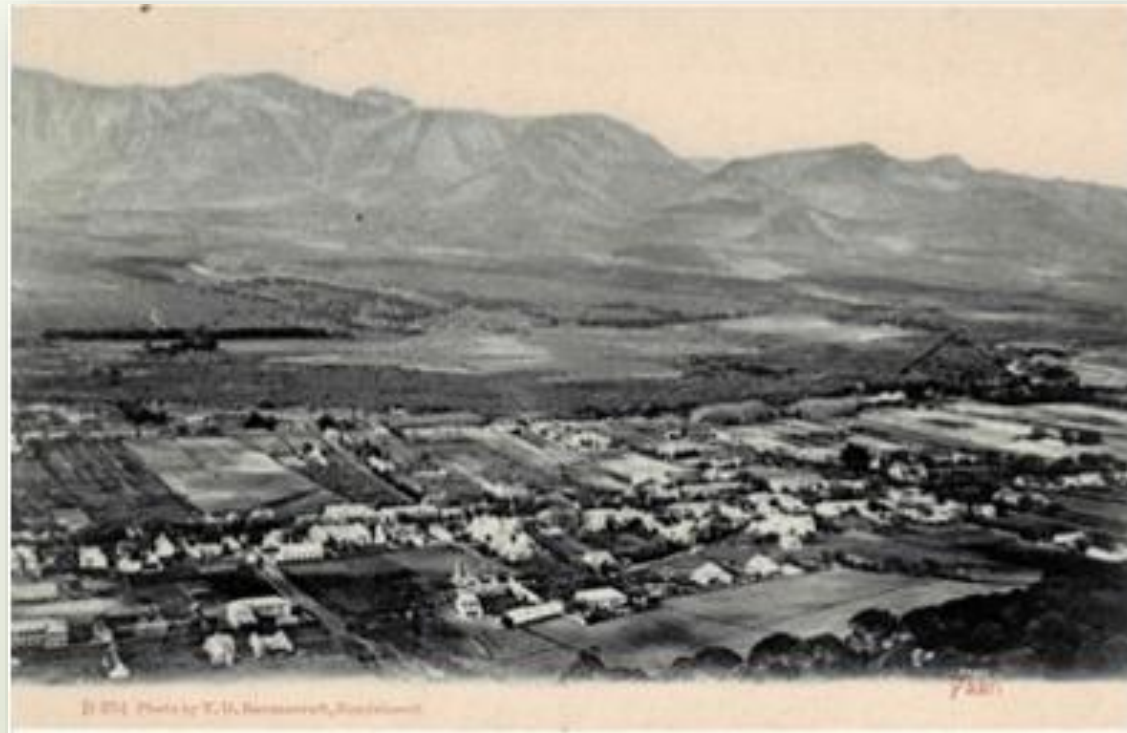


A view of Paarl through picture postcards

Brittania Rock

Used, divided
picture postcard
*Photographer T.D.
Ravenscroft.
Publisher unknown*

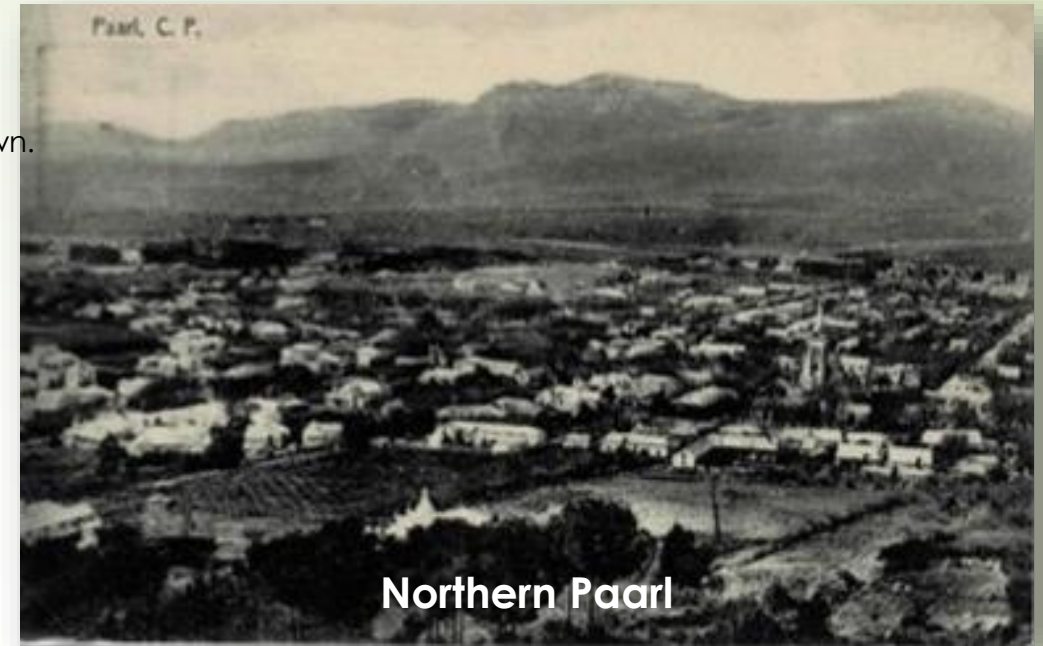


The History of Paarl

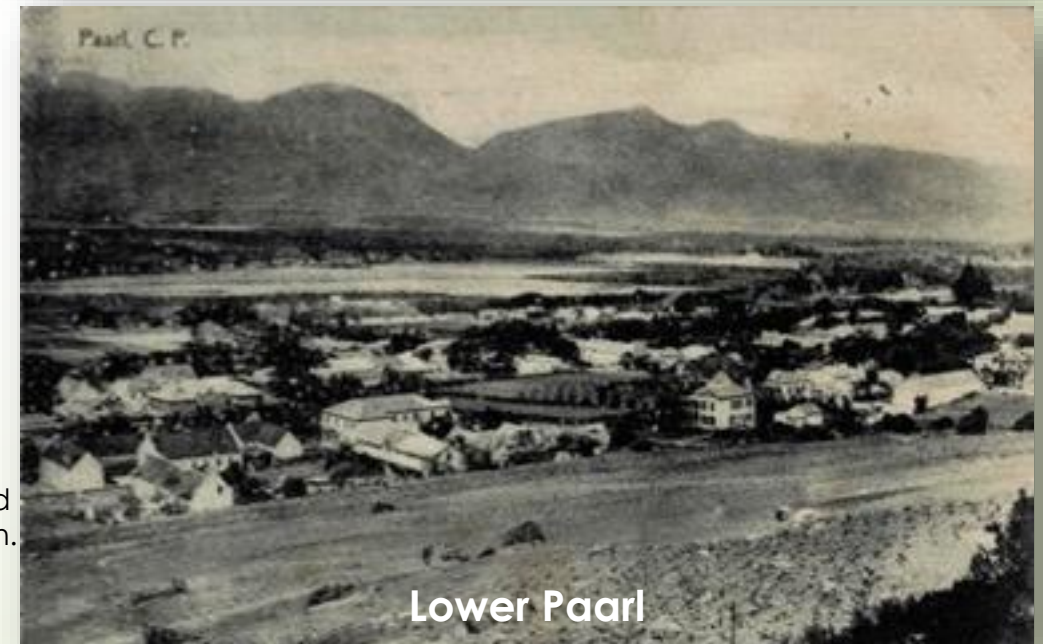
Unused, divided
postcard
Photographer unknown.
Published by J.
Hoitsema

