

# CHAPTER FOUR

## TEACHING AND EDUCATION

### 4.1 Teaching prior to 1900

Before the appointment of a Superintendent of Education in the Transvaal in 1879, teaching was mainly the parents' responsibility.<sup>1</sup> Sometimes parents would hire, either individually or in groups, a private teacher for a few months.<sup>2</sup> These were especially unskilled roaming-type teachers that offered their services on farms.<sup>3</sup>

During the session of the Volksraad on 19 September 1864, a regulation was formulated according to which any teacher teaching children on farms had to see to it that the children actually did learn to read, write and do arithmetic (The three Rs: reading, writing, arithmetic). Children also had to be taught Biblical history.<sup>4</sup>

There is no record of any private schools and teachers in the Gatsrand prior to 1879. Since 1864, state printer JP Borrius withdrew from public life during the civil war because he opted to remain neutral. He lived on the farm Blyvooruitzicht of his mother-in-law for six months where he taught children while the civil war was being fought in the ZAR.<sup>5</sup> Initially, Borrius was not remunerated for his services, but in 1887 his mother-in-law granted permission for him to claim remuneration with overdue interest from his father-in-law's estate.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> H.M. van Coller, *Die burgerlike lewe in Potchefstroom ten tye van die Eerste Vryheidsoorlog*, p.19.

<sup>2</sup> J.H.P. van der Walt, *Onderwys van Blankes in die Ventersdorp distrik tot 1970* (M.Ed-proefskrif, 1977), pp.41-42. Vergelyk ook M.G. Hoon, *Die finansiering van die onderwys van die Blankes in die ZAR* (D.Ed.-proefskrif, 1955), p.26.

<sup>3</sup> A.N. Pelzer, *Geskiedenis van die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek, I: Wordingsjare*, p.195.

<sup>4</sup> J.H. Breytenbach en H.S. Pretorius, *Notule van die Volksraad van die Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek: Trasvaal nr. 5, 1864-1866*, p.177.

<sup>5</sup> F. Vermooten, *J.P. Borrius: 'n Drukker pionier, 1840-1892*, p.21.

<sup>6</sup> *Staats Courant der ZAR*, nr. 217, 13.7.1887, p.507. Borrius se eis vir agterstallige rente is waarskynlik uniek



## JP BORRIUS

Photo: F Vermooten, *JP Borrius: A pioneer printer*

In 1866, PJW Schutte appointed a teacher – one Bakker – at Buffelsdoorn at a monthly remuneration of ten shillings, half a bag of flower and “something” to slaughter.<sup>7</sup> Soon after his appointment, Schutte dismissed him owing to his erroneous interpretation of the Bible. He was replaced by one Kouts, who was also dismissed sometime later when it became clear that he had tailoring as goal rather than teaching the children.<sup>8</sup>

By 1874, teaching in the Gatsrand was still of a poor quality and inadequate, as was the case in most parts of the ZAR.<sup>9</sup> President TF Burgers and the Volksraad decided to raise education standards in the ZAR. An education act was accepted. Provision was made, inter alia, for the establishment of schools on farms and in towns.<sup>10</sup> From

1880 until the Anglo-Boer War in 1899, there were about 25 farm schools functioning in the Gatsrand.<sup>11</sup>

Inadequate lodging facilities often dissuaded teachers and consequently farm schools were often having a lack of competent teachers.<sup>12</sup> Thus it happened that the Department of Education in 1895 appointed Miss ACM Martins as a teacher even though she was still a minor.<sup>13</sup> Education facilities and books were also inadequate at the majority of farm schools. Even elementary teaching called for extensive effort.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>7</sup> W.P. du Plessis, *Phillipus Jacobus Wilhelmus Schutte as kerkman*, p.48.

<sup>8</sup> S.L. Barnard, *’n Histories-pedagogiese evaluering van die onderwys van die Transvaalse plaasskool, 1838-1967* (D.Ed.-proefskrif, 1971), p.47.

<sup>9</sup> J.C. Coetzee, “Die geskiedenis van die onderwys in Potchefstroom, 1838-1839” in A.J.H. van der Walt (red.), *Potchefstroom, 1838-1938*, p.160. Vergelyk ook A.N. Pelzer, *Geskiedenis van die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek...*, p.195.

<sup>10</sup> J.S. du Plessis, “Die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek”, in C.F.J. Muller (red.) in *500 jaar Suid-Afrikaanse geskiedenis*, p.231. Vergelyk ook *De Volkstem*, 7.2.1874, p.2.

<sup>11</sup> Raadpleeg tabel 6 vir ‘n lys van plaasskole wat voor 1900 in die Gatsrand bestaan het. Die saamgestelde tabel is oorwegend verkry uit dokumente van die argief van die Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (TAB).

<sup>12</sup> S.I.W. Roos, *Onderwys in Transvaal* (M.Ed.-verhandeling, 1952), p.69.

<sup>13</sup> Superintendent van Onderwys (TAB), verw. OD 213 nr. 6024/95: TOD/ A.C.M. Martins, 11.7.1895.

<sup>14</sup> Superintendent van Onderwys (TAB), verw. OD 213 nr. 8827/96: A.J. van der Walt/TOD, 8.11.1896. Vergelyk ook verw. OD 213, nr. 8098/96: J. van der Tak/TOD, 26.1.1896.

Parents had a say in educational matters via school commissions, the members of which were elected by those living on the farms.<sup>15</sup> School commissions were responsible for the provision of furniture. There also had to be supervision with regard to administrative matters such as book orders and the quarterly forwarding of subsidy statements to the Department of Education.<sup>16</sup>

Children were taught biblical history and the elementary subjects – the three Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic). Attention was also given to singing.<sup>17</sup> According to inspection reports of schools in the Gatsrand, it would seem that the inspector found teaching in the area to be elementary, yet functional.<sup>18</sup>



PUPILS AND STAFF OF THE SCHOOL ELANDSFONTEIN  
NUMBER 289, 1904

Photo: Reverend A Brink

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<sup>15</sup> Superintendent van Onderwys (TAB), verw. OD 635: Register op dorp en wykskole met kommissies, 1895-1899.

