

CHAPTER ONE

WHITE SETTLEMENT AND TOWN ESTABLISHMENT IN GATSRAND BEFORE THE PROCLAMATION OF CARLETONVILLE IN 1948

Even prior to White settlement in the Gatsrand area, Blacks had been living there. However, it is difficult to determine the extent and location of their presence.

At Askoppie, as well as at other similar koppies along the Gatsrand hills, there remain to this day remnants of walls and ash heaps.¹ A cave with the remnants of huts and implements/utensils can be viewed at the farm Kleinfontein. A black tribe is believed to have taken refuge here during the destructive campaign of Mzilikazi and his Ndebele (Matabele) on the Highveld.²

Although the environment's characteristic hills, sinkholes, caves, permanent water supply, adequate grazing, shelter and wood made this an ideal area to live in for black tribes, the trekkers found not a single Black living in the area as far as Gatsrand during the first punitive expedition against Mzilikazi in January 1837. This can primarily be attributed to the destructive campaign of the Ndebele.³

In ethnologic studies there is mention that Tswana tribes actually did settle in the environment for intermittent periods before the arrival of the trekkers. A branch of the Kwena tribe under the leadership of Mare presumably settled in the southern part of the Gatsrand after 1823.⁴

Mare chose a large isolated hill as dwelling place and called it Kokosi (Losberg).⁵ One of his sons (Kokosi) was named after the place. Kokosi was also the last known great place of the group. The destructive campaign of the Ndebele gave rise to the scattering of this group

¹ AP Nel. "Buffelsdoorn – 'n baken in ons kerk se geskiedenis", Gereformeerde Vroueblad, xxx (8), January 1977, pp. 12-13

² Carletonville (PU vir CHE), ref. 3: Interview Dr JF Wolmarans, 15.4.1987.

³ JC Voight. Fifty years of the history of the republic in South Africa, 1795-1845, p. 168. Also compare HB Thom. Die lewe van Gert Maritz, p. 131.

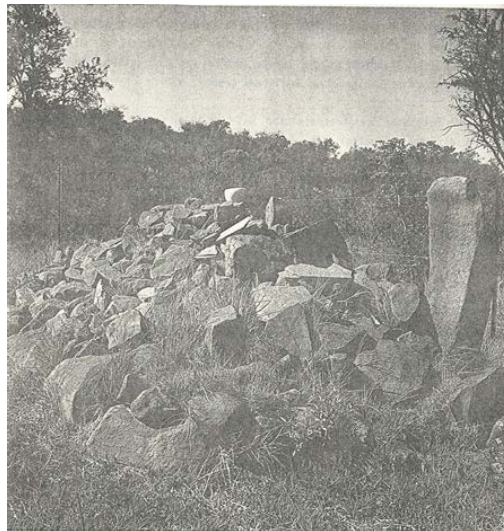
⁴ LP Vorster. Die baKWENA baMARE-a-PHÔGÔLÊ (MA dissertation, 1958), p.45.

⁵ Losberg is located within the boundaries of the farm Rhenosterfontein in the southern section/part of Gatsrand.

and, by 1830, a large group of them retreated to the current Free State and Lesotho.⁶ In the second half of the eighteenth century, another Kwena subdivision, the Molotswane, apparently lived for a time close to the current farm Deelkraal.⁷

AH Potgieter's group of trekkers that left the Cape Colony to trek north in 1836, clashed with Mzilikazi's Ndebele. Some of the livestock of the company were taken by the Ndebele at Vegkop in October 1836, but these were retrieved in January 1839 by the commando of Gerrit Maritz and Potgieter at Mzilikazi's kraal, Mosega.⁸

In April 1837, three groups of trekkers were gathered at Thaba Nchu where Piet Retief was elected as governor. Although Potgieter actually had in mind the Highveld and the north as destination, he nevertheless opted to accompany Retief to Natal. The group of trekkers of Piet Uys joined the others at Thaba Nchu in August 1837. While the trekker group of Retief left for Natal, those of Potgieter, Uys and Maritz remained behind for the purpose of organising a second punitive commando against Mzilikazi.⁹



ONE HARMSE'S GRAVE AT BUFFELSDOORN

Photograph: Anglo American Corporation (Marshalltown)

⁶ LP Vorster, *Die baKWENA baMARE-a-PHÔGÔLÊ*, pp. 52, 57.

⁷ PL Breutz, *Die stamme van die distrik Ventersdorp*, p.103.

⁸ CFJ Muller, "Die Groot Trek-tydperk, 1834-1854," in CFJ Muller (ed.), *500 jaar Suid-Afrikaanse geskiedenis*, pp. 134-137.

⁹ PJ van der Merwe, *Die Matabeles en die Voortrekkers*, p. 148, GS Preller, *Voortrek-kermense III*, p. 91. Also compare C Potgieter and NH Theunissen, *Kommandant-generaal Hendrik Potgieter*, pp. 68, 74.

Owing to illness, Maritz did not go along on the second expedition in November, but remained behind in the lager. On 14 November 1837, the commando of Potgieter and Uys managed to drive Mzilikazi's Ndebele back across the Limpopo River. When Maritz joined Potgieter and Uys, the livestock was divided among them in the Gatsrand and the place would subsequently be referred to as Deelkraal.¹⁰ On their arrival in Natal in January 1838, Retief was already negotiating with Dingane. After the unexpected killing of Retief and his company at Dingane's kraal, the trekkers pinned their hope on Potgieter and Uys. On 6 April 1838, one of the two groups under Potgieter and Uys were ambushed by the Zulu impi at Italeni. Uys lost his life and one of the trekkers blamed Potgieter for this. With a group of about 160 men and their families, Potgieter left Natal and headed north.¹¹

By November 1838, many of Potgieter's group had settled in the environs of the Vet River, Winburg and across the Vaal River. A small group even settled around the current Heidelberg and Suikerbosrand.¹² In December 1838, Potgieter declared the region north of the Vaal River as trekker territory¹³ and settled his company along the Mooi River, 11 km north-east of the current Potchefstroom. This settlement was initially known as Potchefstroom and subsequently as Oude Dorp.¹⁴ Poor soil conditions were one of the motives for the decision to opt for a terrain farther to the south where the present-day town (Potchefstroom)¹⁵ was established in 1841.