- Paarl is the 3rd oldest European settlement in South Africa
- The town is named after the giant granite outcrop which overlooks the town.
- The granite outcrop was first discovered in 1657 by Abraham Gabbema when exploring the area for meat for the Dutch East India Company
- The Paarl valley was colonized in 1687 when land was allocated to 23 families from Stellenbosch
- In 1720 a church was erected, and this is considered to be the start of the town although there were some settlers living there with a water mill in operation by 1699

Used, divided postcard
Photographer unknown.
Published by J.
Hoitsema



Northern Paarl



Lower Paarl

The People of Paarl

The people of Paarl are descendants of the

- **The Khoisan**

The Khoisan and San were the first to utilize this area

- **European Settlers**

- The Dutch
- The French
- British

- **Indigenous Black Population**



Mbekweni Township



Dutch East India Company



Khoisan



Huguenot Monument

Geographic Features of Paarl

Drakenstein Valley

- ▶ Paarl lies on the western side of the Drakenstein Valley through which the Berg River flows from North to South.
- ▶ The valley was named after a Dutch East India Company commissioner, Hendrik Adriaan tot Drakenstein.
- ▶ In the distance is the Klein Drakenstein mountains



Drakenstein Valley

Colourised, two-picture postcard view of the Drakenstein Valley around Paarl, with Paarl mountain in the background.

Photographer: T.D. Ravenscroft

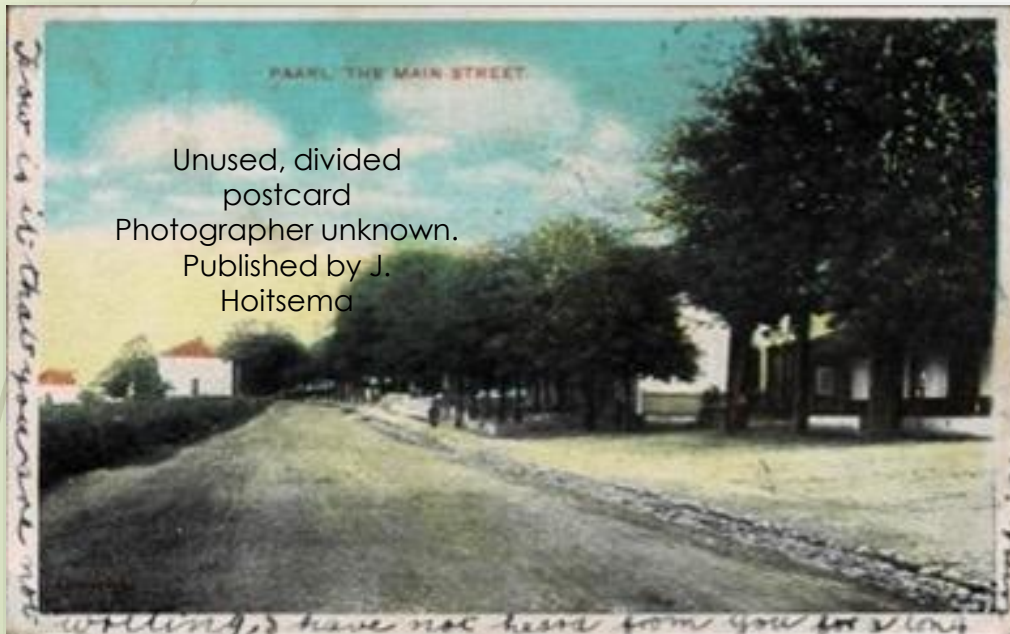
Published as part of the "Camera" Series

Khoisan

Geographic Features of Paarl

Main Street, Paarl

Paarl has the longest main road in South Africa, stretching a full 12,8 kilometers. It was the route used by wagons heading to the north.



Unused, divided
postcard
Photographer unknown.
Published by J.
Hoitsema

Main Street, Paarl Circa 1905

Colourised, undivided picture postcard
of Paarl Main Street.
Photographer and publisher Unknown

Paarl main Street is one of the best preserved streets in the country with many original buildings, representing the most popular architectural styles of the last 250 years, still intact and well-preserved.



Main Street, Paarl

Used, undivided picture postcard
Photographer: T.D. Ravenscroft
One of the "Camera Series" postcards



Main Street, Paarl

Undivided picture
postcard of Paarl main
street.

Photographer: Gribble
& Co.

Published by Paarl
Printing Company

Main Street of Paarl



Divided picture postcard
of Paarl main street.

Photographer: Unknown.

Published by John G.
Bain



Main Street, Paarl Circa 1906

Divided picture postcard of Paarl Main Street
with undivided back.

Photographer: T.D. Ravenscroft

Roads in and out of Paarl

- ▶ Paarl was situated on the main route from Cape Town to the interior
- ▶ Wagon making was Paarl's main industry in the late 1800's and early 1900's, providing a service to traveling into the interior by ox-wagon.
- ▶ Paarl as the centre of the wagon and wine industries had a very close relationship with both Paarl and Klapmuts

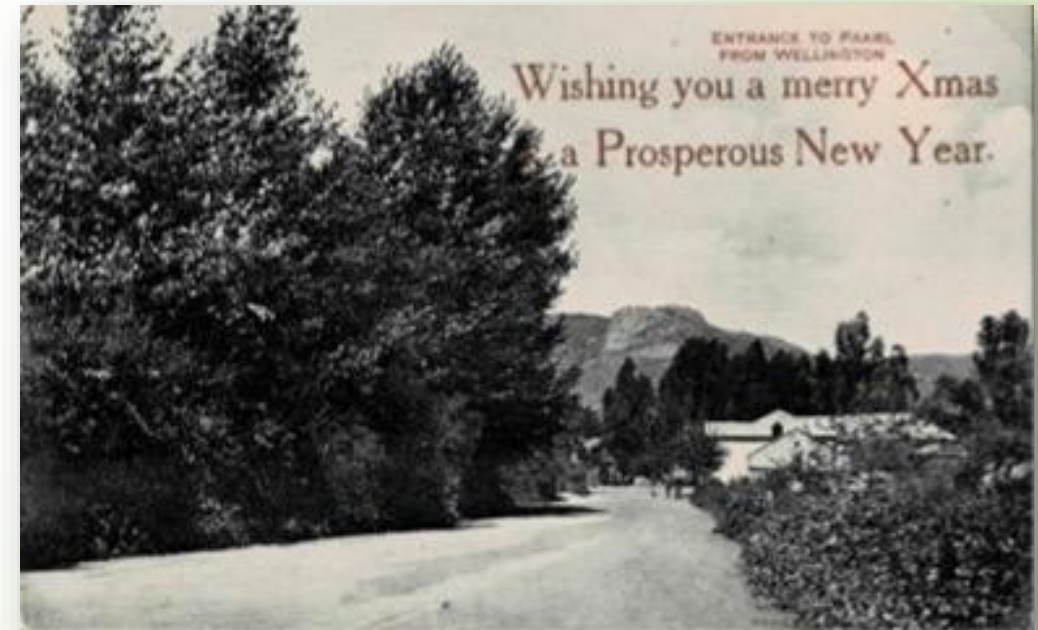


Road between Paarl & Klapmuts

Divide picture postcard of the tree-lined road to Klapmuts.

