

THE ORIGINS OF DOORNFONTEIN AND ITS ADJOINING FARMS BEING THE EARLIEST HISTORIES OF JOHANNESBURG, BEDFORDVIEW, EDENVALE, SANDTON, ALBERTON AND GERMISTON, 1841-1853

Alkis Doucakis
*Doornfontein History Project*¹
c/o PO Box 64021
Highlands North
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Die ontstaan van Doornfontein en sy aangrensende plase wat die vroegste geskiedenis is van Johannesburg, Bedfordview, Edenvale, Sandton, Alberton en Germiston

Die geskiedenis van die plase waarop Johannesburg en sy aangrensende dorpe uitgelê is, is reeds teruggevoer tot ongeveer 1853 — die datum waarop sommige van hierdie plase geïnspekteer is. Deur verwysing na plaasregistrasies en inspeksieregisters ondersoek hierdie artikel die gebeure vanaf die jaar 1839. Met die uitsondering van die plase Elandsfontein en Doornfontein, wat onderskeidelik in 1841 en 1846 geregistreer is, het nedersetting in dié gebied — tans bekend as die Sentrale Witwatersrand — eers vanaf 1849 begin posvat. Kort biografieë van diegene wat oorspronklik aansoek gedoen het om plase, of plase opgeteis het, is hoofsaaklik saamgestel uit notules van die Volksraad en uit boedellêers. Die meeste van die Kaapse emigrante na hierdie gebied het bekend gestaan as *nagetrokene* (latere Voortrekkers) wat aanvanklik eers na Natal, die Transoranje en Ohrigstad getrek het voordat hulle hier gevestig geraak het. Die ontstaan van dorpe in hierdie gebied van die Witwatersrand, mag dus gekoppel word aan die datums waarop hulle plase vir die eerste keer geregistreer is, soos aangetoon in Tabel 1.

The history of the farms on which Johannesburg and its adjoining towns were laid out has already been traced back to around 1853 — the inspection date of some of these farms. This article traces events back to 1839 through reference to farm registration and inspection registers. Other than the farms Elandsfontein and Doornfontein, which were registered in 1841 and 1846 respectively, settlement in the region — latterly the Central Witwatersrand — only began to take place after 1849. Brief biographies of the original farm claimants and applicants have been compiled primarily from the Volksraad minutes and from estate files. Most of the Cape emigrants to this region were called *nagetrokene* (later Voortrekkers), having trekked first to Natal, the Transorangia and Ohrigstad before settling here. The beginnings of the towns in this part of the Witwatersrand, then, may be regarded as the dates their farms were first registered, as shown in Table 1.

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This project, begun in 1992, has received 79 articles from 61 authors and 14 reminiscences from as many writers. The submissions are intended for publication as follows: A. Doucakis and A. Meisel (eds), "The story of Doornfontein, the history of the eastern Johannesburg farm and two of its suburbs" (Johannesburg, forthcoming 1998).

already been traced back to around 1853 — the inspection date of some of these farms.² However reference to lesser-utilised informal farm registers and to an inspection register in the Transvaal Archives Depot³ of farms north of the Vaal River from 1839 has considerably expanded our knowledge of settlement in the Central Witwatersrand region. This information can be considered as part of the formative history of Johannesburg and its environs.

STAD/TOWN	YEAR FARM REGISTERED	PLAAS/FARM
Alberton & south-western Germiston	1841	Elandsfontein
eastern Johannesburg	1846	Doornfontein
southern Johannesburg	1849	Turffontein
Edenvale	1850	Rietfontein
north-western Johannesburg	1851	Braamfontein
western Johannesburg	1852	Langlaagte
northern Johannesburg	1852	Klipfontein
southern Sandton	1852	Syferfontein
Bedfordview	1853	Elandsfontein

Table 1: The farm-town link on the Central Witwatersrand

Background: c.1060-1853

From archaeological evidence, the earliest date of Iron Age settlement on today's Witwatersrand appears to be around 1060 A.D. The settlement was situated around today's Melville Koppies Nature Reserve, on what was to become the farm Braamfontein (see Figure 1). A furnace discovered at the site may be the earliest intact furnace in Southern Africa. The next earliest site, Bruma on the farm Doornfontein, dates from about 1280. These two

1. J.J. Fourie, *Die geskiedenis van die Afrikaners in Johannesburg, 1886-1900* (Ph.D. thesis, Rand Afrikaans University, 1976), pp. 10, 11; according to A.H. Smith, *Johannesburg Street Names* (Cape Town, 1971), p. 125, the history of Doornfontein, whose claimants she elsewhere referred to as "with the address Suikerboschrand", is traced back to 20 July 1851.

2. Transvaal Archives Depot, Pretoria (hereafter TAD), RAK 2433, "Plaas Requesten-register" (farm request register). I am indebted to Prof. J.S. Bergh, Chairman Department of History and Cultural History, University of Pretoria, for recommending this lesser-used source to me. I similarly acknowledge the helpful recommendations provided by Gerry Levin, Consulting Geologist. *Note:* Farm registration does not necessarily mean that the applicant was living on the farm. Similarly, reference to other sources need not imply residence of an individual at the stated place, e.g. baptisms in Potchefstroom need not imply that families lived in its vicinity.

walled, at Klipriviersberg (c.1680), Waterval (c.1720) and Northcliff (c.1800, on the farm Waterval). The period after 1500 is known as the Late Iron Age. During the Middle and Late Iron Ages the Witwatersrand inhabitants, who were essentially farmers, were iron smelters; they did not mine gold, copper or iron. The Witwatersrand sites have been identified as belonging to the Sotho-Tswana tribes,⁵ whose chronology from c.1500 corresponds to the oral tradition of these people. By 1800 the inhabitants were known as the baKwena ba Mare-a-Phôgôlê tribe of the Kwena-Hurutse group, one of the two Tswana groupings. The northern boundary of the tribe's land was along a line drawn from Boons in the west, through Krugersdorp to Boksburg in the east. The Melville Koppies and Linksfield Ridge sites fall within this line. The southern boundary stretched to approximately the Vaal River. One of this tribe's neighbours was the Khudu, who lived in the south-east of the territory.⁶

Mzilikaze (c.1795-1868) and his Khumalo-Ndebele began their migrations from Zululand c.1821. After migrating from the Pedi country in the former eastern Transvaal, they possibly displaced the Khudu⁷ people on the Suikerbosrand c. August 1823. In mid-1827 Mzilikazi left the region under some duress. Migrating through today's Kommando Nek to the northern slopes of the Magaliesberg Range and beyond, he conquered the many disunited Sotho chiefdoms there. "To increase the difficulties for potential invaders, they [the Ndebele] cleared the territory between the Vaal and the Magaliesbergs [sic] of human settlements".⁸ Sometime between August and September 1832 the Ndebele moved to the former western Transvaal, again clearing the region southward to the Vaal of human settlement. This was achieved by regular patrolling of the area. Although their sphere of influence extended in the south-east to the Mooi River, it is doubtful if the territory to the east of Mooi was inhabited. It appears that anyone who encroached beyond this sphere was attacked. For example, in October 1834 a hunting group of Griquas, who had travelled northward along the Wilge River, was killed at the Vaal.⁹ The Ndebele even crossed the Vaal to the south-east in 1836 to attack the Voortrekkers at Vegkop. Therefore, it is doubtful if the Witwatersrand was inhabited during Mzilikazi's settlement in the western Transvaal.

In November 1837 Mzilikaze and his Ndebele were driven out of the western part of the territory that was to become the "Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek" (ZAR). Either former black tribes slowly reoccupied their lands after Mzilikazi's withdrawal,¹⁰ or new black

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5. R. Mason, "Origins of black people of Johannesburg and the southern western central [sic] Transvaal AD 350-1880" (Johannesburg, 1986, occasional paper no. 16 of the Archaeological Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand), pp. 514, 515, 525, 528, 538, 541, 551, 603, 604; P. Maylam, *A History of the African People of South Africa* (Cape Town, 1986), pp. 4, 9, 14, 19.
 6. P.-L. Breutz, *Die Stamme van die Distrik Ventersdorp* (Pretoria, 1954, ethnological publications series no. 31), pp. 112 (par. 312), 115 (par. 318), 118 (par. 328), 119 (par. 330). For a detailed account of the Khudu see P.-L. Breutz, *Die Stamme van die Distrik Ventersdorp*, pp. 114-115 (par. 318), 116 (pars 322-323). Note here the Khudu poem pertaining to the Ndebele. See also Transvaal Native Affairs Department, *Short History of the Native Tribes of the Transvaal* (Pretoria, 1905) (reprint no. 24, State Library, Pretoria, 1968), p. 42. R.K. Rasmussen, *Migrant Kingdom: Mzilikazi's Ndebele in South Africa* (Cape Town, 1978), pp. 42, 45, 56-57, 61, 62 (94). R.K. Rasmussen, *Migrant Kingdom*, pp. 100, 107 and map on p. 99.
 10. R.K. Rasmussen, *Migrant Kingdom*, p. 136.

inhabitants settled¹¹ in the territory. This also applied in the Suikerbosrand and Magaliesberg, for farms named Kafferskraal were registered in these regions. These names are a strong indication that the farms had been black territory.¹² In 1840 the Kafferskraal farms closest to the future Doornfontein were situated to the east of today's Hartebeeshoek and just west of Heidelberg.¹³ By 1852 they had possibly become the kraals of Chief Mogale in the Magaliesberg, and of Chief Tjhoupa, in what later became the field cornetries of Suikerbosrand and Vaal River.¹⁴ The region around the future Doornfontein and Central Witwatersrand, therefore, was devoid of human settlement from 1823 until farms were registered in the region. It appears that there was no black settlement here until 1886.¹⁵

The Voortrekker leader Andries Hendrik Potgieter (1792-1852), after withdrawing from the east of the Drakensberg (the future Natal), settled with his followers in May 1838 in what is today the north-western Free State. In June he obtained the land between the Vet and Vaal Rivers from the destitute Makwana, a chief of the Bataung, in exchange for either 19 or 49 cows and the promise of protection against Mzilikaze.¹⁶ From 18 June 1838 Potgieter registered farms between the Vet, Sand, Renoster and Wilge Rivers, all south of the Vaal. He and his followers then crossed the river *en masse*, possibly in the beginning of 1839, first settling along the Mooi River and in the surrounding territory.¹⁷

The years before 1849 were formative ones in the Witwatersrand — the region in which Doornfontein was originally described as being located.¹⁸ This region was sparsely populated before 1846. There was neither a ZAR nor a Transvaal in those early days.¹⁹ A brief look at the government of the day and of the *maatschappijen* (communities) of its burghers will indicate just how untamed the land was. Development, moreover, was retarded by a lack of money — "*het publieke kast*" was empty; by a lack of infrastructure—"not a single bridge in the whole country"; by a lack of a printing press—it was to come only in

Cf. W.A. Stals, "Die kwessie van naturelle-eindomsreg op grond in Transvaal, 1838-1884" (M.A. dissertation, University of Pretoria, 1970) *Argieffaarboek vir Suid-Afrikaanse Geskiedenis* 35(2) (Pretoria, 1977), p. 1.

See J.S. Bergh, "Grondregte in Suid-Afrika: 'n 19de eeuse Transvaalse perspektief," *Historia* 40(2), November 1995, pp. 39-41, 46-47.

TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 13, no. 332, 03-08-1840 (501 JQ); folio 10, no. 201, 15-01-1840 (381 IR).

14. J.H. Breytenbach (ed.), *Notule van die Volksraad van die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek Deel II (1851-1853)*, *South African Archival Records Transvaal No. 2* (hereafter SAAR, *Transvaal 2*, etc.) (Parow, 1950), p. 58; Volksraadsvergadering 17-03-1852. Tjhoupa's name was also spelled "Zoop" and "Tzoop".

See J.J. Fourie, *Die koms van die Bantoe na die Rand en hulle posisie aldaar, 1886-1899* (M.A. dissertation, Rand Afrikaans University, 1972), pp. 1-3; Great Britain, General Staff, War Office, R.H. Massie (comp.), *The Native Tribes of the Transvaal* (London, 1905) (reprint, UNISA, Pretoria, 1962), pp. 14, 38.

16. H.S. Pretorius and D.W. Krüger (eds), *Voortrekker-argiefstukke 1829-1849* (Pretoria, 1937), pp. 317, 26, 30. On p. 30 is stated: "de kapetyn [Ma]kwana die ook gereneweerd [*ruined, destitute*] is door Musielikaats"; G.M. Theal, *History of the Emigrant Boers in South Africa* (London, 1888), p. 114.

17. TAB, RAK 2433, farm register, folios 1-4; see J.S. Bergh, "Die vestiging van die Voortrekkers noord van die Vaalrivier tot 1840," *Historia* 37(2), November 1992, pp. 41, 44.

18. TAB, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 16, no. 27.

19. Nevertheless a farm registered in the name of "*De Republiek*" is mentioned as early as 05-08-1839 in the De Clercq register (TAB, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 128); this could have been a misnomer for on 05-09-1840 another farm is registered in the name of "*Het Publiek*" (*ibid.*, folio 136).

1857;²⁰ and by a lack of experience in public administration and legislation.