<sup>16</sup> *De Volkstem*, 7.2.1882. Vergelyk ook J.H. Oipenaar, *Die onderwys van Blankes in Krugersdorp, 1887-1939*, p.49.

<sup>17</sup> Transvaal se Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), Verslag van die Staat van het openbaar onderwijs in de ZAR over het dienstjaar, 1885, 16.3.1885, p.3. Vergelyk ook Superintendent van Onderwys (TAB), verw. OD 213 nr. 3512/96: A.J. van der Walt/TOD, 22.4.1896 en verw. OD 210 nr. 1532/90: Getuigskrif D.H. Viljoen, 9.7.1890.

<sup>18</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), Verslag van den Staat van het openbaar onderwijs in de ZAR over het dienstjaar, 1886, 24.8.1886, p.6. Vergelyk ook Verslag nr. 1885, 16.4.1885, p.3 en 1887 3.10.1887, p.6.

TABEL 6 Private en plaasskole in die Gatsrand tot 1899

PLAASSKOOL	STIGTINGS= DATUM	EERSTE ONDERWYSER	OPVOLGERS
Blyvooruitzicht	1864	J.P. Borrius	?
Buffelsdoorn	1866	Bakker	Klouts (1866), S.T'Hart (1884), A.J. van der Walt (1890)
Welverdiend	1880	?	S.T'Hart (voor 1887), D.P. Terburg (1894), G.M.J. Stabbert (1897)
Weltevreden	1884	J.C. van Coller	?
Jachtfontein	1886	J.C. van Coller	A.C.M. Martins (1896), F. Meurs (voor 1899)
Wonderfontein	1886	Ene Kolvert	M.M. Malan (1895), C.J.L. Fourie (1898)
Klein-Losberg	1887	Mej. A.M. Brink	?
Leeuwspruit	1887	M.J. Oosthuizen	?
Oog van Wonderfontein	1887	C. de Beer	J.S. le Roux (1895)
Elandsfontein nr. 289	1889	D.H. Viljoen	W.S. Rademeyer (1892), G.S. Malherbe (1897)
Doornkloof	1892	Mej. M.L. de Beer	----->
Deelkraal	1892	D.P. Terburg	T.J. Momsen (1895), A. Dykens (1898)
Boschoek	1893	S. Boersma	J. van der Tak (1895)
Leeuwoort	1893	A.W.F. Pearson	S. Boersma (1898)
Elandsfontein nr. 360	1893	A.P. Grové	----->
Kraalkop	1894	H.P.M. Raupp	A.P. Grové (1895), W.S. Rademeyer (1897), mej. A.J.C.L. Rossouw (1898)
Rietfontein nr. 162	1894	?	?
Driefontein nr. 614	1894	?	?
Rhenosterfontein	1893	H.A. Fourie	----->
Elandsfontein nr. 493	1893	J.P. Pretorius	J.M.L. Steyn (1898)
Kaalfontein	1893	C.J.R. Nolte	----->
Rietfontein nr. 659	1893	?	?
Cardoville	1896	?	?
Hartebeesfontein	1896	W.R. Wentzel	----->
Kleinfontein	1896	Mej. M.J. van der Schyff	W.A.S. Nel (voor 1899)
Rietspruit	1897	A.C. Castelijin	----->
Modderfontein	1898	P.J. van der Walt	----->

It is uncertain whether children were taught in school buildings. The 1885-1886 inspection reports mention that the rooms (possibly rooms in the farmhouses or sheds) in which

children were taught at Jachtfontein and Buffelsdoorn were not spacious enough.<sup>19</sup> Sometimes it also happened that a farmer could provide such a “classroom” and a house for the teacher’s use on a temporary basis only, since it may have been needed for personal use.<sup>20</sup> Details regarding the accommodation for other farm schools prior to 1900 could not be traced.

#### 4.2 Teaching, 1902-1937

Teaching in most of the Gatsrand farm schools gradually ground to a halt and were closed at the start of the Anglo-Boer War. Substitutes for teachers who had joined the commandos were simply not available.<sup>21</sup> After the Peace Treaty of Vereeniging in 1902, education matters were taken over by the British administration.<sup>22</sup>

From 1902, parents in the Gatsrand immediately started to re-establish schools for their children.<sup>23</sup> However, Sir Alfred Milner’s reconstruction programme encroached on the traditional teaching/education.<sup>24</sup> His Education Ordinance of 1903 limited the teaching of Dutch to only five hours per week. Although protesting Afrikaners consequently established schools for Christian National Education (the so-called CNE schools),<sup>25</sup> it would appear that die majority of farm schools in die Gatsrand, probably because of a lack of funds, had to make use of government help and thus had to put up with English teachers.<sup>26</sup> The only CNE schools were established at Kaalplaats, Boschhoek, Klein-Losberg, Deelkraal and Vlakplaats.<sup>27</sup>

Farm schools such as those at Jachtfontein, Oog van Wonderfontein, Doornkloof, Boschhoek, Driefontein number 461, Elandsfontein number 493, Kaalfontein,

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<sup>19</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), Verslag van den Staat van het openbaar onderwijs in de ZAR over het dienstjaar 1885, 16.4.1885, p.3. Vergelyk ook Verslag nr. 1886, 24.8.1886, p.6.

<sup>20</sup> Superintendent van Onderwys (TAB), verw. OD 210 nr. 1532/90: Getuigskrif D.H. Viljoen, 9.7.1890.

<sup>21</sup> A. Barnard, *Die groei van plattelandse onderwys (Blank) in Transvaal, 1836-1934* (MA-verhandeling, 1935), p.58.

<sup>22</sup> F.C. Symington, *Onderwys in die Transvaal, 1900-1907* (D.Ed.-proefskrif, 1948), p.28.

<sup>23</sup> B.J.V. Naude (red.), *Gedenkuitgawe: Ontvangs van poskoets te Oberholzer, 9-11 Februarie 1952*, p.52.

Vergelyk ook Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Bandopname J.M.F. Terburg, 30.9.1987.