Photographer: Unknown.

Published by J.P.S. & Co., Cape Town



Entrance to Paarl from Wellington

Divided picture postcard of the entrance to Paarl from Wellington.

Photographer: Unknown.

Published by J. Hoitsema, Paarl

Lady Grey Street, Paarl



Lady Grey Street, Paarl.

Unused, divided picture postcard of the tree-lined road to Klipmuts.

Photographer: Unknown.

Published by J.P.S. & Co., Cape Town

- Lady Grey Street is the commercial centre of Paarl, named after the Eliza, the wife of the Governor Sir George Grey in 1850.
- Many of the Oak trees that lined the street have been removed and buildings demolished, replaced by retail stores and shopping centres.



Lady Grey Street

Used, divided picture postcard of Lady Grey Street, looking south towards Paarl mountain.

Photographer: Unknown.

Published by J. Hoitsema, Paarl



Mill Street, Paarl

- Mill Street in Paarl is a historically significant street. It was the original main road through the town for over 200 years.
- It is lined with beautifully restored homes, including the site of the Old Mill, which is now a theatre.
- The entrance to Paarl Gymnasium is located on Mill Street, in close proximity to the Old Mill



Mill Street, Paarl

Used and divided picture postcard of the intersection of Mill and Orange Street, Paarl.

Photographer: Unknown.

Published by J. Hoitsema, Paarl

Tortoise Mountain

- Paarl is famous for the huge granite outcrop of rocks that cover the mountain.
- Paarl Mountain was known by the local Khoekhoen and San Bushman as Skilpadberg or Tortoise Mountain
- The rock was first discovered by Abraham Gabbema in 1657 while searching for game/meat resources for the Dutch East India Company

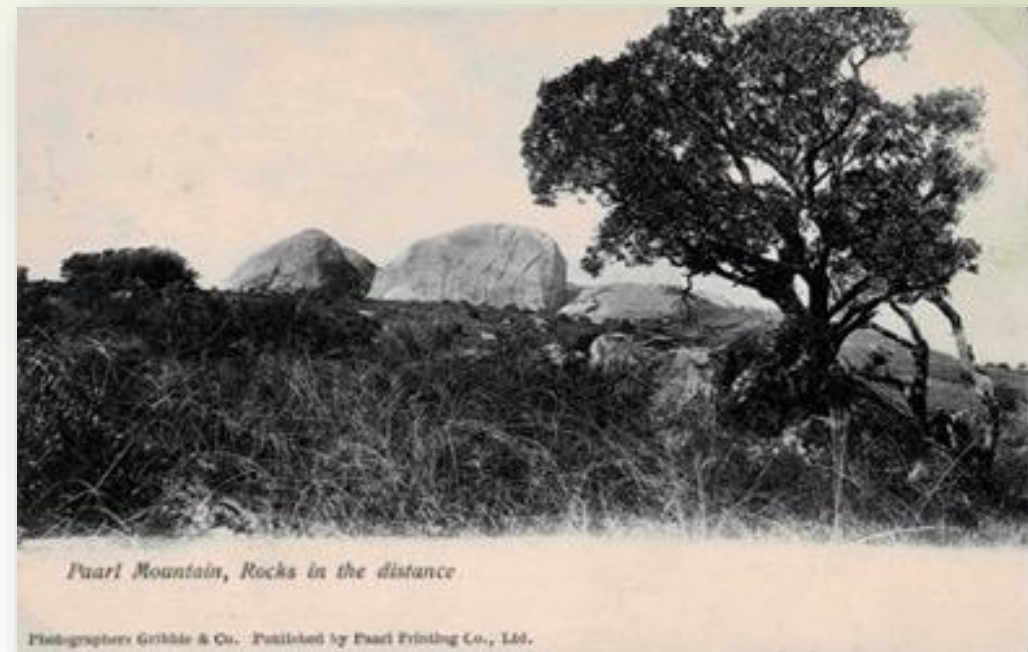


Ball-room

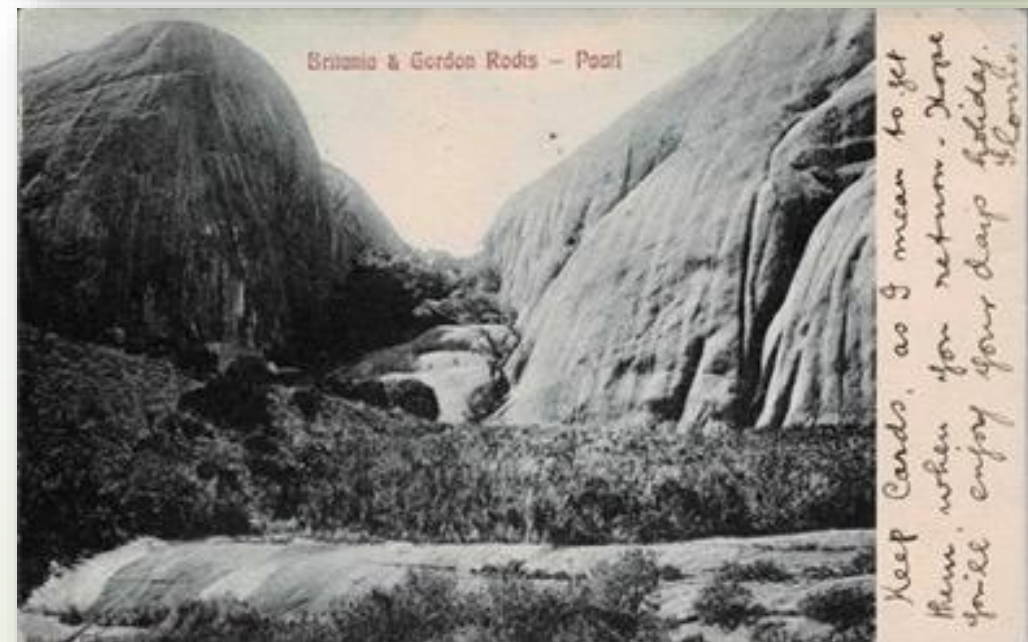
Coloured picture postcard of the "Ball-room" so named after the ball-shaped rocks..

Photographer: Unknown.

