

Johannesburg

1896 - 1903

A Window Into the Past

André du Plessis

24 June 2025

Birth of a City

The Witwatersrand was a farming community on a piece of land in the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek.

Discovery of gold on the farm Langlaagte in February 1886 initiated much interest in the area and attracted gold hunters from all over the world.

Five farms - *Langlaagte*, ***Randjiesfontein***, *Turffontein*, *Doornfontein* and *Braamfontein* – were proclaimed as public digging. The proclamation was signed by State President S J P Kruger on 8 September 1886.

The influx of diggers to the goldfields made it necessary for the Government to maintain authority.

This led to **tensions** over foreigner rights, resulting in conflicts among the Uitlanders, the ZAR government, and the Afrikaners.



Johannesburg at its infancy, from an old photo of Johannesburg circa 1886

Published by Beanes Photo Services, PO Box 6954, Johannesburg with serial number 205 in the bottom right corner. Divided Back in brown

In August 1886 the head of the Republican Mines Department, Christiaan **Johannes** Joubert and **Johann** Rissik, first clerk in the Surveyor-General's office, were dispatched to the Witwatersrand Gold Fields.

Who was the "Johannes" of Johannesburg? STAR
17-8-60.

By H. P. H. BEHRENS

JOHANNESBURG WAS NOT, as many assume, named after President Kruger, whose second name was Johannes, nor after Johannes Meyer, the first mining commissioner of the goldfields, but after Johann Rissik, at that time acting Surveyor-General of the Republic, and after Christiaan Johannes Joubert, who was at the head of the Republican Mines Department.

The uncertainty which has prevailed for many years in this connection should be finally dispelled by information contained in contemporary documents and filed in the Union Archives.

According to these documents the Swiss Consul in Johannesburg, Mr. Carl Fehr, wrote to the Republican Department of External Affairs in February, 1896, asking after whom Johannesburg was named. He said that a famous Swiss professor who was writing on African affairs required this information.

The Swiss Consul inquired whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs could inform him if Johannesburg was perhaps named after the President and, if not, why the name was chosen.

TWO HONOURED

In his reply the acting Secretary of State for External Affairs said that Johannesburg was named after Johan Rissik then Surveyor-General, who had been first clerk in the Surveyor-General's office when the "village" was laid out and had surveyed the plots, and also after the head of the Mines Department, Christiaan Johannes Joubert.

The secretary for External Affairs added that the Executive Council decided on the names of "villages" in the Republic.

Johann Rissik was a son of Dr. G. D. Rissik, a medical practitioner who came to the Transvaal at the invitation of President Burgers and settled in Pretoria.

While still a young man Johann Rissik became prominent in Republican Affairs. After the South African War he was Minister of Lands and of Native Affairs in General Botha's Transvaal cabinet.

With Union in 1910 he was appointed the first Administrator of the Transvaal, Pretoria's best known scenic drive and Rissik Street, both in Johannesburg and Pretoria, are named after him.

They recommended that a public digging be proclaimed, and a township be laid out on the farm **Randjieslaagte**, a government piece of land. On 5 October 1886, Rissik remarked in a report that the town's name would be **Johannesburg**.

Two of the first streets in Johannesburg was named after **Rissik** and **Joubert**.

The first government building was erected in 1887 in Rissik Street and housed the Magistrate Court, the Mining Claims Registry Office and Post Office.

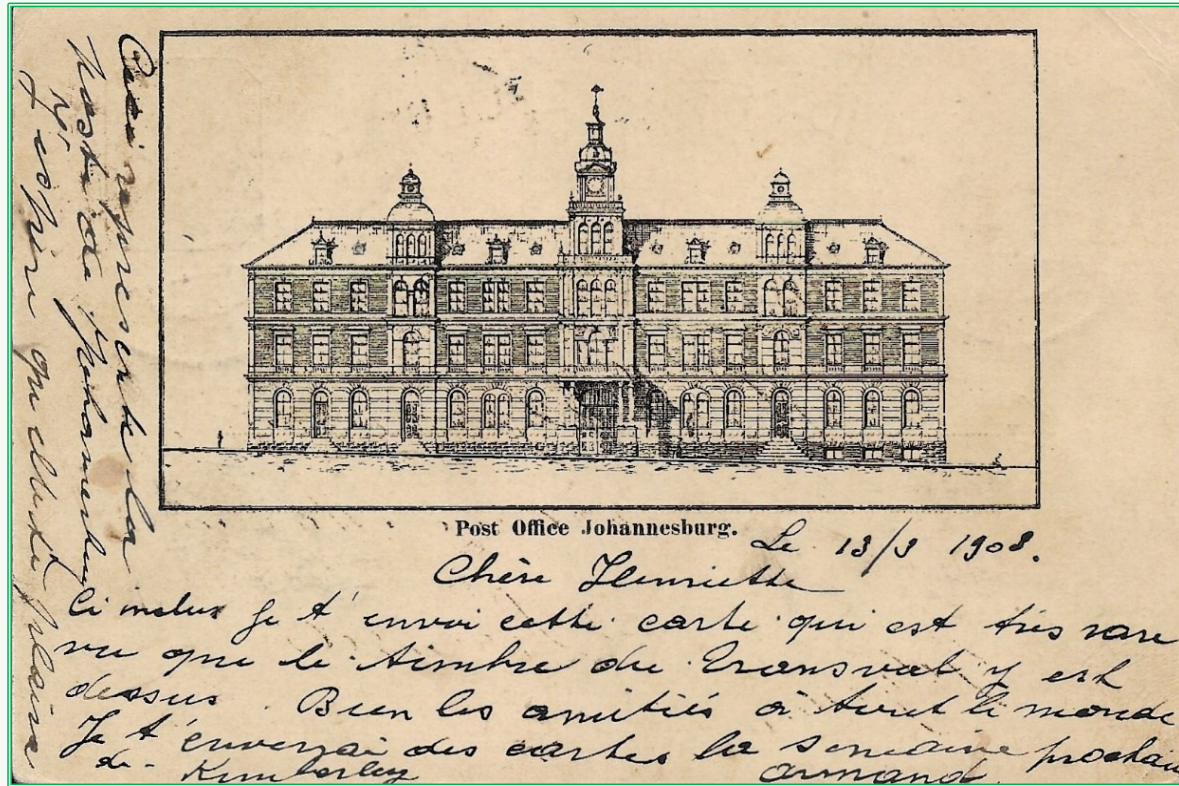


First government building in Rissik Street with the Post Office on right
Published by Braune & Levy, Joh'burg with serial number 722. UB in red

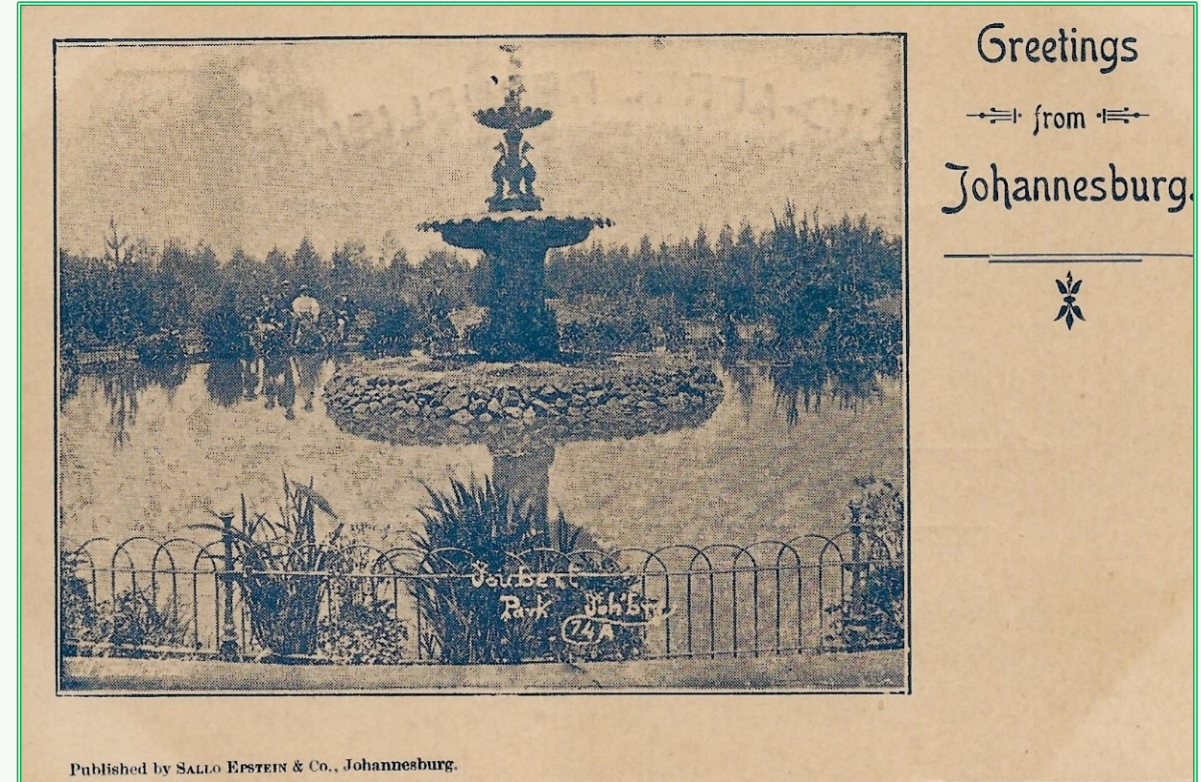
Extract from The Star newspaper dated 17 Aug 1960 referring to ZAR confirmation in **1896** that the city was named after the two gentlemen mentioned above

Due to the town's swift growth, a larger Post Office was needed. A new two-storey Post Office was built on the same site as the government building on Rissik Street, now known as the Rissik Street Post Office.

Joubert Park: At the request of the Diggers' Committee, Johannesburg's earliest local government, the city's oldest park was established in 1887 and named after Christiaan Johannes Joubert.



Johannesburg's General Post Office (1898) on Market Square in Rissik Street. The crude black printing suggest that it is of local origin
 Publisher unknown. ZAR Postal Stationery Card with 1896 ZAR 1d. red and green 'wagon with pole' stamp
 Year issued: 1899



Fountain in Joubert Park
 Published in 1899 by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg. ZAR Postal Stationery Card with 1896 ZAR 1d. red and green 'wagon with pole' stamp
 Year issued: 1899

Novelties

Published by MZ Booleman and Sallo Epstein

A Reform Committee was formed to engage in discussions with the government, but escalating discontent triggered a rebellion against ZAR authority in Johannesburg. Dr. Leander Star Jameson was called upon to assist the *Uitlanders* with a military force.

This failed military venture led to the introduction of the first Postcards in South Africa, marking the onset of the deltiological history of both South Africa and Johannesburg.

In February 1896, stamp dealers **M Z Booleman** and **Sallo Epstein** were granted permission to print images on ZAR Postal Stationery Cards, resulting in the production of five Postcards titled *The Late Crisis in Johannesburg*, which illustrated events from the raid.



Dr. JAMESON.

*Trust that this is what
you want. Have not
heard from you since
I wrote on Friday*

SANFORD & NEWTON
BOX 2963.

Dr Leander Starr Jameson (? April 1896)
*Published by Sanford and Newton, Box 2963,
Johannesburg. ZAR Postal Stationery Card with 1895
ZAR 1d. red 'wagon with pole' stamp*

THE LATE CRISIS IN JOHANNESBURG.



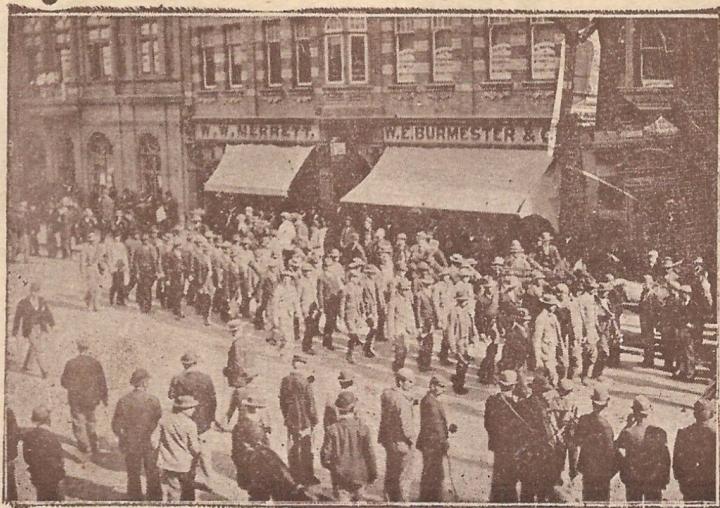
SCENE IN SIMMONDS STREET.

PHOTO BY BARNETT.

Greetings from Johannesburg.

Scene in Simmons Street (No. 1 of 5)
*Photo by Barnett. ZAR Postal Stationery Card with
1895 ZAR 1d. red 'wagon with pole' stamp*

THE LATE CRISIS IN JOHANNESBURG.



MARCH PAST COMMISSIONER STREET. PHOTO BY W. DAVIS.

Greetings from Johannesburg.

JMB Nov 18/96

Dear Ho. Y.