<sup>24</sup> J.A. Wiid, “Weeropbou, 1902-1908” in D.W. Krüger (red.), *Geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika*, p.459.

<sup>25</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), Report for the year ended December 1906, p.8, p.8.

<sup>26</sup> A. Barnard, *Die groei en ontwikkeling van plattelandse onderwys...*, p.80. Vergelyk ook Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), Report for the year ended December 1906, pp.128-129.

<sup>27</sup> J.C. Coetzee, “Die geskiedenis van die onderwys in Potchefstroom ...” in A.J.H. van der Walt (red.), *Potchefstroom, 1838-1839*, p.234. Vergelyk ook Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Bandopname J.M.F. Terburg, 30.9.1987.

Hartebeesfontein, Kleinfontein and Rietspruit never reopened after the war.<sup>28</sup> New schools were added at Rooipoort (Môrester), Blyvooruitzicht, Kaalplaats, Kalbasfontein, Rietfontein number 274, Vlakfontein number 364, Taaiboschspruit and Elandsfontein number 494 in the period 1902-1910.<sup>29</sup>

To some of the farm schools poor attendance served as the deathblow. Long distances to schools and the apathy of parents towards schooling caused them to rather use their children as labourers on the farms on account of a labour shortage. This contributed to the threat to the right of existence of some schools.<sup>30</sup>



PUPILS AND STAFF OF THE ROOIPOORT 50 SCHOOL,  
1916  
Photo: C Uys (Potchefstroom)

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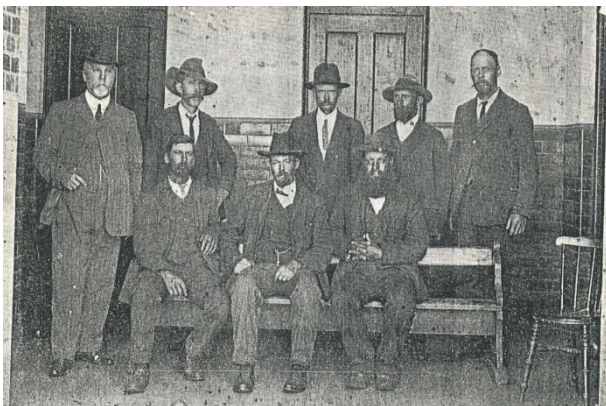
<sup>28</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), Report for the year ended December 1906, pp.128-129.

<sup>29</sup> Transvaal se Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), Report for the year ended June 1910, pp.298-302. Vergelyk ook verw. 03/83/176: Rooipoort 50 skooljoernaal, 1906-1932, 1.1.1910.

<sup>30</sup> A. Barnard, *Die groei en ontwikkeling van plattelandse onderwys...*, p. 95. Vergelyk ook Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/78/801: Welverdiend skooljoernaal, 1907-1924, rapport van afwesigheid, 1.11-13-12-1912.

The school board at Potchefstroom made efforts to centralise schools in the area as early as in 1907, so that teachers could be used more meaningfully. It was recommended that there should be only five schools, namely at Kalabasfontein (100 pupils), Wonderfontein/Rooipoort (100 pupils), Elandsfontein number 360 (60 pupils), Kaalplaats (80 pupils) and Rietfontein number 659 (60 pupils).<sup>31</sup> The recommendation was never followed up and parents continued to ask for the opening of still more schools. The school at Wonderfontein (which was opened in 1904) and the one at Blyvooruitzicht had to be amalgamated with Rooipoort 50 owing to a drop in pupil numbers.<sup>32</sup> On 30 July 1909, Cardoville was closed for the same reason.<sup>33</sup> In 1919, Blyvooruitzicht reopened with N Roux as teacher. As a result of his death in 1924 and a drop in pupil numbers, the school was closed in 1924.<sup>34</sup> In 1919, Driefontein number 388, Stompoorfontein, Klipdrift and Bank were opened and, after a brief existence, Driefontein number 388, as well as Bank were closed in 1924.<sup>35</sup> Every new school that was opened inevitably caused the number of pupils of one or two other schools in the area to decrease, and consequently the chances were slim with regard to additional staff members.<sup>36</sup>

Farm schools that were reopened after the Anglo-Boer War, suffered from a lack of accommodation owing to the ruined farm buildings. Initially, tents ("Mafeking Shelters") were used and bully beef cases and bins were used as seats.<sup>37</sup> As the education



ROOIPOORT 50 SCHOOL COMMITTEE, 1910  
Photo: Anon., *Commemorative Album 50 School, 1910-1960*

<sup>31</sup> Transvaal se Onderwysdepartement (TAB), verw. W217: Potchefstroom Skoolraad= notule, 7.1.1908. F.R.P. Schutte was in dié jaar vise-voorsitter van die Skoolraad.

<sup>32</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/83/176: Rooipoort 50 skooljoernaal, 1906-1932, 1.1.1910.

<sup>33</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), Report for the year ended June 1910, p.299.

<sup>34</sup> *De Westelike Stem*, 6.5.1924, p.4 en 30.7.1924, p.6.

<sup>35</sup> A.L. Kotzé, "J. van der Tak", *Onderwysblad* XLVIII (544), 1.7.1945, pp.18-19. Vergelyk ook *De Westelike Stem*, 23.4.1924, p.2.

<sup>36</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (TAB). verw. W217: Potchefstroom Skoolraadnotule. 9.8.1910. Vergelyk ook Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D1/76/173: Petisie ondertekenaars Leeuwspuit/Potchefstroom Skoolraad, 25.3.1916.

