The Malans and Morkels

At the auction of Vergelegen, ex-governor W.A. van der Stel’s farm, *stamouer* Jacques Malan bought one of the quarters which later was named *Morgenster* (Morningstar). For many generations, as near neighbours, the Malans at *Morgenster* and the Morkels at *Onverwacht* served together as *Heemraden* of Stellenbosch, and also as deacons and elders, first of the Stellenbosch, and later of the Somerset West churches. There were several marriages between the two clans as shown in the family tree. In my direct line, 2nd generation Willem Morkel and 5th generation Daniel Johannes Morkel had Malan wives. Oom John (7th generation), my father’s brother, also had a Malan wife, tant Nettie.

Helena Catharina MALAN (1736 – 1825) born at *Morgenster* was 2nd generation Willem MORKEL’s (1718 – 1788) second wife. They had 7 children of whom 5 reached adulthood, including the four brothers Philip Hendrik, Willem, Daniel Johannes and Hercules, who feature prominently in several of our stories.

Signature of Helena Catharina MALAN, Weduwe (widow) MORKEL

Emmerentia Elizabeth MALAN (1822 – 1902) was married to 5th generation Daniel Johannes MORKEL (1822 – 1879). *Ouma Bremsie* was the strong person who saw the family through a difficult period in the 1860s and 1870s. The story I heard was that she sold family jewels and through careful parsimony helped the family survive the ostracism of the Neptune affair, powdery mildew and phylloxera pests in the vineyards and depressed wine prices.

Photo and signature of *Ouma Bremsie* - Emmerentia Elizabeth MALAN
De Wed (the widow) D.J. MORKEL
Antoinette MALAN (1878 – 1944) (Tant Nettie) was married to my uncle, Johannes Albertus MORKEL (1888 – 1966) (oom Johnnie Bos). They were the great grandparents of Protea cricketers Albie and Morné Morkel.

P. W. Morkel’s family history (1, p10) has the following about the Malan family:

The Malans, as everyone (in South Africa) knows, are of Huguenot descent. Mrs. Kannemeyer in her "Hugenote-Familieboek" has gone very fully into their European history, which shows the family to have been much harassed and persecuted for their religious beliefs. Originally Italian, the Malan family followed the schismatic Bishop Claude of Turin to Piedmont and branches of the family established themselves in the 12th and 13th century at St. Jean, La Tour, and Merindol in France where they were much persecuted then and also during the 15th and 16th centuries. One section must have gone gone to Switzerland, for in 1557 Guillaume Malan was Seigneur of Lucerne. Andre Malan was Seigneur of Vandois in 1592. After another period of persecution, a petition to Louis IV for peace and protection was signed by Seigneurs Malan and Raadsheer van St. Jean, en Malan Raadsheer van La Tour.

This resulted in peace for a while, but in 1685 persecution, murder, and fire again harried them. Jacques Malan (1665 – 1742) was one of four brothers in Provence at the end of the 17th century, and their descendants are spread over Europe; descendants of the eldest branch are in England, Russia and Switzerland, the whereabouts of those of the second and third are not known, but some appear to be in Czechoslovakia, while the fourth brother, Jacques came to the Cape and was granted the farm La Motte in the French Hoek. There is a graveyard on this farm and a Malan who died in 1701 is buried in it.

Jacques Malan was one of the purchasers of the quarters into which Willem Adriaan van der Stel's large farm Vergelegen was divided in 1710, the others being Barend Gildenhuisen, the widow Gerrit Cloete and Jacobus van der Heyden who had the portion called Morgenster, for which he had paid the highest price. (Stanouer Jacques Malan’s first son Jacobus was involved in the somewhat dubious salvage venture with van der Heyden, of the treasure of the wreck of the Schonenberg in 1722. Read about it in our story about the wreck. Jacobus died young, soon after the Schonenberg incident) After van der Heyden’s death, Morgenster was owned by Jacques’ son, Daniel (1703 – 1770) who left it to his youngest son, Jacobus (1752 -1778) who married Willem Morkel's daughter Catharina in 1772.