It is just 12-30 AM.

as I write on this P.c. There is any amount of dust about town at present. No rain has fallen for the last week or two, and we are badly in want of it. G.M.

Yours Truly Bill.

March Past Commissioner Street (No. 2 of 5)
Photo by W Davis. ZAR Postal Stationery Card with
1895 ZAR 1d. red 'wagon with pole' stamp

Confusion emerged among the conspirators when they discovered that many miners and some Rand Lords opposed their goals.

The Reform Committee decided to halt their plans and ordered Jameson to stop all operations. Jameson refused to delay and crossed the border from Bechuanaland on 29 December 1895 with about 600 armed men.

The Reform Committee declared a state of emergency in Johannesburg. When Jameson's group entered Transvaal, they tried to organize defense for the mines against Boer forces, forming private semi-military units like the "**Australian Brigade**".

THE LATE CRISIS IN JOHANNESBURG.



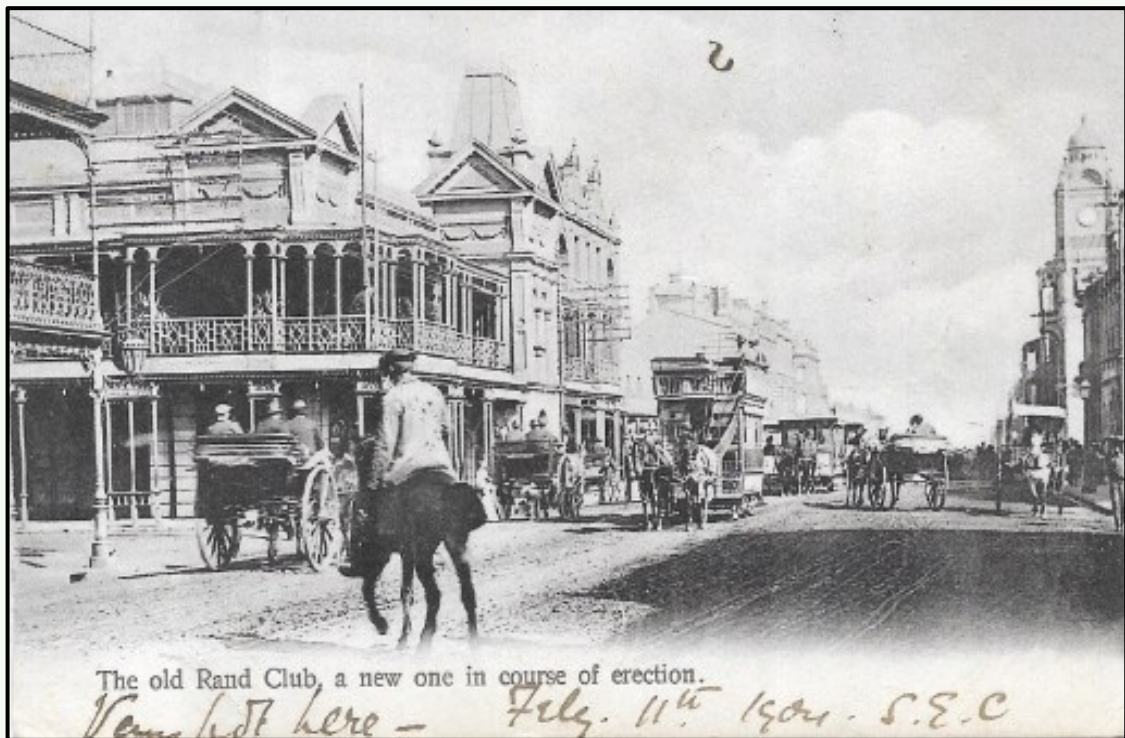
THE AUSTRALIAN BRIGADE. PHOTO BY BENNETT.

Greetings from Johannesburg.

The Australian Brigade (No. 3 of 5)
Photo by Bennet. ZAR Postal Stationery Card with
1895 ZAR 1d. red 'wagon with pole' stamp

Surrender and Arrests

After Jameson's surrender, the bulk of the Reform Committee was arrested outside the Rand Club and put on trial in ZAR courts for treason. Some were sentenced to heavy fines and imprisonment that were later reduced.



The old Rand Club, a new one in course of erection.

Viewed here - Feby. 11th 1904 - S.E.C

The old Rand club (1890) and adjacent the Marais court (1894). The next identifiable building on the right (Harrison corner) is the SA Mutual Building (1897) with its clock tower. Note the double decker horse drawn tram and variety of horse traffic

Publisher unknown with number 2145 . UB in red



Where Dr. Jameson surrendered

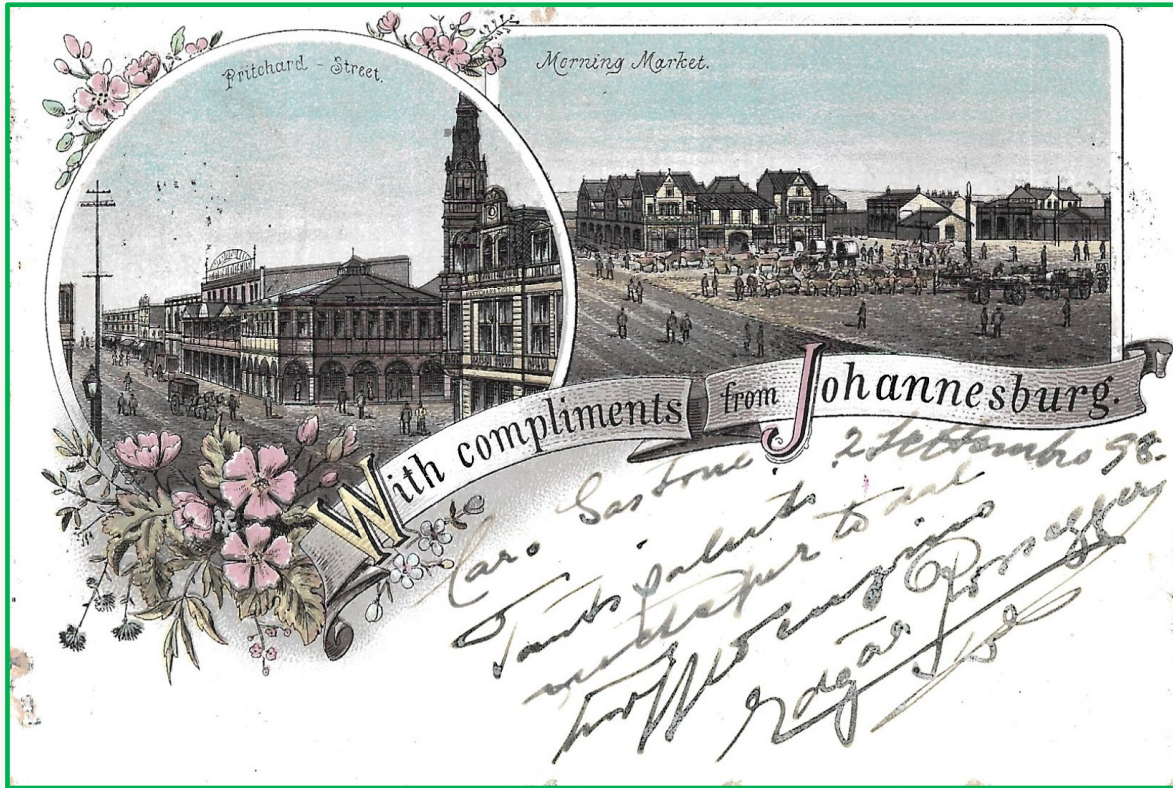
I have just been to Mrs. Roux. Saasie gave me a photo of his little girl to give to you.

Doornkop near Krugersdorp west from Johannesburg
Published by Sallo Epstein and Co, Durban. Unnumbered, UB in dark grey

No rebellion, as intended, materialised and heightened tensions between the British and the Boer republics. Jameson was sentenced to 15 months in gaol but was soon pardoned. He returned to South Africa and served as Prime Minister of the Cape Colony from 1904 to 1908.

With Compliments from Johannesburg

The earliest high-rise structure to be built in town, the three-story **Palace building** with its 27m spire, was built in 1889 at the intersection of Rissik and Pritchard Streets and for long the highest building in town.



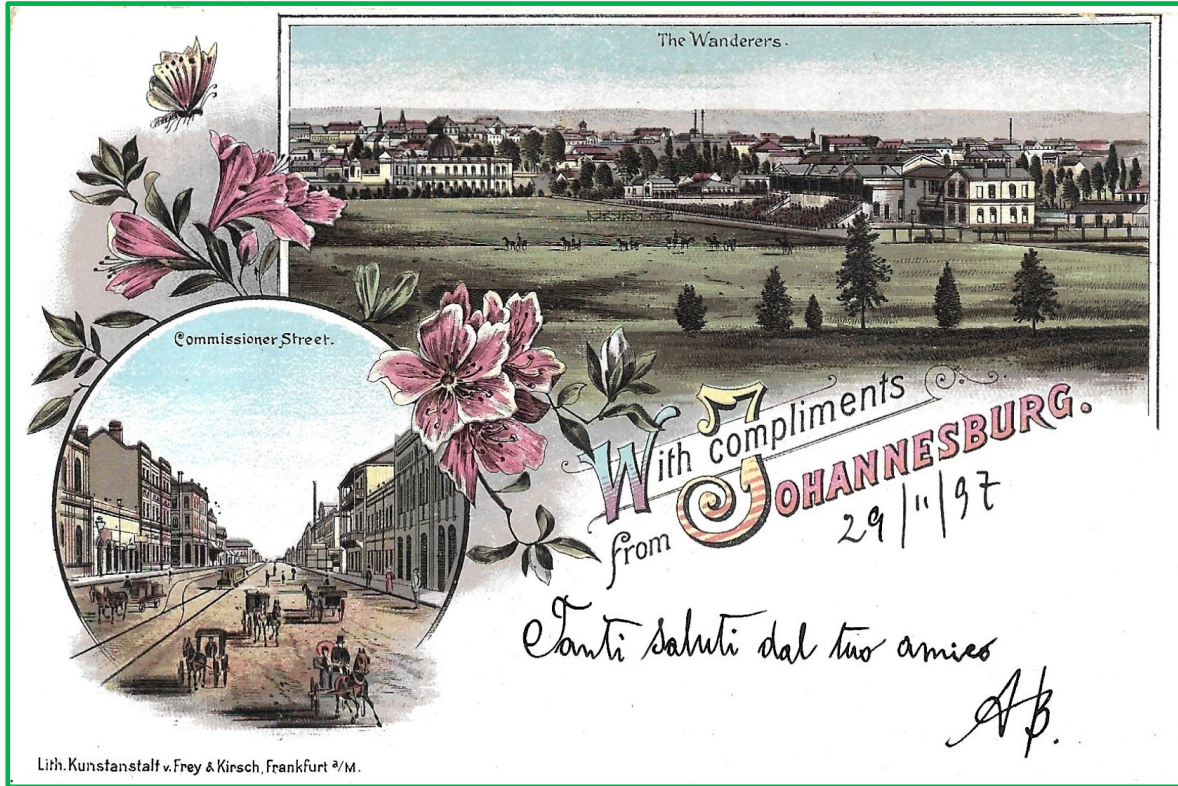
Chromolithographed print with artistic images of Pritchard Street depicting the **Palace building** with tower (1889) and old Thorne Stuttafords Clothing shop (1890) across the street; Morning Market on Market Square
 Published by *Lithografische Kunstanstalt Frey & Kirsch, Frankfurt, Germany.*
 The reverse is printed in red or green, similar to the ½d. or 1d. ZAR Postal Stationary Cards but without the imprinted ZAR stamp. UB in red
 Year issued: 1897



On right, the three-story Palace building (1889) with its 27m spire, crn Rissik and Pritchard Streets. Across the street is a later photo of the enlarged Thorn Stuttafords building (1893). On the opposite corner on left is the Trocadero Restaurant and the Grand National Hotel (1889) with Lennon & Co. Ltd. Chemists (1890's) across the street
 Publisher unknown with UB in brown

Pioneer Postcard depicting Commissioner Street and the Wanderers Sport Grounds.

The Wanderers, established in 1888, was for many years the chief recreation and social centre for the people of Johannesburg.