<sup>37</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/83/176: Rooipoort 50 skooljoernaal, 1906-1932, 27.10.1906. Vergelyk ook verw. D3175/139: Elandsfontein nr. 289 skooljoernaal, 1906-1934, 1.1.1906.

administration improved, temporary classrooms with corrugated roofs were constructed.<sup>38</sup> Schools such as Klein Losberg, Rooipoort 50, Welverdiend and Elandsfontein number 289 had two or more temporary classrooms, as well as boys' and girls' cloakrooms with enough water for the children.<sup>39</sup> Over against that, there were schools that had to cope with the most primitive circumstances imaginable. After the opening of the Klipdrift School in 1919 the teacher, J van der Tak, had to teach the children in a stable.<sup>40</sup> The 1925 inspection report of the school at Wonderfontein, which reopened on 27 January 1925 with M Wissing as principal, makes mention of the dilapidated school building on the farm, a building that had a lack of circulation and light. The furniture was primitive and teaching aids were inadequate.<sup>41</sup> A lack of funds complicated the task of some school commissions to provide schools with furniture and well-equipped rooms.<sup>42</sup>

Insufficient funds, inadequate facilities and teaching aids were probably some of the reasons why pupils at farm schools in the Gatsrand, with the exception of Klipdrift, could obtain only a primary educational qualification (Std 1 to Std 6) until 1948. For further qualifications, pupils had to go to Potchefstroom.<sup>43</sup> In September 1930, Inspector JG de Vos approved a secondary section (Stds 7 and 8, or also known as forms II and III) for the school at Klipdrift since its parents were prepared to provide buildings for this purpose at their expense. Two rooms were furnished for these two standards, while a small corrugated iron building with cement floors was to be used as a laboratory for the teaching of Science. Other subjects offered in these standards included History, English, Accounting, Art and Afrikaans Grammar and Literature.<sup>44</sup>

After 1902, as was the case prior to the Anglo-Boer War, pupils were still taught the elementary subjects, with the addition of poetry and the writing of compositions.<sup>45</sup> Although

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<sup>38</sup> Departement Justisie (TAB), verw. AG 85/08 nr. 1557: Toestemming vir die oprigting van skoolgeboue, 20.4.1908.

<sup>39</sup> Publieke Werke Departement (SAB), verw. 5576: Welverdiend school erection and additions, 6.1.1917. Kyk ook *Laerskool De Beer: Gedenkblad, 1880-1980, 100ste bestaansjaar*, p. 7 en Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 1: Herinneringe M.M. van der Westhuizen, p.2 sowel as verw. 3: Bandopnames J.M.F. Terburg, 30.9.1987 en K. du Preez, 6.11.1986.

<sup>40</sup> A.L. Kotzé, "J. van der Tak", *Onderwysblad* XLVIII (544), 1.7.1945, pp.18-19.

<sup>41</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D1/83/153: Rapport van inspeksie Wonderfontein, 17.3.1925.

<sup>42</sup> J.C. Coetzee, "Die geskiedenis van die Onderwys in Potchefstroom..." in A.J.H. van der Walt (red.), *Potchefstroom, 1838-1938*, pp.238-241.

<sup>43</sup> K.J. Kerling, "Laer Gedenkskool Danie Theron," p.4. Wonderfontein was die eerste skool in die Gatsrand, naas Klipdrift wat hoërskoolstatus verkry het, maar eers in 1951. Kyk ook S.L. Barnard, *'n Histories-pedagogiese evaluering van die onderwys van die Transvaalse plaasskool, 1838-1967*, p.200.

<sup>44</sup> J.C. Coetzee, *Pioniers van die skoolplaas Klipdrift: Johan en Johanna Schutte, 1923-1938*, pp.15, 17.

<sup>45</sup> Anon., *Gedenkalbum Rooipoort 50 skool, 1910-1960*, p.15. Vergelyk ook Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D/75/139: Elandsfontein nr. 289 skooljoernaal, 1906-1934, 2.3.1906.

the teaching occurred via English medium, the Dutch version of the Bible was still used. The English teaching of the lower classes (Standards 1 and 2) was only of an oral nature, while that of the higher classes included reading as well.<sup>46</sup>

Language Ordinance Number 5 of 1911 placed both languages (English and Afrikaans) on an equal footing at school level – something by which the Afrikaans-speaking children in the Gatsrand undoubtedly benefitted.<sup>47</sup> The inspection reports of schools such as Elandsfontein number 289, Welverdiend<sup>48</sup> and Klein Losberg were full of praise after 1911 for the progress that children made in these schools.



PUPILS AND STAFF OF THE WELVERDIEND SCHOOL IN 1916  
Photo: BJV Naudé (ed.), *Commemorative Edition: Receipt of mail coach*

By 1912, the school at Elandsfontein had a large number of pupils who were better qualified than peers at standard five levels. This figure exceeded the so-called first-rate schools for lower teaching in Potchefstroom.<sup>49</sup> In 1915, Klein Losberg was regarded as one of the country/farm schools in the Potchefstroom district that made the best progress.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/83/176: Rooipoort 50 skooljoernaal, 1906-1932, 27.10.1906. Vergelyk ook S.L. Barnard, *'n Histories-pedagogiese evaluering van die onderwys van die Transvaalse plaasskool, 1838-1967*, p.193.

<sup>47</sup> A. Barnard, *Die groei en ontwikkeling van plattelandse onderwys...*, p.103. Vergelyk ook F.C. Symington, *Onderwys in die Transvaal, 1900-1907*, p. 30.

<sup>48</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/78/801: Welverdiend skooljoernaal, 1907-1924.

<sup>49</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/75/139: Elandsfontein nr. 289 skooljoernaal, 1906-1934, 10.3.1912.

<sup>50</sup> *Die Westelike Stem*, 30.9.1915, p.7.

After the Department of Education had revised the curriculum, it was implemented in all schools in 1915. Subjects such as Geography, History, Natural History and Physical Training were added.<sup>51</sup> Only the schools at Elandsfontein number 289, Hermina (Rietfontein number 659) and Klein Losberg, which had more than three teachers, were allowed to also offer Needlework and Art of Cooking from 1915. Elandsfontein was one of the three centres in the district of Potchefstroom where Manual Crafts (probably Woodwork) were offered.<sup>52</sup> As schools such as Klipdrift, Wonderfontein, Blyvooruitzicht and Welverdiend expanded, these subjects were offered there as well.<sup>53</sup>

The country/farm schools were characterised by a measure of informality. School commissions, in consultation with the teacher(s) determined school hours at their discretion. The same arrangements applied to the planning of school holidays. Sometimes there was school on a Saturday if a weekday had to be set aside for other matters. Schools did not open on days of funerals in the area and on special birthdays such as that of the school principal and the King of England. However, the Superintendent of Education had to be notified of such arrangements.<sup>54</sup>

Transport problems also sometimes caused a school to be closed for a day owing to poor attendance. Muddy conditions owing to foul weather often caused pupils to experience problems with getting to school to school – those who had to walk, as well as those who rode on the backs of horses or donkeys.<sup>55</sup>

The Potchefstroom school board saw to it that enough donkeys were provided to every school. In 1910, the school board purchased 53 donkeys of which 32 were given to schools

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<sup>51</sup> A. Barnard, *Die groei en ontwikkeling van plattelandse onderwys...*, p.108.

