

Beaufort West Morkels

Part 1. Origins and Linking to the Genealogy

By Margaret Thebus and André T. Morkel

In loving memory of Margaret Lodewyk, nee Morkel

This has been a team effort. Margaret Thebus (M.T.) and her mother Margaret Lodewyk provided the bulk of the family line. More information came from Juna Malherbe of the Huguenot Museum and Gregory Morkel of Beaufort West. Andre Morkel (A.T.M.) worked to link the family line to the Morkel Genealogy. Thanks to Nolene Lossau for the baptism and marriage registers for Gert Thomas Morkel.

We welcome corrections and comments. Please use the "Contact us" facility.

Note: we have changed our assumption about 5th generation Hercules Morkel from earlier postings .

Our story is about a branch of the Morkel family, that includes Reverend I.D. Morkel, founder of a church and anti-apartheid activist (see our separate story in Part 3), Gerald Morkel, former Premier of the Western Cape and Mayor of Cape Town, and his sons Garth, Craig and Kent, active in politics. Barry Morkel is Managing Director of The Good Governance Group Pty Ltd. Frances Morkel married Dr. Richard Van Der Ross, Rector of the University of the Western Cape. They were originally from Beaufort West in the Great Karoo, but most are now found at the Cape, Canada and Australia.

The many injustices and daily humiliations imposed by racism and particularly apartheid, hit this mixed race branch of the family hard. It ranged from being restricted to second class living areas and public transportation, and poor treatment by officials to smaller but still hurtful regulations such as being barred from using the best beaches reserved for whites. Reverend I.D. Morkel broke away from the Dutch Reformed Mission Church and founded a church where everyone was welcome and he wrote a regular column in the Cape Times about injustices suffered by his people. Others joined the ANC or emigrated to the UK, Canada and Australia. After apartheid was abolished, Gerald was part of conciliation and became Premier and Mayor. Most carried on with their lives as best they could. The term 'coloured' is best avoided because of its hurtful connotations with the apartheid era.

They are not in the Morkel Genealogy compiled by Franklin Boonzaaier for P.W. Morkel (1) nor in the Genealogy of the GISA (5). In this pioneering study, new information have become available that allow us for the first time to connect up this branch of the family.

Co-author Margaret Thebus writes:

I grew up in a large extended family of grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins. My mother Margaret Lodewyk joined me in Sydney, Australia and over the years we sought to document how the family fitted together.

My grandfather Samuel Morkel was a successful businessman who owned two butcher shops in Beaufort West, which was supplied by his farm Platdoring, where ID was born. They were quite wealthy until WW II, he and my grandmother Dolphina Augustus were generous to a fault. They provided support and food for a range of needy, including the family of the minister of the church, rev. Adam (check if name is correct) Barnard, father of Chris, who later became world famous for his pioneering heart transplant operations. My grandfather would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it more than he did, so much so that by the end of the war in 1945, they had nothing left. The Barnard family lived next door and were so poor they could not afford shoes for their kids, who went barefoot. My mother told how they were naughty and bullied and tormented the Barnard kids. Chris and his siblings would walk on the other side of the road to avoid them, but Mum and her brothers used to collect the big Karoo thorns and throw them where the kids had to walk, and laughed when they trod on them.

My grandparents had a very large dining room table that could seat 20, if not more. The family would gather around with photos spread on the table. My cousins played outside but as long as kept very quiet and did not interrupt, I was allowed to stay and listen. Sadly, almost all the photos have disappeared. By the end of the second world war the family in reduced financial circumstances moved to Crawford, a suburb of Cape Town.

My oldest uncle, reverend I.D. Morkel was 14 years older than my mother and he was a strict and sobering influence on the family. Weddings and other family gatherings were quite staid until he retired for the evening and we could let our hair down a bit – he was not unaware.

Before she passed away, my mother and I compiled the family line as best we could. Her grandfather was Gert Thomas Morkel, 1857 – 1933. The dates are from his gravestone in Beaufort West. Beyond that, we knew there was a Hercules Morkel, but not much more.

Using her knowledge of the family, co-author Margaret Thebus constructed a family line from the present back to Gert Thomas Morkel 1857 – 1933 (Part 2). We locate his death notice (4, Appendix 2) in the Cape Archives. It shows that his parents were Hercules MORKEL and Flora SIMON. GISA (5) lists Herklaas Morkel and Flora Simon as *ongekoppeldes* (unattached – i.e. not linked to other Morkels in the Genealogy) who baptized four girls in 1856 in Beaufort West.