Published by John G. Bain, Cape Town



Used, divided
postcard
Photographer
Gribble & Co..
Published by
Paarl Printing



Used, divided
postcard
Photographer
T.D. Ravenscroft
Published
unknown

Berg River, Paarl

- The Berg River flows through Paarl. It is approximately 294 km long with a catchment area of 7,715 square km's.
- The Berg River rises south of Franschhoek in the Drakenstein and Franschhoek mountains, and flows north-westwards, entering the Atlantic Ocean near Velddrif.
- The section of the Berg River that flows through Paarl is referred to as the Upper Middle Berg River.
- The water is used extensively for agricultural purposes, particularly for the irrigation of vineyards.



Berg River, Paarl. Circa 1905

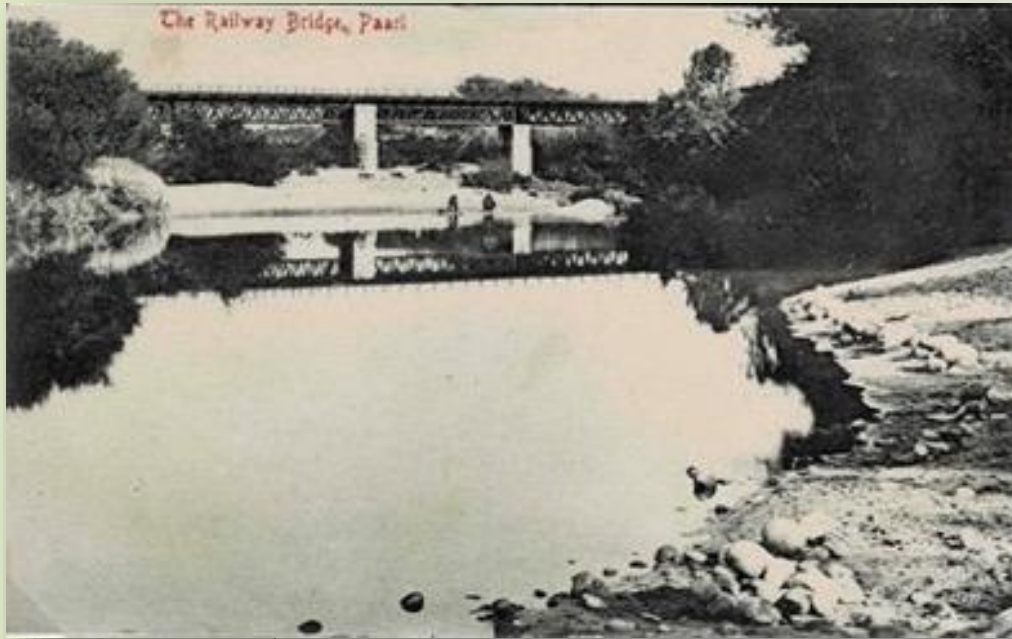
Colourised picture postcard of the Berg River, with the Du Toit's Kloof mountains in the distance.

Photograph taken by Gribble & Co.



Berg River

*Photographer unknown
Published by J. Hoitsema, Paarl.*



Railway Bridge over the Berg River

Used, divided
picture postcard

Photographer:
Unknown

Published by P.S. &
Co., Capet Town

Berg River, Paarl

Berg River from Huguenot Bridge

Unused, divided picture
postcard

Photographer: Unknown
One of the "Spes Bona"
series

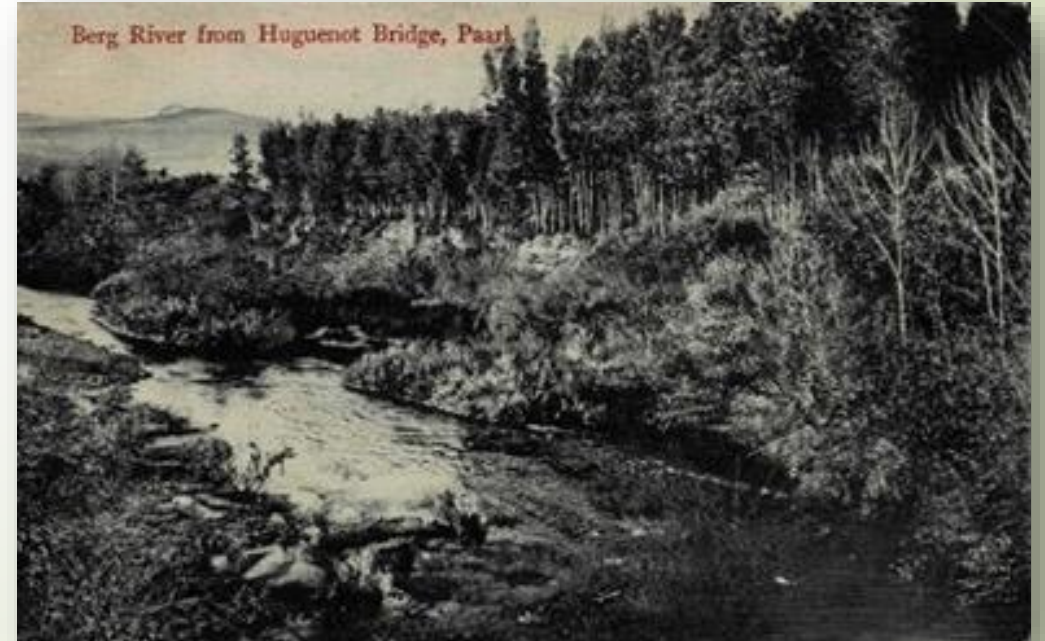


Berg River

Unused, divided
picture postcard

Photographer:
Unknown

Published by
Holland-Africa
Lijn, Amsterdam



Historic Buildings & Landmarks of Paarl

- ▶ Paarl has a treasure of historic buildings dating back to the founding of the town.
- ▶ The main street of Paarl is one of the best-preserved historic streets in the country, with many original buildings, representing the different architectural styles of the last 210 years.



Stadshuis (Town House)

Paarl became a municipality in 1840. The original "town house" was erected in 1881 and destroyed in a fire in 1924.

Used, divided picture postcard

Photographer T.D. Ravenscroft

One of the "Camera Series" postcards



Paarl Town Hall

Constructed in 1928. Designed by the first Afrikaans-speaking architect

Used, divided picture postcards

Published by Newman Art Publishing Co., Cape Town.

Photographer Unknown



Court House

*Unused, divided
picture postcard
Photographer: T.D.
Ravenscroft
One of the
"Camera series"*



African Banking Corporation

*Used, divided
picture postcard
Photographer:
unknown
Published by P.S. &
Co., Cape Town*



Police Station & Post Office

*Unused, divided picture postcard
Photographer H. Gribble
Publisher H. Hoitsema, Paarl.*



The Local Theatre

*Unused, divided picture
postcard*

*Photographer unknown
Published by J. Hoitsema,
Paarl.*

Central Hotel

*Promotional
leaflet for the
Central Hotel*



Central Hotel

*Divided real
picture postcard
Photographer: H
Gribble*

*Published by Tokim
Productions*





Gideon Malherbe House

Gideon was a wealthy businessman and farmer,
and a founding member of the Genootskap van
Regte Afrikaans

Photographer unknown

Published by J. Hoitsema, Paarl.