According to the "plaasrequestenregister" (farm application register), commandant Potgieter had been allocating farms in the Mooi River district from as early as 3 June 1839.¹⁶ Later in that same year, J de Klerk was appointed as magistrate of the entire

¹⁰ PJ van der Merwe, *Die Matabeles en die Voortrekkers*, pp. 218-219 and GS Preller, *Voortrekkermense III*, p. 91. Also refer to p. 6, footnote 28.

¹¹ C Potgieter and NH Theunissen, *Kommandant-generaal Hendrik Potgieter*, pp. 94, 113. Also compare D Branken, "Maritz se laer by Suikerbosrand", *Argiefnuus* xxvii (8), February 1985, pp. 29-30.

¹² C Potgieter and NH Theunissen, *Kommandant-generaal Hendrik Potgieter*, p. 114.

¹³ EA Walker, *The Great Trek*, p. 227.

¹⁴ WJ Badenhorst, "Die geskiedenis van Potchefstroom", in AJN van der Walt (ed.), *Potchefstroom, 1838-1881*, p. 4.

¹⁵ The date on which the name Potchefstroom, which was otherwise also known as "Moorivier Dorp", was used for the first time, is uncertain. See GN van den Bergh, "Is Klerksdorp die oudste? 18, July 1985, p. 9. Also, compare DJP Haasbroek, "Potchefstroom, waar kry jy daardie naam?", *Contree* 3, January 1978, p. 25.

¹⁶ Registrar of Deeds (TAB), ref. 2433: *Plaasrequestenregister, 1838-1851*. Where the farms were recorded and who was responsible for the registration of farms is uncertain. It is possible that, since Maritz could not take part in the second punitive expedition against Mzilikazi owing to ill health, he may have remained behind at Suikerbosrand where a start was made with this particular register.

“overberg” area in order to manage the allocation of farms.¹⁷ According to tradition, by the year 1836, one Harmse and his family had already settled on the terrain of the present-day farm Buffelsdoorn in the Gatsrand area. Apparently, this was the Harmse who was trampled to death by a wounded buffalo near a patch of thorn bushes and who lies buried there.¹⁸ A pile of stones (cairn) marks what is allegedly Harmse’s grave and it can still be seen on the farm.

It is illuminating that the farm Buffelsdoorn possibly had another name previously. In the “plaasrequestenregister” (farm request register) the farm Buffelspoort was allocated to WA du Plessis in 1839. In 1856, he transferred the farm to PJW Schutte, but Du Plessis then used the name Buffelsdoorn instead.¹⁹ An explanation for the possible name change may be linked to the episode with the buffalo that occurred there.

It is known that severe droughts occurred in the Graaff-Reinet district in 1821 and subsequently and that farmers consequently trekked about in order to find better grazing for their livestock. Some of them trekked even as far as the Transoranje.²⁰ Some of these folk possibly crossed the Vaal River in the thirties to settle in the vicinity of the Mooi River.²¹

A thorough study was conducted regarding the possible presence of Harmse in this area. The only person who might possibly be eligible for the tradition is Bartholomeus Harmse. Anna Christina Harmse (née Fourie), in a letter written prior to 1869 to the magistrate in Potchefstroom, refers to herself as the widow of Bartholomeus, born in the district of Graaff-Reinet. She married him in 1802 and, at the time of the writing of aforesaid letter, lived on Muiskraal, situated in the ward Mooi River.²²

¹⁷ JH Breytenbach (ed.), Suid-Afrikaanse Argiefstukke, Natal nr. 1: Notule van die Natalse Volksraad, 8 October 1841, 1838-1845, pp. 115-116.

¹⁸ BJV Naudé (ed.), Gedenkuitgawe: Ontvangs van poskoets te Oberholzer, 9-11 Februarie 1952, p.51. Also, compare Carletonville/Fochville Herald, 5.10.1973, p. 9 and 29.8.1982, p. 24, as well as H Elliot, “Down towards the styx”, Optima 34(2), p. 107.

¹⁹ Registrar of Deeds (TAB), ref. 2433: Plaasrequestenregister, 1838-1851.

²⁰ PJ van der Merwe, Die noordwaartse beweging van die Boere voor die Groot Trek, 1770-1842, pp. 180, 205, 208 and 282.

²¹ PJ van der Merwe, Die Matabeles en die Voortrekkers, p. 128. Also, see R Marx, “Watter is die oudste dorp in die Transvaal?” *Contree* 19, January 1986, pp. 28-29.

²² Potchefstroom magistrate (TAB), ref. 8: AC Harmse/Magistrate, (1879-1881). Although the undated letter appears in the 1897-1881 file of the magistrate’s archives, the letter could possibly have been written earlier.

In 1842, B Harmse and AC Harmse were mentioned in the town register of the Potchefstroom congregation where they were present as witnesses of the christening of a Harmse child.²³ At that stage, B. Harmse was an elderly man of approximately 83.²⁴ He may have been the Harmse who was trampled to death near the patch of thorn bushes on the farm Buffelsdoorn (but possibly already lived on Muiskraal). No death notice of Harmse could be traced. The alleged episode with the buffalo must then have occurred in the period between 1842 and 1856.