<sup>52</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/75/139: Elandsfontein nr. 289 skooljoernaal, 1906-1934. Vergelyk ook Losberg (TAB), verw. WHA 1666: Losberg Skoolkommissie, 1905-1938 en Carletonville versameling (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Onderhoud A.M.C. Pretorius, 3.4.1987.

<sup>53</sup> K.J. Kerling, "Laer Gedenkskool Danie Theron," p.3. Vergelyk ook Transvaalse Onderwys= departement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D1/83/153: Rapport van inspeksie Wonderfontein/ Potchefstroom Skoolraad, 27.9.1929 en J.C. Coetzee, "Die geskiedenis van die Onderwys in Potchefstroom..." in A.J.H. van der Valt (red.), *Potchefstroom 1838-1938*, p.261.

<sup>54</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/75/139: Elandsfontein nr. 289 skooljoernaal, 1906-1934 en D3/83/176: Rooipoort 50 skooljoernaal, 1906-1932. Vergelyk ook Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (TAB), verw. OD 212 nr. 7115/94: A.J. van der Walt/Sekretaris, TOD 19.12.1894 en S.L. Barnard, *'n Histories- pedagogiese evaluering van die onderwys van die Transvaalse plaasskool, 1838-1967*, p.195.

<sup>55</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/75/139: Elandsfontein nr. 289 skooljoernaal, 1906-1934. Vergelyk ook verw. D3/78/801: Welverdiend skooljoernaal, 1907-1924.

in the Gatsrand.<sup>56</sup> As problems arose with the keeping and care of the animals, use was made of a school bus (locally known as a school waggon).<sup>57</sup>

By 1920, there were still 20 schools functioning in the Gatsrand, of which Klein Losberg, Hermina and Elandsfontein number 289 were the biggest ones at that stage. Particulars regarding the schools are given below:<sup>58</sup>

TABLE 7 Farm schools in the Gatsrand in 1920

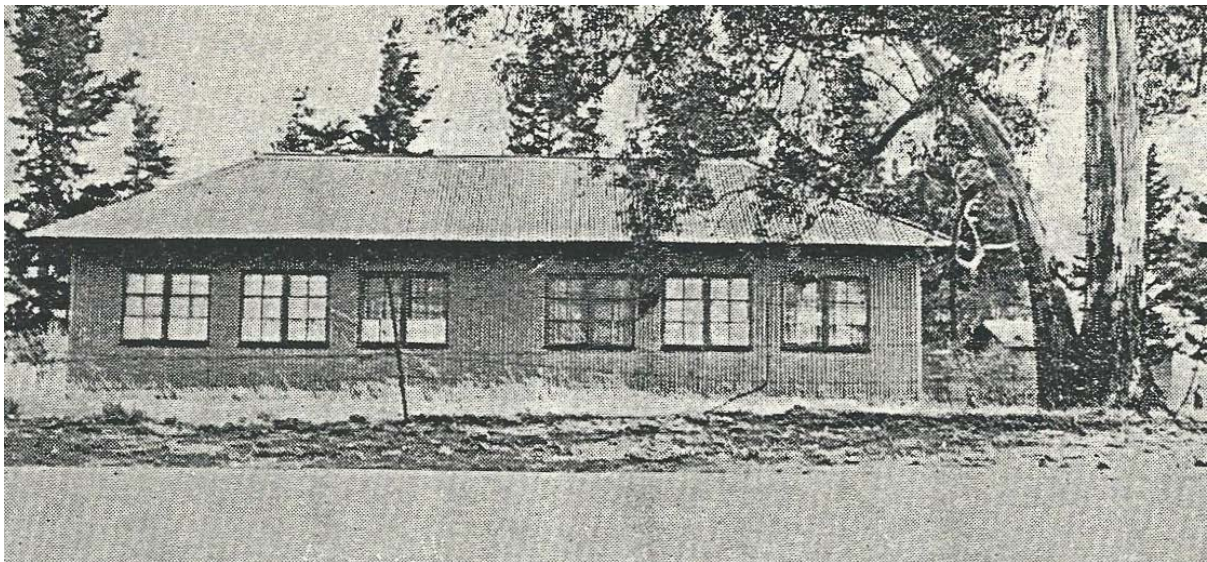
FARM SCHOOL	STAFF	NUMBER OF PUPILS
Welverdiend	SJ de Beer	75
	Mrs JM de Beer	
	Miss M Yssel	
Buffelsdoorn	WF Henning	47
	Miss MP Davidtz	
Elandsfontein number 289	GS Malherbe	96
	P Rocher	
	JG Hurter	
	JG Conradie	
	Mrs M Conradie	
Elandsfontein number 494	HJ van Broekhuizen	23
Hermina	JML Steyn	108
	WJ Badenhorst	
	RF Rattrey	
	Mrs W Steyn	
	Miss HJ de Bruyn	
Japierus (Leeuwpoort)	PFG Ellis	67
	Miss MS Gronum	
	Miss SS van den Merwe	
Kaalplaats	DF Bierman	68
	AJ van der Walt	
	MM du Plessis	
Kalabasfontein	JS Naudé	66
	JF van Deventer	
	Miss E du Plessis	

<sup>56</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (TAB), verw. W217: Potchefstroom Skoolraadnotule, 11.10.1910.

<sup>57</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D1/57/129: Rietfontein 274 skool/Potchefstroom Skoolraad, 20.11.1925. Vergelyk ook Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Bandopname K. du Preez, 6.11.1986.