Before 1840 there was no form of government in the territory; authority was exercised by Potgieter and by a council known as "*de Raad van Hendrik Potgieter*".²¹ On 16 October 1840 Potgieter's territories (Potchefstroom and the Vet River district — later to be called Winburg) united with Natal. In Potchefstroom an "*adjunct Raad*" received instructions from the "*Volks Raat*" in the capital on the farm "Piter Mouriets Burg" (Pietermaritzburg).²²

The union was severed on 3 October 1843, some months after the *Republiek van Natal* had been proclaimed a British colony. Consequently, in 1844 the rudimentary Thirty-three Articles were adopted in Potchefstroom, so heralding an independent and more formal government than what had existed. The *adjunct Raad* was then replaced first by a "*Burger raad*" and later by a Volksraad referred to as the "*Volksraad te Potchefstroom*", extant during 1844 and 1845. The territory was then referred to as "*dezer maatschappij*" in the land mass of *Zuid Afrika*.²³

Since the British proclamation to annex Natal was only promulgated in August 1845, the Volksraad in Pietermaritzburg only disbanded then.²⁴ The exodus of Voortrekkers from Natal, which had commenced after Natal had been proclaimed a British colony in 1843, now intensified and led to what is known as the Second Trek. Between 1845 and 1849 the Volksraad sat in Ohrigstad,²⁵ the place to which Potgieter and his followers had trekked. The 33 Articles were ratified as late as 1849 on the farm Derdepoort²⁶ in the Magaliesberg Range, which today is within the boundaries of what used to be the third farm to the east of central Pretoria. Here it was resolved to form "*een Vereenigde Band van het geheel Maatschappij aan deze zijde de Vaalrivier*" (one United Bond of the entire community on this side of the Vaal River).²⁷ In this way in 1849 the several separate communities to the north of the Vaal accepted the principle of a common legislature. In 1850 the communities constituted the districts of Lydenburg, Magaliesberg, "Mooyrevier" (Potchefstroom) and "Marikwa".²⁸ The Zoutpansberg joined later, in 1852. In 1853 there were four districts:

20. G.M. Theal, *History of South Africa* 7 (3rd edition, London, 1916, "Star" edition facsimile of volume III, Cape Town, 1964), pp. 438, 380.
21. P.L.A. Goldman, *Beredeneerde Inventarissen van de Oudste Archief-groepen der Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek* (Pretoria, 1927), p. 138.
22. J.H. Breytenbach (ed.), *Notule van die Natalse Volksraad (1838-1845)*, *South African Archival Records Natal No. 1* (hereafter SAAR, *Natal I*, etc.) (Parow, 1958), p. 350; [Art. 1], *Bylaag* 28, 1840; p. 81, Art. 4, *Volksraad Notule* (hereafter VRN) 02-02-1840; p. 322; *Bylaag* 8, [14-02-1840]; p. 351; Art. 1 & 3, *Bylaag* 28, [16-10-1840].
23. SAAR, *Transvaal No. 1*, pp. 3 and 5; Art. 6, 33 *Artikelen*; SAAR, *Natal I*, p. 414; *Bylaag* 10, [16-06-1842]; SAAR, *Natal II*, p. xix; P.L.A. Goldman, *Beredeneerde Inventarissen*, p. 143; F. Jeppe and J.G. Koizé (comps), *De Locale Wetten der Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek. 1849-1885* (hereafter *De Locale Wetten*) (Pretoria, 1887), pp. 2 and 6; Arts 6 and 31, respectively, of the *Drie and Dertig Artikelen* (in Art. 9 "*deze Republiek*" is mentioned).
24. SAAR, *Natal II*, p. xix.
25. P.L.A. Goldman, *Beredeneerde Inventarissen*, pp. 144, 146; *De Locale Wetten*, p. [ii] of the preface.
26. This farm was registered on 25 April 1844 in the name of Roelof J. Janse and described as "*Gelegen [situated] aan Maliesberg [sic] in de Noord Oostzijde*". (TAB, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 161, no. 1012). However, the farm appears to have been registered first by Johs Klopper on 09-11-1840 as Derdepoort van Magali situated at Hartbeestpoort. The farm Hartbeestpoort adjoins Derdepoort on the south (ibid., folio 146, no. 594).
27. H.S. Pretorius and D.W. Krüger (eds), *Voortrekker-argiefstukke*, p. 388; R180/49, 23-05-1849.
28. SAAR, *Transvaal II*, p. 4; Art. 3, VRN 15-01-1851.

Potchefstroom, Rustenburg, Zoutpansberg and Lydenburg.²⁹ In the Sand River Convention of 1852, when their independence was internationally recognised, the trekkers and their territory were referred to as the "*Emigrante Boeren Noord van den Vaal Rivier*".³⁰ Only in 1853 the territory became known as the ZAR³¹ or South African Republic, popularly the Transvaal.

The year 1849, which saw the formation of a "united bond", is of significance as this was the year in which the pace of settlement began to grow in the region around Doornfontein: in particular when her neighbouring farms were first registered, Elandsfontein having been the first in 1841 and Doornfontein the second in 1846.

The first landdrost to be appointed by the Natal Volksraad as its representative in the territory west of the Drakensberg was Jacob de Clercq junior (1791-1881). He was a lesser-known Voortrekker leader after whom modern Klerksdorp was named in 1853.³² Although officially appointed on 7 September 1839,³³ he had already started registering farms on 3 July of that year, in the so-called De Klerk register.³⁴ Potgieter, on the other hand, had started registering farms on 18 June 1838. There was thus a parallel system of farm registration for 15 months—July 1839 until 17 October 1840, the date Potgieter terminated registrations. This system, however, did not affect the Central Witwatersrand.

The arrival of the *natrekkers* ("later trekkers")³⁵ also had an influence on the Witwatersrand. Most of the Central Witwatersrand region's original farm claimants were Voortrekkers, whereas the subsequent owners were usually *natrekkers*. In its widest sense the Great Trek covered the period 1835-1854, the Voortrekkers having trekked from 1835-1838³⁶ and the *natrekkers* from 1839-1845.³⁷ Many of these pioneers trekked first to Natal, then to the Witwatersrand and elsewhere. From here, some continued on to Ohrigstad in 1845.³⁸ Owing to the oppressive conditions there, most moved further south, to what became the Lydenburg district in 1846. Many, however, returned to the Witwatersrand during 1849-1853.

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29. G.M. Theal, *History of the Emigrant Boers*, p. 346; P.L.A. Goldman, *Beredeneerde Inventarissen*, pp. 152, 153.
 30. *SAAR, Transvaal II*, p. 288; *De Locale Wetten*, p. 13, record them as "*Emigranten-boeren ten N. van de Vaalrivier*".
 31. *De Locale Wetten*, p. 23: Art. 29, *Volksraadsbesluit 19-09-1853*.
 32. J.C. Visagie, "Minder bekende Voortrekkerleiers," *Historia* 35(1), May 1990, pp. 40-42; C.J. Beyers and J.L. Basson (eds), *Dictionary of South African Biography V* (Pretoria, 1987), p. 168. See also E.A. Walker, *The Great Trek* (2nd edition) (London, 1938), note 1 on p. 227, p. 248.
 33. *SAAR, Natal I*, p. 17: Art. 3.
 34. G. van den Bergh, "Voortrekker plaasbesetting op die Transvaalse Hoëveld: 'n versteurde beeld," *South African Journal of Surveying and Mapping* 20(7), December 1990, pp. 301, 302 and note 6 on p. 310.
 35. The word *natrekkers* derives from *nagetrokkene*; Voortrekkers from *voorgetrokkene*. These latter words appear in the minutes of the Natal Volksraad, cf. *SAAR, Natal I*, p. 39: Arts 3, 5, 6, 8; on p. xxiv, no. 113, Breytenbach translates *voorgetrokkene* as *vroëre Voortrekkers*.
 36. J.H. Breytenbach, "Die grondstelsel van die Voortrekkers in Natal," *Historiese Studies* 2(1 & 2), July 1940, p. 80.
 37. J.C. Visagie, "Voortrekker-stamouers" (Stellenbosch, manuscript awaiting publication 1996) foreword; the term *agternatrekkers* is used here. I am indebted to Dr Visagie for permission to quote from his manuscript awaiting publication. I acknowledge the help of researcher Emmerentia van Rensburg of Pretoria for informing me of the existence of this manuscript.
 38. See many mentions under individual names in J.C. Visagie, "Voortrekker-stamouers".

System of farm allocation: from 1838

The necessity for an orderly system of land tenure is obvious. Considering the deficiency of government in the vast territory and the dearth of resources available to Potgieter's council, it is remarkable that accurate records of farm registration were kept between 1838 and 1840. The system of farm allocation adopted in the territory was similar to that used in Natal as laid down by the Natal Volksraad. This system, in turn, was a continuation of that used in the Cape Colony. Persons laying claim to farms submitted applications for their registration. Such farms were, in the 1858 Constitution, or Grondwet, of the ZAR, referred to as *requestplaatsen* (request farms), and they were considered to stand *onder request* (under request).³⁹

The number of farms that these "emigrant farmers to the north of the Vaal River" were entitled to is of interest. In the pioneering years of 1838-1840, well over 17 per cent of the applicants registered with Potgieter three *and more* farms on one or both sides of the river. In a large measure this was due to Potgieter's move from the present-day north-western Free State to the north of the Vaal River. Applicants who had exceeded their quota, however, were to lose their surplus farms. These farms were registered mostly in the region of Potchefstroom, but three farms in the Witwatersrand were also affected.⁴⁰

After 17 October 1840 — just one day after the unification of the Voortrekker territories — Potgieter discontinued farm registrations.⁴¹ The practice of registering three or more farms in the name of the same individual was therefore stopped. De Clercq consolidated all farm allocations within a year after Potgieter discontinued registrations.⁴² De Clercq in the meantime continued to register up to two farms in the same name. On 17 November 1840 the Natal Volksraad passed a resolution to the effect that non-compensated earlier Voortrekkers who were destitute (*verreueerd*), and who had trekked to the west side of the Drakensberg, could register three farms.⁴³ Only a small number of applicants, however, were entitled to this concession. This was in response to the damages suffered by those Voortrekkers whose cattle and draught-animals were plundered at Vegkop in the present-day Free State by the Ndebele in 1836.⁴⁴

The first mention of applications for two farms per burgher appears in the minutes of the Natal Volksraad. A request had been received that *eenige menschen aan de andere*

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39. SAAR, *Natal I*, p. 82: Art. 11, VRN 02-02-1841; *De Locale Wetten*, p. 67: Art. 215; SAAR, *Transvaal No. 3*, p. 523: Art. 215.
40. 88 registrations for three or more farms by the same individuals were found from the total of 512 registrations by Potgieter during 1838-1840 in TAD, RAK 2433, farm register. (Of the 553 registrations, 40 are marked *Doorgehaald* or *Bedankt*, i.e. deleted or declined and one is repeated (folio 6, no. 59). See also TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 8, no. 140 (Jacob Malang); folio 13, nos 339 (M.C. Jacobs), 358 (Jacob Malang); G. van den Bergh, "Voortrekker plaasbesetting", pp. 302 and 304.
41. See TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 15: this is the date of the last entry in the second Potgieter register.
42. G. van den Bergh, "Voortrekker plaasbesetting," p. 303.
43. SAAR, *Natal I*, pp. 69-70: Art. 20, 17-11-1840. These burghers were allowed two farms in the future Natal as only one farm was permitted there after 01-12-1839. In *ibid.*, p. 39: Art. 6, 01-04-1840, *three farms were asked for*, but no resolution was adopted until 17-11-1840.
44. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register: see, e.g., folio 148 (nos 670-672 on 16-11-1840); folio 151 (nos 748, 749, 751 on 09-12-1840, nos 760-762 on 11-12-1840); folio 157 (nos 923, 924 on 30-08-1842 and 926 on 22-09-1842); G. van den Bergh, "Voortrekker plaasbesetting," note 12 on p. 310.

zyde van den Draakensberg be allowed the same privileges as the later trekkers. On 1 April 1840 it was resolved that those persons living in the Potchefstroom and Vet River districts each be entitled to two farms and one erf in *deze maatschappij*.⁴⁵ The practice of registering one or two farms beyond the Vaal was confirmed in an 1858 Volksraad resolution: *Emigranten* who had settled in *dezen Staat* up to the end of 1852 were entitled to two farms. These were designated as "sowing", or agricultural, and "cattle" farms. Agricultural farms probably had strong water sources such as rivers or perennial springs; cattle farms were known as "dry" farms. In an 1848 Volksraad resolution, *jongelingen* over the age of 16 were each entitled to a farm; this was also written into the 1858 Grondwet. Here, too, was the first mention of the size of a farm: it could not measure over 3 000 morgen (2 570 hectares) in extent,⁴⁶ which figure was often exceeded by those farms claimed before this date.

As each burgher had the right to claim two farms during 1838-1852, it is not known if this region's neighbouring farms were all occupied. The dates 1841-1853 that have been established, however, give an idea of the earliest years of settlement in the region. To discourage burghers residing outside the republic (e.g. Natal) from possessing unoccupied farms, the 1858 Constitution imposed a double tax in such cases. The annual tax on occupied farms, which depended on grazing, on how arable the land was, and on water and timber supplies, ranged from 40 rixdollars for a first-rate farm down to about six rixdollars for a fifth-grade farm; this tax was actually six rixdollars, five schellings and two stuivers,⁴⁷ which was another way of specifying ten shillings sterling.

From 1838 to the 1850s, before the founding of Pretoria (1855) and Heidelberg (1866), farms within the Suikerbosrand ward of the Potchefstroom district, the ward in which this region's farms originally fell, were *identified* first, and *occupied* either immediately or later. Identification was effected through reconnoitring,⁴⁸ much of which took place during Potgieter's 1838 to early 1839 sojourn between the Sand and Vet Rivers. The applicant, who had to be a burgher, then made *application* for the farm with the local field cornet, who recorded the description of the location of the farm. This information was passed on to the landdrost so that the farm could be *registered* in his *plaas-aantekeningboek* (farm registration register). The applicant was then issued with an *uittreksel* (copy of entry in the farm register). There then followed a test period, the purpose of which was to establish the perennality of the springs, and the grazing, tillage and drainage potential of the ground. If the applicant was satisfied with the results, the *uittreksel* was handed to the field cornet. After 1852 the field cornet *inspected* the farms, usually with the assistance of two impartial burghers. The first inspections in the territory began in 1841, although the ZAR Volksraad

45. SAAR, *Natal I*, p. 39: Art. 3 (01-04-1840).

46. *De Locale Wetten*, note 2 on pp. 11-12: Art. 1, *Volksraadsbesluit* 21 April [sic] 1848; *De Locale Wetten*, p. 35: Grondwet, Art. 7 (2) en (3); *De Locale Wetten*, p. 142: Art. 149, *Volksraadsbesluit* 28-09-1858 (read: 1860 (see errata)); G. van den Bergh, "Voortrekker plaasbesetting," p. 304.