Requests for farms in the Gatsrand have been found in the “plaasrequestenregister” (farm request register). On 3 June 1839, N Grobler applied for De Rietfontein and on 15 June LA Erasmus applied for Elandsfontein, as well as Krosalkop on 8 July. WA du Plessis was next by applying for Buffelspoortje on 8 July, HL Janse van Vuuren for Rhenosterfontein on 13 July, JL Pretorius for De Oertelskraal on 22 July, GT van Vuuren for Strypoort on 8 August, W Meintjies for Uys zijn Deelkraal on 12 October, CLH Kruger for De Dorenkom on 2 November, RP du Toit for Rhenostervlei on 3 December and GJB Robberste for De Kaalplaats on 9 December.²⁵

With the exception of the farms Uys zijn Deelkraal located “aan de Zuidzijde van de gat” (to the southern side of the hole), Rhenostervlei “oostzijde Mooirivier aan de Deelkraalspruit” (to the eastern side of Mooi River along the Deelkraalspruit), De Rietfontein and De Oertelskraal, both located “aan de spruit van dele Kraal” (along the spruit/creek of Dele Kraal), the rest of the farms mentioned earlier are said to be situated “aan Gat zijn rand” (along the edge of the Hole).²⁶ Where exactly “Uys zijn Deelkraal” was located or what exactly was meant by the name of the farm could not be determined with certainty. The farm Deelkraal is known as the place where the livestock that had been retrieved were divided among the trekkers after the second punitive expedition against Mzilikazi (November 1837). Piet Uys accompanied Potgieter on this expedition and the livestock that they retrieved were divided at Deelkraal after Maritz had joined the aforesaid two leaders. As was the case with the first expedition, there were once again ructions between Potgieter

AC Fourie was born in 1784 and she died in 1869 at the age of 85. She made a mistake in the letter by giving her age as 87. See Master of the Supreme Court (TAB), Boedel van AC Harmse, nr. 19631, June 1869. Also, see CGS de Villiers and C Pama, *Geslagsregisters van die ou Kaapse families, I (A-M)*, p. 284.

²³ Potchefstroom-Congregation (NH Church Archives – Church Archives, Pretoria), ref. G1 nr. 3/3/1: Baptismal Register, 27.3.1842-24.12.1849.

²⁴ According to De Villiers and Pama, B Harmse was christened in 1759. See CGS de Villiers and C Pama, *Geslagregisters van die ou Kaapse families I (A-M)*, p. 284.

²⁵ Registrar of Deeds (TAB), ref. 2433: Plaasrequestenregister, 1838-1851. Compare Map 3 (p. 11) for occupation of farms in the Gatsrand, 1839-1857.

²⁶ Registrar of Deeds (TAB), ref. 2433: Plaasrequestenregister, 1838-1851.

and Maritz because of the way in which the distribution of livestock occurred. Potgieter wanted to first reward the members of his commando before any other burgers would be considered, while Maritz insisted on an equal distribution of the animals. Uys had to side with one of the others in order to determine whose proposal was to be accepted.²⁷ Uys's decision in favour of Potgieter was probably what gave rise to the name "Uys zijn Deelkraal".²⁸

The reference to "de Zuidzijde van de gat" at the farm Uys zijn Deelkraal and the use of "aan Gat zijn rand" and, in some instances "aan de Rand van de Gat", indicates that a particular hole in the area served as a landmark. The indication of location of the farm Weltevreden, which was registered in 1849, was "aan Gat zijn kant" (on the side of the Hole). According to these references, the huge prehistoric sinkhole on the terrain of the current Doornfontein mine was the point of reference used by the trekkers.²⁹

The use of "Deelkraalspruit" and "aan de spruit van Dele kraal" as points of reference is probably obtained from the commando that formed part of the second punitive expedition against Mzilikazi. The horses of the commando and the retrieved livestock probably got drinking water at a constant spruit/creek on the terrain where the livestock was divided – referred to as Deelkraal ("deel" is to divide or share).

Entries in the register do not always indicate the exact location of farms. In many instances there is merely reference to "aan de Mooirivier" (along the Mooi River), so that it is impossible to trace all of the farms allocated in the area. There is, however, certainty regarding 42 farms allocated between 1840 and 1849. In 1840, altogether ten new farms were recorded, four in 1844, only one in 1846, six in 1847, five in 1848 and 16 in 1849.³⁰

The occupation of farms in this decade is listed in Table 1 below:

²⁷ C Potgieter and NH Theunissen, *Commandant-General Hendrik Potgieter*, pp. 94, 96-97 and HB Thom, *Die lewe van Gert Martiz*, pp. 173, 174 and 176-178.

²⁸ If Uys zijn Deelkraal used to be a section of the current farm Deelkraal, then Johannes Jooste, who obtained the "vervallen plaats [dilapidated farm] (Deelkraal) from P Louw" on 26 November 1849, was the second owner of this farm. No particulars regarding the application of P Louw could be found in the "requestenregister". See the Registrar of Deeds (TAB), ref. 2433: *Plaasrequestenregister, 1838-1851*.

²⁹ JF Wolmarans, *Ontwatering van die dolomietgebied aan die Verre Wes-Rand: Gebeure in perspektief* (DPhil-thesis, 1984), pp. 62, 95.

³⁰ Registrar of Deeds (TAB), ref. 2433: *Plaasrequestenregister, 1838-1851*.

