

verskillende nedersettings vanwaar hulle gekom het. Vir die genealoog is hierdie gegewens belangrik om 'n breër begrip van plekke van herkoms te kry. Daar is kort en bondige administratiewe ontwikkelingsgeskiedenis van die distrikte Albany, Beaufort (-Wes), Clanwilliam, Colesberg, Cradock, George, Graff-Reinet, Somerset (-Oos), Swellendam, Uitenhage en Worcester. Vir die navorser is hierdie van waarde. Sodoende kan verseker word dat daar nie vrugteloos in die verkeerde staats- en kerkargiewe na gegewens gesoek gaan word nie.

Voortrekkerstamouers sal in die toekoms nog baie deur opeenvolgende genealogiese navorsers met goeie gevolg gebruik kan word. Dit is 'n waardevolle toevoeging tot die spore van Afrikaanse families in die laat agtiende en negentiende eeu.

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Viewing the historical Gandhi in the Johannesburg context

ERIC ITZKIN, *Gandhi's Johannesburg: birthplace of Satyagraha*

Witwatersrand University Press in association with MuseuMAfrica,
Johannesburg

2000.

ISBN 1 86814 361 9

Paperback, pp.91

Monochrome and colour photographs and plates, Index, References and
Bibliography

Price not available.

At the outset I must declare my personal interest: I believe that Gandhi was one of the greatest historical figures – one of the very few personages whose shining example as an activist places him in (in my opinion) the company of Buddha, Jesus and Mohammed – although both his aims and results were of a humbler, more earthly nature. Therefore I was thrilled to receive Eric Itzkin's little book. It opened the way for me to follow the South African path of Gandhi before he became the Mahatma. Itzkin skilfully interweaves historical fact, anecdote and physical location to create a vivid picture of the young Gandhi and his disciples. The result is a popular and readable book, based on reasonably extensive research that will be of special interest to Gandhi enthusiasts and everyone

interested in the history of Johannesburg and its buildings.

As the title suggests, *Ghandi's Johannesburg: birthplace of Satyagraha* is not just another hagiography of the Mahatma's life in South Africa. Nor is it a moralistic diatribe on the history of human rights. It is primarily a book about old Johannesburg, which is presented to us as the place where Satyagraha was not only born, but also conceived, began crawling and ultimately took its first steps. Taking this as his theme, Itzken has chosen to organise his material around the buildings and places in Johannesburg that figured significantly in Ghandi's life. Although this guidebook approach is not ideal for a systematic exposition, it is both novel and effective. Itzken even provides us with a map of central Johannesburg indicating the location of some of the places discussed in the book. After reading it, the more energetic may well decide to visit the places in and around Johannesburg where Gandhi lived and worked and where Satyagraha (passive resistance) was born.

Taking Itzken's tour, we move from the Grand National Hotel in Rissik Street, where Gandhi was refused accommodation, to his offices in Court Chambers (Anderson Street), the Law Courts where he both practiced law and appeared as a passive resistance leader. Imprisonment in the Fort, unveiling Martyrs' monuments in the Braamfontein Cemetery, moving from home to home in Troyeville, Bellevue East, Orchards and finally Tolstoy Farm 35 km outside Johannesburg follow. As any guide should, Itzken provides us with a background patter explaining who Gandhi was, what he believed in and the highlights of his life and career in Johannesburg. Although the discussion is anything but complete, it is adequate and provides a meaningful link between the various buildings and sites Itzken discusses.

Gandhi dedicated his life to the cause of Satyagraha. His development from attorney to rich Indian merchants to the Great Soul, the Mahatma, took place right here in Johannesburg and Itzkin's book, full of relevant illustrations, photos (both monochrome and colour) and quotations allows the historian, the political activist, the philosopher to travel a little along the way with the Mahatma. The book is, of course, indispensable to those interested in old Johannesburg, Gandhi and the political struggle.

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