47. *De Locale Wetten*, p. 65: Grondwet, Art. 198; F.A. van Jaarsveld, "Die veldkornet en sy aandeel in die opbou van die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek tot 1870" (M.A. dissertation, University of Pretoria, 1946), *Archives Year Book for South African History* 13(2) (Parow, 1950), p. 252; see also *De Locale Wetten*, p. 65: Grondwet, Art. 194; *De Locale Wetten*, p. 65: Grondwet, Art. 194; A rixdollar (*rijksdaalder*) was equal to one shilling and sixpence (1s. 6d.) sterling; a schelling (*schelling*) 2½d.; and a stuiver (*stuiver*) ¾d. (F.H. Papenfus (transl.), *The "Grondwet" (Constitution) of the South African Republic* (London, 1897), pp. 5, 17; J. and W. Branford, *A Dictionary of South African English* (4th ed.) (Cape Town, 1991), p. 266.)

48. G. van den Bergh, "Voortrekker plaasbesetting", p. 304.

was to make provision for inspections only later—in 1851. If the applicant was not satisfied with his farm he could legally vacate it and cancel the registration.⁴⁹

The inspection involved the "*een uur gans overkruys*" survey method, which is outlined below. Any discrepancies in farm boundaries were resolved, wherever possible, during inspection. The presence of neighbours during inspections was necessary. In 1853 it was decided that boundary disputes be resolved by a land commission, which started to operate from 1858.⁵⁰ The applicant had to arrange for the erection of the necessary farm *beacons*.⁵¹ As the extent of the land was large and its value low, accurate surveys were initially unwarranted considering their cost. Thus, "where bones or the skeletons of game were found, an apology for a beacon was made by placing the skull or bones on an ant-hill".⁵² The field cornet recorded his inspections in an *inspectie boek*. The inspection particulars, which included a sketch plan and the location of the farm, were next forwarded to the landdrost for registration of title. It was at this point that the farm was given a farm number. From 1858 onwards — the year the ZAR constitution was drawn up — the farms were *granted* to the owners. This eight-point procedure was not necessarily always adhered to by the applicants.⁵³

The "*een uur gans overkruys*" method was the name of the original method of farm inspections, prior to those undertaken by land surveyors. It was first mentioned in the minutes of the Natal Volksraad in 1840, however, the procedure was not outlined.⁵⁴ *Een uur gaans* in modern-day Dutch means an hour's walk. As horses were used to undertake the inspections, *een uur gaans over kruis*, therefore, would translate to "an hour's ride, at right angles"⁵⁵ and amounted to farms measuring one hour's ride along each of their four sides. Later, the speed of the horse was specified as 300 *Rhijnlandsche* [Cape] *voeten in eene minuut*,⁵⁶ a rather slow walk for a horse. The method seems to have gone through a transformation process,⁵⁷ as the procedures outlined by three recent researchers — Van den Bergh (1996), Breytenbach (1941) and Van Jaarsveld (1947) — vary.

The first person to undertake inspections in the Witwatersrand was Gert Johannes Kruger, formerly of Potchefstroom and later of Hekpoort. He was the uncle of Paul Kruger, who later became president of the ZAR. Kruger inspected the farms Roodekrans, Zandfontein

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49. Personal interview with Prof. J.S. Bergh at the University of Pretoria in 1994; *SAAR, Transvaal II*, pp. 15-16: Art. 61; G. van den Bergh, "Voortrekker plaasbesetting", pp. 305-306.
50. F.A. van Jaarsveld, "Landmeting in die ou dae", *Historiese Studies* 8(1), June 1947, pp. 47, 50, 52.
51. *De Locale Wetten*, p. 243: Government Notice No. 78 of 1866. These beacons had to consist of a pile of rocks or stone, or by implanting any large rock or stone at least three foot (1 metre) high.
52. K.J. de Kok, *Empires of the Veld* (Cape Town, 1904), p. 44. De Kok was a Government land-surveyor of the then OFS who came to the country in 1855.
- F.A. van Jaarsveld, "Landmeting in die ou dae", p. 51; F.A. van Jaarsveld, "Die veldkornet en sy aandeel", pp. 245-249; cf. M.W. Wedepohl, "Historical review of legislation affecting surveying and registration of land in the Transvaal", *The South African Survey Journal* No. 55, December 1959, pp. 9-11. I acknowledge Mr Levin's lending me this article too.
- SAAR, Natal I*, p. 357: *Bylaag* 36, 1840, no. 1; *De Locale Wetten*, p. 26: Art. 1 and p. 79: Art. 1 record it as "*een uur gaans over kruis*"; for farms in the Ohrigstad district, "*drie kwartie[r] uren gaans*" and "*tot 5/4 uer gaans*" is mentioned in *SAAR, Transvaal I*, p. 15: Art. 2, 02-08-1845. Translation at personal interview with G. van den Bergh at Baillie Park, Potchefstroom, on 12-11-1996.
56. *De Locale Wetten*, p. 125: Art. 11 and p. 13: Art. 11.
57. One reason for suspecting the method has gone through a transformation process is that during a personal interview with F.A. van Jaarsveld at Lynnwood, Pretoria, in 1994, it was not possible to fit his method to Doornfontein's 1853 inspection report.

and Zwartkop on 8 August 1841.⁵⁸ According to Van den Bergh, Kruger managed to inspect as many as five farms per day, especially those farms around Potchefstroom.⁵⁹ He could have achieved this only by using the following "plus-sign method" (see figure 2).⁶⁰ an hour's ride (AB) through the *middelpunt* (X) of the farm and another such ride (CD) through the *middelpunt* at right angles to the first ride. The second ride would begin on any side of (or above, or below) the *middelpunt* and traverse linearly through it. X need not be in the middle of any hour's ride. At the four points so located (A, B, C, D) perpendiculars (here depicted by dotted lines) were erected (EG, FH, EF, GH). The four points of intersection (E, F, H, G) of the perpendiculars defined the four corners of the farm.

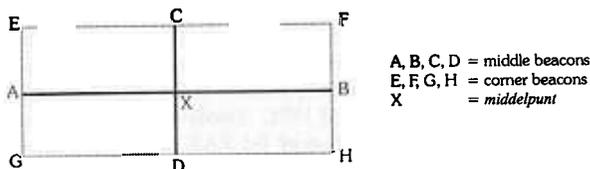


Figure 2: Diagram to illustrate the "een uur gans overkruys" method of farm inspection.

Shortly after Kruger's inspection, the method was clarified in October 1841.⁶¹ Breytenbach explains this "periphery method" as follows:⁶² from the chosen *middelpunt*, ride for half an hour in a given direction [XC, say]. This point [C] is then the middle of one of the farm boundaries [EF]. From this point ride for another half hour at right angles to the direction just traversed [CE, say]. This second point [E] determines the first corner beacon. From here ride for one hour at right angles to the direction just traversed [EG], that is in a direction parallel to the first ride and towards X, to determine the second corner beacon [G]. Another hour's ride at right angles towards the *middelpunt* establishes the third corner beacon [H] and so on to the fourth corner beacon [F].

Finally, Van Jaarsveld uses a variant of the above, the "fylfot method" (spelt *een uur gaansch overkruis*) as follows:⁶³ after riding, and always changing directions at right angles, for half an hour along each of XC (C is the middle beacon) and CE to obtain the corner beacon E, return to the *middelpunt* X. Then ride along XA and AG for half an hour along each direction to obtain the corner beacon G. Again, return to the *middelpunt* and ride along XD and DH to get H, and finally ride along XB and BF to get the final beacon F, each

58. TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 61 and 107. This register is divided into four columns headed as follows: "Op wiens recht Geinspecteerd; Door wien Geinspecteerd; Datum; Naam van plaats". It dates from 17-03-1841 - 24-10-1888.
59. See Office of the Registrar of Deeds, Pretoria (hereafter Deeds Office), "Copy inspecties Potchefstroom", housed in inner basement archives store.
60. Personal interview with G. van den Bergh, Potchefstroom, 12-11-1996.
61. SAAR, Natal I, pp. 118-119: Art. 13, 09-10-1841.
62. J.H. Breytenbach, "Die grondstelsel van die Voortrekkers in Natal," pp. 83-84.
63. F.A. van Jaarsveld, "Landmeting in die ou dae," p. 47. Van Jaarsveld in his note 13 (p. 48) disagrees with Breytenbach's method. However, it appears from Van Jaarsveld's sources that his method is a later one used in the 1860s. See also F.A. van Jaarsveld, "Die veldkornet en sy aandeel," pp. 246-247.

ride lasting half an hour.

Farm *inspections* were systematically recorded in a farm inspection register kept by each landdrost. These were combined into one register for the ZAR that is now kept in the Transvaal Archives. Current during 1841-1888, the register is yet another example of an early and orderly system of land tenure. Prominent in this document are the names of the inspectors, who were usually field cornets.

The first person to undertake inspections in the Suikerbosrand was the first field cornet for this ward, Petrus Lindeque ("Lendequee"). He was sworn in "*als Enspecteur*" on 3 March 1852.⁶⁴ It seems he undertook only two inspections, the first on 10 May 1852 and the second on 10 and 11 July 1853, inspecting 28 farms in total. J.G. Marais followed, undertaking about 106 inspections in 1853, 1857, 1859, 1862 and 1864, and only one other in 1869.⁶⁵

Registration preceded farm grants by about ten years. Many farms changed hands in the interim. Provision was made by the Volksraad in 1852 for such sales between buyers and sellers.⁶⁶ The ZAR Government made grants to farm applicants in the region around Doornfontein during the years 1858-1861, 1863, 1867 and 1891. Deeds of grant could be issued only from 1858, the year that marked the formation of the ZAR under an official constitution. They transferred title from the State to the applicant, who only then was considered the owner of the farm. Hence the differentiation, which in no case need imply occupation on a farm, between the terms farm *claimants*, who did not register their farms; farm *applicants*, who did register their farms; farm *buyers*, who need not have registered their farms; farm *occupiers*, who could have been any of the last three; and farm *owners*.

Some farms, which were probably sold before the dates of grant, are recorded more than once in the farm registration and farm inspection registers. It appears that any farm that had been sold was granted to the last buyer. All other farms were first transferred into the name of the applicant who had registered the farm, even though he might have died in the interim. In these latter cases, a farm was first transferred into the name of the deceased and on the same day into the name of the heir.⁶⁷

The Witwatersrand: from August 1840

The Witwatersrand region shown on early maps extended from about south-western Rustenburg to today's Bedfordview,⁶⁸ which here will be called the "greater

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64. D.W. Krynauw and H.S. Pretorius (eds), *Transvaalse Argiefstukke Staatsekretaris Inkomende Stukke, 1850-1853* (Pretoria, 1949), p. 195, R395/52. See also SAAR, *Transvaal I*, pp. 297-298: *Bylaag 7(a)*, 06-02-1850.
 65. TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, fols 43, 55, 85, 98, 109, 110, 124, 138, 151, 185, (192), 273, 290; a number of farms have no dates against them.
 66. *De Locale Wetten*, pp. 18-19: Arts 72, 73, (76), *Volksraadsbesluit 15-06-1852*.
 67. For farms sold before date of grant, cf. Klipfontein and Zwartkopjes in Table 1 above. For farms where applicants died before date of grant, cf. Sy/Zijferfontein and Rietfontein in the same table.
 68. See F. Jeppe and A. Merensky reconstructed by A. Petermann, *Original Map of the Transvaal or South-African Republic* (Potchefstroom & Botsabelo, 1868), where the "Wit Waters Rand" forms a concave-north arc from the west-south-west of Rustenburg to just south of Pretoria; see also F. Jeppe, *Map of the South African Republic (Transvaal) and the Surrounding Territories* (Pretoria, 1877), where the "Witwaters Rand" stretches from "Bluebank" (north-west of Krugersdorp) to the region due north of Heidelberg.

Witwatersrand". This region corresponds to that referred to in the registration register.⁶⁹ The second region is that of the Witwatersrand Goldfields, between today's Krugersdorp and Springs, which is divided into the Western, Central and Eastern Witwatersrand.⁷⁰

Only 19 farms, of which just two had name changes, were registered in the Witwatersrand to 5 November 1846.⁷¹ Of these, six farms were located in the greater Witwatersrand, leaving only 13 farms in 1846 in what was to become the Western and Central Witwatersrand. Of these, only four farms, whose names survive to this day, were registered in today's Central Witwatersrand: Zandfontein (Sandton), Elandsfontein (Alberton), Rietvlei (east of Eikenhof) and Doornfontein.

