



# ISLAM ON THE DIAMOND FIELDS

**BOOK 2**



**MOOSA AYSEN**



Assalamu Alykom Waragmatullahi Wabarakatu  
Bismilla Hirahmaanir Rahiem.

This is my second effort to share with you some information and pictures concerning the Muslims of Kimberley. I hope that my effort will give you some idea of the birth and growth of the Muslim community in this historic city.

To the following people:-

Dr Achmat Davids on the History of AA Effendi and the Afrikaans language.

Mr EJ Africa for his research into the history of Malay Camp.

My friend Mogammad Zane Jaffar for getting the book published.

Mr Eric Richter and his staff for doing the typesetting, artwork and reproduction.

My brother Amien for his research.

To the ladies at the Afrikaner Museum in Kimberley, Mrs Duminy and Mrs Van Greenan.

To all of you, Baie Tramakasië.

Should you have any additional information or photographs to share please contact the writer.

*Shukran*

*Wassalaamu Alykum*

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*Wedding of Said Joseph and Gafiela Aysen 11-01-1914.*

**L-R:** Ismail Jaemie (CT), Julaiga Soudien Baydien Said Joseph (CT) Gafiela Aysen  
Gadjija Schroeder, (No 30 on group photo) Abdul Cader (PE).

**Front:** Fatiema Aysen (Scello) (No 37 on group photo) Ganief Mosoet. (No 25 on  
group photo.)







## ISLAM ON THE DIAMOND FIELDS — BOOK 2

Diamonds were discovered in the Northern Cape Province during July 1871. The great rush that at once set in towards this area, soon caused it to be called New Rush, a name it retained until the Camp at the Diamond Fields was proclaimed as Kimberley in July 1873.

In the same year – Olive Schreiner the famous author, visited her brother and sister at New Rush. In her novel *UNDINE*, she describes New Rush where she meets Bantus, Indians, Malays, Afrikaners and Englishmen. The Malays were the tailors and their women would do the washing and ironing. The early years were extremely difficult for the pioneers. People lived in tents and wooden shacks. Some had canvas homes. All goods had to be transported from Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. Drinking water had to be purchased and food was very expensive. Most of the Muslims came from Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and India.

Gasillodien Von Aysen and wife Alieja (Moetjie Lietjie) were one of the first Muslim families to settle in Kimberley. Their daughter Mariam was born in 1873. The names and birth dates of their children were written in a little black book which was used by one of their sons, Ayub to keep the receipts of their rent payments. (Copy of page elsewhere in this booklet). The rent was paid to Imam Dawood Davids.

Imam Dawood Davids left Cape Town in 1872 to work on the building of the jail in Beaufort West. He arrived in Kimberley in 1873. He first went to Mecca in 1883 and again some time later. His third marriage was to Ragina Habib and this marriage produced four boys and three girls. (Photos of the four boys and one of the girls appear in a photo in this booklet). He passed away on 21 July 1924 after serving for 40 years as Imam.

Once things started stabilising in Kimberley a piece of ground was given to the Muslims to be called Malay Camp. (Now the Civic Centre and seat of the Northern Cape Legislature).

The Muslims quickly started organising themselves and by 1878 according to Turners Directory & Guide they had a prayer room (langer) in Mosque Street near to Victoria Crescent not shown on map. This prayer room was called the Mosque of Mecca.

Since Imam Dawood was Imam only from 1884, first religious leaders must have been Sheg Said Abubaker who was the oldest Imam during that period, assisted by Gatiep Abdul Kader Soudien Baydien who came from Uitenhage. The Barday, Mookrey, Motlekar and Roomaney families settled in Kimberley during this period.

By this time the Muslims were a settled, well organised and growing community. The Bardays, Mookreys and Motlekar families had acquired a piece of ground for the construction of the first mosque at 79 Lyndhurst Road. The mosque was completed in 1885.

Imam Dawood Davids became the first Imam of this mosque and remained as Imam until his death in 1924.

By now Kimberley had a hospital called the Isolation Hospital. Most of the Muslims, including Omoth Yonge refused to go there. (No Halaal food I think). Dr Josiah Wright Mathews helped the Muslims and for his efforts the Muslims made a collection and presented the good doctor with a trophy for protecting the interest of the Muslims in October 1884 at a cost of £50.00.



Imam Dawood Davids appointed the first Muslim slaughterer during this period , a certain Hadjie Serajodien. More Muslims were arriving from Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and the rest of Africa.