TABLE 1 Occupation of farms in Gatsrand, 1840-1849

FARM	OWNER	DATE OF REQUEST
De Gat zyn fontein	IT Fourie	21.1.1840
De Buffelsvaley	BJ de Klerk	15.2.1840
Wonderfontein	JNH Grobler	11.3.1840
De Kraanvogel	FJ du Plessis	3.5.1840
Weltevreden	MF Jacobs	15.8.1840
Jagersfontein	G du Toit	21.8.1840
Zeiverfontein	JS du Toit	21.8.1840
Rietfontein	D Pieterse	13.10.1840
Bultfontein	AP Grobler	16.11.1840
Paardefontein	JJ Nortjé	18.11.1840
Rietfontein	GJ van Vuuren	12.3.1844
Rietfontein	PWH du Plessis	13.3.1844
Wagenboomfontein	CJH Combrengr	18.3.1844
Uitkomst	JH Grobler	16.7.1844
Boshoek	S Grobler	15.10.1846
Doorndrift	PW. Botha	12.2.1847
Onderste Wagendrft (Wonderfontein)	JH Snijman	9.3.1847
Nooitgedacht	F Pieterse	5.4.1847
Rietfontein	JJ and W. Prinsloo	23.8.1847
Klipgat (Leeuwoort)	WP Grobler	22.11.1847
Stoompoorfontein	CM Erasmus	11.12.1847
Kleinfontein	DG Steyn	27.2.1848
Wolpoort	JMA Steyn	16.3.1848
Doornkloof	JG Stein	30.3.1848
Rietfontein	HC Marx	17.4.1848
Poortjie	JB Prinsloo	17.4.1848
Modderfontein	JR Janse van Vuuren	12.1.1849
Doornpoort	SJ Janse van Vuuren	12.1.1849
Rietfontein	WN Viljoen	9.2.1849
Rietfontein	JJ Viljoen	9.2.1849
Rietfontein	JC Broodryk	21.2.1849
Vogelstruisfontein	ES du Plessis	21.2.1849
Rietfontein	S Prinsloo	26.4.1849
Rooikoppiesfontein	P Marx	30.4.1849

continued

TABLE 1 (continued)

FARM	OWNER	DATE OF REQUEST
♦ Blyvoorrust	HJ Fourie	16.5.1849
Katbosfontein	JA Geldenhuis	18.6.1849
Groot Rietfontein	D Janse van Vuuren	3.7.1849
Hartebeesfontein	J Herman	10.7.1849
Doornpoort	JA Venter	10.7.1849
Welverdiend	FGA Wolmarans	16.9.1849
Gelukfontein	C Marnewick	26.11.1849
Rooipoort	CJ van Tonder	8.12.1849

Some of the farms listed above are not indicated on Map number 3 (compiled in 1906), since a complete map dating back to before 1870 could not be found. F Jeppe's map of 1899 is the first one that gives the location of farms. However, the 1906 map was used since the borders of the ward Gatsrand were demarcated more clearly.

In the subsequent eight years up to and including the procurement of a constitution by the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR) in 1857, sixteen more farms were allocated to farmers. Ownership of some of the farms occurred by means of transfer of government property to applicants.³¹

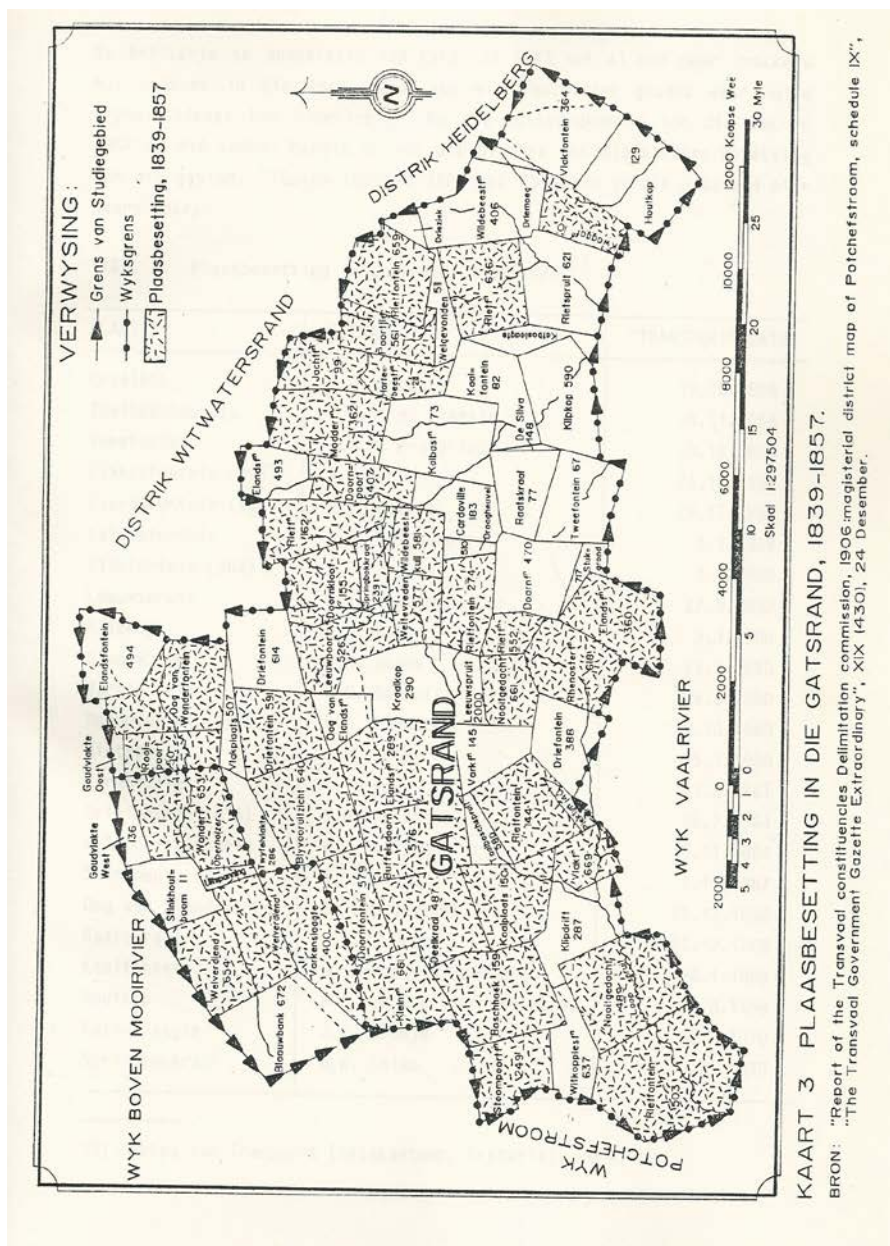
TABLE 2 Occupation of farms in Gatsrand, 1850-1857