By noting the names of mountains, rivers and ranges of hills on which farms were first registered in the farm registration register, it is possible to trace the course of farm occupation in the territory north of the Vaal. By the end of July 1839 farm occupation had extended eastward from Potchefstroom, first to the Gatsrand and thence to the Suikerbosrand. Here, interestingly, the first farm, Elandsrivier, was registered "*aan de Suikerboschrand alwaar de Maritz zijn lager getrokken was.*"⁷² By the end of November 1839 farms had been claimed along a northerly course beyond the future Rustenburg. Shifting north-north eastward from Potchefstroom, by August 1840 the Witwatersrand region had received its first arrivals. By October 1840, farms had been registered to the south-west and west of Rustenburg.⁷³ Three months later, by January 1841, the future Pretoria district had been occupied.⁷⁴

The Witwatersberg, initially called "Watersberg",⁷⁵ a range of mountains stretching through Hartebeeshoek, saw its first registration on 10 December 1839.⁷⁶ Soon after, on 16 January 1840, the name "Witwatersrivier" appears⁷⁷ and on 3 August 1840 Witrandspuit

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69. See TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 8 (10-12-1839) where De noriepoot located "*Aan Kustersrivier*" is described on folio 12 (15-07-1840) as being located "*Aan Water Wetsrand*"; on folio 141 (30-10-1840) Zwaartkop is described as "*Gelegen aan Sterkspruit aan Witwatersrand*"; folio 155, no. 865; folio 157, no. 917; folio 158, no. 954.
 70. The geography corresponds closely with that of G.B. Lauf, "The Witwatersrand goldfields system of triangulation", *Journal of the Institute of Mine Surveyors of South Africa* XI(3), September 1960, pp. 77, 78. In his nomenclature, however, Lauf uses "West [Witwaters]Rand Goldfields" and "Central Rand Goldfields". The region under study is in the middle of the Central Witwatersrand. Acknowledgement for yet another article from G. Levin.
 71. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folios 12, 13, 16, 141, 146, 147, 148, 155, 157, 158, 159. Could De Parefontyn, registered on 05-08-1840 be read as "De Paardfonteyn" (Doornfontein 291 JR adjoins Paardfontein 282 JR north-east of today's Pretoria) or even as "De doore fontyn"?
 72. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 6, de Elansfonty [sic] registered 15-06-1839; folio 127, no. 18: "Daniel Johs. Nortje, geen datum opgeven," possibly sometime between 31-07-1839 and 02-08-1839 registered "Elandsrivier."
 73. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folios 7, 8, 11, 14 and 130.
 74. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folios 9 (Hennops River); 15 (Bronsberg); 142 (*Aaprivier*); 153 (Pienaars River). See J.S. Bergh, "Die vestiging van die Voortrekkers," p. 45, for a detailed map of this territory to the north of the Vaal to 1840.
 75. Watersberg is distinguished from Waterberg, a range further north.
 76. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 8, De hartbeeshoek.
 77. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 10, De Koppieskraal (name changed). This river is not shown on modern maps.

appears.⁷⁸ Finally, the Witwatersrand, first recorded as "Water Wetsrand", has its first ever appearance in written form in this farm register on 15 July 1840 and as Witwatersrand on 4 August 1840.⁷⁹

This register is probably also the source of the first ever appearance in written form of the Jukskei River, which has its source on the farm Doornfontein. The occasion was the registration on 28 May 1850 by "Willem, Janse van Rensburg" of the farm Ongeluksfontein "*Gelegen aan Jukskei-rivier*". The farm name, understandably since changed, appears to confirm that a trekking accident had taken place there, hence the *jukskei* (yoke-pin) that was found in the river, after which it was named.⁸⁰ Besides the first records in written form of the Witwatersrand and Jukskei River, this farm register is possibly also the source of the first written record of the rivers Hennops, Pienaars and Klip, and of the Bronberg.⁸¹

Twelve important farms in the middle of the Central Witwatersrand

Doornfontein, now eastern Johannesburg

A farm Doornfontein, described as "*Gelegen aan Witwatersrand*" was registered on 5 November 1846 by P.L.S. Klaaren [*sic*] (probably Claasen).⁸² Its closest neighbours, registered in 1839-1840, were Wilgespruit in the west, Zandfontein in the north and the farms lying on the eastern-flowing stretch of the Klip River in the south: Rietvlei, Misgund and the two farms Olifantsvlei—all near today's Eikenhof and Van Wyk's Rust (Tuck's Farm).⁸³ Wilgespruit was later to be five farms removed to the west; Zandfontein, three farms removed to the north; and Rietvlei, two farms removed to the south. No registrations

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78. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 13, De Buffelslaagte (name changed). This could be the Witwatersrandspruit, a tributary of the Skeerpoort River, which in turn is a tributary of the Magalies River. Flowing to the south of the Witwatersberg, the spruit, however, is a short one (*South Africa, 2527DD Broederstroom* (3rd ed.) topo-cadastral map (Mowbray), 1985)).
 79. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 12, no. 306: B. Coetsée on 15-07-1840 had registered De noriepoort located "*Aan Water Wetsrand*"; folio 13, no. 339: M.C. Jacobs on 04-08-1840 had registered De roodekrans located "*Aan Witwatersrand*". See S.A. Rochlin, "The name 'Witwatersrand'," *Africana Notes and News* 12(3), September 1956, pp. 94-96 and J.J. Fourie, "Die geskiedenis van die Afrikaners in Johannesburg", pp. 9-10 (repeated in E.L.P. Stals (ed.), *Afrikaners in die Goudstad* (Cape Town, 1978), p. 4). S.A. Rochlin traces the name back to 1846 and J.J. Fourie back to 1841.
 80. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 56, no 847. See A.H. Smith, *Johannesburg Street Names*, p. 256, for a fuller description of the Jukskei, dating from 03-02-1851.
 81. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 9, 03-01-1840, "hennopsrivier"; folio 153, 18-01-1841, "Pienaars rivier"; folio 5, 03-06-1839, "Kleprivier"; folio 15, 09-10-1840, "Bronsborg". See E.J. Du Plessis, *'n Ondersoek na die Oorsprong en Betekenis van Suid-Afrikaanse Berg- en Riviername* (Cape Town, 1973), pp. 231 (Hennopsrivier), 303 (Pienaarsrivier).
 82. It has been assumed that this farm is located where Doornfontein 92 IR is situated for the reasons specified below in footnote 90 of this article.
 83. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, Zandfontein, registered by J.A.P. Joubert on 16-11-1840 "*Gelegen aan Witwatersrand*" folio 148, no. 658; de Rietvaly, registered by Jacob Malang on 03-06-1839 "*Aan Kleprivier*" folio 8, no. 140; De Olyfantsvaly, registered by J.C. Henneke on 04-01-1840 "*Aan de Klepriviersrand*" folio 9, no. 185; Doornrand (renamed Misgund), registered by Petrus Lindeque on 16-11-1846 "*Aan Kliprivier bovenzijde van de trekpad aan den loop van gemelde rivier*" folio 16, no. 29; De Olifantsvaly, registered by W.H. Steijn on 18-12-1839 "*Aan de dorenrand*" folio 9, no. 172.

could be found to the east of Doornfontein. Wilgespruit, which adjoins today's city of Roodepoort in the north, and Zandfontein—today's Sandton—were first registered in 1840. Rietvlei, on the Klip River, was first registered in 1839. Perhaps the "singularly pure" copious springs at the sources of what were to become the Jukskei River and the Natal Spruit, barely one-half a kilometre apart on either side of the continental divide, lured Claasen to Doornfontein.

Claasen was possibly a Voortrekker, as "P. Klaasen" is recorded as undergoing commando duty in October 1838 on the Caledon River, a northern tributary of the Orange, which forms the north-western boundary of today's Lesotho. He probably took part in the Battle of Blood River, as on 24 December 1838 "P. Klaaszen" took part in the auction held at Dingane's Kraal in "Unkunginsloave". Here he bid successfully for some spoils. In 1840 "P. Klaaze" purchased a firearm at another such auction, probably that following the Cattle Commando.⁸⁴ In the same year "Pieter Lourens Klaasen" and another burgher were chosen deacons in "Pieter Ms. Burg".⁸⁵ He possibly trekked from Natal when it was annexed in 1845 to have Doornfontein registered in the following year. He probably lived there for three years and possibly built the homestead in the future Saratoga Avenue in the suburb of "Old" Doornfontein (see figure 3). Then, in 1849, "P. St. Klasen" registered the farm Naauwpoort on the Mooi River. Water, again, could have lured him for there he built a mill.⁸⁶

The second claimant to Doornfontein was probably Hans Erasmus. Extensive research failed to identify this claimant. A Hans E. Erasmus had the farm Elandsfontein in the Potchefstroom district inspected in 1841.⁸⁷ As Claasen had possibly vacated Doornfontein to have Naauwpoort registered in 1849, and as a third applicant to Doornfontein registered the farm in 1849 too, Erasmus's claim to Doornfontein may not have been for very long.

Doornfontein's third applicant was Jan Francois Schutte who registered the farm on 26 April 1849.⁸⁸ Schutte was born on 22 July 1810 and was baptised in Graaff-Reinet.⁸⁹ He lived in the Cape before trekking to Natal. A Jan Schutte is mentioned on 18 April 1838 as one of three messengers carrying a letter of help to strengthen the commando against Dingane after the unsuccessful battle of Italeni. Schutte's name next appears in the upper (*Boove*) region of the Sand River where he was appointed a field cornet in November 1840. In October 1841, however, he was provisionally dismissed from his post for refusing to render assistance to recover stolen cattle and to arrest three men. In the same month he went

84. H.S. Pretorius and D.W. Krüger (eds), *Voortrekker-argiefstukke*, p. 29: R19/38, 26-10-1838; p. 32: R21/38, no. 58; p. 36: adR21/38; p. 43: R22/38; p. 109: R65/40, 13-08-1840; See E.A. Walker, *The Great Trek*, p. 204.

85. *SAAR, Natal I*, p. 356: *Bylaag 34*, 14-12-1840.

86. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 49, no. 632: 26-11-1849.

87. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 38, no. 329: the entry, under Jan Frans Schutte, has the farm described as "*[a]an Witwatersrand, voormaals de gewezen plaats van Hans Erasmus*"; TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 63. (On folio 64 the farm is listed as having been inspected by J.J. Fourie [*sic*] (perhaps it was P.J. Fourie).)

88. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 38, no. 329. The key to proving that Doornfontein 92 IR is Schutte's Doornfontein lies in the following entry in this document: folio 45, no. 544, Com. Christiaan Fourie registered on 27-09-849 the farm Zandfontein "*[g]eleegen aan Witwatersrand annex de plaats van Frans Schutte*"!

89. J.C. Visagie, "Voortrekker-stamouers"; Emmerentia van Rensburg Registers, RIN 227 (unpublished records), which quote from the Graaff-Reinet Hervormde Church records.

to Natalia, probably to the "Bovendongela" (upper Tugela) district. In April 1842, and again one year later, he was appointed heemraad in the district of Weenen. Boards of local heemraden "checked" the powers of the landdrosts. In May 1842 his hand was slightly wounded when Captain Smith was defeated at Congella. In January 1843 he and another



*Figure 3: View c. 1887 to the south west showing the original homestead on the farm Doornfontein. The water from the eye of the Jukskei River is here shown dammed on the left.*⁹⁰

were appointed Winburg delegates (*afgezanten*) to the Volksraad in Pietermaritzburg concerning union of the two territories.⁹¹

90. Source of photograph: MuseuAfrica. G.-M. van der Waal was the first to identify the homestead from photographs in the then Africana Museum, Johannesburg. See G.-M. van der Waal, *From Mining Camp to Metropolis* (Johannesburg, 1987), pp. 9, 16, 17. It was common knowledge, however, that the site was "the last farm in Doornfontein" (F. Stark (ed.), *Seventy Golden Years 1886-1956* (Johannesburg, 1956), p. 75).

91. P.J. van der Merwe, "Die Matabeles en die Voortrekkers," *Argiefjaarboek vir Suid-Afrikaanse Geskiedenis* 49(2) (Pretoria, 1986), p. 265; SAAR, *Natal I*, p. 67: Art. 1, VRN 16-11-1840 (although field cornets were normally "chosen by a majority of the votes", the minutes state, "... is aangesteld [appointed] tot veldcornets"); p. 117: Art. 8, VRN 09-10-1841; p. 175: Art. 12, VRN 03 to 06-04-1843; p. 152: Art. 7, VRN 29-04-1842; H.S. Pretorius and D.W. Krüger (eds), *Voortrekker-*

Schutte's fourth child was born in May 1844 in Potchefstroom and baptised in 1844 in the Hervormde Church. This seems to indicate that Schutte came to the Potchefstroom district between January 1843 and May 1844. Schutte, however, continued on to Andries Ohrigstad where he settled in August 1845. He soon played a prominent role in the affairs of that community, with his name often mentioned in documents, proceedings of meetings and correspondence. He was a member of the Volksraad and a leader of the so-called Volksraad party which often clashed with the Potgieter party.⁹²

Schutte possibly returned to the Potchefstroom district in 1848 as his fifth and sixth children, born in January 1846 and September 1848 respectively, were both baptised in the town in December 1848.⁹³ Presumably he acquired Doornfontein at about that time. Schutte's seventh child was born in August 1850 on the farm Rietfontein in the Swartruggens district of the latter-day Transvaal;⁹⁴ this shows that he had by then probably left Doornfontein. He died on the farm Rhenosterfontein in the Pretoria district on 25 March 1883.⁹⁵

Possibly the fourth claimant to Doornfontein was the grantee Barend Christiaan Viljoen,⁹⁶ who signed his name Veljoen. He was probably a Voortrekker as he was designated a potential Cape Colony emigrant on 20 June 1837. Also, he was possibly a member of L.C. Meyer's trek, which left the Somerset West district around September 1837 and arrived in Pietermaritzburg in February 1838.⁹⁷ In 1847 Viljoen registered the farm Badfontein,⁹⁸ the third farm to the east of present-day Vereeniging. He probably sold the farm, for in 1852 Badfontein was registered by J.G. Marais.⁹⁹ Viljoen then possibly bought Doornfontein from Schutte and the adjoining farm Klipfontein¹⁰⁰ from Snijman. On 28 "Vebruarey" 1850 the "Eemegranten" of "Suykerbosrand" signed a document accepting Andries "Pertoorus" as their commandant-general. Viljoen is among the signatories as is his son-in-law, Frederik Jacobus Bezuidenhout (1825-1900), who signed his name "Bes(u)ydenhout".¹⁰¹

Bezuidenhout was to become the fifth owner of Doornfontein in 1861, as his mother-in-law had ceded him the farm earlier in the same year. She had inherited it on Viljoen's

argiefstukke, p. 140: R86/41; G.S. Preller (ed.), "Herinneringe van J.S. Hattingh Sr.", *Voortrekkermense V* (Cape Town, 1938), p. 143; *SAAR, Natal I*, p. 170: VRN 19-01-1843. Although he is in some sources called Frans Schut, it appears that Frans Schut and J.F. Schutte are one and the same person.

92. Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk van Afrika Archives, S.P. Engelbrecht Museum, Dirk van der Hoff Building, Jacob Maree Street, Pretoria: Potchefstroom congregation baptismal register, No. 1, 27-03-1842 - 24-12-1849 (hereafter NHK Archives, Pretoria, baptismal/marriage register), folio 33 (I acknowledge researcher Van Rensburg's lending me a copy of this factual document); *SAAR, Transvaal I*, pp. 21-24, 74, 171, 192, 224-225; H.S. Pretorius and D.W. Krüger (eds), *Voortrekker-argiefstukke*, pp. 176, 244-246, 260-261, 292; P.J. van der Merwe, "Die Matabeles en die Voortrekkers," p. 328.
93. NHK Archives, Pretoria, baptismal register, folio 78; no. 169, baptised on 21-12-1848.
94. Emmerentia van Rensburg Registers, family group record 128.
95. TAD, MHG 0/2218, death notice.
96. Deeds Office, Farm Register 24A "92 IR Ptns 1-150" Doornfontein No 92, Registration Division IR (hereafter Doornfontein 92 IR), folio 92/1.
97. J.C. Visagie, "Voortrekker-stamouers"; J.C. Visagie, "Minder bekende Voortrekkerleiers", p. 53.
98. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 16, no. 37. A search through H.C. Viljoen, *Die Viljoen-familieregister* (Pretoria, 1978) did not reveal any other B.C. Viljoens.
99. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 79, no. 1439.
100. TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 273.
101. D.W. Krynauw and H.S. Pretorius (eds), *Transvaalse Argiefstukke*, p. 10: R197/50, 28-02-1850.

death in 1859. Bezuidenhout's adventures during his earlier years can be traced through the movements of his father, also F.J. Bezuidenhout (baptised 1798-c.1860), with whom he probably lived as a child and as a young man. The Bezuidenhouts lived in the Beaufort district in the Cape Colony.¹⁰² They first trekked to Pietermaritzburg, possibly in 1840, and thence to the Vet River district. It was probably their association with Natal that made father and son staunch supporters of the Voortrekker leader Pretorius.

Being loyal to the Pretorius faction, he opposed the Orange River Sovereignty administration set up by the British in February 1848. After Pretorius's defeat at Boomplaats, the sovereignty was reproclaimed. Those emigrants who were not prepared to remain under British rule in the Orange River Sovereignty then crossed the Vaal in September 1848;¹⁰³ presumably the Bezuidenhout family also took part in this crossing.

Upon crossing the Vaal, the younger Bezuidenhout married Judeck Cornelia Veljoen (Viljoen) on 7 February 1849. They had seven children.¹⁰⁴ In 1850 he registered the farm Waterval, which adjoins the farm Braamfontein in the west. As he and his father had the same forenames, the farm was registered in the name of "F.J. Bezuidenhout Junior".¹⁰⁵ In 1853 it was inspected; in 1858 it was granted to F. Bezuidenhout and on the same day was transferred to H.C. Bezuidenhout, probably his brother.¹⁰⁶ In 1851 F.J. Bezuidenhout then registered the farm Doornspruit.¹⁰⁷

Judging from the number of farms to which they held title, the Bezuidenhouts, including those of Doornfontein, must have been influential in the vicinity.

2 *Elandsfontein, now Bedfordview*

From 1853 Elandsfontein, which adjoins Doornfontein in the east, was occupied by G.P.L. (Gert) van der Linden. All of Doornfontein's neighbours had already registered their farms before this date. B.C. Viljoen, the occupier of Doornfontein at that time, inspected Elandsfontein with Field Cornet J.G. Marais in 1853.¹⁰⁸ Viljoen probably inspected the farm since the beacons on his older farm, as with those on all older farms, were accorded preference over any beacons on newer farms. The principle that applied in such cases was

102. J.C. Visagie, "Voortrekker-stamouers".

103. G.E. Cory, *The Rise of South Africa V*, pp. 146, 164, 170.

104. NHK Archives, Pretoria, marriage register, G1 3/3/1, entry 81 on folio 12. This elusive source was discovered by researcher Van Rensburg on 3 June 1996. See also TAD, MHG 0/13276, death notice.

105. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 62, no. 1030: the farm is described as "[g]elegen aan Witwatersrand, aflopende [flowing off] naar [towards] Jukscheirivier", registered 10-12-1850.

106. TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 23; Deeds Office, Farm Register 33 "IQ 211" Waterval 211 IQ, folio 211/1; H.C. Bezuidenhout could have been Hendrik Johannes Coenraad Bezuidenhout, born 1828, the younger brother of Frederik Jacobus, born 1825, see J.A. Heese (comp.) and R.T.J. Lombard (ed.), *South African Genealogies 1*, pp. 271-272.

107. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 70, no. 1240, registered on 18-04-1851. The farm is described as "Gelegen aan klein Jukschei-rivier, tussen twee wegen, die over Witwatersrand gaan." Inspector G. van Rooyen of Heidelberg inspected Doornspruit for a J. Bezuidenhout on 17-10-1860, see TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 10. As no such farm is located on the Klein Jukskei, the farm name was probably changed.

108. J.J.N. Cloete, *Bedfordview: Farm - Agricultural Holdings - Township* (Bedfordview Village Council, 1961), p. 1. See also TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 137, where Elandsfontein is inspected in 1853 for "Gert van der Linde".

"de oudste verzoeker [claimant] *altijd het richt behoud*".¹⁰⁹ Van der Linden, however, had to wait until 1867 before the ZAR granted him the farm.¹¹⁰

Gerhardus P.L. van der Linden (1818-1890) was born on the farm Sekorivier in the district of Graaff-Reinet. His father was married to A.J. van der Walt in 1808. Gert van der Linden was the fifth of probably ten children. Married to C.J. Myburg, they seemed to have had eight children. Van der Linden apparently lived in the vicinity of the Riet Spruit in the "Zoutpanzberg" district in 1849.¹¹¹ He died on the farm Rustfontein in the Bronkhorstspruit ward, leaving an estate, which included two farms, valued at £1 467.¹¹²

Rietfontein, now Edenvale

This farm, which is two farms removed to the north-east of Doornfontein, was registered in 1850 by Adriaan J. Nel.¹¹³ It was inspected in 1858¹¹⁴ and he was granted the farm in 1859.¹¹⁵ There is no certainty with regard to the early history of Nel. An Adriaan Nel who lived in the Winterberg district of the Cape Colony had all his cattle taken in 1837.¹¹⁶ An A. Nel lived in the Ohrigstad district in 1846;¹¹⁷ Adriaan Jacobus Nel, who was married to M.E.M. Snyman, baptised their son in Potchefstroom in 1848. Witnessing the baptism were David Snyman, and his wife Anna,¹¹⁸ who was to register the adjoining farm also in the name of Rietfontein.

Nel in addition acquired the northern-adjoining farm Modderfontein on or before 1859 when it was inspected;¹¹⁹ he was granted it in 1861.¹²⁰ Part of the farm was transferred to Petronella G.J.M. Nel when he died c.1875. In 1894 a portion of the farm was transferred to De Zuid Afrikaansche Fabriken voor Ontploffbare Stoffen Beperk; in 1903 the portion was transferred into the name of The British South African Explosives Coy Ltd and in 1924 into that of the African Explosives and Chemical Industries Ltd (AECI).¹²¹

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109. SAAR, *Natal I*, p. 358: Art. 9, *Bylaag* 36, 1840.
 110. Deeds Office, Farm Register 23A "IR 90 en Geds. 1-200" Elandsfontein 90 IR, folio 90/1: farm granted on 17-06-1867 to Gerhardus Philippus Leonardus van der Linden; see also J.J. Fourie, "Die geskiedenis van die Afrikaners in Johannesburg", p. 13.
 111. SAAR, *Transvaal I*, p. 103: Art. 16, VRN 19-09-1849 and p. 279: *Bylaag* 10, 16-08-1849.
 112. TAD, MHG 0/5385; C.M., E.J. and T.S.P. van der Walt (comps), *Die Familie Van der Walt in Suid-Afrika* (Pretoria, 1989), p. 328; I. Groesbeek [and E. van Rensburg] (comps), Genealogical information HSRC Library, "Van der Linde geslagsregister" (Pretoria, 1997).
 113. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 60, no. 971.
 114. TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 164: inspected by F. Snyman of Pretoria district on 27-12-1858.
 115. Deeds Office, Farm Register 14A "IR.63 (Geds. 1-240)" Rietfontein 63 IR, folio 63/1: farm granted on 14-05-1859 to A.J. Nel.
 116. G.E. Cory, *The Rise of South Africa* III (London, 1919), note 1 on p. 393.
 117. SAAR, *Transvaal I*, p. 220: *Bylaag* 16, 22 and 23-09-1846.
 118. NHK Archives, Pretoria, baptismal register, folio 81, no. 220: Pieter was born on 05-11-1847 and baptised on 21-12-1848.
 119. TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 164: inspected by F. Snyman of Pretoria district on 23-05-1859.
 120. Deeds Office, Farm Register 8 "IR 33-35" Modderfontein 35 IR, folio 35/1: Adriaan Jacobus Theodorus Nel received grant of the farm on 19-06-1861.
 121. Deeds Office, Farm Register 8, Modderfontein 35 IR, folio 35/1 and successive folios.

4 Rietfontein, now western Edenvale

In 1858 another farm called Rietfontein was inspected for David Snyman.¹²² This farm lay between Nel's Rietfontein and Bezuidenhout's Doornfontein. Snyman had registered the farm in 1851¹²³ but had possibly died¹²⁴ before the date of grant into his name in 1863, as on the same date it was transferred equally to two other parties.¹²⁵

David Benjamin Snyman, baptised in 1798 and married to Anna F. van Eeden, possibly lived in Tarka in the district of Somerset. He may have trekked from the Cape Colony with Hendrik Potgieter in January 1836.¹²⁶ Two farms were registered in his name in 1845 in Ohrigstad,¹²⁷ where he was a Volksraad member during 1845 and 1846.¹²⁸ When the political party squabbles in that district reached a climax in 1847, Potgieter's opponents announced that when the first shot would be fired, "*Burgers*¹²⁹ *zou worden doodgeschoten, of David Snijman*".¹³⁰ The latter appears to have been a member of the Potgieter Party for he later trekked northward with Potgieter and his followers to the Zoutpansberg, abandoning fever-ridden Ohrigstad. Snyman probably soon left the Zoutpansberg again as his name next appears on a notice dated 1850 in the field cornetcy of D. Erasmus,¹³¹ whose ward was later to be included in the district of Pretoria,¹³² that in which the farm Rietfontein fell. As a "D. Snyman" was apparently living in the Pretoria district in 1860,¹³³ he must have died between this date and 1863, the date of grant.

Klipfontein, now northern Johannesburg

Lying to the north of and adjacent to Doornfontein, Klipfontein was registered by Christoffel Snijman in 1852.¹³⁴ He probably disposed of the farm soon after this date for in 1853 it was inspected for B.C. Viljoen, the future grantee of Doornfontein. However, in 1857 it was again inspected, this time for Frederik Bezuidenhout¹³⁵ to whom it was granted in

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122. TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 234: inspected by F. Snyman of Pretoria district on 28-12-1858.
 123. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 64, no. 1073.
 124. According to the NHK Archives, Pretoria, baptismal register, folio 89: nos 344, 345, there were two David Benjamin Snymans. J.C. Visagie, "Voortrekker-stamouers", mentions that b7c1d4e6 (baptised 1798 - died before 1863) was married to Anna F. van Eeden; possibly it was a son who was married to Susanna C.M. Duvinage mentioned in the register.
 125. Deeds Office, Farm Register 13 "IR 58-62" Rietfontein 61 IR, folio 61 [sic]: on 10-04-1863 a one-half share of the farm went to J.J.P. Meyer and the other half to F.F. Pretorius.
 126. J.C. Visagie, "Voortrekker-stamouers".
 127. The farms Roodekrans and Valsvanteyn [sic] were registered in his name on 02-08-1845 and 04-08-1845 respectively (SAAR, *Transvaal I*, pp. 169 (no. 14) and 170 (no. 30), respectively).
 128. SAAR, *Transvaal I*, p. 14: VRN 01-08-1845 through to p. 53: VRN 08-06-1846.
 129. Probably J.J. Burger of the so-called Volksraad Party.
 130. G.S. Preller (ed.), "Herinneringe van Hermanus Jacobus Potgieter", *Voortrekermense III* (Cape Town, 1922), p. 55.
 131. SAAR, *Transvaal I*, p. 279 and p. 361: *Bylaag 30(o)*, 1850.
 132. TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, "*Lyst van Inspecteuren*" at the back of the register.
 133. SAAR, *Transvaal IV*, p. 362: *Bylaag 33*, 13-09-1860.
 134. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 77, no. 1419.
 135. TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 23.

1858.¹³⁶ It thus appears that the Snyman mentioned in a 1935 interview for *The Star*¹³⁷ was the Snyman of Klipfontein.¹³⁸ Further confirmation of the bond between this farm and Doornfontein is available as Mrs Hester Robertson (1883-1972),¹³⁹ a niece of Bezuidenhout junior,¹⁴⁰ regarded present-day Orange Grove as their family's *lemoenplaas*.¹⁴¹ The "suburb" lay on the farm Klipfontein and bordered on the old Doornfontein boundary.