From Cape Town came Achmat Attaoullah Effendi, to open the Ottoman Theological School in Malay Camp in 1884. This school in Kimberley was established by his father and supported by the Ottoman Government.

Achmat Effendi was the eldest son of Abubaker Effendi, the religious scholar who was sent by the Ottoman (Turkish) Government as a religious guide to the Cape Muslims in 1862. His mother, from a report in the Cape Argus of 18 January 1893 appears to be Rukea Maker. The fifteen year old girl of mixed parentage married Abubaker shortly after his arrival at the Cape of Good Hope.

Achmat Effendi, like his father studied theology. He acquired a very proficient Islamic Education, studying in Mecca, Egypt and Turkey. He also had a good western education and acted as part-time correspondent for the newspaper Excalibur. His main occupation was that of Islamic teacher. During his time in Kimberley he was nominated for Parliament. Achmat Effendi was a fluent and charismatic speaker having an excellent command of both English and Dutch. He was married to a sister of Dr Abdullah Abdurahman, who in 1893 was still studying medicine in Glasgow, but who in 1894 became his campaign manager. Achmat Effendi polled the least number of votes, but this superficial figure is misleading. The election result clearly shows that had the cumulative vote still been in operation, Achmat Effendi would have been the number one member for Cape Town in the Cape Parliament.

Achmat Effendi shortly after the election left the Cape to work for a time as a correspondent for an Egyptian newspaper. Later he was appointed Turkey's Consul to Singapore, where he was killed in a road accident in 1903. When he was busy with his campaign his brother Hisham took over his duties as teacher at the School in Malay Camp.

One of the students who completed the Koran (Tamat) under Hishaam Effendi, Imam Abdulatief Kimmie is shown elsewhere in this booklet during the tamat ceremony at the age of nine.



*According to the DFA on November 27th 1895 on Page 6:-*

*A Jalsa was held at the Ottoman School to assess the progress of the children.*

*Among the guests were the children's parents and friends including the following:*

*Sheik Hadji Mohamet Bey*

*Hadji Ebrahiem Effendi*

*Visitors from Constantinople including the high priest.*

*Imam Ismail Hadji Ebrahiem Hessen.*

*Khatiep Esmiel*

*Khatiep Bakaodien*

*Sayed AbuBaker Monadie*

*The madder was congratulated upon the results of his efforts.*

*Achmat Attaoullah Effendi*



In 1885 a piece of land was set aside for a Muslim cemetery in Beaconsfield. The Shannon Street Mosque was completed on the 27th April 1894 on the ground donated by Hajie Ebrahiem Somalie. The trustees for this mosque were K Mookrey, AR Motlekar, J Roomaney and HM Barday.

Imam Dawood Davids started a Benevolent Fund Society in 1895, most probably the first of its kind in South Africa. The formation of this type of society was not understood or accepted by the Muslims at large and the fund was dissolved some time later.

The Muslims of Beaconsfield had completed the mosque on the corner of Broadway and Austin Streets. The Imam of the mosque was Imam Abdurazaak and he was assisted by Imam Abdoorajan. By 1901, the last of the mosques was built in Ceylon Street. Imam Ebraheim Jarodien Jardine was the first Imam of this mosque. Besides those mentioned in my first book, the following people also played a role in the development of the Muslim Community.

*Hadji Mecca who passed away in 1887.*

*Abdol Waggie who passed away in 1889.*

*Sayed Allie Cadirie who passed away in 1904.*

*Hadji Ederose Edries who passed away in 1904.*

*Dada Cassiem Ghoor who passed away in 1906.*

*Mohammed Bartis who passed away in 1910.*

*Ballat Abaraadulla who passed away in 1916.*

*Shaik Hassan Motlekar who passed away in 1916.*

*Mohammad Abbas who passed away in 1918.*

Except for Hadji Ederose Edries, I have not been able to gather any information about the people mentioned above. Hadji Ederose Edries had four children, two boys and two girls. His sons were Abu Taliep and Abu Baker and his daughters were Hi Oummie and Hi Fatima.

Abu Taliep was a great rugby player and represented Griquas in 1906. Abu Taliep's son Hassiem, was the first secretary General of the Muslim Judicial Council in Cape Town.

Hadji Ederose Edries's second son Abu Baker, had a son who won the Govenor General's Gold Medal for maths at UCT.

His daughter Hi Oummie was the mother of Boeta Allie Nasiep, Sis Fatima Alexander and Moegsien Taliep, amongst others.