Dwaars in Den Weg

(Angled in the Street)

Used, divided picture postcard

Photographer unknown

Published by P.S. & Co., Paarl



Ou Pastorie Museum

Unused, divided picture postcard

The Old Parsonage built in 1786. Located behind the Toringkerk in Paarl

Photographer and publisher unknown



Market & Fire Bell, Paarl

Used, divided picture postcard

Photographer unknown

Published by P.S. & Co., Cape Town

Post Offices in Paarl

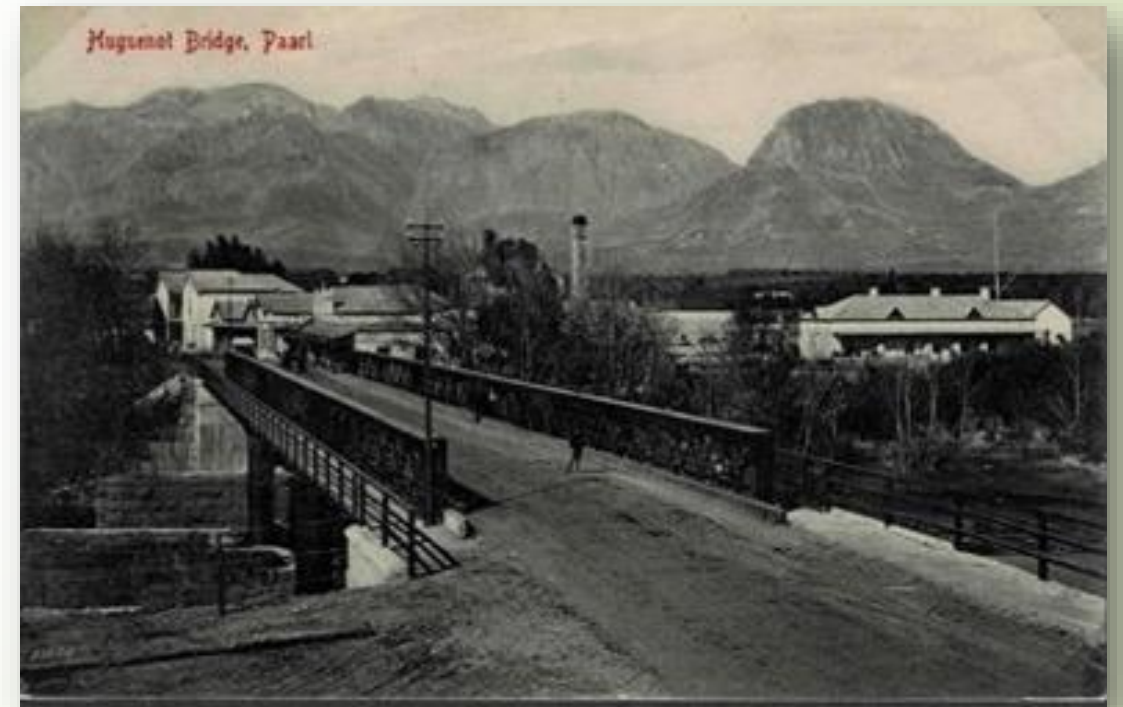
Huguenot Post Office (1905)

The first post office to be established in 1812 was located Main Street, Paarl. A total of 12 post offices have been identified in Paarl, all but one of which have closed.



Postcard posted at the Huguenot Post Office

Photograph by T.D. Ravenscroft
Part of the "Camera Series".



Huguenot Bridge, Paarl

Used, divided picture postcard
Photographer unknown
Published by P. S. & Co., Cape Town

Paarl Post Office (1812)

Paarl Post Office

Letter sent from the Paarl post Office



Lower Paarl Post Office (1876)

Lower Paarl Post Office

Picture postcard send from Mowbray with receiving cancel Lower Paarl type 2. 14 August 1912



Zuider Paarl Post Office (1912)

Zuider Paarl Post Office

Letter with Zuider Paarl 2 December 1943 type 5 canceller



Upper Paarl Post Office (1878)

Upper Paarl Post Office

Picture postcard send from Upper Paarl to Lower Paarl. 6 March 1906

Upper Paarl type 1 and Lower Paarl type 1 canceller used.



Paarl East Post Office (2009)

Opened in November 2009 the Paarl East Post Office was, until recently, the only post office open in Paarl. It has since closed and the Main Street, Paarl reopening.



Main Street (Hoof Straat) Post Office (1937)

Previously Noorder Paarl Post Office



Main Street, Paarl
Type 1 and 2 cancellers

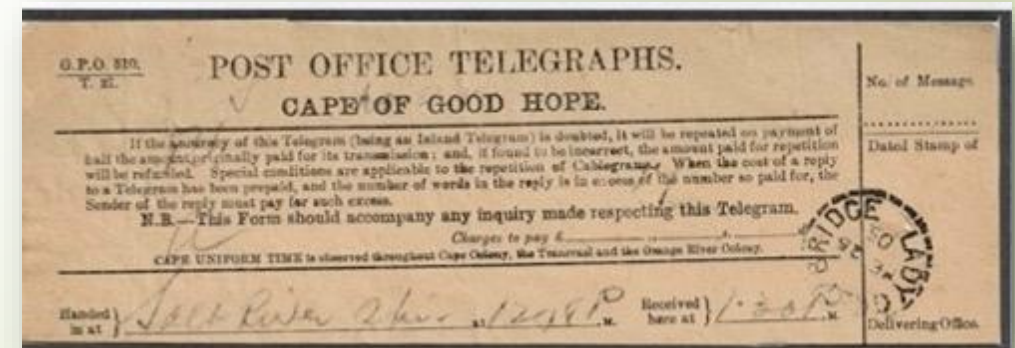
Lady Grey Bridge Post Office (1878)



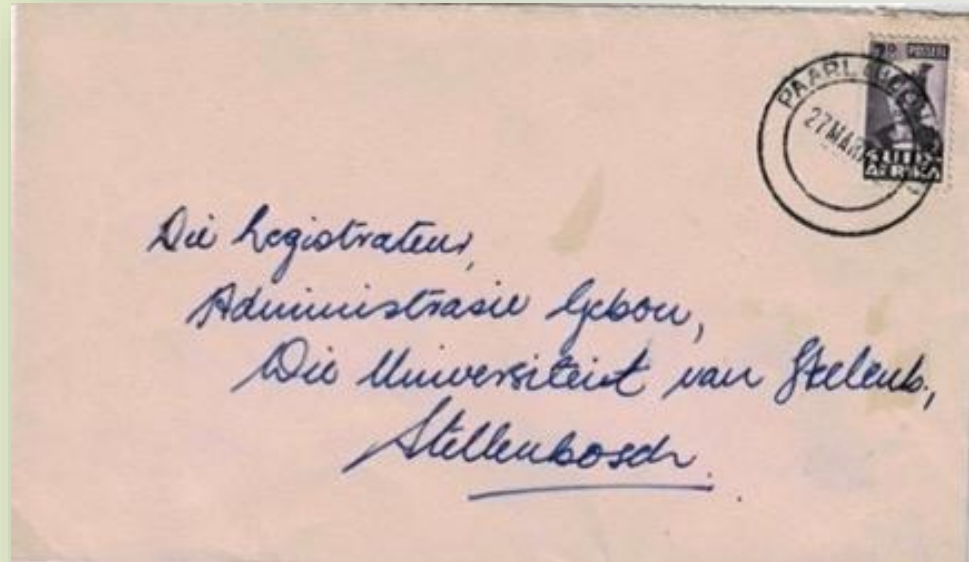
Undivided picture postcard with Lady Grey Bridge type 3 canceller.