Our challenge now was to link this Hercules (Herklaas) Morkel to the Morkel Genealogies (1,5). With children baptised and born in the mid-1850s, it is likely that Hercules was born around 1820 to 1830. Our search in the Morkel Genealogies yielded two cousins, both grandsons of 3rd generation c7 Hercules Morkel and Helena Munnik. They were:

e1 **Hercules Morkel *22.2.1821 ~15.4.1821**, son of d3 Willem Morkel of *Brakfontein*, Caledon and Jacoba Elizabeth Dreyer
and his cousin

e1 **Hercules Adriaan Morkel *1823**, Stellenbosch †14.9.1871 x Charlotte Amelia Londt. He was the son of d5 Gerhardus Morkel x Johanna Frederika Brand

There are no further details about Hercules Morkel born in 1821. We discarded him initially because GISA (5, p682) has him dying in infancy, on 15.4.1821. However, according to P.W. Morkel's Genealogy, that is his baptism date. It is likely that GISA used the wrong symbol and that he lived to adulthood, but we do not know. We had him as the link in our first version of the family line. We have now revised this in favour of the other Hercules.

We originally discarded Hercules Adriaan, born 1823, because he was already married to Charlotte Amelia Londt. However, he is listed as the father in the baptism register (6, Appendix 1) for Gert Thomas Morkel, with Flora as unmarried mother. With this documented evidence we now know how the family fits together. We are also fortunate to have a photo of him with Flora and 'a sister' (most likely Flora's sister).

Hercules Adriaan farmed at Nelspoort (a railway siding north of Beaufort West) and was Field Cornet for Beaufort West. Hercules did not abandon his second family with unmarried mother Flora. The children were baptised and he looked after them. He had a proud photo taken with Flora and her sister. His son, Gert Thomas is listed as a farmer at *Salt River Vlei*, in the Beaufort West District – not far from Nelspoort, in the registry for his marriage (7, Appendix 1). However, on his death they were not mentioned in his will (9, Appendix 4).

We are now able to construct the family line, shown in Part 2, for the Beaufort West Morkels.

September 2011. Revised November 2013, February 2014

Sources and Notes:

1. P.W.Morkel 1961. *The Morkels. Family History and Genealogy*. Published privately
2. Family knowledge of Margaret Thebus and Margaret Lodewyk, plus emails from Juna Malherbe, Barry Morkel and Craig Morkel.
3. The name Hercules comes from Catharina Malan's maternal grandfather, Hercule Verdeau. Catharina was the wife of second generation Willem Morkel
4. MOOC 6/9/4356, 39838. Death Notice for Gert Thomas Morkel, filed 29 November 1933.
5. GISA (Genealogical Institute of South Africa) *South African Genealogies*. Vol 5, p684. *Onggekoppeldes* (not connected): Herklaas Morkel & Flora Simon had the following children baptised Beaufort West 30.3.1856: Johanna Frederika, Helena Catharina, Meintje Adriana, Flora Stiena Leonora.
6. <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1951-23581-678-94?cc=1468076&wc=M93C-QZH:743512138>
7. <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1942-23581-4412-28?cc=1468076&wc=M93C-QZF:n378756894>
8. MOOC 6/9/4356 – 39838 Inventory for Gert Thomas Morkel
9. MOOC 7/1/319-118 and MOOC 13/1/281 – 55 Inventory for Hercules Adriaan Morkel



Hercules Adriaan Morkel with Flora Simon (right) and her Sister

Photo: Sylvia Morkel



Samuel and Dolphina MORKEL and family
 Isaac (Rev I.D.), Dolphina, Elizabeth, Henry, Margaret, Samuel (father), Hercules, Dolphina (mother), Gert, Mary.
 Insert left: Daniel. Insert right: Samuel Photo: Margaret Thebus

Appendix 1 Baptism and Marriage Registry entries for Gert Thomas MORKEL (6,7)

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Christ's Church, Beaufort West</i> in the Division of <i>Beaufort West</i> in the Year 186 <i>6</i> .									
When Baptized.	Christian Name.	Declared Day of Birth.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	Sponsors, or (in the case of Adults) Witnesses.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.	
			Christian.	Surname.					
<i>Sept: 11</i> No. 259	<i>Gert Thomas</i>	<i>Jan: 1st 1857</i>	<i>Hercules Adrian</i>	<i>Morkel</i>	<i>Kells Park.</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Geohanna Simpson</i> <i>Wilma Simpson</i> <i>Adam Peters</i>	<i>William Brandy</i>	

Baptism Register Entry for Gert Thomas Morkel (6)

MARRIAGES solemnized at <i>Christ Church, Beaufort West</i> in the Parish of <i>Beaufort West</i> in the Division of <i>Beaufort West</i> in the Year 187 <i>7</i> .										
No. 55	No. 15	<i>Gert Morkel</i>	No. 20	<i>Mary Theron</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Bachelor Farmer</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>Salt River Riv. After hours The Parents</i>	
<i>Marrid in Christ Church at Beaufort West solemn after hours by me Guy Estlin Weston</i> <i>Gert Morkel</i> <i>Mary Theron</i> The Marriage was solemnized between us... } In the presence of } <i>James Henry Theron</i> <i>G. Theron</i>										