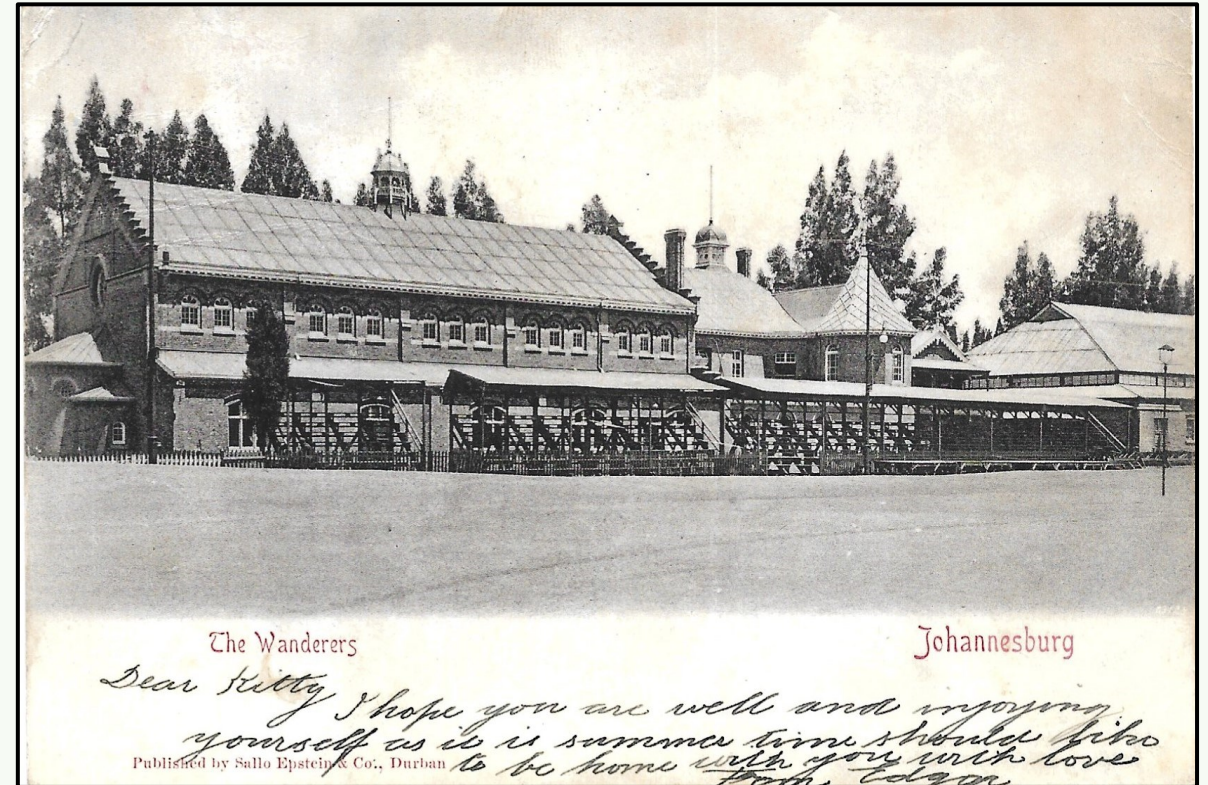


Chromolithographed print with artistic images of Commissioner Street and the **Wanderers** Sport Grounds - Used 29 November 1897

Published by Lithografische Kunstanstalt Frey & Kirsch, Frankfurt, Germany. The reverse is printed in red or green, similar to the ½d. or 1d. ZAR Postal Stationary Cards but without the imprinted ZAR stamp. UB in green

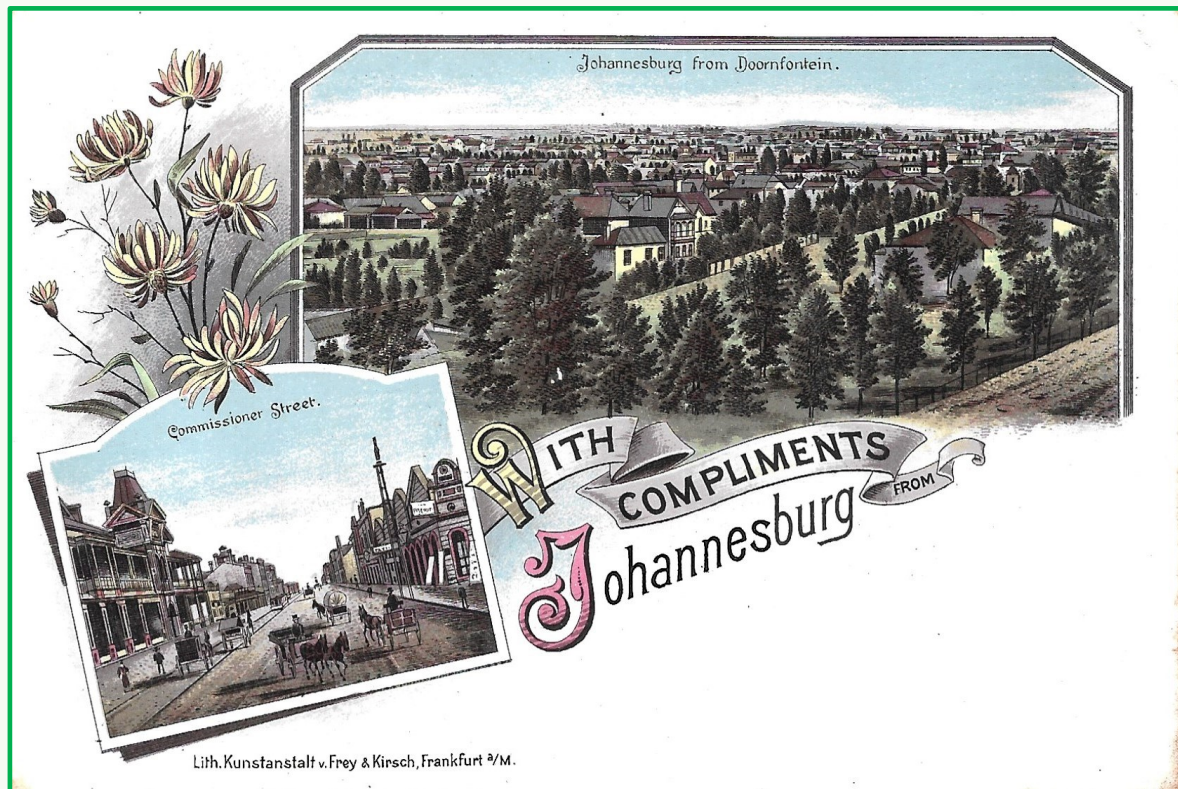
Year issued: 1897

In January 1889 a match between the first English cricket team to tour South Africa and a team representing Johannesburg was played on the grounds.

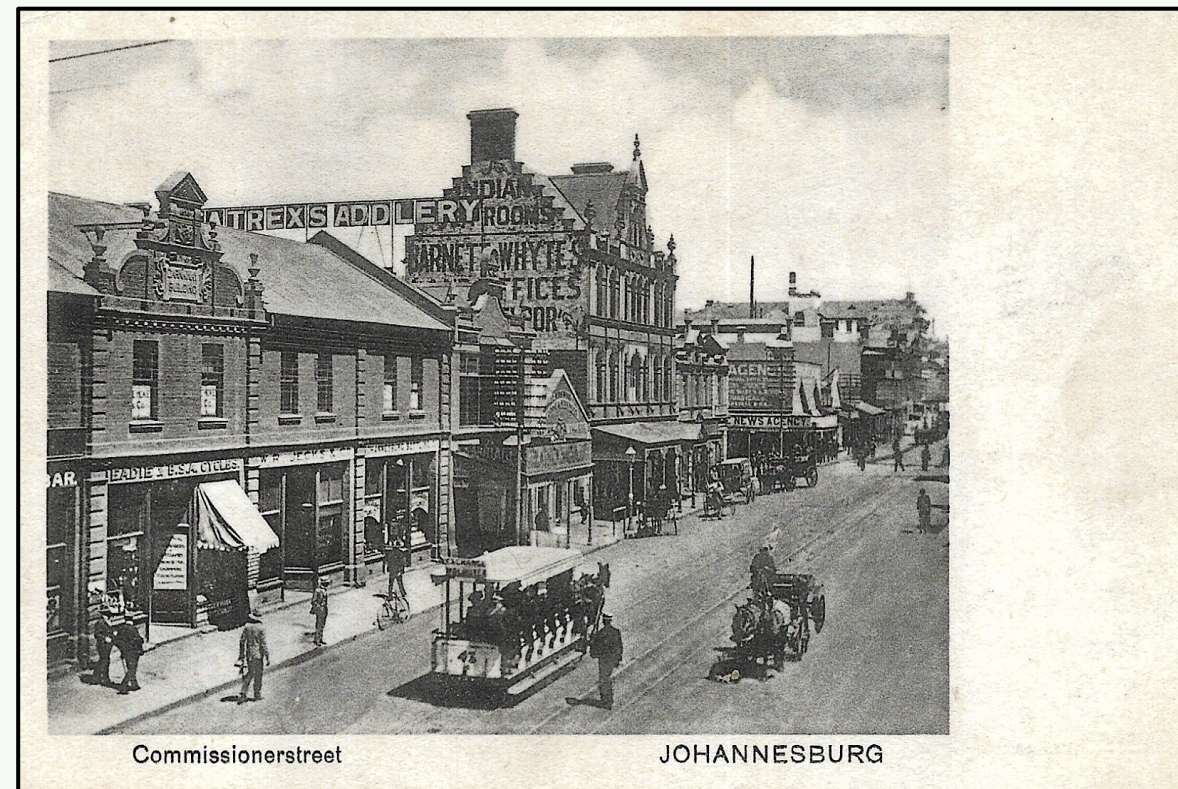


Wanderers' recreation hall with pavilion stands in front
Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban. UB in black

Pioneer Postcard depicting Commissioner Street and the arial view of Johannesburg from Doornfontein. **Commissioner Street** served as the central route for trade and transportation, connecting the town with mining areas and surrounding districts.

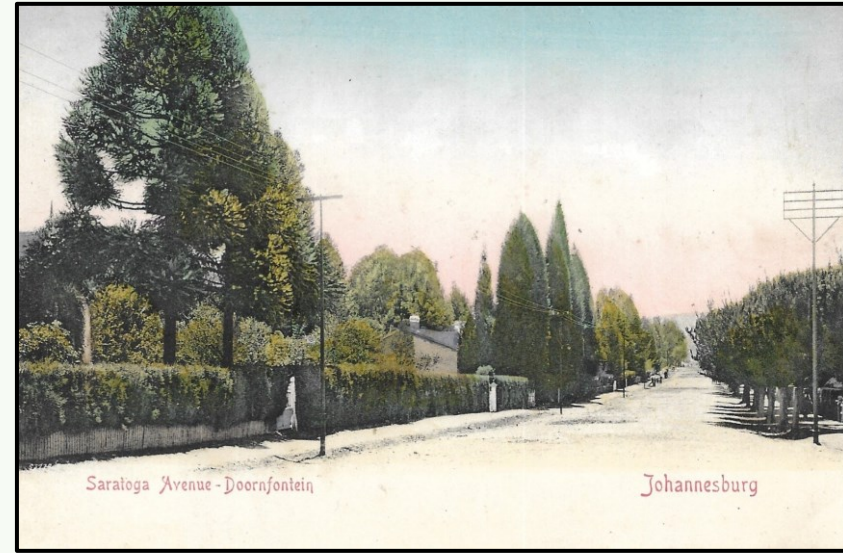


Chromolithographed print with artistic images of Commissioner Street (Rand Club 1890); Johannesburg arial view from **Doornfontein**
 Published by Lithografische Kunstanstalt Frey & Kirsch, Frankfurt, Germany. The reverse is printed in red or green, similar to the ½d. or 1d. ZAR Postal Stationary Cards but without the imprinted ZAR stamp. UB in green
 Year issued: 1897

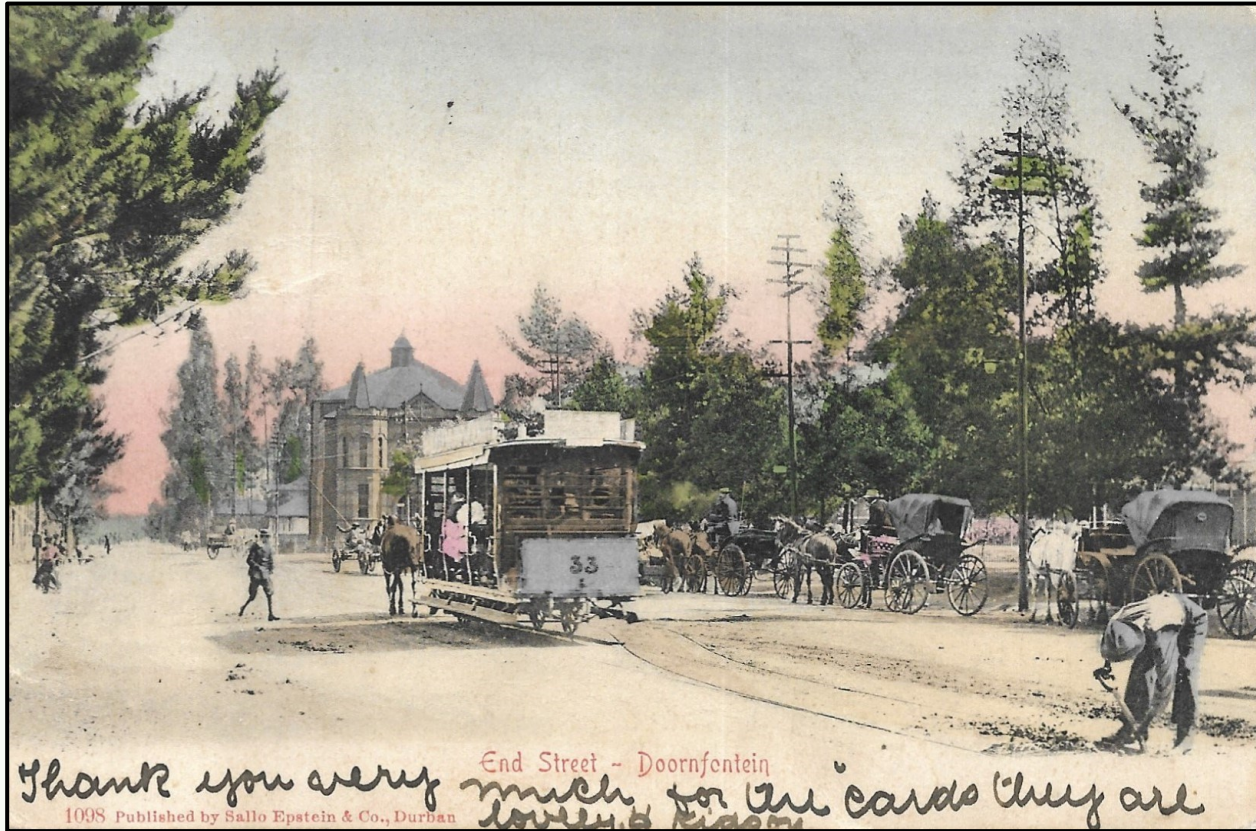


Early Commissioner Street depicting L to R: Darnaway Building; Katz & Lurie structure; Greatrex Saddlery; Single storey of Richard Currie Auctioneers; the Liverpool, London & Globe Company; The low-rise building on the corner of Rissik Street is Van Diggelen's. Across the street is the Central News Agency (1895) and Aegis Building
 UPU Transvaal Postcard published by B. F. over C. Serial number 50, UB in black

Doornfontein: The dry, dusty and unpleasant conditions in early Johannesburg, caused by the constant shaft sinking and ore crushing, lead inhabitants, especially the rich, to seek more comfortable areas to stay. A newcomer from Saratoga in America, Sam Height, built his mansion and named it Saratoga Villa. The street in front became known as Saratoga Ave.