Name was later changed to Huguenot Post office

**Lady Grey
Bridge**
Lady Grey
Bridge
telegram with
type 3a
canceller



Paarl Huguenot Post Office (1905)



Paarl Huguenot Post office

Cover with a Paarl Huguenot type 5 canceller

Paarl Village Telegraph Office (1878 - 1910)

Paarl Station Post Office (1885 – 1903)



Noorder Paarl Post Office (1865 – 1868)



Picture postcard sent from Noorder Paarl to Malmesbury. 4 August 1914

Type 1 canceller

Places of Worship

Paarl is home to places of worship for many religions, which reflect the diverse peoples who settled in the town.

When the first grants of land were given to German, Dutch and French settlers in the Paarl area, the first French-language services were held in a barn on the Babylonstoren farm near Klapmuts. Later, the Huguenots moved to Paarl and built the first church in 1717. The first church was replaced by a larger one in 1804, and now known as the “Strooidakkerk”.

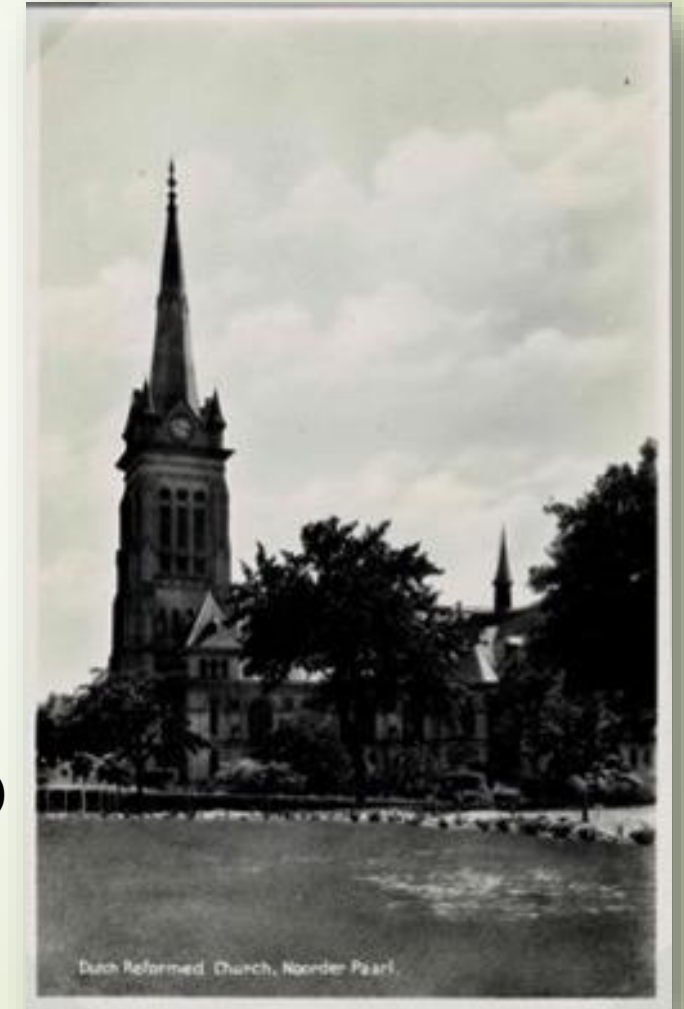


Strooidakkerk 1804

Located on the corner of Main and Harlem Streets
Used, divided picture postcard
Photograph by Gribble & Co.
Published by D.F. du Toit & Co. Ltd, Paarl.

In 1875 the Toringkerk separated from the Strooidakkerk to become the Dutch Reformed Church.

The Toringkerk has a close relationship with Paarl Gymnasium school, the famous free-church school for Christian and mother-tongue education, founded in 1858.



**Die Toringkerk 1875
(New Dutch Reform Church)**

Photographer unknown
Published by The Newman
Art Publishing Co., Cape
Town.



St Petri Lutheran Church 1875

Photographer and publisher unknown



**Jewish
Synagogue 1904**

*Photograph of the
Paarl Jewish
Synagogue*

*Photographer and
publisher unknown*

**Congregational
Church, Paarl**

*Founded in 1901,
now known as the
United Church after
the Congregational
Church merged
with the Anglican
Church*

*Used, divided
picture postcard*

*Photographer and
publisher John G.
Bain, Cape Town*



Places of Worship in Paarl



Paarl Mosque
1888

Gribble photograph of the Malay Mosque in Breda Street, Paarl.
Source: Drakenstein Heemkring

Zion Church
1842

Photograph of the Zion Church, Paarl.

Source: Drakenstein Heemkring



Holy Trinity Church
1856

Photograph of the Paarl Holy Trinity Church
Photographer unknown

Educational Institutions in Paarl

Paarl is well-known for the schools in the town. Many were established in the mid to late 1800's. In the early 1900's, under the influence of Andrew Murray, a strong supporter of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction, many of the schools became dual-medium, offering instruction in both English and Afrikaans

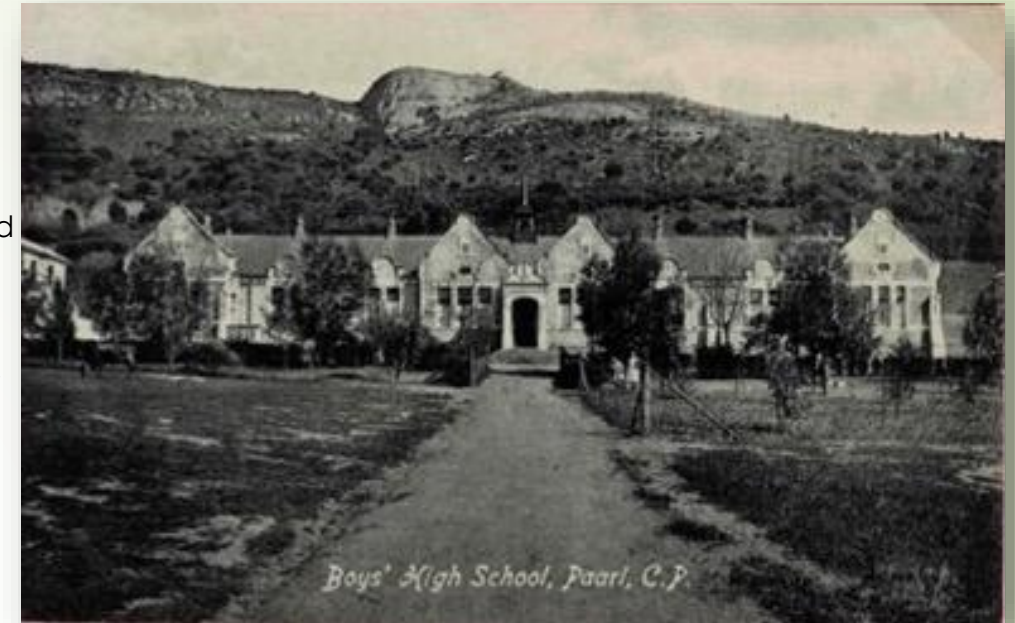


Meisjies Hoogerskool 1876

(Paarl Girls High School)
Used divided picture postcard
Photographer unknown
Published by J. Hoitsema, Paarl.