FARM	OWNER	DATE OF TRANSPORT
Wildebeestenkuil	GA Schoonbeek	26.3.1850
Onderste drif (Wonderfontein)	I Niemandt	2.5.1850
Veefontein	DR Opperman	25.5.1850
Jachtfontein	JF Martins	24.3.1851
Driefontein (591)	H Boshoff	3.11.1851
Uitspanning	Regering (Government)	6.11.1851
Driefontein (388)	BC Greyling	26.1.1854

♦ On 3.6.1853, H Fourie transferred the farm Blyvooruitzicht to PH de Beer, which creates the impression that the name of the farm Blyvoorrustse was changed to Blyvooruitzicht between 1849 and 1853. See the Registrar of Deeds (TAB), ref. 2689: Index of the transport book, 1838-1862.

³¹ Registrar of Deeds (TAB), ref. Also, see Deeds of Transfer/Conveyance (Deeds Office, Pretori Apart from the three farms that were recorded in the "requestenregister" (see Table 2), the others were obtained from the registers of the Deeds Office.

Vlakfontein	CL Dreyer	15.7.1854
Kwaggafontein	TJ Niemand	3.8.1854
Doornfontein (579)	JC Broodryk	15.9.1854
Piekfyn	HEJ Broodryk	17.1.1857
Varkenslaagte	FGA Wolmarans	18.4.1857
Rietfontein (636)	HBL Klopper	2.5.1857
Elandsfontein (360)	TP Pretorius	10.6.1857
Nooitgedacht (661)	JF Robertse	10.6.1857
Oog van Wonderfontein	JF van der Merwe	10.12.1857



After Britain's annexation of Natal in 1843, an increasing number of trekkers sought a future in the country to the north of the Vaal River where they could pursue their dream of independence. After the establishment of the ZAR in 1857, this ideal was realised and it contributed to the further occupation of this area. Between 1858 and 1870, farms were allocated to 23 owners in the Gatsrand:

TABLE 3 Occupation of farms in Gatsrand, 1858-1870³²

FARM	OWNER	DATE OF TRANSPORT
Kraalkop	JD Gouws	13.10.1858
Taaiboschspruit	HMJ du Plessis	18.11.1858
Tweefontein	RGP Pretorius	13.12.1858
Elandsfontein (493)	RPG Dreyer	24.12.1858
Elandsfontein (494)	NF Alberts	29.12.1858
Kalbasfontein	JA Geldenhuis	3.1.1859
Vlakfontein (364)	CJ Beukes	1.4.1859
Leeuwspruit	DR Opperman	27.5.1859
Klipkop	CJ Uys	9.3.1860
Blaauwbank	JH Bodes	29.6.1860
Varkfontein	JH Boshoff	16.8.1860
Doornfontein (470)	PJ Laubscher	3.10.1860
Rietspruit	AH Botha	25.1.1860
Cardoville	C Dreyer	23.8.1861
Driefontein (614)	NM Prinsloo	28.7.1864
Wilbebeestfontein	WJ Viljoen	15.11.1864
Stinkhoutboom	I Niemand	7.11.1867
Oog van Elandsfontein	G Engelbrecht	29.12.1868
Raatskraal	RPG Dreyer	29.12.1868
Kaalfontein	S Janse van Rensburg	20.1.1869
Houtkop	HC and JC van der Merwe	24.8.1869
Katboslaagte	JP Cronje	12.3.1870
Springbokkraal	JW Salan	30.11.1870

³² Deeds of Transfer (Deeds Office, Pretoria), ref. IQ.

In 1871, the farms Twyfelvlakte and Klipdrift were taken into possession. In 1948, the town Carletonville would be proclaimed on the farm Twyfelvlakte. PG de Beer, who took possession of this farm on 30 June, was as far as is known the first owner. On 3 July, Klipdrift became the property of PM Voesee. It was on this farm that the first settlement in the Gatsrand ward, known as Klipdrift, was established after Union (1910). In the next three years, one farm was occupied annually, namely Vlakplaats on 22 April 1872 by AB Merensky, Welgevonden on 16 May 1873 by RC Green and Droogeheuvel on 10 January 1874 by JA Smith. Witkoppiesfontein, which was transferred to PL Bezuidenhout on 14 January 1876, was the last farm transferred in Gatsrand before Theophilus Stepstone deprived the ZAR of its independence on 12 April 1877.³³