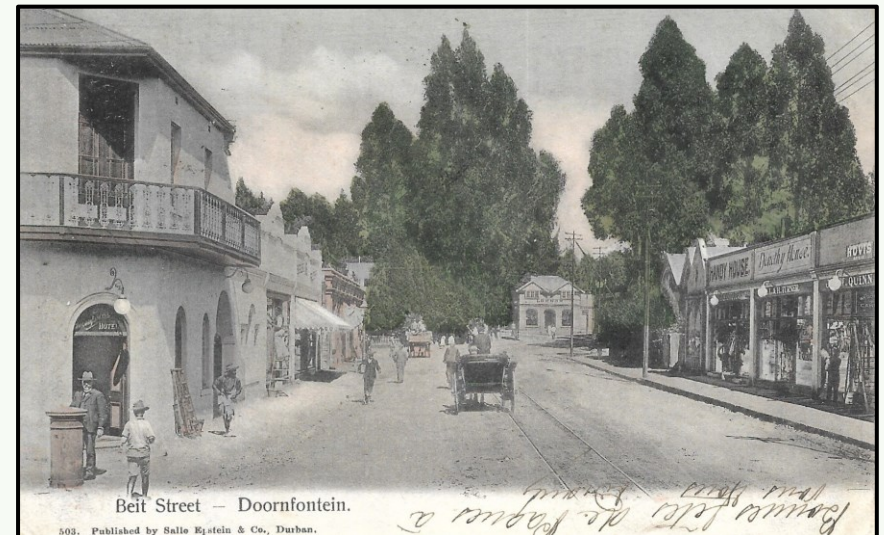


Saratoga Avenue, Doornfontein
Publisher unknown with UB in black



End Street, Doornfontein with horse-drawn tram no. 33 at the tram terminus. Note the horse-drawn cabs to the right and the early Congregational Church on the corner of Breë Street

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban with serial number 1098. UB in green



Beit Street with kosher butchery, delicatessens and shops on both sides of the street

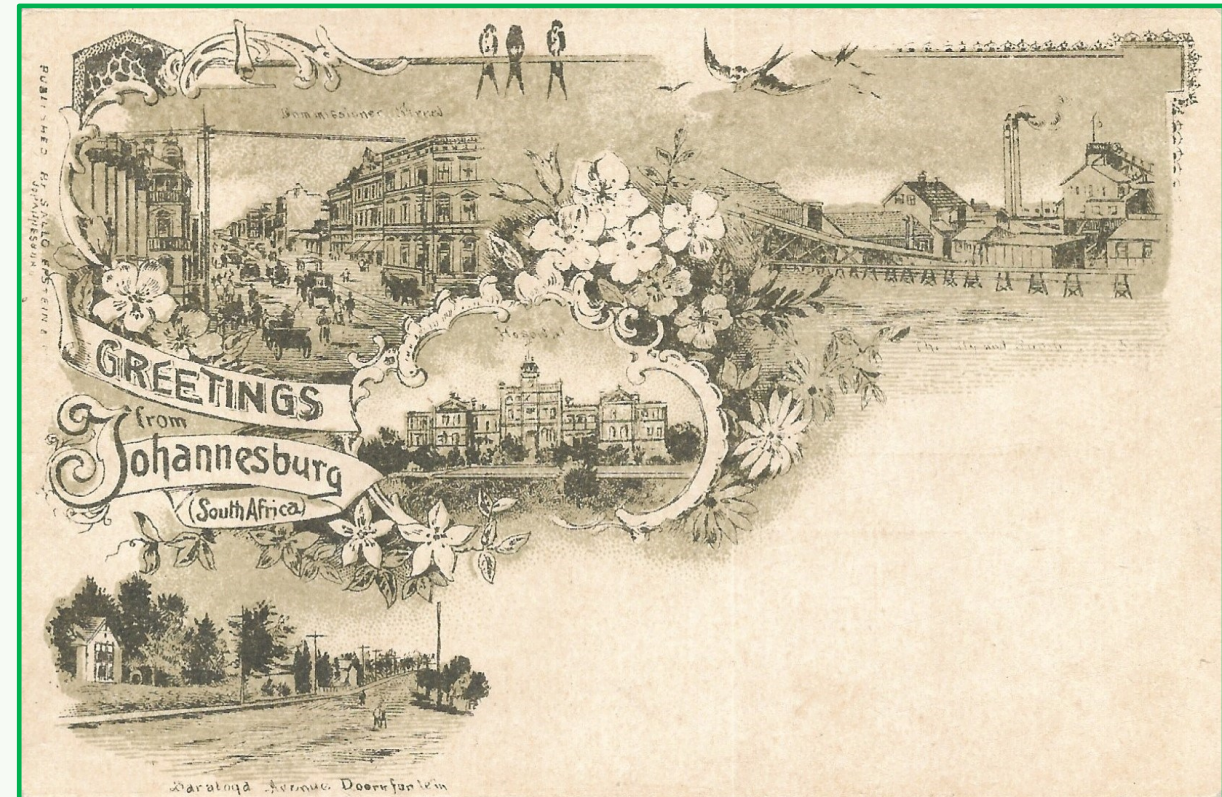
Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban with serial number 503. UB in black

Apart from being colour tinted and the decorative images, the below Pioneer Postcard is basically the same as the two Pioneer Postcards on a previous page.

The one left was published by Alphons Adolph, and the one on right by Sallo Epstein. This was the **first** time that this producer/publisher's name appeared on a Postcard.



Top L to R: Commissioner Street; City and Suburban Gold Mine Co; Johannesburg **General Hospital** (1890 and Saratoga Avenue
 Published by AA, (Alphons Adolph) Germany, no serial number. The reverse is printed in green, orange-brown or black, similar to the ½d. or 1d. ZAR Postal Stationary Cards but without the imprinted ZAR stamp. UB in green
 Year issued: 1897



Top L to R: Commissioner Street; City and Suburban Gold Mine Co; Johannesburg **General Hospital** (1890 and Saratoga Avenue
 Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg. ZAR Postal Stationery Card with 1895 ZAR ½d. green 'wagon with pole' stamp
 Year issued: 1897

Greetings from Johannesburg

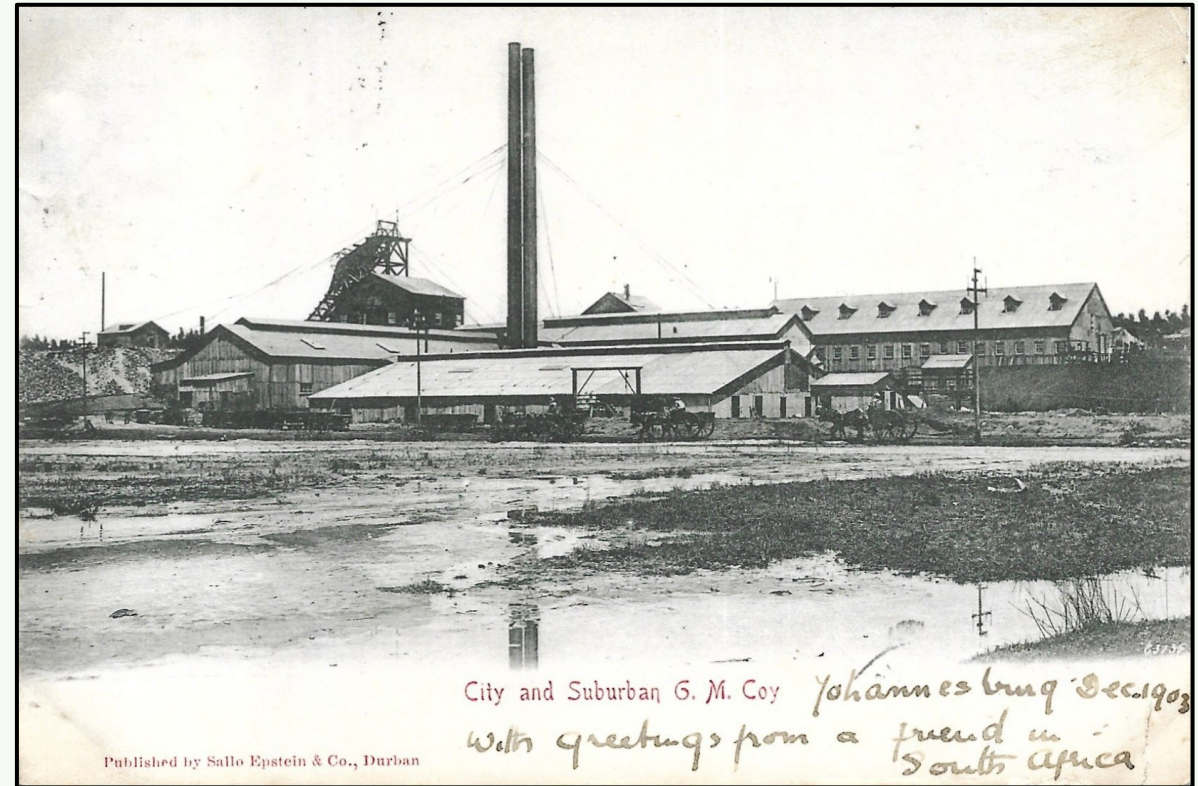
Pioneer Postcard with four Images. The **City and Suburban Mine** was established in 1887 and was situated close to Jeppestown and one of the first gold mines to be developed, producing significant amounts of gold and contributing to the rapid growth of Johannesburg.



Pioneer Postcard with images top L to R: Commissioner Street; Johannesburg General Hospital (1890); **City and Suburban** Gold Mine Co (1887) and below **Saratoga Avenue** (Doornfontein)

Published by AA, (Alphons Adolph) Germany. The reverse is printed in green, orange-brown or black, similar to the ½d. or 1d. ZAR Postal Stationary Cards but without the imprinted ZAR stamp. UB in black

Year issued: 1896



Headgear, Engine room, Stamp battery and Crushing mills of the City and Suburban G.M. Company in the late 1890's

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban with UB in black.



