Pioneer Port
Joseph Denfield

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Cape Town 1965

In the introduction to this fascinating collection of early East London photographs, taken in the 1890's to the 1920's, the author describes his painstaking process of tracking down, obtaining and restoring old photographic glass negatives. He also recognizes that the negatives "had become invaluable historical documents which could tell the story of East London far more authentically than the written word." The author has divided and presents the photographs in groups by topic. Some of the topics of the many East London photos include: public buildings, public transport, shipwrecks, early schools, newspapers, East London's oldest houses, Frere hospital, parks, beach developments and many others. Each section of the photos is also accompanied by historical information and often the author explains what the location of the photo would look like in the present day. The extensive research and discussion related to each photograph gives this book a wonderful look at the development of the city of East London.

Four of the many photos in the book are shown below.



Orient beach and grand stand, 1925



Esplanade with the Grand Hotel in 1907



Grand Hotel under construction in 1893



The busy harbour in 1901

This book is available to read and enjoy by appointment at the Lower Albany Historical Society library. The library is located in the Settlers Retirement Village. To make an appointment contact any Historical Society board member.