

Chapter 1 from:

THE MORKELS – FAMILY HISTORY AND FAMILY TREE

By Philip William Morkel. 1961. Published privately.

A Tribute to Oom Phil

Philip William Morkel was a successful businessman who founded a chain of furniture stores during the mid-1900s. He commissioned a professional archivist/genealogist, Franklin Jacobus Boonzaaier, to research the family and compile the family genealogy. Boonzaaier and other staff from the Cape Archives would have contributed to the book, but it is essentially Phil's effort.

The book comprises of three chapters. Chapter I deals with the family from 1708 to 1806 and is reproduced here. Chapter II is about the family in the 19th century, and chapter III contains extracts from various sources about the family.

This chapter was scanned using OCR software by Hennie Morkel and I added the occasional annotation and correction. I have included selected photos from his book. Some are left out because they are included in other stories on the website.

Many of our stories and genealogy comes from this book. Oom Phil, as I came to know him, generously encouraged us, and other family members, to take his work further, and he provided his book at below cost to those interested. Unfortunately it is now out of print and Oom Phil is no longer with us. I feel it fitting to reproduce at least part of his book here for the benefit of a wider audience. I have sought to acknowledge his book wherever I made use of it.

Phil Morkel wrote about the family but not about himself. I hope that one day someone with access will write an account of the life of this business pioneer. He created his chain of stores at a time when very few Dutch descended South Africans were active in business.

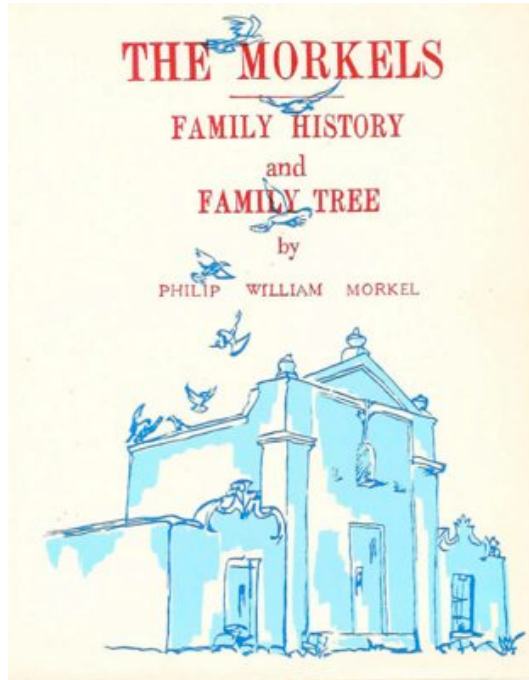
André T. Morkel.



P.W. Morkel (right) presenting his book to the Cape Archives.

CHAPTER I.

THE MORKEL RECORDS - 1708 to 1806.



The first Morkel to settle in South Africa was Philip Morkel of Hamburg who was "Constapel" (gunner or artillerist) on the ship "Oosterstyn" on her voyage returning from the East to Holland. When she touched at the Cape, Philip Morkel married Maria Biebow, the daughter of Detlef Biebow the 25th of March, 1708. The name is variously spelt Bibou, Bibault, Biebow, and even Vibaut. (1)

Detlef Biebow, a burgher-surgeon (2) of Stellenbosch, was of French extraction, but his wife, Willemyntje Ariens de Wit of Rotterdam was Dutch, although she came out with the French refugees in the "Berg China" which arrived at the Cape on the 4th August, 1688 (3). She married Detlef on the 24th December of the same year, and their child was born on the 2nd of March 1692, and named Maria. Her elder brother Hendrik was the first South African recorded to have made the historic remark: "Ik ben een Africaner". This he said

to the landdrost of Stellenbosch Johannes Starrenburgh, tool of the governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel, during a scuffle he, Pieter van der Byl and Jacob Cloeten had with the landdrost, who was trying to stamp out opposition to the governor. *(This incident has had much prominence as the first recorded remark of a local African identity among the settlers. More recently it has been claimed that it was more likely to have been a drunken brawl where he was resisting arrest.)*

Thus Maria Bibou was only 16 when she married Philip Morkel. *(I have deleted three sentences in which it is claimed that Maria had already been a widow of Hercules Verdeaux. However, genealogists pointed out a confusion of the surnames. The Verdeaux bride was Maria Huibaux not Bibou – spelling in those days varied, particularly with French names.)* Maria Bibou and Philip Morkel had but a short married life, together. Philip Morkel returned to the Cape as chief gunner on the "Noordbeek" (6) and is listed as an artillerist at the Castle in the "Monsterrolle" *(attendance registers)* of 1709(7). He got his burgher rights on the 28th November, 1709 (8).

Maria Bibou bore Philip a daughter, Elizabeth, in 1710 and did not live long after that, for he remarried on the 17th September, 1713, Catharina Pasman, daughter of Sophia Schalk van der Merwe.