Marriage Register Entry Gert Thomas Morkel x Mary Theron (7)

Note the signatures of Gert Thomas Morkel and Mary Theron

Appendix 2
Death Notice for Gert Thomas MORKEL

MOOC 6/9/4356

39838

Filed on 29 November 1933

DEATH NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN SECTION 9, ORDINANCE 104

1. Name of the deceased: [Gert Thomas Morkel](#)
 2. Birthplace of the deceased: [Beaufort Wes](#)
 3. Names of parents of the deceased:
Father: [Hercules Morkel, oorlede](#)
Mother: [Flora Morkel gebore Simon](#)
 4. Age of the deceased: [76 years 10 months](#)
 5. Condition in life (occupation): [Rustende werksman](#)
 6. Ordinary place of residence: [Beaufort Wes](#)
 7. Married or unmarried, widower or widow: [Getroud](#)
 - (a) Name of surviving spouse: [Mary Morkel gebore Theron](#)
[Gemeenskap van Goedere](#)
 - (b) Name or names and approximate date of death of previous spouse or spouses:
 - (c) Place of last marriage: [Beaufort Wes](#)
 8. The day of decease: On [Donderdag 23 November 1933](#)
 9. At what house or where the person died: [Woonhuis, Beaufort Wes](#)
 10. Names of children of deceased, and whether majors or minors (Stating separately these born of different marriages).
 1. [Herclaas James Morkel, mondig](#)
 2. [Jane Dorothea Kelly gebore Morkel, mondig](#)
 3. [Samuel William Morkel, mondig](#)
 4. [Henry Gert Morkel, mondig](#)
 5. [James John Morkel, mondig](#)
 6. [Florence Margaret Hofmeester gebore Morkel, mondig](#)
 7. [Mary Sara Johanna Murray gebore Morkel, mondig](#)
 8. [William Thomas Morkel, mondig](#)
 9. [Dorothea Charlotte Roux gebore Morkel, mondig](#)
- (a) Whether deceased has left any property, and of what kind: [Movable & immovable property](#)
 - (b) The deceased has left a will: [Yes](#)

Dated at [Beaufort Wes](#) the [25](#) day of [November 1933](#)

Signature [Mary Morkel](#) (State in what capacity) [Langslewende en teenwoordig by dood.](#)

This notice must be filled in and signed by the nearest relative or connection of the deceased who shall at the time be at or near the place of death, or in the absence of such near relative or connection, by the person who shall have the chief charge of the house in or the place on which the death shall occur, and must be sent either to the Master of Supreme Court, in Cape Town, or if the death occurred in the country districts, the Resident Magistrate of the district, in duplicate.

[\[Samuel William Morkel benoem as Executeur \[sic\] in testament van 21.3.1907\]](#)

(Thanks to Johan van Breda for obtaining and copying the Death Notice from the Cape Archives.)

Appendix 3
Gert Thomas MORKEL Boedel Bates (Inventory) (8)
MOOC 6/9/4356 - 39838

Erf Lot no.122 Beaufort Wes, groot 51 vk roede* 47 vk voete 39 vk duim
Transport no. 616 gedateer 21.5.1881
Erf Lot no. 122 Beaufort Wes groot 58 vk roede* 49 vk voete 73 vk duim
Transport no. 4468 gedateer 1.10.1891
(*1 vk roede = 144 vk voet)

Volgens geswore waardasie vir beide erwe	£ 300-00-00
11 Bokke	£ 5-10-00
Assuransie Polis No. 80382 Colonial Mutual	£ 138-02-10
Totaal	£ 443-12-10

Appendix 4
Hercules Adriaan MORKEL Inventory. (9)

MOOC 7/1/319-118
Filed 14 December 1871
Hercules Adriaan Morkel died 14.09.1871
Children

- Hendrik Gert Morkel born 15th December 1854
- Charlotte Amelia Morkel born 2nd February 1857

Both minors

Immoveable Property

- House and Erf in Donkin Street, Beaufort West

Moveable Property

- 8 draught mules
- 8 draught oxen
- 1 horse wagon
- etc.etc.

Signed Charlotte Amelia Morkel
1.10.1871

MOOC 13/1/281 – 55
Filed 25 September 1872

L&D Account

- Lot 2 of Erf 2 Beaufort West £ 550 -0-0

Signed C.A. Morkel born Londt

Google Map showing location of Gert Thomas Morkel's farm Salt River Vlei, District Beaufort West.

11/16/13

Salt River Vlei, Beaufort West, Western Cape, South Africa - Google Maps

To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the "Print" link next to the map.