*Unused, divided
postcard
Photographer
unknown.
Published by J.
Hoitsema*

Paarl Boys High School 1868



*Unused, divided
postcard
Photographer unknown.
Published by J.
Hoitsema*

Paarl Ladies Seminary 1860

Photographer
T.D.
Ravenscroft
Published as
post of the
"Camera
Series"



Huguenot Seminary & College 1874

Used, divided
picture
postcard
Photographer
Gribble & Co.
Published by
D.F. du Toit,
Paarl



La Rouchelle Girls Primary School

Photographer:
J.S. Basson
Published by
Paarl Printing



Huguenot Girls High School

Photographer:
H Gribble
Published by
D.F. du Toit &
Co.





Paarl Gymnasium 1858

Unused, divided picture postcard

Photographer unknown

Published by J. Hoitsema, Paarl



Paarl Training College

Unused, divided picture postcard

Photographer unknown

Published by SAPSCO



Training College Hostel

Unused, divided picture postcard

Photographer unknown

Published by SAPSCO

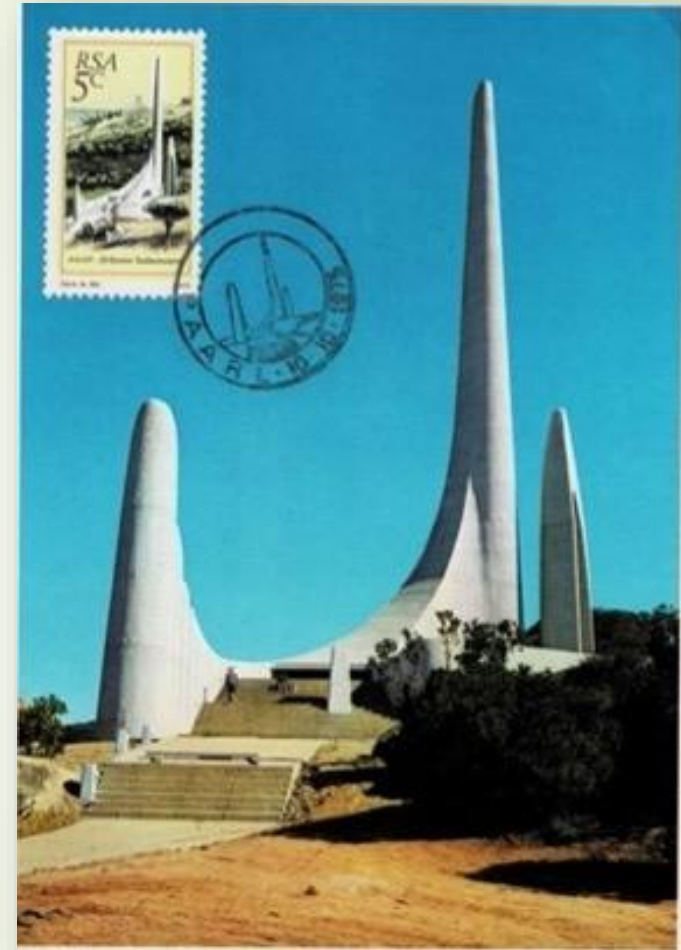
The Origins of the Afrikaans Language

- The origins of Afrikaans goes back to the late 1600's and early 1700's when indigenous and enslaved Black people called themselves Afrikaners or Africans.
- They spoke a language referred to by Whites of the time as "Hotnotstaal" (Khoen language). It later became known as "kombuistaal" as the Dutch and French settlers used it as a way of communicating with their slaves.
- On 14 August 1875 a group of prominent Afrikaans speakers who were related and of Huguenot descent, gathered in Paarl to translate the bible into Afrikaans.
- They formed the "Genootskap van Regte Afrikaners" to propagate Afrikaans and "to uphold our language, our Nation, and our Country".
- They invited "Afrikaans hearts" to join and work and write for, and in Afrikaans



Die Afrikaanse Patriot

Scanned copy of the first issue of Die Afrikaanse Patriot issued on 15 January 1876



Taal Monument, Paarl

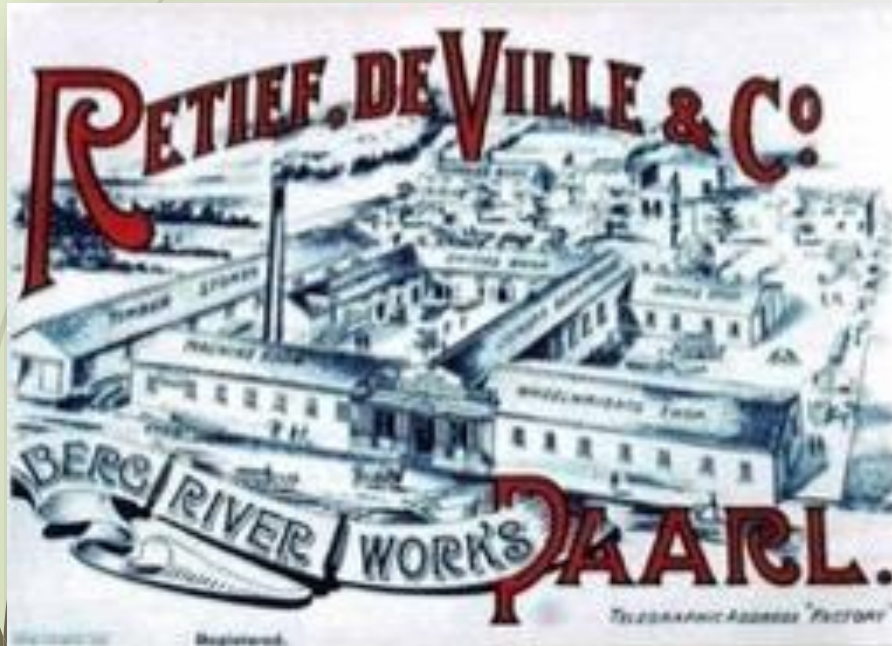
Picture postcard of the Taal Monument on the slopes of the Paarl Mountain.