His daughter Hi Fatima married a Kahaar from Port Elizabeth. She was the mother of Emeraan Kahaar the well known builder in Port Elizabeth.

All the children of Hadji Ederose Edries used their fathers name as their surname and today the Ederoos or Ederose dynasty is found all over the world in such far places as Scotland, Canada and Australia.

I am sure that all over the world you will find people whose roots can be traced to Kimberley, be they Christian, Jew, Muslim or Hindu. I make duah that the Almighty must give the people of Kimberley the strength and wisdom to turn Kimberley into a new paradise. To create jobs and opportunities for all its people so that it can once more become the cultural center of South Africa. Insha Allah.

Ameen  
Moosa Aysen



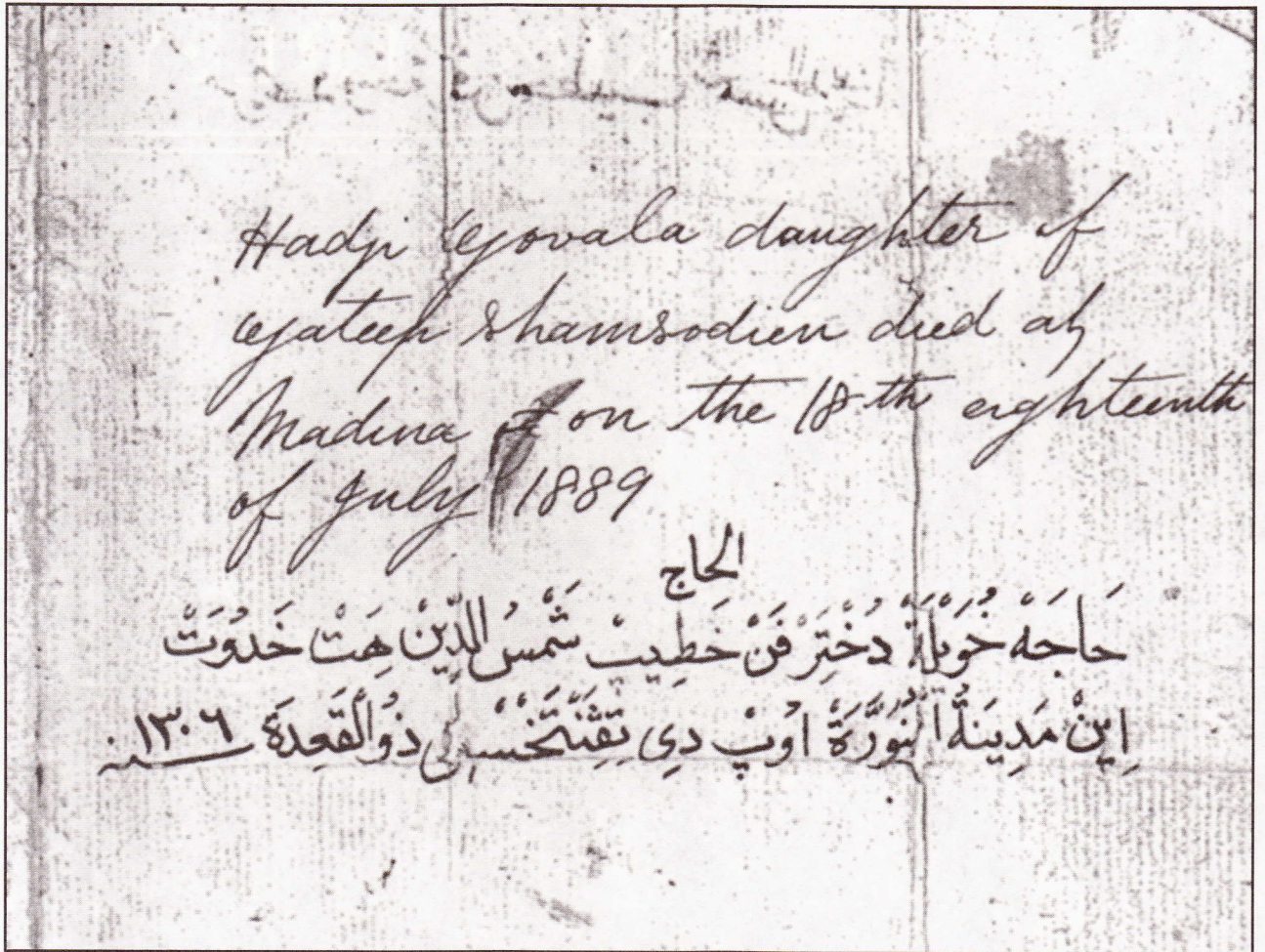
مَرْيَمُ دَوْخِرْفَنُ حَاجِ خَطِيبِ شَمْسِ الدِّينِ  
 قَسْ جَبُورِي اَيْنُ مَكَّةَ لِلشَّرْفَةِ اَيْنُ دِهَيْسِ  
 قَنُ سَيِّدِ عَبْدِ اللّٰهِ عَلَوِي اَيْنُ دِي سِرَاتِ  
 قَتِ سَيِّنِ نَامِ اَسْ قَشَا شِيَهْ اُوپِ  
 ۱۷ دِي نَسَدَخِ اُوخِدَتْ اَوْمِ اَخْتِيَرِ دِ سَيِّقِنْدِ عَمْدِي  
 دَخِ قَنِ شَوَالِ ۱۳۰۶ اَيْنِ دِي سِنْتِ  
 دِي هُونْدِرْتِ اَيْنِ سِسِ  
 دِ مُسْلِمِ سَيِّنِ جَارِ خَلِ