Commissioner Street

Buildings from R to L: Robinson building (1894); Green's Building (1894); Old Standard Bank (1889); Single Storey Building housing Kaufman Tailor; Marais Court (1894) and the Rand Club (1890). On left is the early Eckstein's Corner House (1889) veranda and the clock tower of the SA Mutual Building (1897) visible Issued 1898



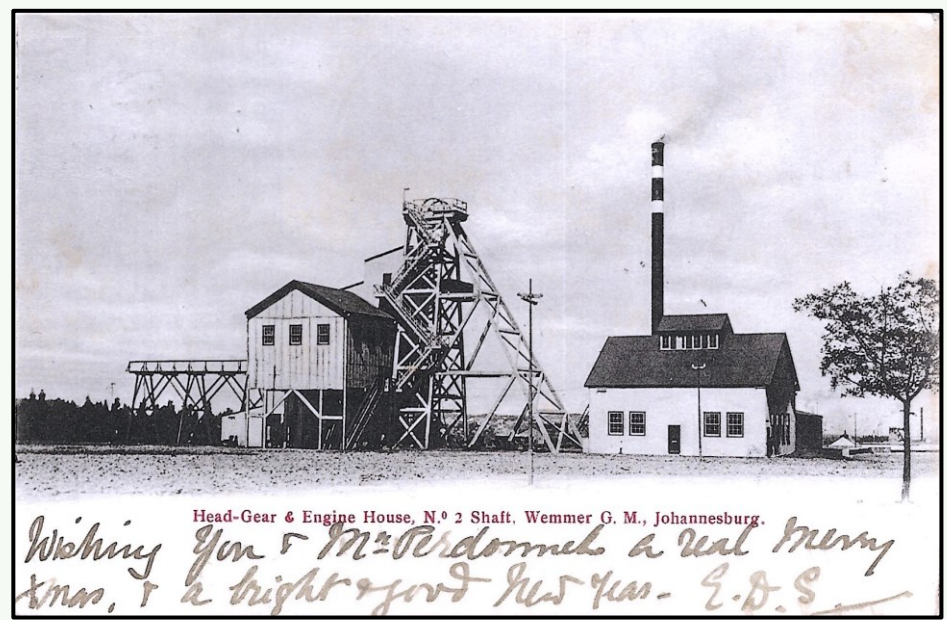
Greetings from Johannesburg

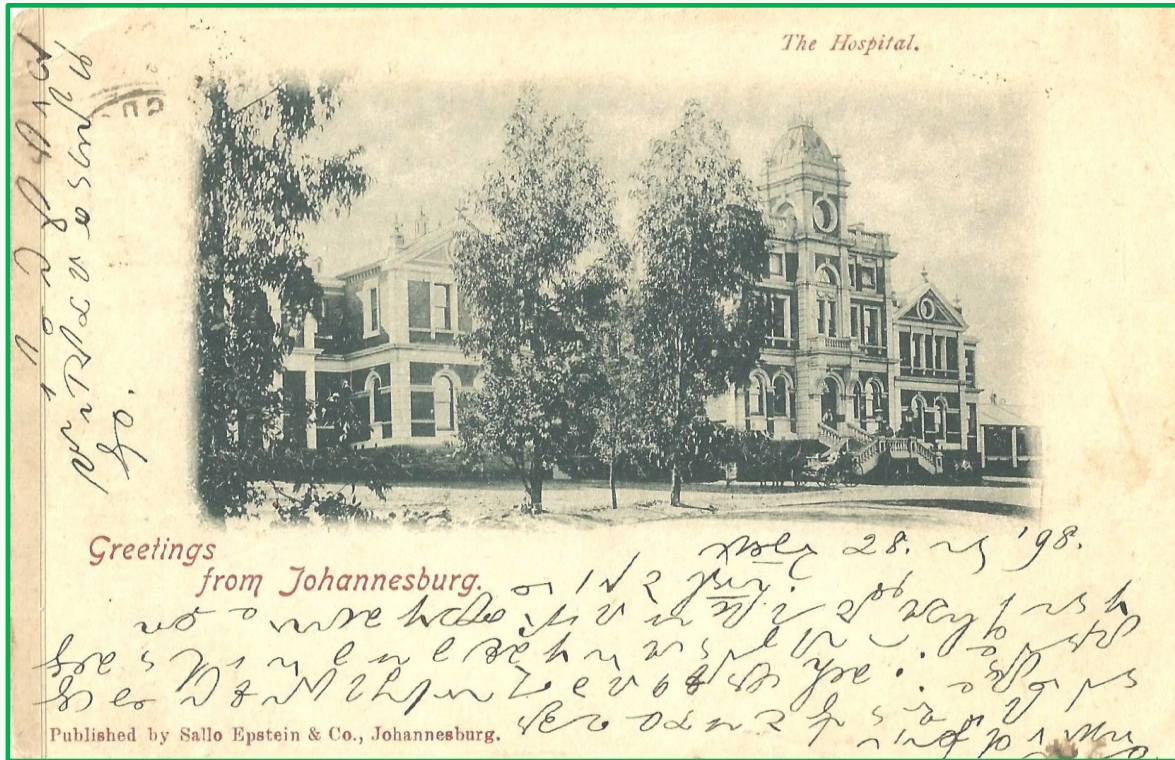


Surface workings at some early mines



By the end of 1887, 14 Mines and 93 stamping mills were in operation in Johannesburg.

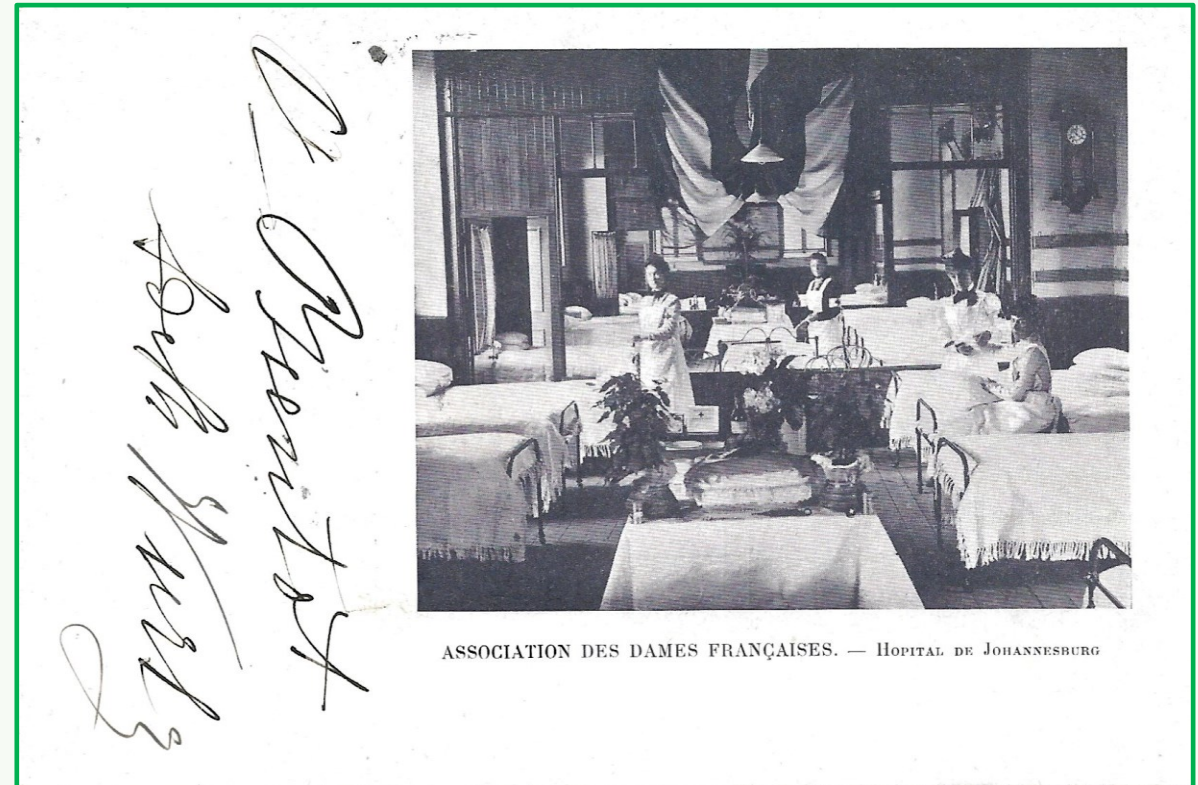




Johannesburg General Hospital (1890) - Used 5 September 1898
 Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg. ZAR Postal Stationery Card
 with 1896 ZAR 1d. red and green 'wagon with pole' stamp
 Year issued: 1898

These pioneer nurses faced major challenges and they raised funds for improved facilities. In April 1887, the first hospital was established, accommodating 14 beds. A new General Hospital with 130 beds was officially opened on 5 November 1890.

Casualties from mine accidents and street fights created a need for medical facilities. In 1886, nuns from the Order of the Holy Family of Bordeaux established a convent in a tin shanty on Fox Street. It also served as a makeshift hospital.



French Postcard depicting pioneer nurses in the Hospital - Used 10 November 1900
 Publisher unknown with UB in black
 Year issued: 1900

During the late 1880's and up to 1897, the **Johannesburg Sanitary Board**, a government body, was responsible for overseeing sanitation and public health services in Johannesburg. A Town Council was formed in 1897 when a law to this effect was promulgated.



Images L to R: Commissioner Street with trams in front of Old Standard Bank (1889) and Greens Building (1894); Johannesburg Stock Exchange (1888); Below - **Jeppestown Station** (1896). In the middle is an image of E Hancock, a Banker and chairman of the Sanitary Board - later the City Council. Also, a founder member of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg. ZAR Postal Stationery Card with 1895 ZAR 1d. red 'wagon with pole' stamp

Year issued: 1897. Up to 8 cards believed to exist

The Johannesburg **Stock Exchange** was established in 1887 to provide a platform for gold mining companies to raise capital to make the most of the first gold rush. In 1888 a new Exchange building was erected on the corner of Simmonds and Commissioner Streets.



First Stock Exchange Building. To the extreme right is the Lewis and Marks building with its Hatherley Distillery sign on top

Publisher unknown with UB in brown

from uncle albert

Jeppestown developed east from the city centre and was proclaimed in 1889, shortly after Doornfontein. It developed into an attractive self-contained suburb with Belgravia as an extension.

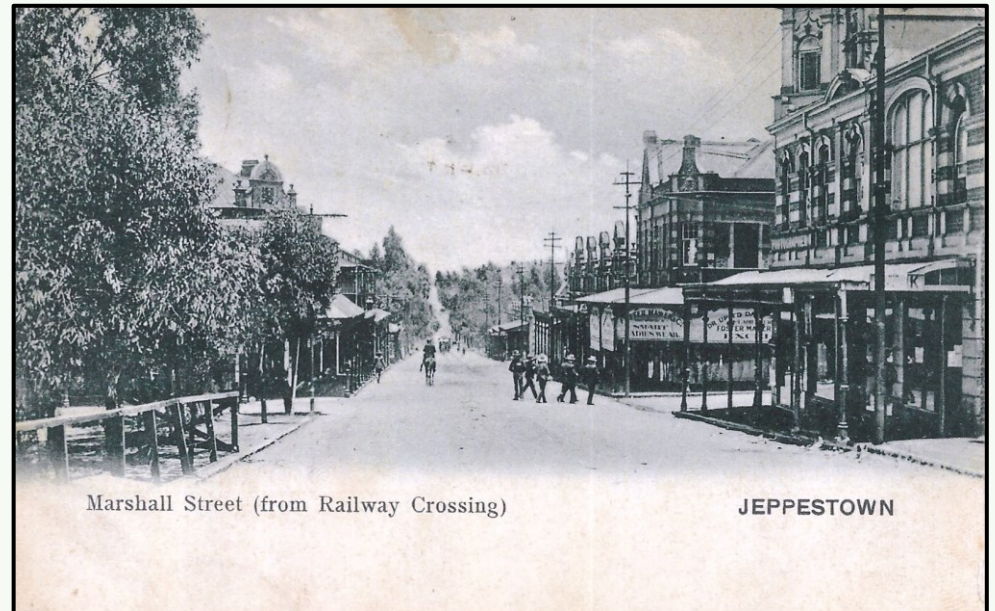


Belgravia Gates, site of **early toll gates**. The name J C Koller Chemist, Druggist appears in the window of the building
 Published by P. S. & C., Box 1205, Cape Town. Serial number 801, UB in green

Marshall Street from the Jeppestown Railway Crossing. On right is the Osborne Chemist building. Across the road is Lamb & Harper Outfitters and Robertson & Griffiths
 UPU Transvaal Postcard published by B. F. over C. with serial number 65,
 UB in Black



The Station Hotel with three ladies relaxing on the balcony
 Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban with UB in green

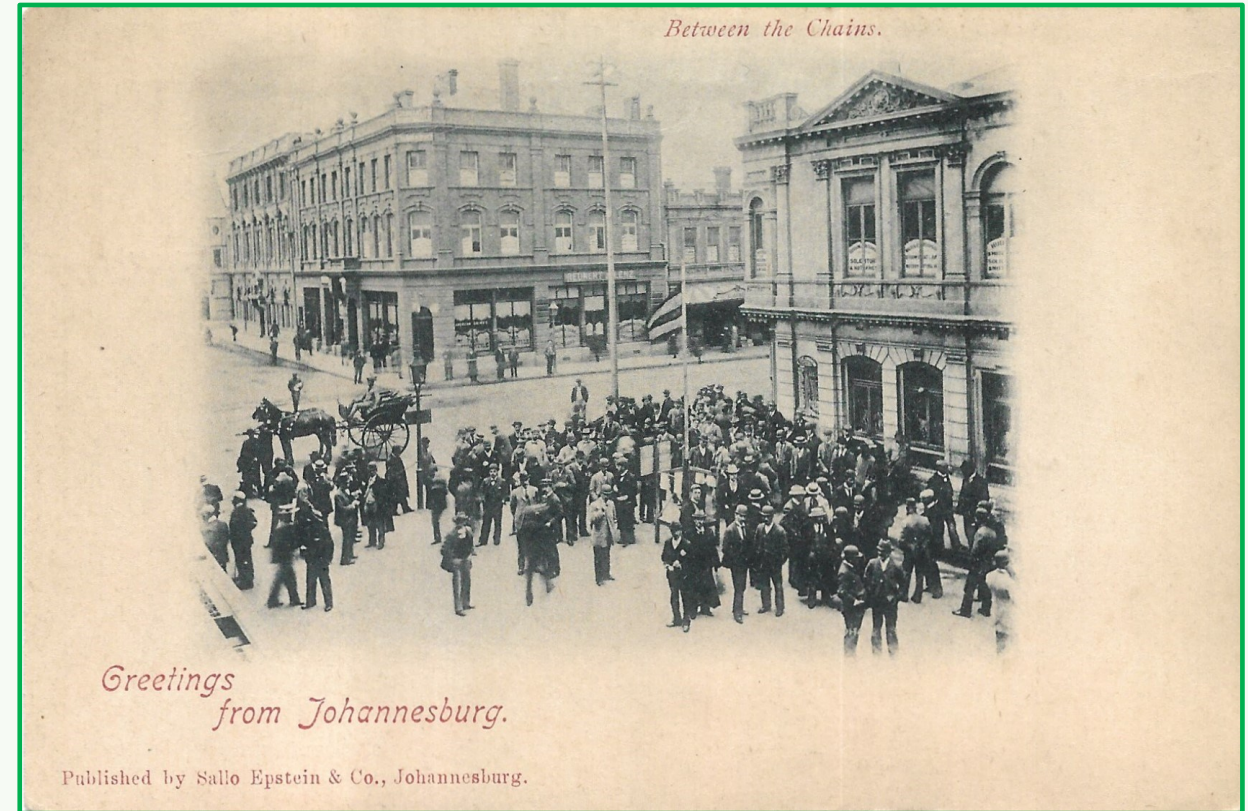


Between the Chains: Due to limited space within the Stock Exchange, brokers would step outside to conduct their dealings. The activity became so bustling that the roadway in front was closed off with posts and chains, becoming known as *Between the Chains* - an intimate part of Johannesburg's life.