<sup>58</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), Report for the year ended 31.12.1920, Bylae cxii-xc. Die skole op Driefontein nr. 388 en Bank word nie in hierdie verslag gemeld nie. As dit bygereken word, was daar in 1920 20 skole.

Klein Losberg	MJ Erasmus	111
	GJ Lindeque	
	Miss MN van der Bank	
	Miss HJC Cronjé	
Klipdrift	J van der Tak	69
	P Coetzee	
	Miss KE Roth	
Modderfontein	DM Hoogenhout	48
	Miss JJ Hoffman	
Rietfontein number 274	J van der Twisk	50
	F de F de Villiers	
Rietfontein number 659	EG Kleyn	43
	Miss JE Rousseau	
Rooipoort 50	GJ Wissing	78
	JMJ Knox	
	Miss JA Combrink	
Stompoorfontein	C van der M de Villiers	18
Vlakfontein number 364	JC van Niekerk	38
	Mrs CM van Niekerk	
Vlakfontein number 669	Miss GW Pienaar	21
Blyvooruitzicht	N Roux	10



WONDERFONTEIN SCHOOL BUILDING, 1929  
 Photo: BJV Naudé (ed.), *Commemorative Issue, Receipt of Mail Coach*



KJ KERLING

Photo: K de Beer (Potchefstroom)

The Wonderfontein School, which was opened in 1925 with 25 pupils, struggled to exist and had to be closed again in 1927.<sup>59</sup> The arrival of the Dutch settlers at Wonderfontein in 1928, gave rise to the reopening of the school in January 1929, with W Rademeyer as principal.<sup>60</sup> The establishment of yet another school did not meet with the approval of the inspector, GJ de Vos.<sup>61</sup>

In 1935, De Vos mentioned in his report that there were two schools in existence within a distance of 14 miles (22,4 kilometres) between the two schools at Welverdiend and Rooipoort. The school at Wonderfontein, which was situated between these two schools, was therefore not justifiable. By contrast, schools like those at Buffelsdoorn, Elandsfontein number 289 and Japiesrus were five to nine miles (eight to 14,4 km) from Fochville (where a school had already been opened), so that pupils could be educated there.<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D1/83/155: Rapport van inspeksie Wonderfontein, 17.3.1925 en 8.2.1927.

<sup>60</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D1/83/155: Rapport van inspeksie Wonderfontein/W.F. Schoon, 27.8.1929. Mnr. K. Kerling het op 18 Maart 1930 hoof van die Wonderfonteinskool geword.

<sup>61</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), Verslag vir die jaar geëindig 31.12.1935, p.78.

<sup>62</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), Verslag vir die jaar geëindig 31.12.1935, pp.78-80.

#### 4.3 Education on a permanent basis, 1938-1948

Probably, as a result of inspector De Vos's dissatisfaction, a start was made with the centralisation of schools in the Gatsrand. The advantage of centralised schools was that more teachers could be appointed at such schools so that a greater variety of subjects could be offered and that more social-cultural activities could be organised.<sup>63</sup>

In 1938, the school at Wonderfontein had to amalgamate with the one at Rooipoort 50 for a second time,<sup>64</sup> while the school at Losberg was also closed and pupils had to attend school at Fochville.<sup>65</sup> At that stage, Rooipoort 50 had three teachers with 150 pupils and W Rademeyer as principal. By contrast, the principals of Welverdiend, Buffelsdoorn, Elandsfontein number 289 and Japiesrus, namely W Louw, JL du Plessis, TJ Kotze and PFG Ellis, each had only one assistant with pupil numbers of 55, 42, 30 and 54 respectively.<sup>66</sup> In 1938, there were a total of 51 pupils in the Stds 7 and 8 classes at Klipdrift. Apparently, most of these pupils originated from other districts such as Vereeniging, Ventersdorp and Klip River and a minimal number from Klipdrift. The reason for this appeared to be the lack of children there owing to parents who had moved away during the years of the depression. From 1930 to 1938, approximately 200 pupils passed their standards at Klipdrift.<sup>67</sup> The schools Japiesrus, Buffelsdoorn and Kaalplaats amalgamated with Elandsfontein number 289 on 13 February 1939.<sup>68</sup>

Owing to an increase in the number of children in the vicinity of the then fledgling Blyvooruitzicht mine, the school at Wonderfontein was reopened for a fourth time on 1 January 1939.<sup>69</sup> Goldmine activities ensured the permanent basis of teaching in especially the northern parts of the Gatsrand.<sup>70</sup> An increase in the number of pupils caused the Blyvooruitzicht school to reopen in January 1942, while the school at Wonderfontein was

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<sup>63</sup> J.C. Coetzee, "Die geskiedenis van die Onderwys in Potchefstroom..." in A.J.H. van der Walt (red.), *Potchefstroom, 1838-1938*, pp.256-257.

<sup>64</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D1/83/150: Sekretaris TOD/Potchefstroom Skoolraad, 6.5.1938.

<sup>65</sup> Losberg (TAB), verw. WHA 1666: Losberg Skoolkommissienotule, 1.7.1938. Volgens die notule van 6.1.1929 is die skool, Klein-Losberg, se naam verander na Losberg.

<sup>66</sup> J.C. Coetzee, "Die geskiedenis van die Onderwys in Potchefstroom..." in A.J.H. van der Walt (red.), *Potchefstroom, 1838-1938*, pp.256-257.

<sup>67</sup> J.C. Coetzee, *Pioniers van die skoolplaas, Klipdrift: Johan en Johanna Schutte, 1923-1938*, pp.16, 71.

<sup>68</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/75/139: Elandsfontein nr. 289 skooljoernaal 1935-1939, 13.2.1939.

<sup>69</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D1/83/148: G.J.J. du Preez/Sekretaris TOD, 1.12.1938.

