

Geographical Orientation

Publications/Legislation

Genadendal - 4 641,3832ha

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Genadendal is situated approximately 40 kilometres from Caledon, on the road to Greyton. Georg Schmidt, first missionary of the "Broederkerk", landed on 19 July 1737 in Cape Town. Upon advice from the Governor, Schmidt, a Sergeant Faustmann and two natives Afrika and Kibido, left for the Soetemelksvallei area on 4 September 1737, where he started his missionary work. By a simple method of drawing of lots, he decided to settle permanently on Baviaanskloof. On 23 April 1738 he and 18 natives moved to the area. As he had baptised Afrika, Kubido, Willem and Vehetgien – which was prohibited – he was charged before the Governor. He left for Germany on 05 March 1744 where he passed away in Nietky in 1785.

The missionary work was restarted in 1792 and after 1806 the name changed to Genadendal. In 1838 a seminary was opened and Genadendal subsequently became a renowned teachers training centre. In 1841 the first surveying was undertaken of the farm and land was added to Genadendal. The farm was later again enlarged to its current size in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The Moravian Missionary Society acquired nine portions of the farm on 17 May 1927 and the rest was held in trust for the inhabitants. The local inhabitants were largely self reliant on the production of vegetables, but large floods in 1913, 1921, 1936, 1941 and 1945 caused major damage to crops and the land, from which they never really recovered. This danger of flooding is also evident in the layout plan of the town. Board area proclaimed by Proclamation no. 98 of 1924. The Mission Council initially administered the town, until this was taken over by the relevant Department in the Administration House of Representatives, in terms of the applicable legislation.



Some of the roads with a scenic view



A House near a church building



Sports grounds with a view of the town



The local cattle's feeding place