Published by Arthur English Prints, Cape Town

Paarl Wagon Industry

Paarl was once a prominent centre for the wagon industry, particularly in the late 19th century. The industry experienced significant growth due to the Great trek, the discovery of diamonds and gold in the interior, and the Anglo-Boer War.

The 1880's was the wagon industries heyday.



Retief, De Ville & Co.

Leading wagon makers in Paarl



Thom Verster Wagon Makers

Scanned photograph of one of the carriages built by Thom Verster Wagon Makers, Paarl

Photograph by Gribble

Drakenstein Heemkring archives

Wine Industry of Paarl



In 1688, French Huguenots seeking religious freedom, arrived in the Paarl area and were granted land to farm in the Drakenstein area. With their viticulture knowledge they planted vineyards and orchards, laying the foundation for Paarl's wine-producing heritage.

The KWV was established in 1918 and was granted increasing legislative control over the production, sale and export of SA's distilled wine and spirits.



KO-OPERATIEVE WIJNBOUWERS VERENIGING VAN ZUID-AFRIKA, BPK.

(Geregistreer kragtens die Wet op Koöperatiewe Verenigings, 1909).

Postbus 28,

ZUIDER-PAARL.

**Ko-operatiewe Wijnbouwers Vereniging
van Zuid-Afrika, Paarl**



Parys Wine Estate

Photographer: H Gribble
Drakenstein Heemkring archives



Nederburg

Unused, divided picture
postcard

Photographer unknown
Published by John
Doocson (Pty) Ltd..

Paarl Picture Postcard Photographers

James Gribble Snr.

- James Gribble Snr. Apprenticed in photography in 1859 in Penzance, Cornwall. Shortly afterwards he emigrated to South Africa and opened a studio at 54 Hanover Street in Cape Town.
- In 1885 he went to Paarl to take wedding photographs and decided to move to the town
- In the late 19th and early 20th centuries James Gribble recorded Paarl and its people.
- In 1919 he was joined by his son Harold who remained an active photographer into his 80's.
- Harold's daughter Yvonne, also did part-time photography and rented out the business, but this was short-lived and the business closed in 1987.
- The Drakenstein Heemkring has nearly 3,00 Gribble glass plate negatives, now stored in the Paarl municipal offices and were digitalized in 2008 in high resolution.

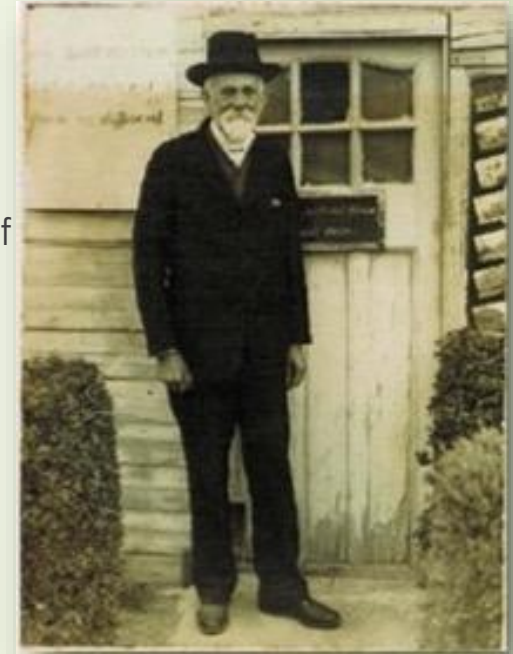


James Gribble

Self portrait
Source: Martin Plaut

T.D. Ravenscroft

- In 1869 Ravenscroft was a pupil of photographer William Moore of Hout Street, Cape Town.
- In the late 1890's Ravenscroft became "the unofficial agent of the Cape Government Railways (CGR)" when commissioned to photograph all towns, cities and of places served by the CGR.
- In 1900 Ravenscroft opened a photographic studio in Rondebosch and became known for his photographic portraits of prominent men including Cecil Rhodes
- Later, Ravenscroft lived in Hermanus and practiced photography from a wooden studio.
- His eldest son was Thomas George (T.G.) was also a photographer and predeceased him by a few months.



T.D. Ravenscroft

Source: The Heritage Portal

Cabinet Cards

- The cabinet card was a style of photograph that was widely used for photographic portraiture after 1870.
- It consisted of a thin photograph mounted on a card typically measuring 108 x 165 mm
- Cabinet cards were larger than *carte de visite* and usually included extensive logos and information on the reverse side of the card to advertise the photographers services.
- The cabinet card format was initially used for landscape views before being adopted for portraiture.



Gribble Cabinet Card

Photograph of the Gribble studio at
271 Main Street, Paarl



James Gribble Cabinet Card

Reverse side of the Gribble
Cabinet Card with details
promoting the services of the
James Gribble studio

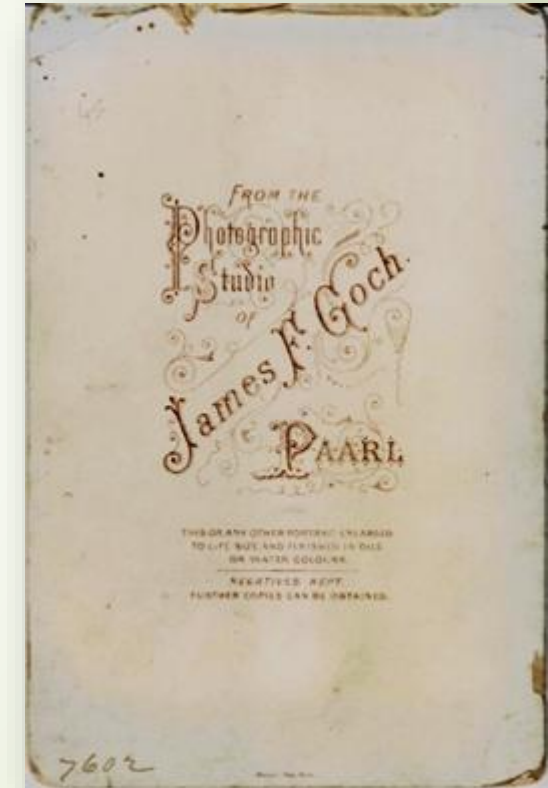
Paarl Picture Postcard Photographers

James F. Goch

- In 1873 James F Goch. was a Diamond Field photographer in Kimberley
- He moved to Paarl in 1882 where he opened a studio on the Market Plein and named it De Zuid-Afrikaansche Studio.
- In 1888 James Gribble took over his business and moved to Oudtshoorn where he opened the Fotografische Kunst Gallery.
- There is also reference to him having a studio in Rissik Street, Johannesburg and in Pretoria.
- While in Paarl, he also doing business as a watchmaker and stationary dealer.



**James Goch
Cabinet Card**



Reverse side of the James
F. Goch, Paarl cabinet
card

Thank you

for your time and attention!!!

Brittania Rock

Unused, divided
picture postcard

*Photographer
unknown.*

*Published by J.
Hoitsema, Paarl*