The Stock Exchange, Johannesburg

New Stock Exchange in Hollard Street
Publisher unknown, UB in black.



Between the Chains.

*Greetings
from Johannesburg.*

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg.

Share dealings outside the Stock Exchange (1888) and across the street the Robinson (1894) and Green's building (1894)
Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg. Printed on the reverse of a ZAR Postal Stationery Card with 1896 ZAR 1d. red and green wagon with pole stamp
Year issued: 1898

Second Stock Exchange Building: Increasing activities made it necessary for a bigger building and in 1903 the exchange moved to a new building.

In October 1889 the Government increased the membership of the Sanitary Board to include twelve elected members and three *ex officio* Government representatives.



Images top L to R: **Morning Market**; Commissioner Street. Below Johannesburg telephone. The image in the middle is of Harry Graumann a financier and member of the Sanitary Board - later the City Council. Also, Alderman of Johannesburg and Chair of the Cape Town Uitlander Committee during the ABW

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg. ZAR Postal Stationery Card with 1896ZAR 1/2d. green 'wagon with pole' stamp
Year issued: 1897



The picturesque Telephone Tower (1894) and Pritchard Street showing part of Palace Building (1889) and the Pritchard Street aspect of the original Henwoods Building (1893) on the corner with Loveday Street
Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg. ZAR Postal Stationery Card with 1896 ZAR 1d. red and green 'wagon with pole' stamp
Year issued: 1898

Market Square: While businessmen met 'Between the Chains', vendors and marketeers met here. The morning market typically operates in the early hours of the day catering to people looking for fresh, produce, food items, and sometimes other goods.



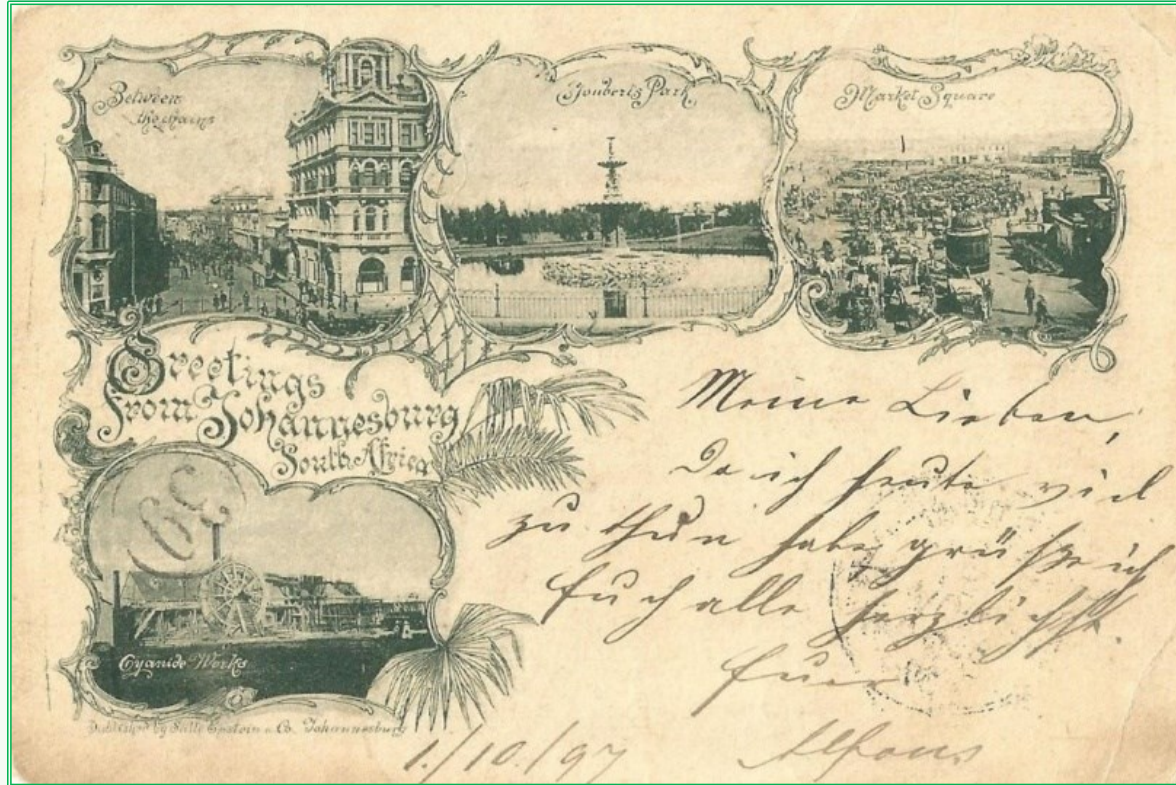
Western market building (1895) crn. Harrison and President Streets, housing the Geo Sutter and Co. Boeren Winkel (Boer General Dealer)
Published by Otto Seiffert, Nachf., Berlin. Serial number 1106, UB in black.
 The added captions 'Nachdruck verboten' and 'Suid-Afrikanischer Kriegsschauplatz 1899' in red informs that reproduction is prohibited and the Anglo Boer War (1899-1902)
 Year issued: 1899



Fruit & Vegetable Market at 5 o'clock in the morning annotated in manuscript. From L to R: Birch Building (1895); First Natal Bank (1891) and the Guildhall Bar (1894) at the corner of Harrison and Market Streets. Across the road is the Steytler Building (1895)
Published by J Barnett & Co, Johannesburg and UB in black

Cyanide works:

As the mines became deeper, the ore became pyritic and more resistant to the extraction process. Pyritic is an iron sulphide known as fool's gold and less gold could be extracted from the ore.

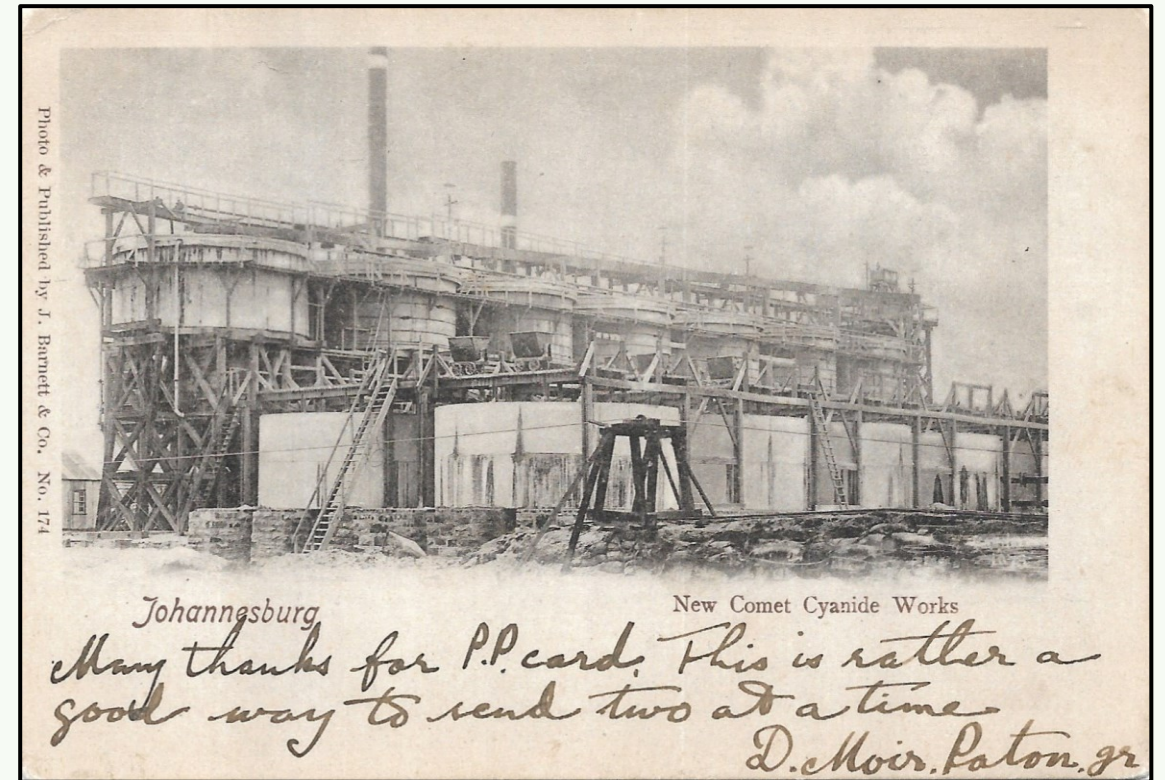


L to R: Between the chains, looking down Simmonds Street from Market Square, on left National Bank Building (1892) and across the street Robinson Bank (1894); Fountain in Joubert Park (1887); Market Square and below **Cyanide works** on a mine - Used 1 Nov 1897

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg in small italic style script with a 'u' (for 'und') instead of the typical '&'. Printed on the reverse of a ZAR Postal Stationery Card with 1895 ZAR 1d. red 'wagon with pole' stamp

Year issued: 1897

The MacArthur-Forrest gold cyanidation process was introduced in April 1890 and involve a sodium cyanide solution (sodium salt of hydrogen cyanide acid HCN) that is kept in large round containers.



Cyanide tanks at the New Comet Gold mine
Photo and Published by J. Barnett & Co. Serial number 174. UB in black

Pioneer Postcard with four images of which the photos were taken by Horace W. Nicholls, one of the foremost photographers recording Johannesburg life of the 1890's. He and Sallo Epstein worked closely together.



Images top L to R: Rissik Street (Palace Building - 1889); The **Law Courts** (1893); The Wanderers Sport Grounds (1888) and Market Square

*Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg with photos by Horace W. Nicholls. Printed on the reverse of a ZAR Postal Stationery Card with 1895 ZAR 1d. red 'wagon with pole' stamp
Year issued: 1897*

Law courts: The half-completed Goldfields Club (1889) was converted into the Court Buildings in 1893.



The Law Courts (1893) with horse-drawn cabs in the foreground. A 'Native Court', was situated at the back of the building
Published by W. Saphra, Johannesburg, S. A. with serial number 12895 in manuscript in the front bottom left corner. UB in green

The Postcard on right was most likely printed in Germany in large sheets on thin paper and shipped to Johannesburg where it was guillotined and pasted onto paper board.