Transliteration of above Afrikaans written in Arabic Script:

Mayram, die dogter van Ghaji Gateeb Shamsuddeen was gabore en Makkah Al  
 Mushar Rafah en die hys van Sayed Abdullah Alawie en die straat wat syn naam  
 is Qushaa - Shiy Yah op Dinsdag oggent oem agtier die siewentiende dag van  
 Shaw Waal 1306 een dysint drie honderit en ses die muslim syn jaar getal.

Maryum the daughter  
 of Hadji Shum  
 sodien was born in  
 Mecca at the house  
 of Sayed Abdollah  
 Alawie in the Street  
 of Qushashya on  
 Tuesday morning eight  
 o'clock on the nineteenth  
 19<sup>th</sup> June 1889.





*Transliteration of above Afrikaans written in Arabic Script:  
 Ghaajah Ghuwaylah, dogter van Ghateeb Shamsud Deen het gedoot en Madeenah  
 Almunawwarah op (oewap) die twintagste thul Quaa Idah 1306.*

The level of literacy amongst the Muslims was good. Example of Afrikaans written in Arab Script bear testimony to this fact. The first book written in Afrikaans was Al-Qawe Al Makim by Achmat van Bengalen who wrote Afrikaans in Arab script almost 6 years before the first Afrikaans book in Western Script, Zamespraak Tuschen Klaas Waarzegger en Jan Twyfelaar by LH Meurant.

The document above, was written by the maternal grandfather of Imam Isgak Jarodien presently Imam of Barkly Road Mosque.