Catharina (1754 – 1818) was from Willem Morkel’s first marriage to Sara van Brakel. Willem’s second marriage was to Jacobus’ older sister, Helena Catharina Malan, from whom I am descended.

The beautiful Cape Dutch gables at Morgenster were erected by Catharina after the death of Jacobus Malan in 1778. The stable has a gable dated 1779 decorated with two intertwined letter ‘M’s – for Malan and Morkel. The house at Morgenster has beautifully proportioned Cape Dutch gables which are dated 1789. At this stage Catharina had married again, to Rudolph Johannes Louber and, according to the laws of the time, the farm was transferred to him. He died in 1795 and the farm reverted to Catharina who sold it to M.L. Neethling.in 1796, who in turn sold it to Philip Hendrik Morkel in 1806.

Shortly before his death in 1778 Jacobus also bought the original van der Stel farm Vergelegen, and it went to his daughter, Sara Catharina Malan. Sara married Marthinus Wilhelmus Theunissen who thus acquired the farm. One of their daughters, Catharina Jacoba Theunissen (1803 – 1831) married my great great grandfather, Hendrik Johannes Morkel (1798 – 1859). .

The son of Jacobus Malan and Catharina Morkel, Daniel Jacobus Malan (1778 – 1862) farmed at a neighbouring farm, Altona. He was married to Alida Brink (1778 – 1853). One of their sons, Daniel Jacobus Malan (1815 – 1903) married Sara Catharina Morkel and farmed at Harmonie, yet another later division of the Vergelegen complex. Another daughter, Emerentia Elizabeth Malan (ouna Bremsie) (1822 – 1902) married Daniel Johannes Morkel, my great grandfather.
The next generation, Daniel J. (Jacobus?) Malan (1847 – 1926) farmed first at Harmonie and then at Bridgewater (the old Voorburg farm of Willem Morkel). He married Antoinette Theunissen (1848 – 1890) and their daughter Antoinette Malan (1878 – 1944) married my uncle, Johannes Albertus Morkel (Johnnie Bos) (1892 – 1966).

These somewhat involved relationships are presented in the family tree diagram.
The Malan – Morkel Connections
Compiled from GiSA (2), Morkel (1) and Hopkins (4)
André T. Morkel
June 2009

Sources:
Appendix 1

Letter of 1719 by ds. Beck of the Church of Stellenbosch co-signed by members of the Church Council, including Jacques Malan.

Source: 5, p97.
Minutes of Church of Stellenbosch Council Meeting, 11 April 1738
Signed by ds. Salomon van Echten, elders Gerrit van der Bijl and Daniel Malan, and deacons Arnoldus Maasdorp and Willem Morkel

Source: 5, p144.
Appendix 3

Family Lines of the Malan and Morkel Connections

a1 Jacues MALAN * St Martin d’Aigues † 1741 x Drakenstein 1699 Isabeau LE LONG * La Motte D’Aigues † Stellenbosch 1736. Both Huguenots.
b1 Jacobus MALAN * Drakenstein 2.7. 1700. Died young.
b2 Elisabeth Anna MALAN * Drakenstein 11.9.1701 x 29.4.1725 Hermanus KRIEL * 1694 † 1739 xx 5.12.1745 Johannes Caspar SCHLEE.
b3 Daniel MALAN * Drakenstein 11.9.1703 † Stellenbosch 25.1.1770 x Maria Verdeau * 1700 † 1750, d.o. Hercules Verdeau 1672 – 1722 and Maria Catharina WIBEAUX. xx 13.10.1750 Emerentia STEYN * 21.3.1717 † 1762. (Morgenster).
b4 Maria MALAN* Drakenstein 6.4.1705 x 30.4.1724 Adriaan LOUW
b5 Catharina MALAN * Drakenstein 20.3.1707.
b6 David MALAN * Drakenstein 19.7.1708 † 1792 x 17.4.1735 Eleonora MELIUS ~ 28.4.1715 xx 22.1.1750 Elisabeth MARAIS
b7 Jacob MALAN * Drakenstein 8.11.1710. Died young.