<sup>70</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D1/83/148: G.J.J. du Preez/Sekretaris TOD, 1.12.1938.

moved to the current Carletonville in 1946.<sup>71</sup> Apart from the gold mines, the growth of the Welverdiend school was mainly to be attributed to the expansion of the railways from 1945 onwards.<sup>72</sup>

By 1948, Welverdiend had a school with four staff members (principal: SP Groenewald) with 136 pupils. Rooipoort 50 had three staff members (principal: W Watermeyer) with 80 pupils. Blyvooruitzicht had two staff members (principal: FJ de V Hamman) with 339 pupils, and Wonderfontein had six teachers (principal: KJ Kerling) with 127 pupils.<sup>73</sup>

In 1943, the school at Klipdrift was renamed the General Pienaar Farm School,<sup>74</sup> while Kalabasfontein and Elandsfontein number 289 still existed in 1948. Elandsfontein number 289 subsequently amalgamated with the school at Fochville.<sup>75</sup>

The rise in the number of pupils at some schools did not imply that the teaching facilities immediately improved. The school building at Wonderfontein was already regarded as being in poor condition with inadequate facilities as early as in 1925, and again in 1943. Pupils had to fetch water for drinking purposes from a nearby water furrow (2 km from the school) in buckets.<sup>76</sup>

The 1944 health report of the school board at Potchefstroom regarding the condition of school facilities at Wonderfontein confirmed often-repeated complaints of the school commission over many years about the matter.<sup>77</sup> The buildings of corrugated iron and earthen floors were too hot in summer and too cold in winter.

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<sup>71</sup> K.J. Kerling, "Laer Gedenkskool Danie Theron" p.56.

<sup>72</sup> Anon., *Laerskool De Beer: Gedenkb1ad, 1880-1980, 100ste bestaansjaar*, p.7.

<sup>73</sup> B.J.V. Naude (red.), *Gedenkuitgawe: Ontvangs van poskoets te Oberholzer, 9-11 Februarie 1952*, pp.17, 25, 39. Vergelyk ook K.J. Kerling, "Laergedenkskool Danie Theron", p.3.

<sup>74</sup> *Potchefstroom Herald and Western Gazette*, 20.10.1943, p.4. Genl. J.J. Pienaar was in 1943 die administrateur van Transvaal.

<sup>75</sup> Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Bandopname K. du Preez, 6.11.1980. Kyk ook Anon., "Laerskool Kalabasfontein", p.3.

<sup>76</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D1/83/153: Rapport van inspeksie Wonderfontein, 17.9.1943. Vergelyk ook verw. D1/83/94: W.E. Groot/Skoolraad Ventersdorp, 23.3.1930.

<sup>77</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D1/83/148: Rapport van geneeskundige skoolbesoek aan Wonderfontein, 26.1.1944. Vergelyk ook *De Westelike Stem*, 19.8.1920, p.5.



THE SCHOOL BUS OF ELANDSFONTEIN NUMBER 289, CIRCA 1930  
Photo: K du Preez (Fochville)

There were also complaints about the children's having to make do with water through which cattle was herded daily. Parents tried to help by covering the earthen floors with carpeting.<sup>78</sup>

An increase in pupil numbers at the school at Wonderfontein created the need for more classrooms. In 1946, the school was moved to two temporary buildings on the farm Twyfelvlakte (the current Carletonville).<sup>79</sup>

The mining companies bore part of the costs in this regard. In 1947, five classrooms and two dressing rooms were added.<sup>80</sup>

Pupils of the school at Blyvooruitzicht (which was reopened on 20 January 1942) had to be taught in the recreation hall of Blyvooruitzicht mine until 1947. In 1947, the Transvaal Provincial Council and the School Board of Potchefstroom gave permission for the erection of temporary classrooms on six morgen (5,17 hectares) of land. The land was donated by the Blyvooruitzicht General Mining Company.<sup>81</sup> Even though the school was opened on 25

<sup>78</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D1/83/148: Rapport van geneeskundige skoolbesoek aan Wonderfontein, 26.1.1944. Vergelyk ook K.J. Kerling, "Laer Gedenkskool Danie Theron", pp.1-2.

<sup>79</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D1/83/148: F.J. Pretorius/Skoolraad Potchefstroom, 5.11.1945

<sup>80</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D1/83/150: Wonderfontein sluiting en verskuiwing, 26.7.1946. Vergelyk ook K.J. Kerling, "Laer Gedenkskool Danie Theron", p.4.

<sup>81</sup> W. Hagan-Watson, "Down memory lane...", pp.34, 46. Vergelyk ook B.J.V. Naude (red.), *Gedenkuitgawe: Ontvangs van poskoets te Oberholzer, 9-11 Februarie 1952*, p.17.

April 1947, there were already plans for a permanent building at Carletonville owing to the expansion of the school.<sup>82</sup>

Some of the other schools in the Gatsrand, such as Elandsfontein number 289 and Rooipoort 50 attended to the enlargement and improvement of school buildings only subsequent to amalgamation.<sup>83</sup> In October 1943, the General Pienaar Farm School opened a hostel of £28 000 in order to meet the demands for boarding. However, on 24 December 1947, lightning struck the hostel and it was destroyed almost completely.<sup>84</sup> Large amounts of money had to be spent on repairs to the building.<sup>85</sup>

The centralisation process in the Gatsrand was advantageous in other respects, since regular bus services could be started because of the increase in the numbers of pupils. Children attending the school at Blyvooruitzicht from 1942 were transported in a mine ambulance for a time.<sup>86</sup>

#### 4.4 Social-cultural activities

Prior to about 1914, little was done at school level with regard to organised sport and cultural activities. Any form of the above-mentioned occurred informally. Thus, for instance games such as hide-and-seek would be played, while clay oxen and tops were popular toys.<sup>87</sup> As far as could be determined, the first sports event (a day of athletics events) was organised by the school at Rooipoort at Bank. Several schools participated in the events.<sup>88</sup>

By 1920, the school at Elandsfontein number 289 probably was the only school in the Gatsrand playing rugby as a school sport under the guidance of GS Malherbe. This school and the one that opened at Fochville at a later stage regularly played rugby matches against each other.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>82</sup> *Potchefstroom Herald and Western Gazette*, 27.6.1947, p.3.

<sup>83</sup> Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Bandopname K. du Preez, 6. 11 . 1986.

<sup>84</sup> *Potchefstroom Herald and Western Gazette*, 20.10.1943, p.5.

