

Pretoriána

MERENSKY-BIBLIOTEK
 UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
 -8-12-1965
 Klasnommer ZA.05(68)
 Ternommer P.'65/49



TYDSKRIF VAN DIE GENOOTSKAP OUD-PRETORIA
 VERSKYN IN APRIL, AUGUSTUS EN DESEMBER
 MAGAZINE OF THE OLD PRETORIA ASSOCIATION
 PUBLISHED IN APRIL, AUGUST AND DECEMBER

Johann Rissikuitgawe

Johann Rissik Edition

Prys : 25c : Price



Johann Rissik in London, 1905. Photograph by Elliott & Fry

JOHANN RISSIK

A MEMOIR

BY

HIS SON ULRICH



*Johann Rissik, aged 6, in Linschoten,
Holland*

THE FAMILY

JOHANN FRIEDRICH BERNHARD RISSIK was born in Linschoten near Utrecht, Holland on 2nd February, 1857. He was the second son of the physician and surgeon Dr. Gerrit Hendrik Rissik who in 1868 moved to Utrecht. Johann received an excellent education in languages, literature, history, mathematics and science. At an early age he was fluent in Netherlands, English, German and French. He had a modest but firm character, an easy manner, an unaffected charm, a happy disposition and an extraordinarily retentive memory. Years after he had surveyed farms he would recall exact details of topography and measurements.

The President of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, Thomas Francois Burgers, met Dr. Rissik in Holland in 1875 and persuaded him to come to Pretoria as District Surgeon and Physician to the President. After a journey of six weeks from Utrecht to Durban and five weeks by ox-wagon from



*Johann Rissik's grandmother Johanna
Catharina Rissik (b. Geersmeyer
5.10.1797)*

Durban over Van Reenen's Pass and through the Orange Free State, Dr. Rissik arrived in Pretoria on 17 May, 1876 with his wife Neeltje (born Altmann 25-2-1826 d.13-8-1904), his four sons Frederik Hendrik (b.18-6-1855 d.23-2-1909), Johann Friedrich Bernhard, Cornelis (b.18-2-1865 d.1928) and Gerhard Hendrick (b.16-5-1867 d.30.7.1918) and his daughter Anna Maria (b.17.6.1861 d.27-12-1931). His son Sybrand did not accompany him to South Africa.

SURVEYOR-GENERAL

JOHANN RISSIK first worked as an assistant in his father's dispensary in Pretoria and then became a land surveyor. On 25 February 1882 he

Johann Rissik aged 20, Pretoria 1877



received an appointment signed by the State Secretary W. Eduard Bok as second government clerk in the Surveyor-General's Department at a salary of £200 per annum. The following year Johann Rissik then aged twenty-six and Christiaan Johannes Joubert were appointed as a commission of enquiry into complaints against the head of the Pretoria prison.

From his twenties Johann Rissik very frequently acted as Surveyor-General of the Transvaal. On 13 June 1895 President S. J. P. Kruger and State Secretary W. J. Leyds signed his appointment as Surveyor-General of the Transvaal. On 4 November 1898 he was appointed Surveyor-General of Swaziland.

JOHANNESBURG

ON 3 August 1886 the Executive Council of the Transvaal appointed Johann Rissik then Acting Surveyor-General and Christiaan Johannes Joubert the head of the Mines Department as a commission to report on the Witwatersrand farms proposed to be proclaimed as public gold diggings and to decide upon the place for the establishment of a town. They