It therefore appears that Frederik Jacobus Bezuidenhout (1825-1900) registered the farm Doornhoek on the day before his wedding. After marrying Miss Viljoen in 1849, he registered the farms Waterval in 1850 and Doornspruit in 1851. He then acquired the farm Klipfontein, which adjoins Doornfontein, sometime between 1853 and 1857:¹⁴² four farms in quick succession. Next he disposed of the farms Waterval in 1858, Doornspruit sometime after 1860 and Doornhoek sometime before 1866.¹⁴³ Finally, he inherited Doornfontein in 1861 where he spent his remaining 39 years.

Christoffel Johannes Jacobus Snyman (c.1813-1861), the first owner of Klipfontein, was the son of David Snyman of Rietfontein.¹⁴⁴ Possibly he lived and trekked with his father, about whom some information was provided under subheading 4 above. On 12 August 1838 Christoffel, who was a sentry, shot at a Zulu spy near their laager at the Bushmans River, between today's Weenen and Estcourt. Attacked for three days—until 15 August—by "10 000 Zulus", this laager came to be called the *Veglaer*.¹⁴⁵ In April 1843 a "Chrissl. Sneijman" was sworn in as a new member of the Volksraad in Pietermaritzburg. He was re-elected in August 1844, but one month later wrote excusing his absence as he was afflicted "*met een gevaarlijke Borsikwaal*" (chest-trouble).¹⁴⁶ Trekking on to Andries

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136. Deeds Office, Farm Register 13 "IR 58-62" Klipfontein 58 IR, folio 58/1. Here his first name is spelled "Frederick".
137. A.H. Smith, *Johannesburg Street Names*, p. 256.
138. The substance of an interview with B.C. Bezuidenhout and his mother, the sister of F.J. Bezuidenhout (b. 1851), is that Snyman preceded occupation by Viljoen and F.J. Bezuidenhout, and that this occurred on a farm.
139. TAD, MHG 10998/72, death notice.
140. Mrs Hester (Hessie) Robertson was the fourth child of Cornelius Floris Johannes Meyer (b. 1854) and his wife. Cornelius was the fifth son of Johan Georg and Hester Meyer (see subheading 10 below). Frederik Jacobus Bezuidenhout (b. 1851) was married to Wilhelmina Christina Johanna Meyer, the sister of Cornelius ("Family tree of the Meyer family", G. Farthing, *Die Geskiedenis van Alberton 1904 tot 1988* (Alberton, 1989), p. 3, which pagination follows the last page numbered 246).
141. E. Franz, as told by H. Robertson, "Johannesburg, honderd-en-twintig jaar gelede" (Pretoria, typescript c.1982 in possession of Bezuidenhout descendant Mrs Y. Collett, Kensington, Johannesburg), p. 3, translated and to be reprinted in A. Doucakis and A. Meisel (eds), "The story of Doornfontein", (Part V, Reminiscences). The wording is: "Die huidige Doornfontein, Cyrildene, Kensington, ... Orange Grove (in die ou mense se tyd is daarna altyd verwys as "Die Lemoenplaas") was alles één plaas."
142. On 12-10-1860 a ¾-portion (1 051 morgen 356 sq. roods) of the farm Klipfontein was transferred from F. Bezuidenhout to "Frederick Jacobus Viljoen"; on 28-10-1864 the unsurveyed Portion 2 was transferred from F. Bezuidenhout to Johannes Jacobus Grobler (Deeds Office, Farm Register 13, folios 58/1/1 and 58/2/1 respectively).
143. Deeds Office, Farm Register 79 "IR 567-580" Doornhoek 577 IR, folio 577/1: on 20-04-1866 the farm was granted to P.J. Laubscher.
144. TAD, MHG 0/19988, death notice.
145. H.B. Thom, *Die Leve van Gert Maritz* (Cape Town, 1947), pp. 251, 252. Cf. J.C. Visagie, "Voortrekker-stamouers", who states that by 1840 Snyman had arrived in Natal,
146. SAAR, *Natal I*, p. 173: VRN 03 - 06-04-1843; p. 189: VRN 12-08-1844; p. 190: Art. 2, VRN 03-09-1844.

Ohrigstad, he registered the farm Wagen drif on the Blyde River in 1845. One C. Snyman was present at a public meeting where the Potgieter Constitution was drawn up in 1846. From there he must have trekked on as in 1850 he was living in the field cornetcy of D. Erasmus,¹⁴⁷ of the present-day Pretoria district, under which the farm Klipfontein fell. He married the widow Anna M.J. du Plessis; the couple had five children, the last four during the years 1851-1858. He is recorded as possibly having died in the Zoutpansberg district.¹⁴⁸

6 Syferfontein, now southern Sandton

Zijferfontein, which is two farms removed to the north of Doornfontein, and adjacent to Klipfontein, was registered in 1852 by Philippus Snijman (c.1795-1874).¹⁴⁹ The farm was inspected in 1858¹⁵⁰ and was granted to Snijman in 1860, but on the same day it went consecutively to two other parties, the first of whom was Johannes Marthinus Esterhuizen.¹⁵¹

No relationship could be found in any of the published sources for David Snyman of Rietfontein and Philippus Snijman of Syferfontein. David Snyman senior and "Philippus Steps Snyman" were members of the Volksraad from its inception on 1 August 1845 in "Andries Ohrig Stad" until June 1846. In December 1845 David and Philippus, with Hendrik Potgieter, were members of the Delagoa Bay commission, which had the task of erecting a beacon to mark the Portuguese boundary. Philippus registered the farm Rodewal in Ohrigstad in 1845. He was still living there in January 1848 when a commando against "Mazilikatze" was envisaged.¹⁵² Philippus Stephanus Snyman, married to Susanna H.F.D. Venter, had six children. As they baptised their daughter in December 1848 in Potchefstroom,¹⁵³ they must have left Ohrigstad before it was completely abandoned in 1849. By March 1850 they had trekked on to the future Rustenburg, which then fell in the Magaliesberg ward. In Rustenburg he became a church elder before May 1852, resigning in February 1857 as he was opposed to singing the *Evangeliese gesange* (Evangelical hymns) in divine service. In that year he lived on the farm Modderfontein in the district of Rustenburg, where he cultivated the first coffee. Elder Snyman probably still lived there in 1860 for he is recorded as having attended a meeting in the district in that year.¹⁵⁴ Having become a widower, he married the widow Catharina de Beer. Philippus Snijman died on the

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147. SAAR, *Transvaal I*, p. 169: *Bylaag 9*, 1845, no. 16: the farm Wagen drif on the Blyde River was registered in the name of "C.J. Snyman" on 02-08-1845; p. 220: *Bylaag 16*, 22-09-1846, 23-09-1846; p. 361: *Bylaag 30(o)*, 1850.
 148. TAD, MHG 0/19988, death notice.
 149. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 77, no. 1420.
 150. TAD, RAK 2434, farm register, folio 234: Zyverfontein [sic] was inspected on 17-12-1858 by F. Snyman of the Pretoria district.
 151. Deeds Office, Farm Register 11 "IR 51" Syferfontein 51 IR, folio 51/1.
 152. SAAR, *Transvaal I*, p. 14: EVR 1, pp. 8-9; p. 53: VRN 08-06-1846; p. 176: no. 26; p. 244: *Bylaag 2*, 07-01-1848; H.S. Pretorius and D.W. Krüger (eds), *Voorrekkers-argiefstukke*, p. 196: R111d/45; p. 197: R111e/45.
 153. NHK Archives, Pretoria, baptismal register, folio 85: no. 279.
 154. In SAAR, *Transvaal I*, p. 273, however, "Ph. S. Snyman" signed a petition dated 22 March 1849 at the Olifants River, which forms a huge arc around Lydenburg; p. 308: *Bylaag 7 (j)*, 19-03-1850; p. 313: R497/53, 14 "Veebruwaarie" 1853; p. 353: *Bylaag 30 (i)*, 26-12-1850; SAAR, *Transvaal II*, p. 324: *Bylaag 16*, 03-05-1852; SAAR, *Transvaal IV*, p. 395: Annexure to *bylaag 50*, 13-10-1860.

farm Doornfontyn in the Rustenburg district in 1874.¹⁵⁵

Braamfontein, now north-western Johannesburg

This farm, although not adjoining Doornfontein, adjoined the then Government-owned *uitvalgrond* Randjeslaagte. G.P. Bezuidenhout registered Braamfontein in 1851, had it inspected in 1853 and was granted it in 1858.¹⁵⁶ One day after this grant, it was transferred to Frederik Jacobus Bezuidenhout, his younger brother.¹⁵⁷ In 1862 the farm was divided into three portions, one of which went back to the never-married G.P. Bezuidenhout. When he made his will in 1871, half of his portion was taxed at £75.¹⁵⁸ It appears that, in those years, Doornfontein's Bezuidenhout became a landholder of large tracts of land.

8 *Langlaagte, now western Johannesburg*

It was here that the main reef was first discovered in March or April of 1886. This farm, which is two farms removed to the west of Doornfontein, was registered in 1852 by Mathijs Smith; it was inspected in 1853 and granted to him in 1859. Smith sold the farm just two years later. In 1852 it was described as "lying between the Klipriviersrand and the Witwatersrand by the *Zwarte kopjes*".¹⁵⁹ This location gives a good description of the area in those days. The mining magnate, Joseph Benjamin Robinson, started buying portions of this farm from as early as 27 August 1886.¹⁶⁰

9 *Turffontein, now southern Johannesburg*

This farm, which lies to the south-west of Doornfontein, was registered in 1849 by Abraham Smit (1811-1884) "*C. zoon*"—the son of C. Smit. It was inspected in 1857 and was granted to A. Smit in 1859.¹⁶¹ A northern portion of Turffontein was granted to Paul Andries Ras in 1891.¹⁶²

In 1833 A. Smit was married to the widow Hermina C.M.S. Campher. He had lived

155. TAD, MHG 0/169, death notice.

156. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 69, no. 1238; RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 23; Deeds Office, Farm Register 12A "IR 52, 53 (Geds. 1-200)" Braamfontein 53 IR, folio 53/1; see also J.J. Fourie, "Die geskiedenis van die Afrikaners in Johannesburg", pp. 10-11.

157. Gerrit Pieter Bezuidenhout (1822-1876), and Frederik Jacobus Bezuidenhout, were brothers (TAD, MHG 0/663, estate file; J.A. Heese (comp.) and R.T.J. Lombard (ed.), *South African Genealogies I*, p. 271).

158. TAD, MHG 0/663, estate file: *ongetrouwd* and no major or minor children recorded; Deeds Office, Farm Register 12A, Braamfontein 53 IR.

159. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 81, no. 1507; RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 234: inspected for "Matthys Johs Smit"; Deeds Office, Farm Register 34 "IQ 212-224" Langlaagte 224 IQ, folio 224/1; see also J.J. Fourie, "Die geskiedenis van die Afrikaners in Johannesburg", pp. 12-13.

160. Deeds Office, Farm Register 34, Langlaagte 224 IQ, folio 224/2/1.

161. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 42, no. 468; RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 233; Deeds Office, Farm Register 26 "IR 97-100" Turffontein 100 IR, folio 100/1; A.H. Smith, *Johannesburg Street Names*, p. 539.

162. Deeds Office, Farm Register 25 "1R [*sic*] 96 Ptns 1-200" Turffontein 96 IR, folio 96/1; see also J.J. Fourie, "Die geskiedenis van die Afrikaners in Johannesburg", pp. 11-12.

in the district of Beaufort before becoming a Voortrekker. In January 1839 Andries Pretorius, writing from the Modder River, which flows westward near Bloemfontein, appealed to his countrymen to open their hands and give "*slagschappen ossen en beesten ook geld*" to alleviate the plight of those trekkers "*aan den onder sy van het berg*". Smit's name appears as a donor of a goat, his wife's as a donor of three sheep and two bars of soap.¹⁶³

The Bezuidenhouts came to own part of the northern portion of the farm as Bezuidenhout senior had inherited it in 1865 from his father-in-law, Viljoen of Doornfontein. Bezuidenhout junior (1851-1924) then bought this portion from his father in 1876.¹⁶⁴

10 *Klipriviersberg and Elandsfontein, now Alberton and part Germiston respectively*

The history of these two farms has been an oral one, recounted in the last century to at least two newspapers by Johannes (Jan) Petrus Meyer. He owned portions of these two farms, was field cornet of the ward in which the farms fell and was acting mining commissioner just prior to proclamation of the Witwatersrand Goldfields. According to both newspaper accounts Johan Georg Meyer, the father of Jan, visited "the then unknown country to the north of the Vaal River" in 1840. He probably sojourned on the farm Elandsfontein then, for in 1849 he trekked up with his family, halting at what was to become Pretoria. "After Mr. Meyer, senr., had recovered from an attack of fever, they trekked to [latter-day] Heidelberg, where a good many of the pioneers had already settled down."¹⁶⁵ The earliest official date found of J.G. Meyer's having settled to the north of the Vaal is February 1850, and it was indeed in the ward "Suikerbosrand", where Heidelberg is situated.¹⁶⁶ A newspaper report on the Meyers further relates that after a few months in the Heidelberg area, "they moved to ... Elandsfontein ... The place was a roaring wilderness; the klipkopjes surrounding the farm were infested by lions" elephant, buffalo and eland.¹⁶⁷ Jan Meyer mentioned that his father soon "received the appointment of Field-cornet";¹⁶⁸ he was officially sworn in as the second field cornet of Suikerbosrand on 18 April 1851 and soon

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163. H.S. Pretorius and D.W. Krüger (eds), *Voortrekker-argiefstukke*, p. 49: R23/39, 30-01-1839; J.C. Visagie, "Voortrekker-stamouers", states that A. Smit in 1842 was known to be in the vicinity of Winburg.
164. Deeds Office, Farm Register 25, Turffontein 96 IR, Portion 2 of Turffontein 96 IR, folio 96/2/1, diagram DB 79/48, area 620,6 ha (724 morgen 334 sq. roods): 4 April 1865 (no deed of transfer) A. Smit to B.C. Viljoen; 4 April 1865 (no deed of transfer) B.C. Viljoen to Frederik Jacobus Bezuidenhout; Deed of Transfer No. 495, 19-01-1876, F.J. Bezuidenhout to "Frederik Jacs. Bezuidenhout (F. Son)".
165. "Mr J.P. Meyer", *The Star*, 20-12-1889; "Mr. J.P. Meyer, member of the First Volksraad for Johannesburg", *The Transvaal Mining Argus*, 06-04-1892, p. 3. The date 1849 in *The Transvaal Mining Argus*, seems more reasonable than the date 1847 in *The Star*.
166. D.W. Krynauw and H.S. Pretorius (eds), *Transvaalse Argiefstukke*, p. 10: R197/50, 28-01-1850.
167. *The Star*, 20-12-1889, "Mr J.P. Meyer"; in the article by W.A.C., "Vroeë geskiedenis", Stad Germiston, *Van Riebeeck Feesviering 1952*, as cited in the unpublished research notes of L. de Kock, the following appears: "Dit was dan omstreeks hierdie tyd [1848], en wel in 1849, dat Johan George Meyer die plaas Elandsfontein vir 'n ossewa [one bullock wagon] 'gekoop' het". J.J. Fourie, "Die geskiedenis van die Afrikaners in Johannesburg", pp. 13-14, disputes this as yarns. E.A. Walker, *A History of Southern Africa*, p. 201, mentions that "the proverbial exchange of a farm, which had originally been a free grant, for a wagon and a span of oxen was not always a bad bargain at a time when waggons and oxen were in great demand."
168. *Transvaal Mining Argus*, 06-04-1892, "Mr. J.P. Meyer".

sat on the *krygsraad* (war council).¹⁶⁹

According to their descendants, Johan Georg Meyer (c.1816-1856)¹⁷⁰ and his wife Hester Meyer, born Mulder (1822-1912),¹⁷¹ eventually came to own three farms: Elandsfontein, Zwartkopjes and Roodekop.¹⁷² These were granted to the Meyers on 21 February 1859. The farm Klipriviersberg, their *familieplaas* from 1872, was *not* granted to them.

