

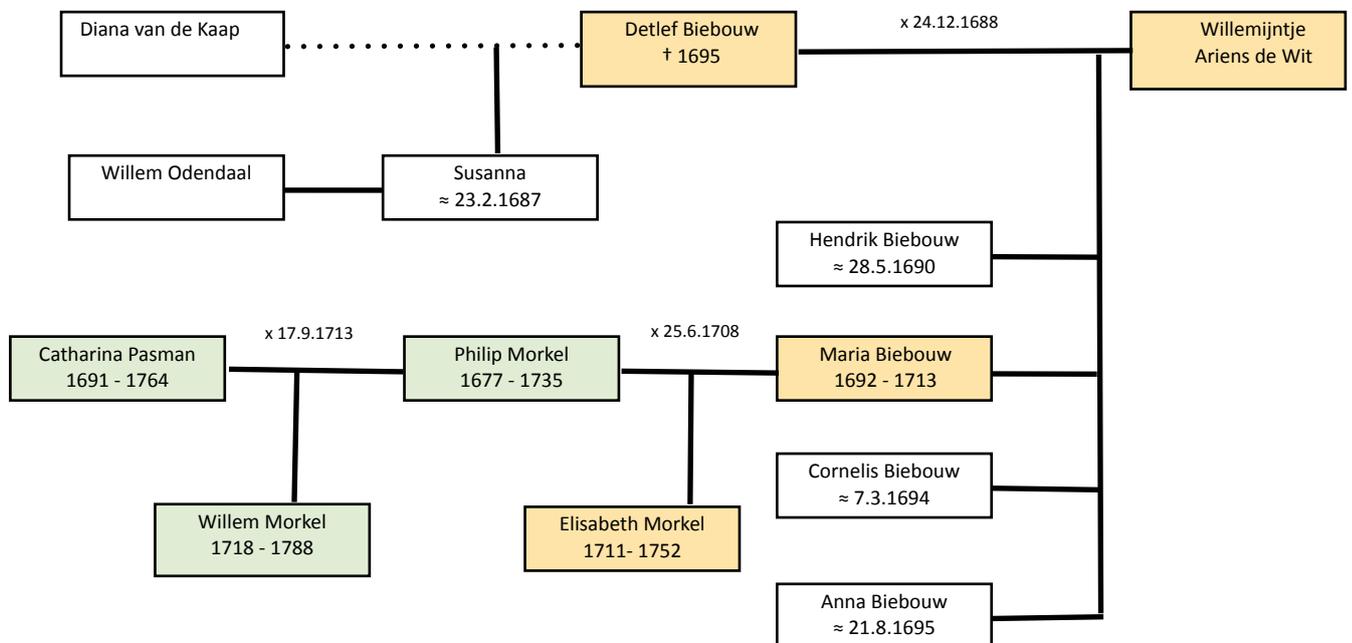
# Biebouw

*Much of our information about the Biebouw family comes from Karel Schoeman's well researched book about life at the Cape 1652 to 1733, Armosyn van die Kaap (1), and the S.A. Stamouers website (2).*

## Detlef Biebouw

**S**tamvader Philip Morkel married sixteen year old Maria Biebouw on his first visit to the Cape in 1708. Maria was the daughter of Detlef Biebouw, who came from Mecklenburg in Germany, most likely during the 1680s, during the reign of Governor Simon van der Stel. Detlef is mentioned for the first time as corporal in 1683-85. In the records there are several spellings for the name - Biebouw, Bibou, Bibon and even a French version - Bibault. He was illiterate and signed his name with a cross (2).

On 23 February 1687 Detlef and Diana van de Kaap had a daughter Susanna baptised. Diana was a slave of Cornelis Pietersz Linnes, an official favoured by van der Stel, and who later became *Landdrost* of Stellenbosch. Biebouw was willing to acknowledge that he fathered the child but, as was the custom of the time, accepted no further responsibility towards the mother. In 1711 Susanna married Willem Odendaal. He was a German ex-soldier (corporal 1683 - 1685) working as a building labourer. Susanna's half-sister, Maria Biebouw and her husband Philip Morkel signed as witnesses when the Odendaals' first child was baptised. In the early days of the Cape, discrimination based on skin colour was not the issue it later became.



### The Biebouw-Morkel Connection

Symbols: ≈ baptised x married † died

Detlef Biebouw married Willemijntje Ariëns de Wit, on 24 December 1688. She was one of eight orphan girls sent from Rotterdam, because of the shortage of females in the fledgling colony. They had three children, with a fourth child dying young. Willemijntje was the half sister, of Arientje Jacobs van den Berg who, is known through medical historical research to have brought the genetic disease *Porphyria Variegata* into South Africa. There are no indications that Willemijntje herself was a carrier of this disease.