Children of b3 Daniel MALAN (1703 – 1770) x Maria Verdeau (1700 – 1750)
c1 Maria Elisabeth MALAN ~ 26.9.1725 x 28.4.1743 Josias DE KOCK
c2 Magdalena MALAN ~ 27.7.1727
c3 Jacobus Hermanus MALAN ~ 27.11.1729 † 3.4.1768 x Anna Elisabeth LOUW ~ 19.7.1739
c4 Daniel Wynand MALAN ~ 9.9.1731 † 31.5.1765 x 26.12.1753 Elsabe WIUM
c5 Hercules Adriaan MALAN ~ 7.2.1734 x Maria Rosina LOUBSER ~ 9.5.1745
c6 Helena Catharina MALAN ~ 11.3.1736 † 27.10.1825 x 22.7.1759 Willem MORKEL
c7 Susanna Magdalena MALAN ~ 3.3.1739
c8 David MALAN ~ 22.1.1741 x 27.3.1768 Helena Catharina VLOK ~ 21.4.1743
c9 Petrus Gerhardus MALAN ~ 19.3.1744
c10 Jacobus MALAN ~ 25.5.1752 † 31.8.1778 x 13.8.1772 Catharina MORKEL ~ 10.11.1754. d.o. Willem MORKEL and Sara VAN BRAKEL (Morgenster).
c11 Elisabeth MALAN * 21.10.1753 x 27.10.1771 c5 David MALAN * 11.9.1751 son of b6 David MALAN and Elisabeth Marais
c12 Anna Maria MALAN 28.11.1756 X 19.7.1772 Eduard WIUM

c13 Maria Isabella MALAN ~ 6.8.1758

Children of c5 Hercules Adriaan MALAN (1734 - ?) x Maria Rosina LOUBSER (1745 - ?)
d1 Johanna Petronella MALAN ~ 3.2.1765 x 23.11.1843 x Philip Hendrik MORKEL, s.o. Willem MORKEL and Catharina MALAN. (Morgenster).

Children of c10 Jacobus MALAN (1752 – 1778) x Catharina MORKEL (1754 – 1816).
d1 Sara Catharina MALAN ~ 1.10.1773 x 19.5.1793 Marthinus Wilhelmus Theunissen farmed at Vergelegen. Parents of Catharina Jacoba Theunissen x Hendrik Johannes MORKEL
d2 Emerentia Elisabeth MALAN ~ 1.10.1775 x 5.11.1797 Wilhelmus Hendricus Theunissen.
d3 Daniel Jacobus MALAN * 2.2.1778 † 30.11.1862 x 22.5.1853 Alida BRINK (1778 – 1853)

Children of d3 Daniel Jacobus MALAN (1778 – 1862) x Alida BRINK

Children of d3 Daniel Jacobus MALAN (1778 – 1862) x Alida BRINK

e1 Maria Elisabeth MALAN ~ 20.501804 died young
e2 Catharina Jacoba MALAN ~ 7.3.1806 died young
e3 Daniel Jacobus MALAN ~ 24.5.1807 died young
e4 Jacobus Daniel MALAN * 29.3.1809 † 1863 x Elisabeth BRINK
e5 Susanna Justina MALAN ~ 18.11.1810 † 1878 x J. EDGAR

e6 Sara Catharina MALAN *6.3.1812 † 14.8.1879 x David Johannes Petrus BUSSIINE * 3.3.1811 † 30.8.1893

e7 Johannes MALAN *18.10.1813 Died young

e8 Daniel Jacobus MALAN *20.8.1815 † 12.9.1903 x Sarah Catharina MORKEL *1827 † 1902
Descendants of e8 Daniel Jacobus MALAN (1815 – 1903) x Sarah Catharina MORKEL (1827 - 1902)

f1  Daniel J. MALAN 1847 – 1926 x Antoinette M. Theunissen 1848 - 1890

g2  Antoinette MALAN (Tant Nettie) 1878 – 1944 x Johannes Albertus MORKEL (Oom Johnnie Bos) 1888 – 1966.