# KIMBERLEY MOSQUE





# LEM SCHOOL 1917



See overleaf for key & names



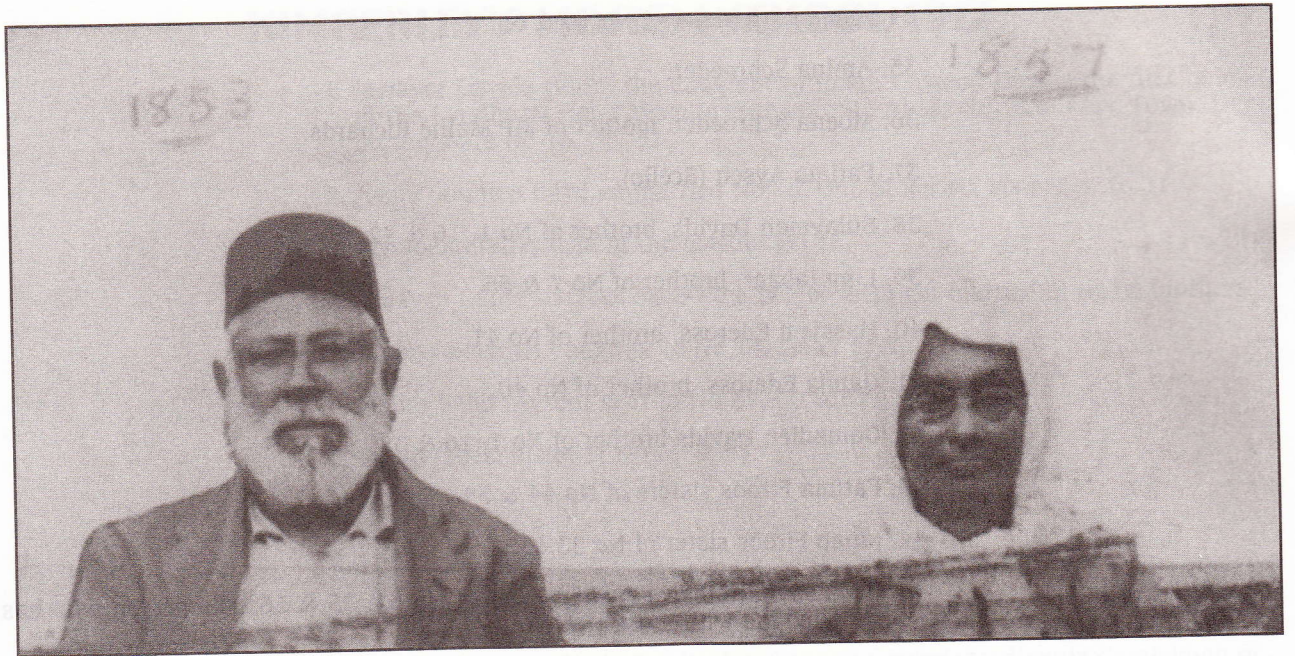
## KIMBERLEY'S MOSLEM SCHOOL 1917

1. Jawayer Davids (Violi) the daughter of Imam Dawood Davids the first Imam at the Lyndhurst Road Mosque. She married Abass Regal of Cape Town. Her brothers are No 16, 38, 42.
2. Asma Soudien Baydien married No 16. One of her six sisters is No 31.
3. Mymoena Jaffer wife of the teacher No 53.
4. Zulayga Gallie sister of No 30 the two of them got married to Gallie brothers.
5. Fatima Bendien daughter of No 14, sister of No 52 & 64.
6. Hajira Sello (Aysen) sistr of No 37, 60 & 67.
7. Janap Jabeer sister of No 39 & 55.
8. Galiema.
9. Fatima Kalaam.
10. Baantie Carr sister of No 34 & 65.
11. ? Ortel Moetjie Sietie Ortel's daughter who married Adiennie Gamieldien of PE. Sister of No 13.
12. Goosain.
13. Ortle (Sampie).
14. Mogamat Bendin father of No 5, 52 & 53.
15. Cassiem Schrueder.
16. Hi Moutie Davids brother of No 1, 38 & 42, husband of No 2.
17. Scheepers of Beaconsfield.
18. Abdulla Jardien father of No 62
19. Sakkie.
20. Ebrahiem (Brain) Richards brother of No 24, 26 & 32.
21. Abdol.
22. Moeta Carelse.
23. Goosain.
24. Abduragiem Richards brother of No 20, 32 & 26.
25. Ganief Mosoet brother of No 45, 63 & 56.
26. Sayet Richards brother of No 20, 24 & 32.
27. Mogamat Amien Jaffar brother of No 50, 51 & 66, son of No 53.
28. Asa Schroeder.
29. Cassiem Schroeder.
30. Gadija Schroeder (Gallie) sister of No 4.
31. Hajira Soudien Baydien (Amos, Nana) sister of No 2.
32. Goewayla Richards sister of No 20, 24 & 26.
33. Samieta.



34. Asma Carr, sister of No 10 & 65.
35. Amina Schroeder.
36. Moena Schroeder, mother of MP Mailie Richards.
37. Fatima Aysen (Scello).
38. Sulayman Davids, brother of No 1, 16 & 42.
39. Ling Jabaar, brother of No 7 & 55.
40. Hassiem Edeross, brother of No 41.
41. Gamja Edeross, brother of No 40.
42. Gamadien Davids brother of No 1, 16 & 38.
43. Fatima Firoos sisters of No 44 & 54.
44. Janap Firoos sister of No 43 & 54.
45. Hi Jawayher Mosoet (Salie) sister of No 63, 25 & 56. The person who has supplied me with most of the information.
46. Mariam Jamalodien sister of No 47 & 58.
47. Sharifa Jamalodien sister of No 46 & 58.
48. Janap Pasha.
49. Najuma Osman.
50. Fatima Jaffar sister of No 51, 27 & 66 daughter of No 53.
51. Saphia Jaffar sister of No 50, 27 & 66 daughter of No 53.
52. Mariam Bendin sister of No 5, 64 daughter of No 14, this lady married Imam Bona Richards.
53. Galiefa Mogamat Jaffar, father of No 50, 51, 27 & 66.
54. Sayet Firoos brother of No 43 & 44.
55. Julie Jabaar brother of No 7 & 39.
56. Abdul Karriem Mosoet (Uncle) brother of No 45, 63 & 25.
57. Gaydien Schroeder.
58. Ebrahiem Jamalodien brother of No 46 & 47.
59. Abdullah Adams.
60. Abdul Latief Aysen (Scello) brother of No 6, 37 & 67.
61. Aysa Jardien daughter of No 18.
62. Bayra Schroeder.
63. Mariam Kimmie (Mella) sister of No 45, 25 & 56.
64. Moena Bendin daughter of No 14, sister of No 5 & 52.
65. "Koeffie" Carr brother of No 10 & 34.
66. Makkie Jaffar brother of No 27, 50, 51 son of No 53.
67. Abdul Aziz Aysen (Scello) brother of No 60, 37 & 6.
68. Ismail Fredericks (Toeketay).