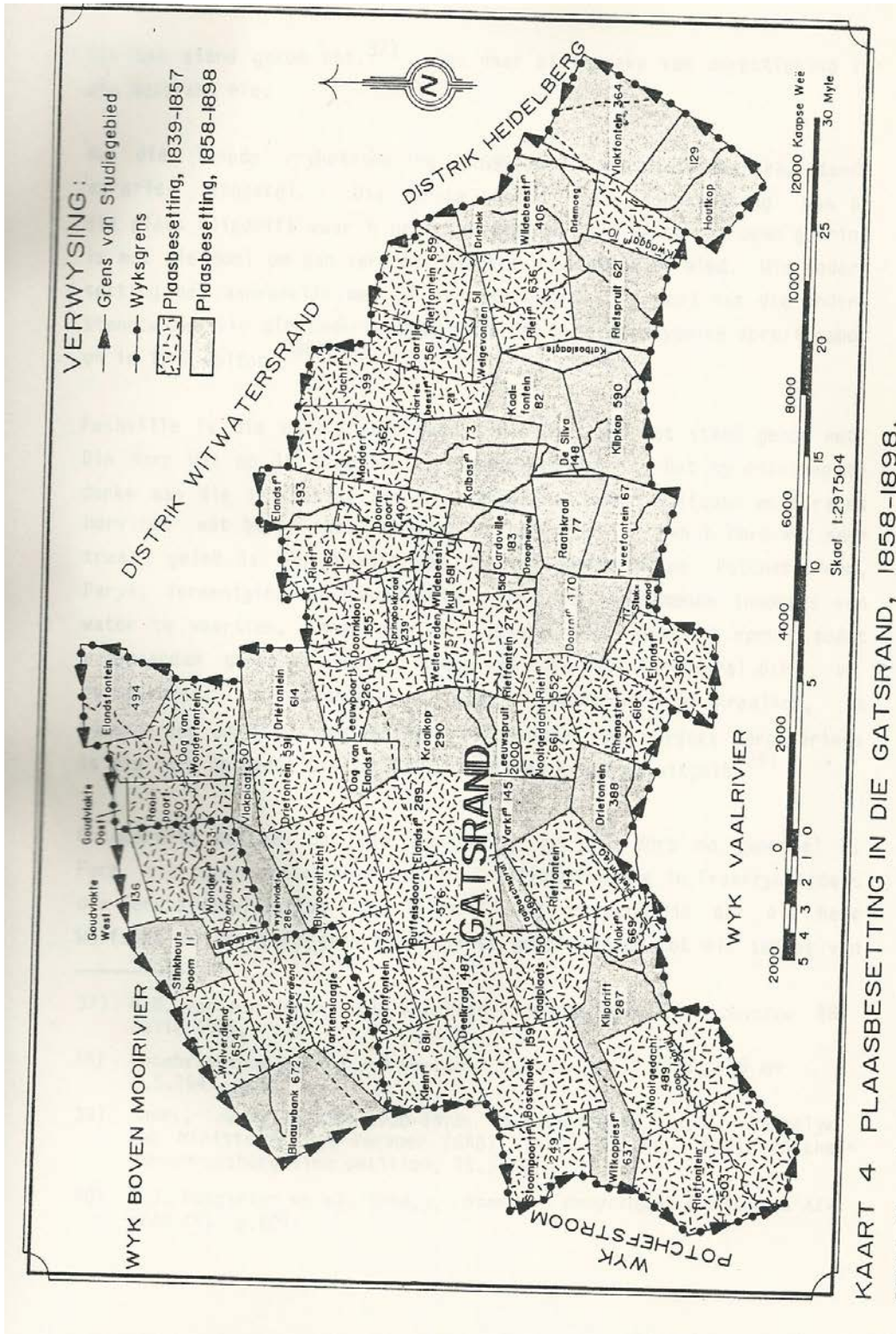
No farms were added in the Gatsrand area during the subsequent years up to and including the regaining of independence in 1881. The last five farms in the area got owners in 1897 and 1898. Goudvlakte East and West were surveyed as public lands in October 1897. On 5 April 1898, the farm De Silva also became government property. On 11 January 1898, Driemoeg became the property of the Dutch Reformed Church congregation of Rustenburg and on 4 February 1898, Drieziek became the property of the Dutch Reformed congregation of Heidelberg.³⁴

During the period 1839-1898, the white inhabitants of Gatsrand were farm-bound, practising agriculture as the single major occupation. As distinct from other wards in the Potchefstroom district, *inter alia* Lower Schoonspruit and Upper Schoonspruit where Klerksdorp and Ventersdorp respectively came into existence,³⁵ the establishment of a town in the Gatsrand area was out of the question.

³³ Deeds of Transfer (Deeds Office, Pretoria), ref. IQ. Also, see Potchefstroom City Council (TAB), ref. 351: Townlands, establishment of townships. 9.9.1948. See Map no. 4 (p. 14) for occupation of farms in Gatsrand, 1858-1898.

³⁴ Deeds of Transfer (Deeds Office, Pretoria), ref. IQ. The farms Driemoeg and Drieziek were probably acquired as investments, or as a camping sites, for the youth. Driemoeg got a new owner in 1903 and Drieziek got its new owner in 1917.

³⁵ G.N. van den Bergh, "Is Klerksdorp die oudste..." Contree 18, July 1985, p. 9.



KAART 4 PLAASBESETTING IN DIE GATSRAND, 1858-1898.
 BRON: "Report of the Transvaal constituencies Delimitation commission, 1906...."

After the South African War//Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902), the community was still geared for an agrarian existence. The first attempt at town establishment was on the farm Klipdrift, where a settlement was established in 1911 for the purpose of providing a refuge for impoverished whites. The settlement was initially started with 50 persons. As part of the assistance for this settlement, a dam was constructed at a nearby spruit/creek. The dam was completed in 1917.³⁶

Fochville was the first town to be established in the Gatsrand region. This town, which was proclaimed on 15 November 1920, owed its origin to the initiative of the businessmen Joseph Wulfsohn and Abraham Horvitch who realised that there was a need for centrally situated town with regard to the surrounding towns Potchefstroom, Parys, Vereeniging and Randfontein. In order to provide prospective residents with water, the town had to be situated alongside a creek/spruit so that a reservoir could be built. Farmers of the environment and especially those of Weltevreden, Elandsfontein number 289, Leeuwpoot and Kraalkop were convened in order to discuss this issue. After a series of meetings, the town was laid out on sections of Leeuwspruit and Kraalkop.³⁷

There is uncertainty with regard to the town being named after General F Foch, the commander in chief of the Allied Forces in France during the First World War (1914-1918).³⁸ It is possible that the gentlemen Wulfsohn and Horvitch wanted to honour General Foch's major contribution to the success of the Allied Forces against Germany by naming this town, in the heart of Gatsrand, after the Frenchman.

