



I guess Leydsdorp Father would be French Bob even though it was named after Dr Willem Leyds.

It was only after, the promising discover of gold in Eersteling -1871, Pilgrims Rest -1872 and Kaap se Hoop - 1874 that the Murchison range become new territory for Gold extraction. Poor results in these and other goldfields forced the Gold Diggers to look further North.

In 1888 "french Bob (that made fame in The Baberton Gold rush) started the Leydsdorp Gold Rush.

In 1888, the ground that was government-owned was declared public goldfields, resulting in numerous claims being pegged out.

Leydsdorp grew rapidly and in 1890 Leydsdorp was established, the town was named after South Africa's then state secretary Dr. Willem Leyds.

The gold rush was of a short span, numerous problems contributed to this, including poor mining practice, malaria, lack of financial backing, lack of surface water. By 1891 a mere 45 of the original 6000 was worked.

A few larger mining syndicates operated viably by mining a few reefs simultaneously.

French Bob was born in France in 1848 and he became an engineer. He joined the Kimberly diamond rush without success. He then moved to Pilgrims Rest, also without any major success. He fought in the Sekhukhune war, fought for the British in the Zulu war and for the Transvaal at Majuba.

Dawn Bower