

### **Commissioner-General Hendrik Adriaan van Rhee de tot Drakenstein**

Commissioner-General Hendrik van Rhee de tot Drakenstein visited the Cape in April of 1685. (The Drakenstein valley was named after him). He made some administrative changes in order to resolve some of the problems in the settlement, such as that land grants were changed from free form, to controlled ribbon parcels, with a balance of mountain, field and river land. Buildings, which were initially constructed of timber and mud layers, were to be made of more durable materials, and had thenceforth to be constructed of brick and stone, to a certain height, and with well-spaced beams and lofts.

Farms were first given in promise, and the formal grants were usually only issued after the farmers have shown their ability to properly cultivate the land, which was generally five to ten years after their occupation.

(Reference: Archaeologist, Hennie Vos: Historical Survey and Structural & Archaeological Investigations of the Historic Buildings of Diamant, 2010)