The name Fochville did not escape criticism. AJ van der Walt, who lived at Deelkraal, wrote that the ill-considered, "flippant" name was given by incompetent persons. He regarded the "massive mighty" Losberg as the only suitable name for a town in that vicinity.³⁹

Eight years after the proclamation of Fochville (1928), it was decided upon the initiative of the Nederlands Zuid-Afrikaansche Vereniging (ZA-Stigting Moederland)* to purchase part of Wonderfontein and to encourage Dutch farmers to emigrate thither.

³⁶ *Potchefstroom Herald and Western Gazette*, 24.7.1931, p. 3 and 2.5.1947, p. 93.

³⁷ Anon., *Fochville 50, 1920-1970: Gedenkuitgawe*, p. 17. Also, compare Ministerie van Vervoer (Ministry of Transport) (SAB), ref. 409 no. 16/44: Potchefstroom-Losberg line petition, 15.3.1922.

³⁸ DJ Potgieter *et al.* (ed.), *Standard Encyclopaedia of South Africa IV*, p. 601.

³⁹ AJ van der Walt, *Vastrappers (of Volkstiepe)*, p. 2. As indicated in the introduction, the history of Fochville is not discussed in depth in this study.

*(Dutch South African Society (ZA Foundation Motherland). Unemployment and overpopulation in the Netherlands caused farmers to accept this offer.⁴⁰

A farmer of Groningen, F Veldman, was one of the first emigrants to come and settle at Wonderfontein. To Veldman, who was used to the intensive agriculture and overpopulation in the Netherlands, the sprawling plains of Wonderfontein were most unusual. A small group of immigrants from Groningen who arrived at Wonderfontein in 1928, appointed a commission (Commissie voor [for] Wonderfontein) for the purpose of creating a settlement consisting of Dutch families at Wonderfontein and to promote emigration.⁴¹

Although there were only 60 persons (excluding women and children) at Wonderfontein in 1930, the farm of 3 500 morgen (3 010 hectares) could accommodate a population of 250. Every settler had to buy his own plot of approximately 25 morgen (21,5 hectares). Housing and outbuildings were built in accordance with the needs of individual families.⁴² In 1937, the commencement of goldmine activities at Blyvooruitzicht created the ideal circumstances for a town to be laid out.⁴³ JE Hommes (from Groningen) surrendered part of his land at Wonderfontein for town planning. It is evident from Hommes's correspondence with his parents the excessive cost of the town planning at Wonderfontein caused him to have sleepless nights.⁴⁴ According to him, the surveyor's cost amounted to £250, the town-planning council £30, the government's investigation £32, the paying off of the mortgage £32, the lay-out planning of the map £32 and the formation of a company £35.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Carletonville (PU vir CHE), ref. 2: Col. Dr J Ploeger/ES van Eeden, 12.9.1986. Also, compare Anon., "De Nederlandsche Landbounederzetting op Wonderfontein (Transvaal)", *Zuid-Afrika*, October 1934, p. 6. By 1870, the European neo-imperialistic urgency for expansion influenced and moved the Dutch to also commence with economic and cultural possibilities for expansion in South Africa. In 1883, a number of Dutch friends of the Boers established a company in the ZAR for the purpose of acquiring land and establishing Boer colonies. These attempts at establishing settlements were continued till the 1920s. See C de Jong, "Dullstroom, 1884-1984", *Contree* 17, January 1985, p. 29.

⁴¹ Carletonville (PU vir CHE), ref. 2: Col. Dr J Ploeger/ES van Eeden, 12.9.1986. Also, compare *Potchefstroom Herald and Western Gazette*, 17.10.1930, p. 10 and Bewaarder van Vyandseiendom (SAB), ref. 104 no. H3/12: Commissie voor Wonderfontein, January 1940.

⁴² *Potchefstroom Herald and Western Gazette*, 17.10.1930, p. 10.

