

were entertained by Rissik at the Pretoria Club. After they had waited some days for the President's ruling, Rissik was able to inform them that the President had decided to revise the Surveyors' Tariff in their favour."

### PROPERTY OWNER

**I**N 1888 Johann Rissik, E. P. A. Meintjes and J. D. Celliers constituting the Trevenna Estate Syndicate bought 19 morgen 30 square roods called "Trevenna" of the farm Elandspoort 193 and divided it into erven and streets. E. P. A. Meintjes made a furrow over Trevenna leading water from the Aapies River to his water-wheel-operated mill beside the Church Street crossing of the river. In 1893 the Syndicate sold the Trevenna Streets to Johann Rissik.

He, Meintjes and Celliers had also been associated in the layouts of Sunnyside and Arcadia in which they also owned streets some of which are named after Johann Rissik — Johann Street in Arcadia and Rissik Street in Sunnyside. Rissik, Meintjes and Celliers agreed to the Pretoria Waterworks Co. Ltd., laying pipes in their streets in consideration for the company delivering water free of charge to Rissik's ten morgen property, "Linschoten", which he had in 1890 established as his home on open veld three miles east of Church Square. Rissik also agreed not to provide water from his own estate to neighbouring properties. He had on "Linschoten" a large reservoir fed with water by a canal from the source of Walker Spruit



*Johann Rissik's wife Maria Magdalena Wilhelmina ("Mimmie") (b. Leibbrandt, Cape Town 10.4.1867, d. Pretoria 18.3.1947) taken in 1908*



*Pretoria Railway Station at the end of the last century.*

on Nieuw Muckleneuk. This irrigated his own property and had also supplied water to his neighbours Advocate (formerly Judge) Ewald Esselen on the South West corner of Park and Meintjes (now Wessels) Streets, Edward Rooth (later member of Parliament for Pretoria Central) adjoining, Advocate J. W. Wessels (later Chief Justice of South Africa) on the South East corner of Park and Buiten (now Bourke) Streets and Advocate J. S. Curlewis (also later Chief Justice) on the North West corner of Park and Wessels Streets.

In 1903 the Pretoria Municipal Council succeeded to the rights of the Pretoria Waterworks Co. Ltd., and in 1905 repudiated the agreement. Rissik applied to the Supreme Court to order the Municipal Council to deliver the water to "Linschoten". Ewald Esselen K.C. and Charles Barry represented him. Advocate (formerly and also subsequently Judge) Gregorowski appeared for the Council. The Chief Justice Sir James Rose-Innes and Judge J. W. Wessels refused to grant the order but said they expressed no opinion whether Rissik had a right to compensation for non-delivery of the water. (Transvaal Law reports *Rissik v. Pretoria Municipal Council* (1907 T.S. 1024).

## HOME

**T**HE following appeared in "De Volkstem" on 11 September 1890 —  
*"Plaatselijk en Algemeen.*

De Heer Johann Rissik, Asst. Landmeter-Generaal, vertrok op Dinsdag per coach van hier op een kuiertje naar Europa, met verlof van afwezigheid voor eenige maanden. Wij vernemen dat de heer Rissik eerst naar Kaapstad gaat, alwaar hij op den achsten October in het huwelijk zal treden met de jonge dame Miss Leibbrandt, waarna hij met zijne gade de reis naar Europa zal aanvaarden. De heer Rissik is zeer populair hier, en het is dus in't minst niet vreemd dat zijne vrienden en onderhoorigen hem, voor zijn vertrek, twee prachtig geillumineerde adressen met gepaste geschenken aanboden. Ook wij bieden de heer Rissik en zijne schoone beminde onze beste wenschen aan voor een lang en gelukkige huwelijksleven en een aangename reis naar Europa en terug".

On 8 October 1890 Johann Rissik married Maria Magdalena Wilhelmina ("Mimmie") Leibbrandt of Bree Street, Capetown, sixth child of Pieter Ulrich Leibbrandt during his lifetime a wine merchant and mayor of Capetown. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Gohl in the Lutheran Church, Strand Street, Capetown. They sojourned at the well-known Muizenberg Hostelry "Farmer Peck" (later the Grand Hotel) before embarking on a lengthy Grand Tour of Europe which they recorded in a sumptuous leather-bound gilt-embellished volume "OP REIS 1890—1891" weighing 24 pounds and measuring 19 x 14 x 4 inches.

On arrival in Pretoria they settled in the "Villa" recently completed



*Mimmie and Johann Rissik on the steps of their home "Linschoten",  
Pretoria, shortly after their marriage on 8.10.1890*

on "Linschoten". The whole property soon became an imposing homestead beautified and improved by flourishing ornamental and fruit trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables each individually described in orders placed by the thorough young Rissik — "Viminalis" Eucalyptus, "Devonshire Pippin" Apples, "Bride of Abydos" roses from Gowies of Grahamstown, "New York Improved Egg Plant" from J. L. Childs, New York, Blood-oranges from Malta, "Diospyros Kaki", persimmons from Japan, &c.

The green-fingered man tending orchards and gardens was Philemon Ramatlu Ferreira. As a very young man he became Johann Rissik's personal servant and attended to his horses. Later he was coachman and head gardener. In his fifties he learnt to drive a T-Model Ford and graduated to other makes. He was the ultra-cautious chauffeur and most zealous hooter-and-brake-user of Pretoria. He served the family faithfully for over half a century. In retirement at Wellington when travelling as a passenger, he was killed in a motor accident.

Another loyal member of the household from its early days for over thirty years was Bella MacDonald beloved by all children in the neighbourhood. In this "Linschoten" homestead of their own making Johann and Mimmie Rissik lived for thirty-three years and here their four sons were