On left the SA Mutual Building (1897) with its clock tower on the corner of Harrison and Commissioner Street. On the opposite corner the Bank of Africa (1896) with the Market Building (1895) visible at the back

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co, Durban with UB in brown



Three images, L to R: Commissioner Street (Page 19) and **SA Mutual Building** (1897)

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg, with serial number 24. Thicker than the usual with UB in red and printed 'Souvenir Kaart uit Johannesburg, Transvaal' with address line and stamp box with no stamp. UB

Year issued: 1899

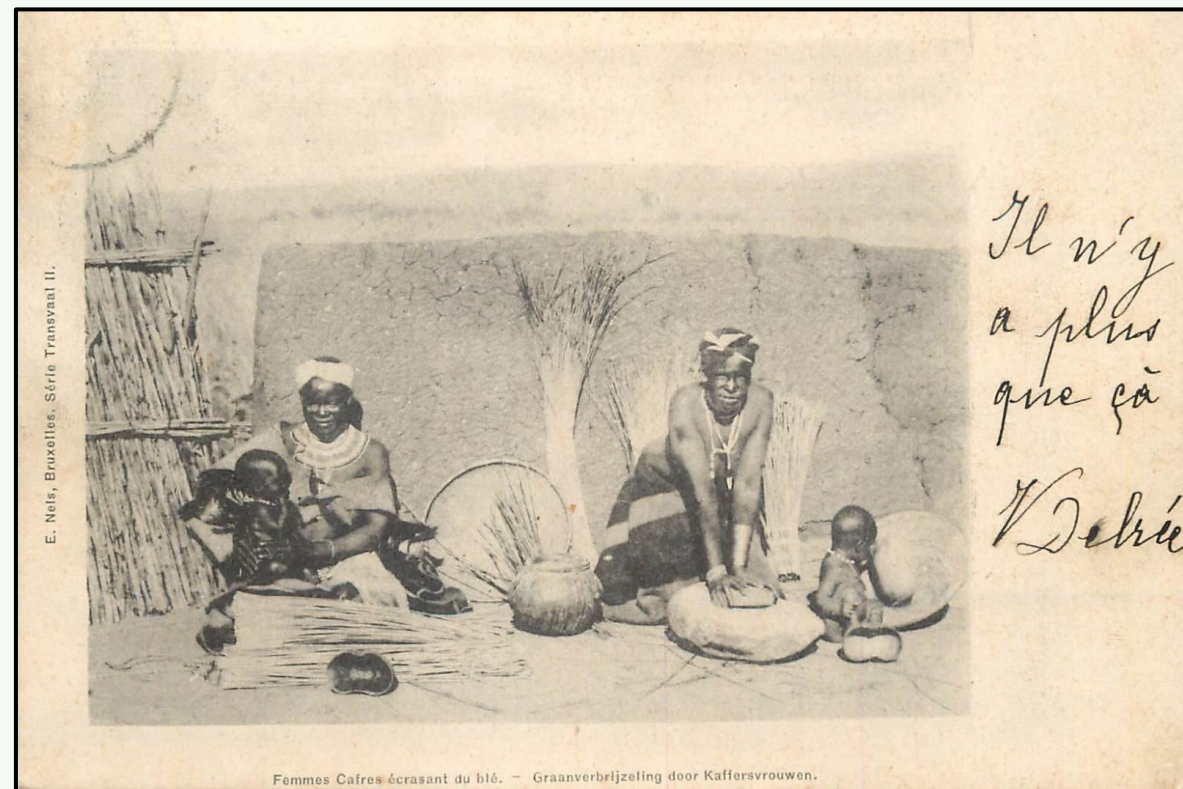
SA Mutual Building: Originally the headquarters of the South African Mutual Life Assurance Society, its grand architecture and prominent location symbolises the city's economic growth.

The below card was most likely printed in Germany in large sheets on thin paper and shipped to Johannesburg where it was guillotined and pasted onto paper board.

Zulu women: Zulu woman performing grinding sniff (and corn, a tradition that connects generations, symbolizing nourishment and community spirit.



Images top L to R: Cyanide Works; **Zulu Women**; The Robertson Gold Mining Company (1667) and Between the Chains (page 24)
Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg, serial number 22. The reverse show 'Postkarte' and UB in green
Year issued: 1899



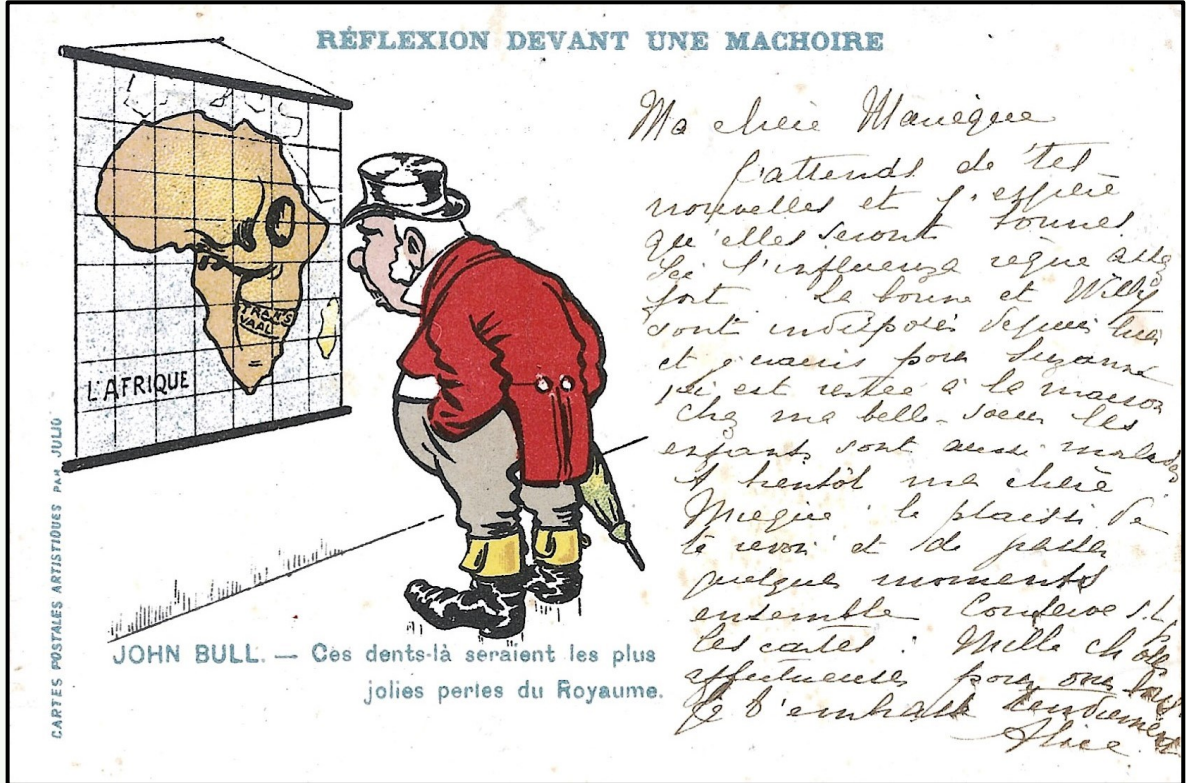
Two Zulu women with babies and one grinding corn
Published by E. Nels, Bruxelles, Série Transvaal II, UB in black

Among the notable items in the Sallo Epstein's Pioneer Postcards is the one featuring a Boer and John Bull shaking hands in front of a gate marked *Concordia*. This image pertains to the tensions between the two nations, directly related to the First Anglo-Boer War of 1880-1881.



Boer and **John Bull** shaking hands; Panoramic view of Johannesburg

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg. Printed on the reverse of a ZAR Postal Stationery Card with 1895 ZAR 1/2d. green 'wagon with pole' stamp
Year issued: 1897



Translation of the captions: 'Consideration in front of a jaw' and bottom, 'John Bull - These teeth would be the prettiest teeth in the Kingdom'

Published by Cartes Postales Artistiques, France with UB in black

John Bull; National personification of England, especially in political cartoons and similar graphic works. It originated as a satirical character created by John Arbuthnot and first appeared in 1712.

Fordsburg: The township was founded in 1887 and named after founder member Lewis Peter Ford.



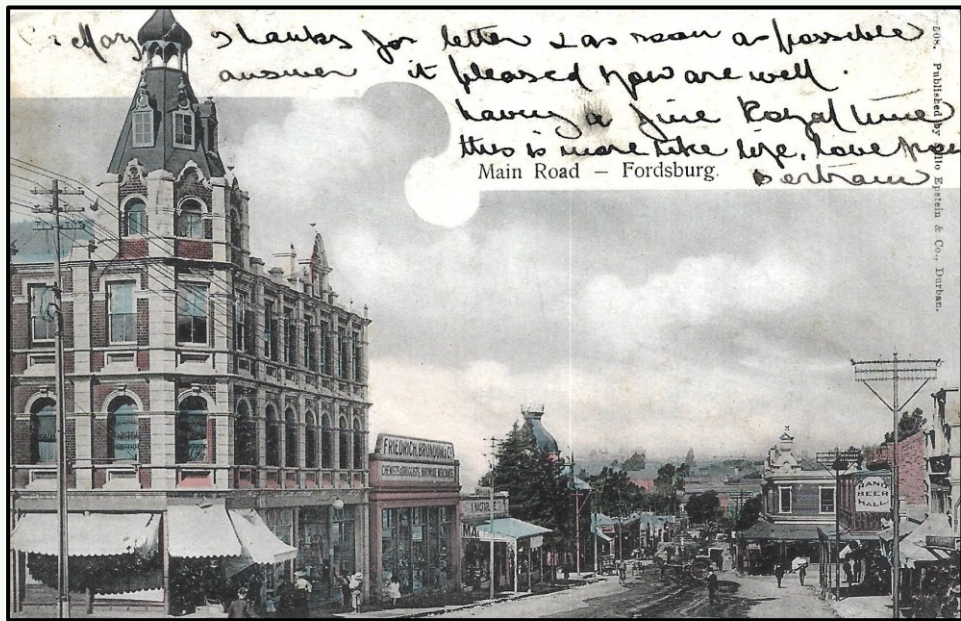
Main Road - Fordsburg (showing Post Office and Market Buildings)

On left: Main Street showing Post Office; MacCauley & Co. Drapers Store; Market Building with its clock tower and on right close up of the Market Building.



Market Square, Fordsburg

Love from Blauche.



Thank you for letter I as near as possible answer it pleased you are well. Having a fine Royal time this is more like life. Love from Main Road - Fordsburg. Bertram

On left: Main Mainroad looking east to Johannesburg town centre and further down the road on right



Mainroad

FORDSBURG

To wish you with the joys of a Happy Xmas & everything possible for one to wish another prosperity & joy through the coming year Harry

Willow Grove Hotel and Gardens with caption *The good old days of Johannesburg*. This was a popular haunt especially for miners and their families to take a break from the hard work on Sunday afternoons. There was also a Mail Coach terminus and facilities for travelers to sleep over.



The Willow Grove Hotel and Gardens in Langlaagte towards the end of the 18th century

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg. Reverse printed in red
'SOUVENIR CARD UIT TRANSVAAL', UB
Year issued: 1898



Mail Coach with caption translated to 'A stagecoach in the Transvaal'
Published by E. Nels, Bruxelles, Série Transvaal II, UB in black
Year issued: 1900

J. H. De Bussy were booksellers in Pretoria and had bookshops at Railway Stations at Park and Jeppe in Johannesburg as well as Pretoria and Germiston.

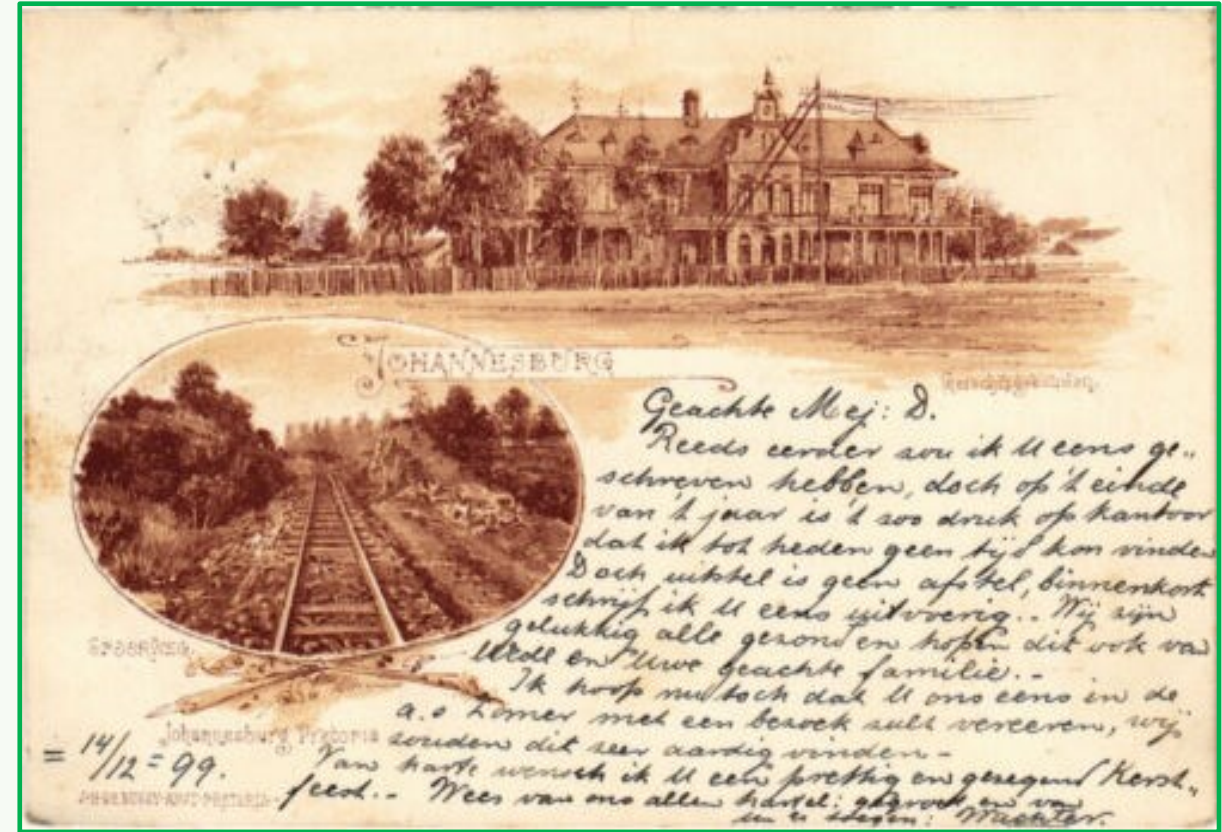


Park Railway Station - Johannesburg.