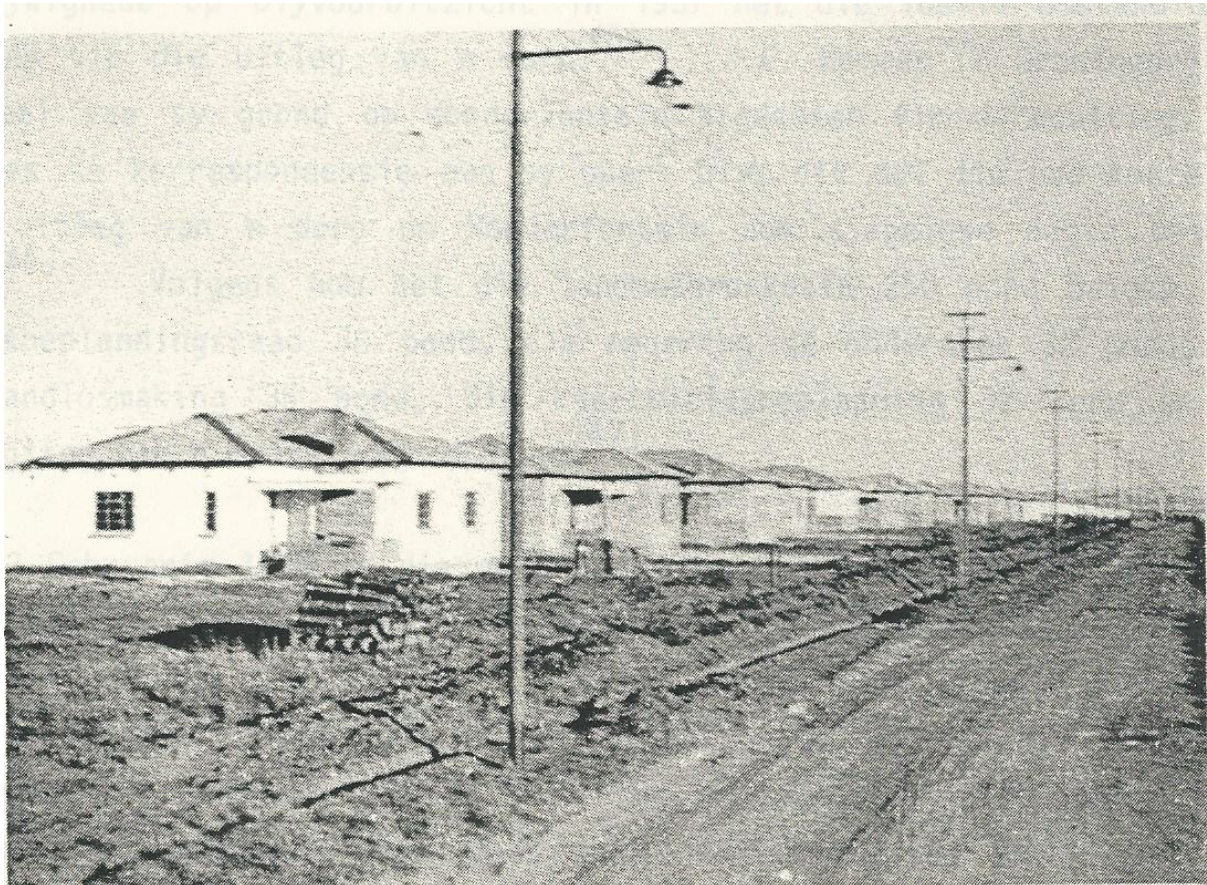
⁴³ Mining development in the Gatsrand is discussed in detail in Chapter 2.

⁴⁴ Hommes (TAB), ref. WHA 90: JE Hommes/Parents, 2.8.1938.

⁴⁵ Hommes (TAB), ref. WHA 90: JE Hommes/Parents, 14.6.1938.

On 22 February 1939, the town Oberholzer was proclaimed at Wonderfontein in accordance with the terms of the Townships *and* Town-Planning Ordinance No 11 of 1931.⁴⁶ A total of 600 erven were laid out, of which 50 were reserved as business premises. The government reserved 90 of the plots/erven for public buildings.⁴⁷ Plots were sold for £100 of which £25 was to be paid as a deposit. Instalments were payable at 6% interest.⁴⁸

Goldmine activities that were in progress at Venterspost and Lebanon (outside the north-eastern boundaries of the Gatsrand) prior to 1936, gave rise to the establishment of town planning on the farm Bank. Three towns were laid out here. West Wits was proclaimed as town in 1937 and was called thus owing to the gold that was found in the environs by the company *West Witwatersrand Areas*.



SOME OF THE FIRST HOUSES AT CARLETONVILLE, EXTENSION NUMBER ONE

Photograph: West Driefontein Mine (Carletonville)

⁴⁶ Municipality (Carletonville): Title conditions, 1937-1960.

⁴⁷ Hommes (TAB), ref. WHA 90: JE Hommes/Parents, 10.5.1936.

⁴⁸ Hommes (TAB), ref. WHA 90: JE Hommes/Parents, 8.3.1938.

Limited.⁴⁹ On 5 February 1940, permission was granted for the proclamation of a town on a section of WS Swanepoel and CFJ Swanepoel's The town was named after the farm.⁵⁰ In 1947, Blybank (prior to this date it was known as Bankville) was proclaimed as the third town.⁵¹ The development of these towns failed to meet expectations because mineworkers needed accommodation closer to Venterspost, Lebanon and Blyvooruitzicht.⁵²

The escalation of goldmine activities at Blyvooruitzicht and, subsequently, at West Driefontein and Doornfontein, presumably/probably made JJ Tromp decide to lay out a town at Welverdiend. In 1937, a start was made with the town planning and Welverdiend was proclaimed on 11 September 1942. Attorneys Moore, Williams, Gaisford and Du Toit of Potchefstroom were responsible for the sale of erven/stands at Welverdiend.⁵³

Water scarcity caused other towns in the area to expand faster than this town. By 1945, Welverdiend still did not have water and electricity.⁵⁴ When electrification of the railroads was envisaged, planning started in 1948 for the erection of 400 houses to accommodate railway staff members at Welverdiend⁵⁵ – a step that meant progress for this town.



GUY CARLETON JONES

Photo: Gold Fields of South Africa Limited (Johannesburg)

⁴⁹ Municipality (Carletonville): Title conditions, 1937-1960. Also, compare Justice (SAB), ref. 614 no. 2817/35: West Wits reservation of land, 7.12.1935.

⁵⁰ Town clerk (Potchefstroom), ref. 351: Townlands, establishment of townships, 5.2.1940.

⁵¹ Municipality (Carletonville): Title conditions, 1937-1960. Also, see Native Affairs (SAB), ref. 4524 no. 603/313: Blybank (Bankville), 6.1.44 and 11.12.1947.

⁵² Carletonville (PU for CHE), ref. 3: Interview Dr JF Wolmarans, 15.4.1987.

⁵³ Municipality (Carletonville): Title conditions, 1937-1960. Also, compare Municipality (Carletonville), ref. T1/30 no. TA 540/7638: Townships Board/Administrator, 4.9.1937 and Native Affairs (SAB), ref. 2920 no. 365/303: Venereal diseases clinic, Welverdiend, 23.7.1941.

⁵⁴ Anon., *Primary School De Beer: Commemorative Volume, 1880-1980, 100th year of existence*, p. 7.

⁵⁵ *Potchefstroom Herald and Western Gazette*, 16.6.1948, p. 5.