From 1689 Detlef worked as a *vryburger-chirurgyn* (free surgeon)(3). At the time of his death in 1695 he was living in *een huis van klei, seer slegt* (a derelict house of clay). In 1692 he bought a slave girl, nineteen or twenty year old Sophie from Madagascar for 100 rixdollars, and the following year, Diana from Madagascar (24 or 25 years old) for 90 rds. These transactions would indicate a certain level of prosperity but when he died his effects were pitifully few. He left a widow with three small children (including Hendrik, five and a half, and Maria about 3 and a baby Anna), an old horse and an old slave Lijsbeth. The household goods consisted of an old chest, an old table, 20 items of tea cups and saucers, four iron pots, 2 copper kettles, some tinware (mostly old), threadbare kitchen goods and a few old knives. The oldest son, Hendrik Biebouw, gained some fame or notoriety in a confrontation with the *Landdrost* of Stellenbosch, as related in Appendix 2.

### **Maria Biebouw and Philip Morkel**

*Stamvader* Philip Morkel was a *konstabel* (artillerist) with the Dutch East India Company (VOC). He arrived at the Cape with the return fleet on the ship *Oosterstein*, from Batavia on 30 January 1708. Philip married Maria Biebouw during the three months the ship was at the Cape, before departing for Holland on 23 April 1708. He returned to the Cape on the *Noordbeek*, arriving 2 June 1709 (4). He obtained permission to stay at the Cape, became artillerist at the Castle (5), and settled down to a married life with Maria. Their daughter, Elisabeth was born on 12 January 1711 (6).

Maria died in 1713 and, as required, an inventory of their joint estate was lodged with the authorities (7), as in Appendix 1. It showed some progress compared to Detlef's estate, but it was still modest, reflecting the fairly modest salary Philip owned as employee of the Company. The couple owned a modest house at the Cape, 4 male slaves, one female slave with two small daughters, 10 empty wine leaguers, four beddings (stuffed sacks used as mattresses and bedlinen - not the frame), a chest of drawers and diverse small goods, to a total of 8,560 guilders. They owed 6,500 guilders leaving 2,060 guilders (687 rixdollars) net in the estate.

Philip was already married to Catharina Pasman when the inventory was lodged, and by then they were on their way to prosperity on the farm *Onverwacht*. Elisabeth married Wouter de Vos on 5 September 1728 when she was 18. De Vos died three years later and she inherited a substantial estate including four farms (including *Libertas*, the former farm of Adam Tas) from him.

**André T. Morkel. June 2014**

## Notes and Sources

1. Karel Schoeman, 2001. *Armosyn van die Kaap. Die Wêreld van 'n Slavin, 1652 - 1733*. Human & Rousseau, Cape Town. pp 496 - 4497. Schoeman consulted many sources, including Boëseken, Coetzee, De Wet, Heese and Malan.
2. A.M. van Rensburg. <http://www.stamouers.com/>
3. Perhaps Detlef had some training as a *chirurgyn* (surgeon) in Germany before he joined the VOC, but that is unknown. At the time, surgeons doubled as barbers - both were skilled with sharp knives. As *vryburger* (free burger) he had obtained his discharge from the Company.
4. PietervanDam, <http://www.vocsite.nl/schepen/detail.html?id=10766>
5. P.W. Morkel, 1961. *The Morkels, Family history and Family Tree*. Published privately.
6. GISA, 1999. *South African Genealogies*. Part 5, L-M. p677.
7. MOOC8/2.87
8. <http://voc.websilon.nl/>
9. Playford, Phillip 1996. *Carpet of Silver. The Wreck of the Zuytdorp*. University of Western Australia. p227 – 23

## Appendix 1

### Inventory of the Estate of Philip Morkel and Maria Bibou Boedelinventaris van Philip Morkel en Maria Bibou (7)

Inventaris van zodanige gedoente thans onder mij berustende, zoo en als met mijn overlede zalg:r huisvrouw, Maria Bibou en Philip Morkel te komen egte luidje en bij mij zijn hebbende, zoo en als hier aanwijse, te weeten

	<i>f</i>
Mijn woonhuijs alhier aan de Caab getaxeert	6000
4 slave jongens, ider getaxeert tot 100 rd:s	1200
1 slavin met 2 klijne meijsjes, tesamen gestelt tot	300
10 ledige wijn leggers te samen voor den andere	240
4 kooijen met hun toebehooren waardeeren deselve te samen ider tot 20 rd:s komt	240
1 kas tot rd:s20 of	60
de losse goederen, in combuijs en huijsgoed te samen gewardeert tot	520
Somma	<i>f</i> 8560
	6500
Blijft	2060
Rest	<i>f</i> 1030