*"Oom Gert" and wife of the Schrueder dynasty*

The three brothers and their offspring are as follows:

Abdul Gafiel, (Oom Gert), father of Janap, Cassiem, Fatiema and Mariam,  
Geirodien Schrueder, father of Gadija, Maalia, Nysa, Jogra, Salie, Dulla and Noor.  
Nazeer Schrueder, father of Gadija, Zulayga, Amiena, Hajira, AbuBaker, Omar and  
Gaydien.



*Imam Abdul Latief Kimmie age 9 during  
Tamat Ceremony, 1905*



ARABIAN COLLEGE FOOTBALL CLUB, KIMBERLEY, SEASON 1906.



E. Mills, Vice-President. M. Selo. M van dn Schriff. M. Abrahams. M. Sarron. H. A. Abrahams. A. Selo.  
A. Hendricks. D. Sallie. I. Jabaar, Captain. J. J. Hermanus. M. Schrueder. M. Jardine, President.  
E. Biel, Secretary. A. Jardine. J. Beboo. T. Schrueder.



# Delegates Attending the First Annual Conference of the Cape Malay Association

Held at Cape Town 17th June 1925  
(Photo taken on steps of Parliament House)



Back Row: G.G. Poole, D. Arnolds (Stellenbosch), S. Salié (Claremont), H.M. Adams (Salt River), G. Snyder  
 4th row: Emaum A. Karlem, Emaum H.A. Tyers (Worcester), L. Lardien, Emaum S. Harris (Somerset Strand), Emaum M. Dawood (Kimberley), A.F. Schroeder (Cape Town), A. Safedien (Constantia), J. Dolle (Port Elizabeth).  
 3rd row: H.A.M. Sires (Executive), T. Abdulattief, I. Moosa (Claremont), G. Richards (Paarl), M. Galant, B.Ely, (Executive, H.B. Manual, D. Moses (Simonstown), M.S. Warelly (Kimberley).  
 2nd row: H.A. Fakier, A.O. Booley (Cape Town), S. Berdien, A. Ely (Wynberg), H.O. Gamedien (C.T. Ladies Branch), Emaum O, Abass, H.M. Rubain (Cape Town), D. Jacobs (Vice-President), H.N. Sameuls (Cape Town).  
 1st row: H.A.M. Cassim (Executive), G. Abrahams (Paarl), Emaum K. du Toit, Emaum M. Gallie, M.A. Gamiet (President, Commissioner of Oaths), Sheik A. Berhardien (Professor of Muslim Theology), H.S. Gamildien (Treasurer, Emaum M. Awaldien, T. Keraan (Gen. Secretary).



celo children

Mariam was borne  
October 10, 1873.  
gebo was borne the  
March 5, 1878  
Moosa was borne the  
29 of June, 1879.  
asa was borne the  
August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1885

Garniet was borne  
the 19 July 1883  
Gafiela was born the  
12 february 1887 x

~~Tammear is born  
in Jan~~

1885

1883

28

Gasielodien Van Aysen's children. He was also known as Celo or Oom Selo.

Mariam 10/10/1873

Auyb (Gebo) 5/3/1878

Moosa 29/6/1879

Asa 3/8/1885

Garniet 19/7/1883

Gafiela 12/2/1887

Fatiema and Moegammad Tape not shown.

Ayab and Moosa are shown as Selo on Rugby photo and not Aysen.





*Imam Yusuf Galant left and Gosain Karriem (Teacher Karriem) right with a group of madrasa children.*



*Clockwise from the left: Imam Ebrahiem Jogee, Abdullah Barday, Goolam M. Mookrey, M.C. Motlekar, Sataar Barday, Allie Magjenkar and Imam Isgak Jarodien in front.*