The patriarch Johan Georg Meyer had claimed Zwartkopjes and Roodekop. As he died in 1856, these were instead granted to his widow, Hester Meyer. However, as she remarried in 1858,¹⁷³ the farms Elandsfontein and Roodekop were transferred from her name into that of her second husband, the widower Abraham Carel Viljoen (1817-1894). He was the younger brother of Barend, grantee of Doornfontein.¹⁷⁴

The origin of the farm Elandsfontein — regarded as the original *familieplaas* — is of much interest, as archival evidence can now corroborate Jan Meyer's 1889 and 1892 statements to the press. In the farm registration register Klipriviersberg is described in 1849 as "*Annex de plaats van Pieter Jakobs*".¹⁷⁵ However no farm in this register adjoins, or lies, anywhere near to a Klipriviersberg in Jakobs's name. Reference to the *inspection* register, however, shows that *P. Jacobs* and *Hester Meyer* had the farm Elandsfontein No. 235 inspected in 1857.¹⁷⁶ The farm number was changed (to No. 142) when it fell under the Witwatersrand ward. Elandsfontein, therefore, which adjoins Klipriviersberg in the east, had been claimed by Pieter Jakobs on or before 1849 and was inspected one year after J.G. Meyer's death. A farm Elandsfontein "*Gelegen aan Witwatersrand*" was registered by Hans Jacobs on 16 October 1841.¹⁷⁷ This is a common farm name; eight farms fit this

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169. D.W. Krynaauw and H.S. Pretorius (eds), *Transvaalse Argiefstukke*, p. 76: R268/51. According to the sources that follow, the official appointment occurred sometime between 01-04-1851 - 10-04-1851: in *SAAR, Transvaal II*, p. 204: *Bylaag 7*, 01-04-1851, J.G. Meyer, on 01-04-1851, is not listed as a field cornet; in RAK 2433, farm register, folio 70, no. 1242 dated 10-04-1851, he is listed as one; see also *SAAR, Transvaal II*, pp. 234, 237: VR 180/51, 08-09-1851; p. 396: *Bylaag 22*, 15-03-1853; p. 565: *Bylaag 154, Krygsraadsnotule* 19-03-1853; p. 438: *Bylaag 58*, 08-08-1853.
170. TAD, MHG 24075, death notice.
171. TAD, MHG 19614, death notice.
172. Deeds Office, Farm Register 28A "IR 108 (Geds. 1-130)" Elandsfontein 108 IR, folio 108/1; Farm Register 36 "IR 143-149" Zwartkopjes 143 IR, folio 143/1; Farm Register 35 "IR 139-142" Roodekop 139 IR, folio 139/1; T.A. Du Plessis, "Oorsig van die geskiedenis van Alberton", *Alberton Herout*, 07-04-1950; "Geskiedenis van die verskillende plase in omgewing van ons stad en die uiteindelijke aanleg en uitbreiding van Germiston", F. Stark (ed.), *City of Germiston* (Germiston, [1950]) no page numbers; Abie Möller contributed numerous articles on this history in inter alia the *Alberton Courier* in April 1968 and *SASSAR* (Journal of the S.A. Railways) in September 1969; T. Gutsche, *A Very Smart Medal* (Cape Town, 1970), pp. 20-21; J. Human, "Johannes Petrus Meyer: 1842-1919", *Gister en Vandag* (Journal for History Teaching) 10, September 1985, pp. 30-35.
73. A. Möller, "Kmdt. Johan Georg (Org) Meyer van Elandsfontein Germiston en Alberton", *SASSAR* January 1971. (No other source could be found for their wedding date.)
174. TAD, MHG 0/9216, death notice; H.C. Viljoen, *Die Viljoen-familiereregister*, pp. 63, 64, 71.
175. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 43, no. 494: Jacob Smit on 16-08-1849 had registered Klipriviers-berg [sic] located "*Annex de plaats van Pieter Jakobs*".
176. TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 109: P. Jacobs ("*Zie fol 150 r. [regel? =line] 20*" added later) on [15-08-1857 had Elandsfontein ("235 Heidelberg" added later) inspected by J.G. Marais. On folio 150 appears on line no. 20: Meyer, Hester ("*wed. Johann George [sic] - zie Pitr J.*" added later) on [03-08-1857 had Elandsfontein ("235 Heidelberg" added later) inspected by J.G. Marais.
77. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 155, no. 866.

description in the Witwatersrand. However, as Pieter Jacobs claimed Elandsfontein (No. 235) on or before 1849, there is a possibility that Hans Jacobs was a relative from whom Pieter acquired the farm. Therefore the earliest date of the origin of Alberton and a portion of Germiston seems to be 1841. Thus, Jan Meyer's mentions of the farm's existence in 1840 are closely corroborated from the registration dated 1841, for occupation would have preceded the delay associated with registration.



Figure 4: Pieter Daniel Jacobs (1828-1889) and his wife Martha Sophia, nee Claasen.

As J.G. Meyer had not made application for Elandsfontein, it was not inspected in 1853, the date the farms Roodekop¹⁷⁸ and Zwartkopjes were inspected for him. An application for Elandsfontein, therefore, was possibly made by Hester Meyer after her husband's death in 1856. As a Pieter Daniel Jacobs (1828-1889) and his wife Martha Sophia, nee Claasen, (see figure 4) both died on Elandsfontein, it is presumed that it was this "Pieter Jacobs" who claimed the farm on or before 1849. This P.D. Jacobs was the son also of a Pieter Daniel Jacobs (1807-1854) of the farm De Hoek, two farms to the south of today's Heidelberg. Johan Meyer, interestingly, was the executor of the estate of presumably

178. TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 150: J.G. Meyer ("*wed. Johs George [sic]*" added later in 1853 had Roode kop [*sic*] ("*264 Heideb.*" added later) inspected by J.G. Marais.

this latter "P. Jacobs" in November 1855.¹⁷⁹ This Jacobs in turn, was the son also of a Pieter Daniel Jacobs (baptised 1780 - died 1845), who was a lesser-known Voortrekker leader. Before embarking on the Trek in May 1838 with at least 37 families, he was one of the most successful Afrikaans Cape Colony farmers, owning 12 farms. In addition he held the post of *veldcommandant* (field commandant). In the Great Trek period he took part in the battle of Blood River in December 1838 and in April 1844 he was a representative in the Potchefstroom *Burger Raad* (Citizens' Council). He finally settled in the Suikerbosrand.¹⁸⁰

In 1840 the Natal Volksraad appointed David Francois Jacobs (1786-1875) as elder and catechist in the territory to the west (*gene zijde*) of the Drakensberg. He had held church services on Sundays during the Great Trek and thereafter in the Suikerbosrand where he settled. Reverend Murray, on his second visit to the north of the Vaal in 1850, wrote of the "diligent labour" of D. Jacobs. Jacobs was a second cousin of Commandant Jacobs and was the grandfather of Anna [*sic*] Claassen, who was the wife of Pieter Jacobs (1828-1889). D.F. Jacobs presumably lived on Elandsfontein as he died on the farm in Pieter Jacobs's house in 1875.¹⁸¹

The farm Roodekop was registered by "J.G. Meijer Veldc." on 18 April 1851. It is described as "*Gelegen aan Elandsfontein-spruit, naar [towards] den kant van Suikerboschrand*".¹⁸² A fact here revealed is that the Natal Spruit must have been known from about 1841 till August 1886 as the Elandsfontein Spruit, as it flowed through the farm Elandsfontein. Having its source near where the third farmhouse of Doornfontein used to be, the spruit then flowed through Elandsfontein, which adjoined Roodekop in the north.

The farm Zwartkopjes was granted to J.G. Meyer and to G. van der Schyff as joint owners after inspection in 1853.¹⁸³ It did not remain in either of their names for very long as one month after the Government grant was transferred to Meyer's widow, Van der Schyff's portion was transferred to J.H. van der Merwe. In 1860 Hester Meyer also transferred her unsurveyed portion of the farm to him,¹⁸⁴ indicating that the transaction could have taken place before her marriage to Viljoen.

Interestingly, from the farm registration register, Zwartkopjes, "*Gelegen boven aan Kliprivier*", had been registered as early as 16 November 1846 by one Louis Nel.¹⁸⁵ Meyer possibly acquired the farm from him or even from a later buyer of Zwartkopjes.

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179. TAD, MHG 0/5203, death notice (P.D. Jacobs, 14-03-1828 - 22-12-1889) and MHG 0/6688, death notice (M.S. Claassen, 13-11-1829 - 22-10-1891) both include genealogical data; J.A. Heese (comp.) and R.T.J. Lombard (ed.), *South African Genealogies 4 (J - K)* (Pretoria, 1992), p. 44 and *South African Genealogies 1 (A - C)*, pp. 584-585. The latter source indicates that Martha Sophia Claassen was distantly related (a second cousin, indicated as b6c10d1e5f1) to P.L.S. Klaasen of Doornfontein (indicated as b6c7d6e4). See also SAAR, *Transvaal III*, p. 109: Art. 27, VRN 13-11-1855.
180. J.C. Visagie, "Voortrekker-stamouers"; J.C. Visagie, "Minder bekende Voortrekkerleiers", pp. 47-49; W.J. de Kock and D.W. Krüger (eds), *Dictionary of South African Biography II*, (Cape Town, 1972), p. 334; in SAAR, *Natal I*, p. 274: *Zuid-Afrikaan*, 14-06-1839, *byvoegsel*, "Pieter Daniel Jacobz" held the rank of "2de lid van den Krygs-Raad"; SAAR, *Natal I*, p. 469: *Bylaag 5*, 1844.
181. G.S. Preller, *Voortrekker Wetgewing* (Pretoria, 1924), p. 27: Art. 1, 03-01-1840; *Gereformeerde Kerkbode in Zuid-Afrika* 3(4), 22-02-1851, p. 61; S.P. Engelbrecht, *Gedenboek van die Nederduitsch Hervormde Gemeente Heidelberg 1865-1935* (Pretoria, no date), p. 8.
182. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 70, no. 1242.
183. TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 150.
184. Deeds Office, Farm Register 36, Zwartkopjes 143 IR: on 25-03-1859 Van der Schyff's portion was transferred to one J.H. van der Merwe.
185. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 15, no. 28.