<sup>85</sup> *Potchefstroom Herald and Western Gazette*, 27.12.1947, p.5.

<sup>86</sup> W. Hagan-Watson, "Down memory lane...", p.33.

<sup>87</sup> Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Bandopname J.M.F. Terburg, 30.9.1987. Vergelyk ook verw. 3: Bandopname K. du Preez, 6.11.1986.

<sup>88</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/83/176: Rooipoort 50 skooljoernaal, 1906-1932, 3.5.1914.

<sup>89</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/75/139: Elands= fontein nr. 289 skooljoernaal, 1906-1934.

The school at Wonderfontein only started playing rugby and corfball after an increase in the number of pupils from 1940.<sup>90</sup>



PUPILS AND OFFICERS OF ELANDSFONTEIN NUMBER 289  
DURING A SCHOOL CADET GATHERING IN POTCHEFSTROOM, 1917  
Photo: Reverend A Brink (Fochville)

The schools that amalgamated in 1939 also started to practise these two sports codes. There was no formal competition in these sports codes until approximately 1947.<sup>91</sup>

From about 1915, a cadet corps was established at the majority of farm schools. This entailed, inter alia, that the boys were trained to shoot, to acquire military discipline and drill.<sup>92</sup> Most schools in the area practised these activities as part of the weekly school programme. Inadequate pupil numbers prevented schools' participation in junior and senior shooting competitions organised for cadet detachments in the Western Transvaal.<sup>93</sup>

As has been mentioned before, Elandsfontein number 289 was one of the schools with the highest number of pupils in the Gatsrand area. The school was thus able to enter for both the junior and the senior Bisleys. The only mention in the school journal in this regard was

<sup>90</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/83/155: Rapport van Wonderfonteinskool, K.J. Kerling/Potchefstroom Skoolraad, Desember 1939.

<sup>91</sup> Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Bandopname K. du Preez, 6.11.1986

<sup>92</sup> Carletonville (PU vir CHO) verw. 3: Bandopname K. du Preez, 6.11.1986. Vergelyk ook J.C. Coetzee, *Pioniers van die skoolplaas Klipdrift ...*, .pp.78-79.

<sup>93</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/78/801: Welverdiend skooljoernaal, 1907-1924. Vergelyk ook K.J. Kerling, "Laer Gedenkskool Danie Theron", p.4.

on 31 January 1922 when the school achieved second place in both senior and junior competitions and pupils P Davidtz and S Schutte later in the same year respectively attained second and third places in the Bisley.<sup>94</sup>

Other activities that were practised (as school pupil numbers made allowance for them) were school concerts and outings to Potchefstroom, Krugersdorp and Johannesburg. All the pupils of schools were usually involved in the concerts. Normally, parents would be the entire audience and admission fees were paid in order to boost the school's funds.<sup>95</sup> After 1936, the school at Elandsfontein initiated a Junior Red Cross and a savings club.<sup>96</sup>

#### 4.5 Education for blacks<sup>97</sup>

During the 1840s, missionaries of the London Missionary Society commenced with their activities in what was later to become the ZAR. In 1857, the Missionary Society of Hermannsburg started to minister among the Tswana in the Western Transvaal. The Berlin Missionary Society, Anglican Church and Roman Catholic Church also entered the mission fields.<sup>98</sup>

The missionary societies were responsible for the major part of the training of blacks until 1948.<sup>99</sup> As mentioned in Chapter 3, there were missionary activities at the outposts Losberg and Gatsrand (the exact location of the latter outpost is not known). However, a school was established at Losberg. Teaching facilities were nevertheless even more lacking than those of the whites.<sup>100</sup>

Although the British administration paid attention to black education after 1902, there still was no state school in the district of Potchefstroom by 1919.<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/75/139: Elands= fontein nr. 289 skooljoernaal, 1906-1934, 31.1.1922 en 4.9.1922.

<sup>95</sup> Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Bandopname K. du Preez, 6.11. 1986.

<sup>96</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), verw. D3/75/139: Elands= fontein skooljoernaal, 1935-1939, 9.4.1937. Dit is nie bekend in watter mate ander skole die voorbeeld gevolg het nie.

<sup>97</sup> Hierdie afdeling bevat slegs 'n kort oorsig van die onderwys van Swartmense aangesien daar meer op die onderwysontwikkeling van die Blanke gekonsentreer is.

<sup>98</sup> B. F. Nel, *Naturelle opvoedingen onderwys*, pp.82, 84. Vergelyk ook J.C. Coetzee, "Die geskiedenis van die Onderwys in Potchefstroom..." in A.J.H. van der Walt (red.), Potchefstroom, 1838-1938, p.262.

<sup>99</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), Verslag vir die jaar geëindig Desember 1917, p.86. Vergelyk ook Verslag vir die jaar geëindig Desember 1947, p.215.

<sup>100</sup> D.W. van der Merwe, "Die geskiedenis van die Berlynse Sendinggenootskap, 1860-1900", *Argiefjaarboek vir Suid-Afrikaanse geskiedenis*, 46 (1), 1984, p.96.

<sup>101</sup> J.C. Coetzee, "Die geskiedenis van die Onderwys in Potchefstroom..." in A.J.H. van der Walt (red.), Potchefstroom, 1838-1938, pp. 222, 262.

In 1920, there were 22 missionary schools in the district of Potchefstroom, yet none of them were located in the Gatsrand – judging by the names.<sup>102</sup> From 1937, gold-mine activities in the Gatsrand would, however, soon change the situation. In 1948, the Anglican Church was granted permission by the Executive Council to build a school for black children at Blyvooruitzicht.<sup>103</sup> It was only after the establishment of a location in the 1950s that attention was devoted to black education in the area.<sup>104</sup>

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<sup>102</sup> Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement (Onderwysmuseum), Report for the year ended December, 1920, pp.186-187.

<sup>103</sup> Uitvoerende Raad van die Unie (SAB), verw. 2535 nr. 2676: Johannesburg Diocesan Trustees, 9.6.1948.

<sup>104</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. L1/29/20: Explanatory report on the layout of the proposed Native Location at Stinkhoutboom, 9.2.1956.