

verlore skat op Du Preezhoek gesoek. Met behulp van 15 kaffers is die populierbos van noord na suid omgespit maar geld is nie gevind nie.

Eens op 'n keer het 'n volwassene (waarskynlik familie) mnr. Budke die bouval van Van der Walt se huis, die eerste in Pretoria, gaan wys en gesê: "Dis die murasie van ou grootjie Van der Walt se huis". Die aanwysing is omstreeks 1890 gedoen. Die oorblyfsels het bestaan uit klei en leiklip wat aan die oostekant van die latere konfytfabriek in die erf van Marais te sien was. Jess Cottage was ongeveer 50 tree reg suidwes van die bouval. Destyds het 'n Jood met die naam Lithauer in Jess Cottage gewoon. Van Jess Cottage het 'n pad suid na Jan Du Preez se huis gegaan. Du Preez se huis is na 1903 gesloop. Mnr. Budke het nooit gehoor wie Jess Cottage gebou het nie.

Aan die Apiesrivier digby die spoorlyn is nog 'n klein omheinde kerkhof. Hierin rus 'n kind Van der Werf - verlange familie van die Du Preez - en 'n kleinsuster van mnr. Budke.

W.P.

THE ORIGIN OF PALACE STREET

A petition, dated the 24th March, 1885, was addressed to the State Secretary from certain persons living and owning ground on, or in the neighbourhood of, the north western corner of Church Square, who prayed the State Secretary to lay before the President and the Executive Council their request that the necessary authority be granted for the making of a street from the north western corner of Church Square to Vermeulen Street.

In order to give access to the proposed street it would be necessary to demolish a portion of about 25 feet, of the building known as the "oude School gebou" and this the petitioners offered to do at their own risk and expense.

They undertook, too to rebuild the gable, to repair the old school building and to leave it in good order.

The petition was forwarded to the State Secretary through the landdrost of Pretoria, Joh.Z. de Villiers, who recommended that the petitioners' request be granted, as the making of such a street would be „eene groote verbetering en zelfs verfraaijing van de stad”.

Things evidently moved more quickly then than they do now; for,

on the 30th April, 1885, the Executive Council acceded to the request, on the strict understanding that the demolition work and the subsequent re-building of the gable should be paid for by the petitioners. (1)

The six signatories to the petition were: Cornforth & Co., Hubertus J. Juta, D.M. Kisch, P.J. Marais, A.H. Nellmapius and Jorissen & Tobias. Cornforth & Co. were at that time auctioneers in Pretoria (2). Hubertus J. Juta was an employee of the Transvaal Board of Executors, and had left Pretoria before the making of the street was begun; for according to 'De Volksstem' of the 4th May, 1885, "The Board have been enabled to secure very suitable offices at Lijdenburg, and have judiciously opened their branch under the management of one of their most efficient officers, Mr. H.J. Juta, who has been in the service of the Company for some years, and is fully conversant with the existing routine and transactions of the Board. This gentleman left for the scene of his duties last mail".

Hubertus Juta was probably not sorry to go; on the 11th August, 1884, he had been granted prospecting rights on a piece of Government ground, named 'Little Jokes', in the district of Lijdenburg. (3)

D.M. Kisch of Church Square, Pretoria was evidently as versatile as Poo Bah. He describes himself in "De Volksstem" (4) as "Land, Estate and House Agent, Auditor and Accountant". He was, too, the agent for the "Glasgow South African Company's Block Industria New Scotland".

By 1889 he had extended his field of operations considerably, and he figures largely in the business section of Jeppe's Transvaal Almanac and Directory for 1889 as an accountant, a broker, and the proprietor of the Pretoria Engineering Works, 274 Court Lane.

He also appears to have had a steam saw-mill, and he lived at Sprowston Lodge, Scheiding Street.

P.J. Marais has proved elusive. The only reference to a P.J. Marais that has been traced, after an admittedly hasty research, is in Jeppe's Transvaal Almanac for 1889 where the name of a P.J. Marais, "gentleman", of Market Square, appears. This may have been the signatory to the petition.

A.H. Nellmapius is, of course, the well-known Alois Nellmapius, a man of many and varied interests, probably best known as a speculator and prospector. In 1889 his address is given as

Albert House, Vermeulen Street.

Dr. E.J.P. Jorissen and Dr. Tobias were advocates and attorneys. Dr. Jorissen was the author of the well-known "Codex".

It seems that Palace Street was first called Court Lane, and that the name was, on the building of the Palace of Justice, changed to Palace Street. This point has, however, not as yet been definitely established.

By 1889 D.M. Kisch who had his engineering works in Court Lane and Dr. F.B. Tobias of Church Square were the only two signatories still in the vicinity. (5)

J.H.D.

(1) Archives reference: 3918/84.

(2) "De Volksstem", 15/1/85.

(3) "Staatscourant. Z.A.R." No. 184 of 21/8/1884.

(4) "De Volksstem", 15/1/85.

The Archives reference to the petition, which is, of course, the whole story, was contributed by Mr. H.M. Rex, of Pretoria, who also stated that the original name of the street was Court Lane.

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS OF THE TRANSVAAL MUSEUM

As a result of the initiative of the State Secretary, Dr. W.J. Leyds, the Government of the South African Republic decided in 1892 to found a State Museum in Pretoria, and the following were appointed as a Board of Trustees ('Curatoren'): Dr. N. Mansvelt, Dr. G.W.S. Lingebeek, Dr. H.G. Breyer, Dr. Fockens Geo. Leith Esq. Of these gentlemen, Dr. Mansvelt (then Superintendent of Education) was appointed ex-officio Chairman, and the institution placed under the jurisdiction of his department. The first meeting of the Board was held on the 24th of January, 1893, and the Museum was officially opened to the general public by Pres. Kruger on the 15th May, 1895. The 'Staatsmuseum' began its existence in a small room in the clock tower of the 'Raadsaal' building in Church Square, from which it moved after a few years to the Market building. Here it remained until 1902, when the now considerable collections were transferred to the newly built 'Staatsmuseum' building (now known as the Old Museum) in Boom Street. It was soon found, however, that even this building was inadequate to satisfactorily house the rapidly growing collections and in 1914 the