#### Eerstelijk

	<i>f</i>
een dogter gen:t Elisabeth Morkel	
uijt staande schulde die ik Philip Morkel, nogh een en moet betalen te weeten aan	
de Weeskamer	1500
Theunis Schalkwijk	1000
Jacob van der Heijden	4000
Somma	<i>f</i> 6500
Aldus getaxeert en overgegeeven ter Weescame[ ..... ] aen Cabo de Goede Hoop den ult:o November 1713, on[ ..... ] presentatie van eede van niets ter quader trouwe agtergehouden of versweegen te hebben	

signed Philip Morkel

Note on currency: 1 rixdollars (rijksdaalders) (rd:s) = 3 guilders (gulden) (*f*)

## Appendix 2

### Hendrik Biebouw – Hero or Scoundrel?

*Stamvader* Philip's brother-in-law, Hendrik Biebouw was a colourful character (1, 2). Born in 1690, he was the brother of Maria Biebouw, Philip's first wife. He became famous as the first colonist to say, on 6 March 1707, *Ik bin een Africander* - I am an Afrikaner, and a plaque honouring that event has been erected in Stellenbosch on the site where it happened. For Afrikaner patriots in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this was a significant event and they found links between their struggles for recognition and the protests in the 1700s, against the autocratic and corrupt Governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel.

On a Sunday afternoon, four drunk young men, Hendrik Biebouw, Jan Cloete, Hans Beijer and Matthijs Greef, entered a flour mill, and made a nuisance of themselves. They were rowdy, tore the scales apart and overturned a stack of measuring tin cans, making a loud racket. The neighbour, *landdrost* (magistrate) Starrenburg, heard the noise and investigated. Two of the culprits quickly disappeared, leaving Biebouw and one of his friends behind. Starrenburg confronted them and gave them a number of lashes with a *rottang* (rattan cane). Biebouw hit back with a bag of flour. The *landdrost* accused them of drunkenness and ordered them to go away quietly. Biebouw then uttered the famous words:

*Ik kry slagen, ik wil niet loopen, ik ben een Africander. Al slaat den landdrost mij dood, of al sette hij mij in den tronk, ik sal niet stil swijgen!* (1).

Translated:

I am being assaulted, I will not go, I am an Afrikaner. Even if the *landdrost* kills me, or throws me in gaol, I shall not remain silent.

Starrenburg was angry at this insubordination and recommended physical punishment and a fine of 25 rixdollars. He also recommended that it would be good if the four culprits were drafted as soldiers on one of the VOC ships heading for the East. Three of the culprits were thrashed by soldiers before the gate of the fort and had to pay 12 rixdollars each to the miller. However, it was Starrenburg who, as part of van der Stel's henchmen was fired from his job and deported to Holland. The *Here Sewentien* (Board) of the VOC had received a petition from the burghers at the Cape and deposed the Governor and his top henchmen, including Starrenburg.

Hendrik Biebouw then vanished from Cape records. He was listed as a dragoon, but in 1708 the entry against his name was simply "weg" – away. A chance discovery by Martie Bredenkamp of *Genforum* (an internet genealogy chatroom) found him listed in 1716 as crew on the ship *Zandenburg* bound for Batavia. He died there on 20 March 1719 (8).

-- *Hendrick Bibou. Herkomst: De caab. Rang: Matroos. Datum einde verbintenis: 20/03/1719. Einde verbintenis: Overleden. Plaats einde verbintenis: Azie. Gegevens van de vaart: Schip: Zandenburg. Inventarisnr.: 12771. Kamer: Zeeland Folio: 84. Uitreis: 05/04/1716 Bestemming: Batavia. DAsen reisnr. 2266.4. Aankomst: 26-10-1716.*

This information laid to rest an earlier speculation that Biebouw was shipwrecked on the *Zuytdorp* in 1712 on the coast of Western Australia. Playford and Dean surmised that he had children with an Aborigine and spread the genetic disease *Porphyria Variegata* found to this day among tribes in that area (9). This disease has a relatively high occurrence among Afrikaners in South Africa and one of the carriers is thought to be Ariaenje de Jacobs, a half sister of Hendrik Biebouw's mother, Willemijntje Ariens de Wit. However, Biebouw was not on the *Zuytdorp* and it is unfounded speculation that his mother carried the disease. It has also since been established that the *Porphyria* found among the Aborigines differs from that found in South Africa (10).