In 1897 Park station was upgraded by adding a platform and ornate steel and glass structure, imported from Holland

Publisher unknown with UB in brown

Railway Johannesburg - Pretoria: Johannesburg was built by ox wagon. No railway lines existed, and all industrial equipment and goods were transported by ox/mule wagon from the railheads in Kimberley in the Cape and Ladysmith, Natal, almost 500 kilometres away. The first Railway line from the Cape through the Orange Free State was opened on 15 September 1892 and the Pretoria line on 1 January 1893.



Images of the Johannesburg Law Courts (1893 and **Johannesburg/Pretoria Railway line** (1893)

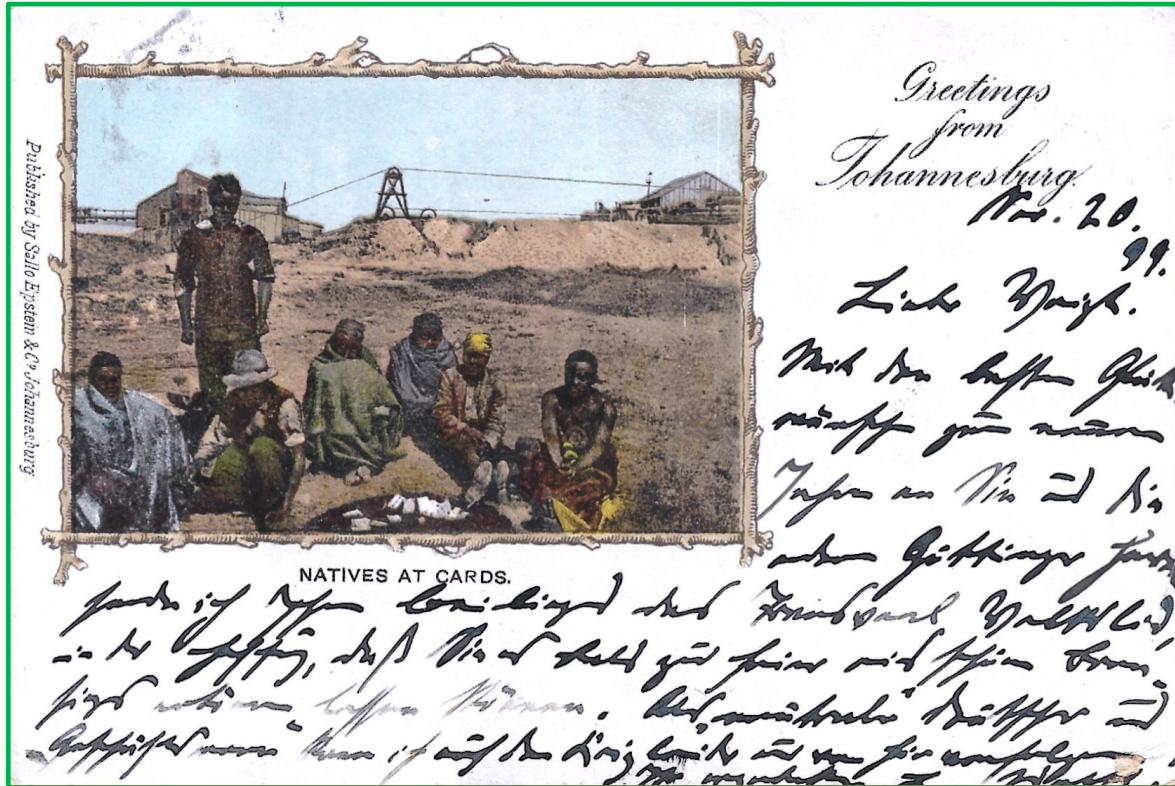
Published by J H de Bussy-Amst-Pretoria, UB in red

Year issued: 1899

An aspect of early South African mining is the **compound system**. Right from the start migrant labour was implemented, and black workers were housed in mining compounds.

Natives at Cards:

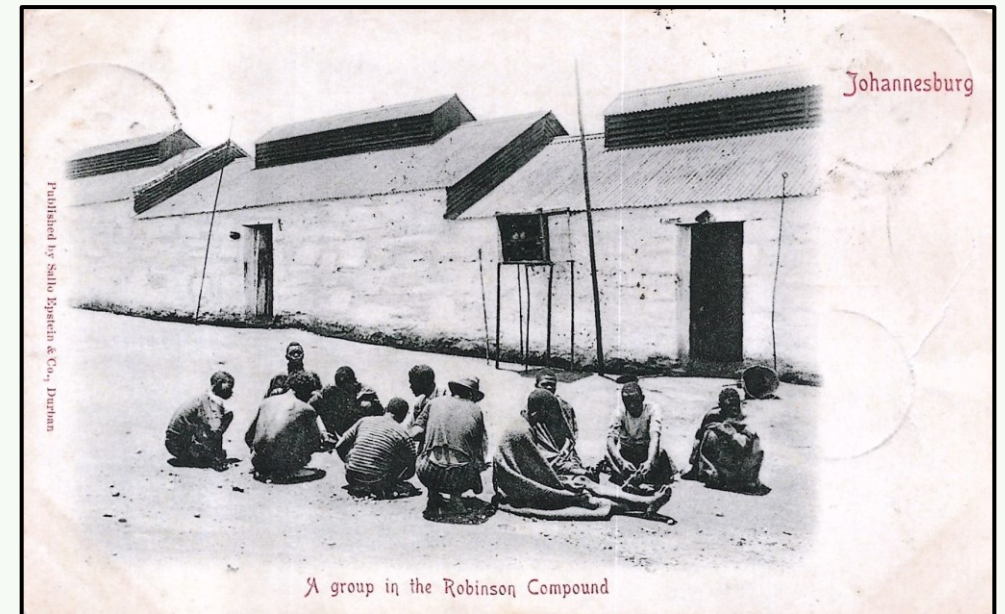
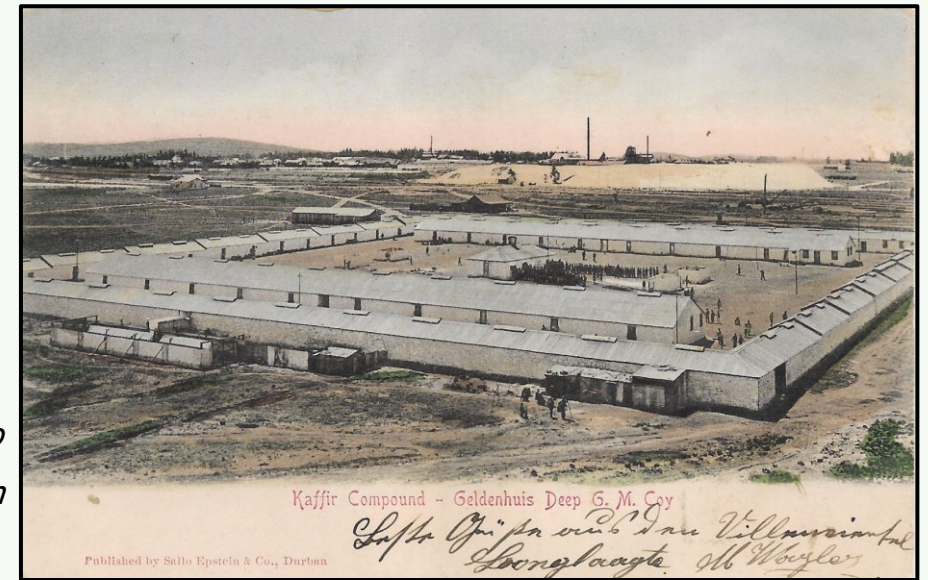
Black workers on a mine playing a card game.



Leisure time depicting a card game between nonwhite workers with onlookers and the surface workings of a mine

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg. Reverse printed in green 'A LETTER CARD SOUVENIR FROM THE TRANSVAAL, UB
Year issued: 1899

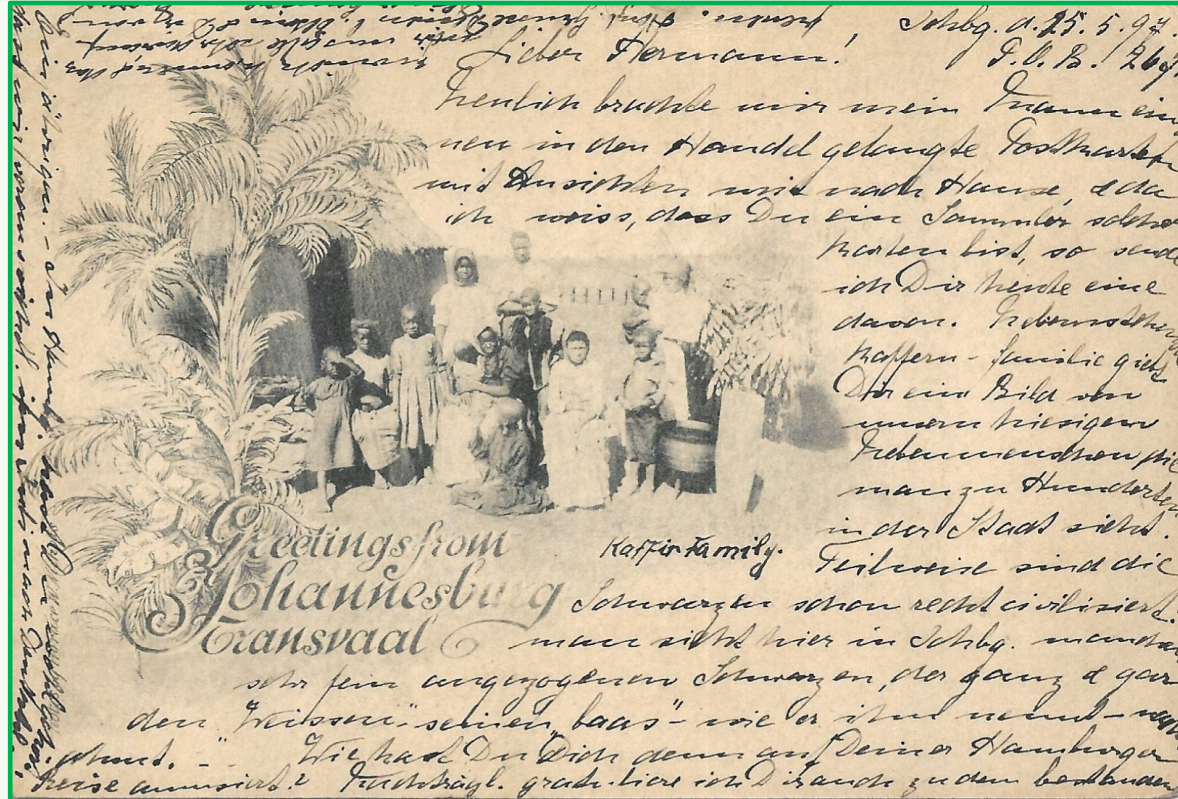
Typical compound
Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban with UB in black



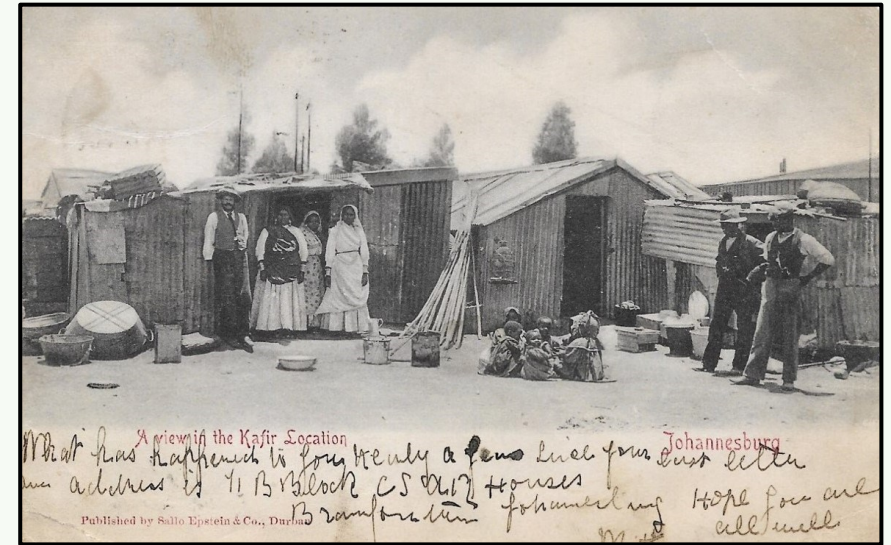
Black workers inside a mine compound on the Rand
Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban with UB in black

Urban contrast: As the gold mining industry developed, so did the need for labour increased. Thousands of people flocked the new town to seek their fortunes or to offer cheap labour.

A policy of separating the working class led to suburbs for whites and separate ones (locations) for workers of a different colour.



Black mineworker family in a location - Used 17 May 1897
 Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Johannesburg with photos by Horace W. Nicholls.
 Printed on the reverse of a ZAR Postal Stationery Card with 1895 ZAR 1d. red 'wagon with pole' stamp
 Year issued: 1897



View of houses and people in a location
 Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban. UB in black



Siemert Wedge, Doornfontein
 Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban with serial number 9. UB in black and 'Printed in Berlin' at the back

Thank you

