



Photograph of Wanderers Orchestra taken in 1894 on the occasion of the visit of the famous Jewish violinist, Alice Liebman. The orchestra included at least 15 Jewish players. Among those appearing in the photograph are: "Pa" Liebman, (first row, extreme left); young Adler; Alice Liebman (front row, No. 4); Bertha Liebman, her sister; Annie Kantor (now Mrs. Alexander, No. 7); Ernest Lezard (extreme right); George Rosettenstein (at the leader's desk, first row); J. L. Wulfson; Philip Elsaz; Stanley Lezard; Julius Alexander and Lionel Hart. Standing in the centre is the conductor, the late Mr. James Hyde.

**T**HE decision of the Johannesburg City Council to honour seven Jewish pioneers in the projected new garden suburb, Roosevelt Park Township, by the naming of streets in their memory, marks an interesting link with one of Johannesburg's oldest suburbs, Rosettenville. This suburb was founded in 1886 by the well-known Jewish pioneer, Leo Rosettenstein, and was subsequently developed by his son Mr. A. V. ("Ally") Rosettenstein, now farming at Estantia, in the Ermelo District. At least six streets in Rosettenville are named after members of the family.

Mr. Leo Rosettenstein arrived in South Africa from East Prussia over 80 years ago. He settled in Cape Town, but subsequently made his way to Kimberley. He and his son, "Ally," (then 14 years old) arrived on the Rand in 1886, only ten days after the erection of the first tent in Johannesburg.

According to the original title deeds, dated September 11, 1886, a lease was drawn up between Paul Andries Ras, owner of the farm Turfontein, and Leo Rosettenstein and several others, for the district now known as Rosettenville. The lease was for a year, renewable indefinitely thereafter on payment of the rental of £150 a year.

The township was laid out in 1889, and the family still retains the mineral rights over a certain portion of it, which are probably the only such rights on the Reef still privately held. Leo Rosettenstein bought out his partners in the land deal, and for many years the family occupied the homestead vacated by Paul Ras. Leo Rosettenstein's passport, signed by Field Cornet F. Kretschmar, certi-

fied him as a burgher of the South African Republic.

Despite his 74 years, Mr. A. V. Rosettenstein is still very well preserved and was among the old-timers who attended the Pioneers' Jubilee banquet in Johannesburg a fortnight ago.

Another interesting link with the past was the recent sale of the "Model Dairy Corner" (Rosettenville House), at the corner of West and Field Streets, Durban, for £117,000. This property was bought in 1900 by Mr. Leo Rosettenstein for about £20,000.

One of the sons of Mr. Leo Rosettenstein was the late Mr. Julius Rosettenstein, one of the original partners of Messrs. Reeders and Rosettenstein, the oldest existing legal firm in Johannesburg. It is interesting to note that this firm have been honorary solicitors to the Witwatersrand Jewish Benevolent Society since its formation at the turn of the present century. Another son, Mr. Philip Rosettenstein, who was also associated with the firm, will be remembered as a prominent sportsman on the Rand.

The only other surviving child of Mr. Leo Rosettenstein is Mrs. Mabel Robinson, wife of the late Mr. C. P. Robinson, M.P. One of the grandchildren is Mr. Hugo Rosettenstein, of Messrs. Reeders and Rosettenstein, who is at present one of the owners of Rosettenville Township.

Mr. Albert Rosettenstein, a brother of Mr. Leo Rosettenstein, was one of the founders of Johannesburg's first Jewish congregation, "The Wit-

# The Founders of Rosettenville

## A Family of Pioneers

By M. Mann

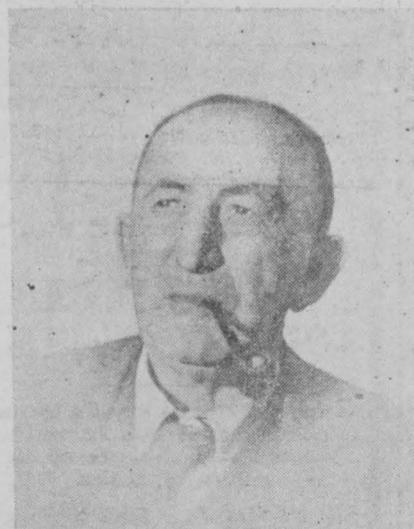
watersrand Goldfields Jewish Association," which was formed on July 10, 1887. He was buried on the site of the present Kazerne, and his remains were subsequently re-interred when the Braamfontein Cemetery was consecrated. His grave is that of the first Jew in consecrated ground in Johannesburg.

Another pioneer member of the family is 77-year-old Mr. George Rosettenstein, who lives in Berea, Johannesburg. He was well-known in musical circles on the Rand in the early days. He played the lead in

Johannesburg's first orchestra (The Wanderers Orchestra), which later became affiliated to the Wanderers Amateur Orchestral Society. The orchestra, which contained a number of Jewish players, was established in 1890, and went out of existence at the beginning of the Boer War.

The photograph published above belongs to Mr. Geo. Rosettenstein and was taken in 1894 on the occasion of the visit of Alice Liebman, the famous Jewish violinist. Her sister was the accompanist and they were chaperoned by their father.

Mr. Geo. Rosettenstein has many interesting stories to tell of the early days on the Rand. He came to Johannesburg from Kimberley in 1888, together with his late uncle, Mr. Max Rosettenstein. The journey by coach took four days and was far from pleasant. Mr. Rosettenstein recalls how his uncle, an old stager, played a practical joke on his fellow-passengers. Finding the inside of the coach rather crowded he bluffed them that he had just recovered from a bout of scarlet fever and was still feeling very weak. This created such a scare that most of the passengers moved to the outside of the coach for fear of infection and "uncle" George travelled in absolute comfort. Ever



MR. GEORGE ROSETTENSTEIN

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