"Louis Nell Jr."¹⁸⁶ lived in Natalia in September 1843, where he claimed that one head of his cattle, 26 sheep and 15 goats had been stolen by blacks from May 1842. As Nel's son was residing on his father's farm on the "Bushman's River" in Natal in February 1846,¹⁸⁷ Louis Nel had possibly arrived to the north of the Vaal by then. In September of that year, two months before registration of Zwartkopjes, L. Nel signed a document at a public meeting in "Andriesohrig Stad" where, among other matters, the Potgieter Constitution was promulgated. In 1848 "Louwies" Nel and again in 1849 "Lowies" Nel had become a member of the heemraad at Ohrigstad. He probably returned to the Suikerbosrand ward as an L. Nel signed a document drawn up by the ward's Field Cornet, P. Lindeque, in February 1850.¹⁸⁸

According to oral history, Johan Georg Meyer gave Klipriviersberg to Jacob Smit [senior], which he duly registered in 1849. The first visit by an ordained minister to this region probably took place on this farm in 1850. The Reverend Andrew Murray junior, on his second pastoral visit (of four) to the north of the Vaal River, travelled eastward from Gatsrand to *de plaats van den Hr. J. Smit, aan den Suikerbosch Rand* (the farm of J. Smit in the Suikerbosrand). Arriving on 22 October, he conducted services for the congregants whose numbers, by 25 October, had grown to 200-300 souls. Klipriviersberg was inspected in 1857 and was granted to Smit in 1859.¹⁸⁹ It was only in 1874 that Portion 2 of Klipriviersberg was transferred from the estate of the late Jacob Smit to Johannes Petrus Meyer for £500. One day after this transfer, Meyer sold a small portion of his farm to Willem Abraham Smit for £100 for cattle grazing. Fourteen years later, this portion was sold back to Meyer for £200. The farm then remained in his name for 25 years when it was transferred into the name of his son, Johan (Hans) George Meyer, with three other farms, for over £11 000. According to Jan Meyer, in 1872 he built the old house on the farm Klipriviersberg, moving into it with his second wife, the widow Strydom.¹⁹⁰

Some sources have stated Alewynspoort as one of the three farms granted to Johan Georg and Hester Meyer; only Portion 18 of the farm was transferred to Jan Meyer. This portion consisted of only about 550 hectares of the total farm area of about 2 500 hectares.¹⁹¹ Today there is still a tangible reminder of the fame, landholding and

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186. It is presumed his father's name in 1839 was spelled "Lauies Nell Sr." (*SAAR, Natal I*, p. 300: *Bylaag 16*, 1839).
187. *SAAR, Natal I*, p. 456: Annexure no. 1 to *bylaag 22*, 1843; *SAAR, Natal II*, p. 105.
188. *SAAR, Transvaal I*, p. 220: *Bylaag* no. 16, 1846; p. 87: Art. 8, 07-10-1848; p. 298: *Bylaag 7(a)*, 1850; H.S. Pretorius and D.W. Krüger (eds), *Voortrekker-argiefsnukke*, p. 416: R189b/49.
189. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 43, no. 494; TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 234; Deeds Office, Farm Register 27 "IR 101-107" Klipriviersberg 106 IR, folio 106/1; J. du Plessis, *The Life of Andrew Murray (junior) of South Africa* (London, 1919), p. 118; *Gereformeerde Kerk-bode in Zuid-Afrika* 3(4), 22-02-1851, p. 61; J. Human, "Johannes Petrus Meyer", p. 31; A. Möller, "Skakels Alberton-Germiston Klipriviersberg-Pierneef Johannes Meyer-Johannesburg", *SASSAR*, September 1969.
190. Deeds Office, Farm Register 27; Deeds Office, Deed No. 407 dated 22-01-1874 from Cornelia Labuschagnie, spouse of the late Jacob Smit, to Johannes Petrus Meyer; Deeds Office, Deed No. 408 dated 23-01-1874 from Johannes Petrus Meyer to Willem Abraham Smith; Deeds Office, Deed No. 2714/1888 from Willem Abraham Smit to Johannes Petrus Meyer dated 26-09-1888; Deeds Office, Farm Register 27, Klipriviersberg 106 IR, folio 106/2/1; Portion 2 was transferred on Deed No. 3469 dated 23-04-1913 from J.P. Meyer to Johan George Meyer; *The Transvaal Mining Argus*, 06-04-1892, "Mr. J.P. Meyer"; G. Farthing, *Die Geskiedenis van Alberton*, p. 205.
191. Deeds Office, Farm Register 36 "IR 143-149" Alewynspoort 145 IR, folio 145/2.

achievements of the Meyers: descendants of the family still live in the magnificent homestead built in 1896, now overlooking Alberton.

Rietvlei, the oldest farm nearest Doornfontein

Two farms removed to the south of Doornfontein on the "Kleprivier", the farm "de Rietvaly" was first registered on 6 December 1839 by Jacob Malang (Malan - 1820-1917). He was the son of Hercules Philip Malan, a lesser-known Voortrekker leader who was murdered with Retief.¹⁹² In 1848 Jacob Malan became a member of the ZAR Volksraad in Ohrigstad and was again elected a member in 1855, but he refused to take the oath of office. In 1849 Malan had also refused the post of heemraad. He seems to have been an able burgher so was again elected to the post in 1854. He was a staunch supporter of Potgieter, voting upon his death for Stefanus Schoeman as commandant-general rather than for Pretorius. Malan became a member of the Volksraad of the independent "Republiek Lijdenburg in Zuid-Afrika" and took part in April 1860 in the reincorporation of this republic into the ZAR. He was then selected by lot for the *vereenigden* Volksraad of the ZAR.¹⁹³

In 1839 Malan married Maria Elisabeth Schutte, the niece of Jan Francois Schutte of Doornfontein. The couple's first four children were born in Pietermaritzburg between 1840 and 1846 and the rest were born apparently in the district of Lydenburg. Malan registered three farms; his other two farms — de Malangskraal on the Mooi River and De Parelfontijn on the Witwatersrand — were not extant in 1899.¹⁹⁴

Rietvlei's subsequent owner was Christiaan Labuschagne, who registered the farm in 1850. However, it was inspected for S. Marais and A. du Preez by Field Cornet "P. Lindekke" c.1853.¹⁹⁵

Summary of farms

Table 2 below summarises particulars of the farms mentioned above. The first five column headings are translations of those in the farm registration register. The alternative titles of the second and third columns appear in the sixth section of the register—the De Clercq register.

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192. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 8, no. 140; J.C. Visagie, "Voortrekker-stamouers"; J.C. Visagie, "Minder bekende Voortrekkerleiers", p. 50.
193. SAAR, *Transvaal II*, p. 383; VR 247/53; SAAR, *Transvaal III*, p. 92; Arts 2, 5, VRN 10-09-1855; p. 32; *Afdeeling 40*; SAAR, *Transvaal IV*, p. 40; Art. 7, VRN 03-04-1860; p. 42; Art. 15, VRN 05-04-1860; H.S. Pretorius and D.W. Krüger (eds), *Voortrekker-argiefstukke*, p. 311; R138a/48, 02-03-1848; p. 416; R189b/49.
194. J.C. Visagie, "Voortrekker-stamouers"; B. Cilliers, *Genealogieë van die Afrikaner Families in Natal* (Pietermaritzburg, c.1985), p. 321; Cf. TAD, MHG 0/18520, death notice of Stephanus Phillipus Malan, the fifth child, born in Ohrigstad, district Lydenburg; MHG 0/17027, death notice of Jacob Jacobus Malan, the ninth child, born "Lijdenburg"; TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 5, no. 29 registered on 03-06-1839 and RAK 2433, farm register, folio 13, no. 358 registered on 05-08-1840.
195. TAD, RAK 2433, farm register, folio 55, no. 803; see also folio 45, no. 541, which entry was deleted after one Willem Viljoen had registered the farm on 21-09-1849; TAD, RAK 2434, inspection register, folio 151.

SERIAL NO. (FOLIO)	NAME OF INTERESTED PARTY / BY WHOM REQUESTD	DATE OF REGISTRATION/ [LATER] DATE OF REQUEST	NAME OF FARM	DESCRIPTION OF FARM	OLD (c.1866) FARM NO. (DISTRICT)	NEW FARM NO. & REG. DIVN	DATE OF GRANT	TO WHOM GRANTED
noentry 2433/ 2434 (f151)	J.M. van der Merwe	inspected c.1853	Alewynspoor	Adjoins Zwartkopjes in the north-west	249 (Heidelberg)	145 IR	Transfer dated 04-11-1853	Jeremia Jesajas van der Merwe ¹⁹⁶
1238 (f69)	G.P. Bezuidenhout	18-04-1851	Braamfontein	"De afloop naar Jukschei-rivier."	142 (Heidelberg)	53 IR	03-11-1858 04-11-1858	G.P. and F.J. Bezuiden=hout
1420 (f77)	Philippus Snijman	06-02-1852	Zijfontein (Syfontein)	"Gelegen annex de plaats Klipfontein, onderzijde bij de twee groote boomen."	380 (Pretoria)	51 IR	09-02-1860 09-02-1860 09-02-1860	Philippus Snyman J.M.Ester = huizen G.J.Coetzee
27 (f16)	P.L.S. Klaaren	05-11-1846	Doornfontein	"Gelegen aan Wivwatersrand"	323 (Heidelberg)	92 IR	20-09-1861	"Barend P. Vijioen" Frederik Jacobus Bezuidenhout ¹⁹⁷
329 (f38)	Jan Frans Schutte	26-04-1849	Doornfontein	"Aan Wivwatersrand, voormaals de gewezen plaats van Hans Erasmus."			[20-09-1861]	
no entry	G.P.L. van der Linden	occupied in 1853	Elandsfontein	Adjoins Doorn-fontein in the east	1 (Heidelberg)	90 IR (north)	17-06-1867	G.P.L. van der Linden
866 (f155)	Hans Jakobs	16-10-1841	Elandsfontein	"Gelegen aan Wivwatersrand"	235 (Heidelberg)	108 IR (south)	21-02-1859 21-02-1859	Hester Meyer (wed) Viljoen
1419 (f77)	Christoffel Snijman	06-02-1852	Klipfontein	"Gelegen aan Wit, [sic] aflopende naar Jukscheirivier annex de plaats Riefontein."	342 (Heidelberg)	58 IR	18-11-1858	"Frederick Bezuiden=hout"
494 (f43)	Jacob Smit	16-08-1849	Klipriviersberg	"Annex de plaats van Pieter Jakobs"	222 (Heidelberg)	106 IR	25-07-1859	Jacob Smit (Senior)
1507 (f81)	Mathijs Smith	26-05-1852	Langlaagte	"Gelegen tusschen Klipriviersrand en Wivwatersrand aan de Zwarte kopjes"	258 (Heidelberg)	224 IQ	10-03-1859	Mathys Johannes Smit
no entry	Government ground	12-03-1885	Randjeslaagte	"Uitgevallen grond tusschen geinspecteerde plaatsen" ¹⁹⁸	22 (Johannesbrg)	97 IR	portions from 1906-10 all amalgamated 05-01-1912	Council of Municipality of Johannesburg ¹⁹⁹

196. Deeds Office, Farm Register 36, Alewynspoor 145 IR, folio 145/1.

197. Deeds Office, Farm Register 24A, Doornfontein 92 IR, folio 92/1.

198. TAD, RAK 2736, "Inspecties van J.P. Meyer 1882 & 1885 Wijk Kliprivier", Randjeslaagte.

199. Deeds Office, Farm Registers 26 "IR 97-100" Randjeslaagte 97 IR, folio 97/1 and 23D "IR 90-91 Geds 561-" Johannesburg 91 IR, folio 91/1.

971 (f60)	"Adriaan Nel H. zoon"	15-10-1850	Riet- fontein	"Gelegen aan de link- erzijde van den Doorn- rand, die afloopt naar Jukschei-rivier."	341 (Heidel- berg)	63 IR (east)	14-05-1859	A.J. Nel
1073 (f64)	David Snijman de oude	09-01-1851	Riet- fontein	"Gelegen aan Wit- watersrand op punt waar zij doodloopt."	17 (Heidel- berg)	61 IR (west)	10-04-1863 10-04-1863	David Snyman 2x½ shares
140 (f8)	Jacob Malang	03-06-1839	Riet- vlei	"Aan Kleprivier"	126 (Heidel-berg)	101 IR	01-10-1856 28-01-1859	¼ to S.J. Marais, ½ A. du Preez
1242 (f70)	J.G. Meijer. Veldc.	10-04-1851	Roode- kop	"Gelegen aan Elandsfontein-spruit, naar den kant van Suikerboschrand."	264 (Heidel- berg)	139 IR	21-02-1859	Widow late J.G Meyer/ Viljoen
no entry			Rooi- kop	"Fmly Portion 2 Roodekop, IR 139"	60 (Heidel- berg)	140 IR	Deed 2495 04-10-1888	M.A. de B. Mulder
468 (f42)	"Abr. Smit C. zoon"	31-07-1849	Turf- fontein	"Aan de boven zijde van Kliprivier."	219 (Hei- delberg)	100 IR (south)	21-01-1859	Abraham Smit
no entry			Turf- fontein	Ptn 2 Turffontein: 04-04-1865 Smit to Viljoen to Bez sr; 19-01-1876 Bez. sr to jr	198 (Heidel- berg)	96 IR (north)	15-08-1891	Paul Andries Ras
28 (f15)	Louis Nel	16-11-1846	Zwart- kopjes	"Gelegen boven aan Kliprivier"	43 (Heidel- berg)	143 IR	1853 [sic] Govt Transfers 21-02-1859	(1) G. van der Schyff (2) J.G. Meyer Ptn farm: J.G. Meyer (Widow)

Table 2: Doornfontein's surrounding farms.

Review

Three early dates of significance in the region falling within today's Central Witwatersrand are 1839, the date of registration of the first farms along the Klip River; 1846, the date of registration of Doornfontein; and 1849, the date that white settlement commenced in the region. These dates correspond to the three migrations across the Vaal: Potgieter's in 1839; the Second Trek in 1845; and Andries Pretorius's migration in 1848 after the Battle of Boomplaats.

Many *Overvaal* farms, which are listed in the registration registers prior to the early 1840s, had their names changed in later years. This was not the case on the Witwatersrand, where only two farms out of 19 had name changes to 1846. This region, therefore, has a more detailed history. From the eight Doornfonteins and eight Elandsfonteins in the Witwatersrand area, the Doornfontein under discussion was in addition singled out by a process of elimination. Also, the date the farmstead was built and the movements of the first applicant (Claassen) were used to confirm the identity of the farm. In the case of Elandsfontein, the date (1840) that was given on two occasions to two newspapers by the claimant's son, and the same surname (Jacobs) of the first two applicants, are considered as

evidence that the selected farm is the one described in the farm register.

Although many estate files were referred to, most of the biographies of the farm applicants were sourced from the minutes of the Transvaal, Natal, and Orange Free State Volksraads. Here, persons with the same initials and surnames, as with father and son, appear frequently in memorials, so some errors in identifying the correct individuals cannot be ruled out. It is noteworthy that the above-mentioned farm applicants appear in the minutes of the Volksraad as it was they who helped to create the history of Natal and of the two republics. Knowledge of when the farms were founded and who their founders were, and knowledge of something about the original and subsequent applicants, contribute to accounts of the earliest history of the most densely populated region in the country. And so, for example, the history of Johannesburg - "the centre of the Republic's finance, commerce and industry, education and research, art and culture" - can be regarded as dating from 5 November 1846, the day the farm Doornfontein was first registered.