library, initiated after the settlement was only about 11 years old. A well-worth read for those interested in the History of Rhodesia and Zimbabwe.

#### About the author

As far back as 1978, when Mrs Betty Conway was approached to write a history of the library, this was a work waiting to be done. The library had a rich history of stories to be told but who would take on this task? It had to be a person deeply committed to the library and one whose very heart lay in all aspects of this amazing complex. No other person could have been more eligible to take on this project than Peter Sternberg. His family had been involved with the library for many years. His father, Robert Sternberg, was the Chairman for thirty years and Peter was Chairman for a continuous period of forty years.

Anyone who has written the history of anything will confirm the hours of research needed to do this job. Peter spent so much time on sorting documents, going through Minutes and reports in order to extract the facts. His aim was to have the booklet ready for the 100th anniversary of the library.

Sadly, this was not to be, as he suffered a massive heart attack and never fully recovered to complete his task. He approached me in late November of 2016 and asked me to assist him with the latter part of this history. I have, of necessity, not had the time to go into the account with as much depth as Peter did, but have completed what he began. Peter Sternberg passed away on the 25th of January 2017. We salute him for his dedication and commitment to the Gatooma/ Kadoma Library.

Sheliagh Barton  
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**By:** Peter Sternberg & Sheliagh Barton

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