According to the inventory of Philip Morkel and Maria Bibou's goods (9) they had a dwelling house at the Cape valued at 6,000 gulden, 12 farm boys, a female slave with two daughters, 10 wine leaguers, 4 cows, and furniture valued at 580 gulden. Did Maria Bibou die of the smallpox plague in 1713? Catharina Pasman's elder sister, Margaretha, and her husband, Claas Elbertsz, also died in that year. *(The suffix z, or sz often occurs in Dutch names – it is an abbreviation of zoon – i.e. son, similar to the practice in many other languages).*

Catharina Pasman was 21 when she married Philip Morkel. After the death of Rudolph Pasman, an emigrant from Mörs, (10) her mother, Sophia Schalk van der Merwe had married again in 1696, her husband now being Pieter Robberts. In 1699 Robberts became owner of

the farm "Rustenburg" in the Stellenbosch district, and he was acting landdrost of that district from 1703 to 1705. Her daughter Margaretha Pasman and her husband Claas Elbertsz had the farm "Onverwacht", and at their death without issue, the farm passed to her heir, her mother.

(Hendrik Elbertsz, baaslandbouer - master agriculturist and Jochum Marquart master butcher, up to then in employ of the VOC, in 1677 obtained a contract to run the Company's outpost in Hottentots Holland (Dan Sleigh 2004 – Buiteposte Protea Publishers, p156) – before the land came in the hands of corrupt Governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel. Claas was his son).

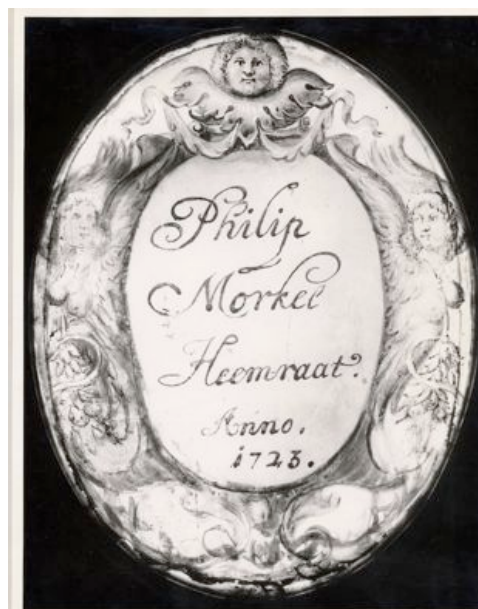
This is the customary provision in old wills. A communal will was actually made by a man and his wife shortly after marriage, in which there is almost always a provision that, if one or more of the parents of the pair are alive at the time of making the will, he, she, or they will be the heir or heirs of the will if there is no issue. This will (11) mentions that Claas Elbertsz "borger and landbouwer te Stellenbosch" (citizen and farmer at Stellenbosch) was aged 38 year, sick but "staende en gaende" (lit. standing and going), while his wife Margaretha Pasman was 25 years old and sick in bed. He left his brother Gerrit and his sister's child each 1,000 Cape gulden, while his wife left her portion to Sophia Willemsz v.d. Merwe (i.e. her mother), late widow "den pl." (the acting?) Landdrost Pieter Robbertsz: and to her sisters her clothes. Infection was not much understood then! The Pasman sisters were Catharina, who married Philip Morkel, Sibilla who later married Jacob Cloete of Nooitgedacht, and Roelophia. It is interesting that there is a tradition to-day that two sisters got as their marriage portions two farms, which in their surprise they named "Onverwacht" (unexpected) and "Nooitgedacht" (the thought never occurred). Were they these sisters, Catharina and Sibilla Pasma? Or was the legend made to fit the names of the farms. (This story was also told to me as a child. It could only have referred to Catharina and Sibella. It is almost certain that the legend was created around the names. Both farm names Onverwacht and Nooitgedach predate Catharina or Sibella's ownership. Read the "The Formidable Pasman Ladies" on our website.)

The van Brakels married into the families of Tas, van der Byl etc. (well known names at the Cape) and one, Sarah was Philip's son, Willem's, first wife.

Philip Morkel is listed under the Stellenbosch Dragoners (dragoons or militia) captained by Jan Oberholzer in 1715, 1716 (12), 1818, 1720 and 1721 (13).

In 1722 Philip's bother, Willem, is first mentioned in the roll of infantrymen under Captain Hermanus van Brakel, and also in 1723 in the same company with Francois du Toit as captain.

Philip was not called to serve after 1721 as he was heemraad of Stellenbosch for 1722 and 1723, and this automatically released him from military service; again for 1726 and 1727 he was heemraad, and for 1729 and 1730, as can be seen in the resolution books kept by the Landdrost and Heemraden for Stellenbosch in the Cape archives. In 1722 the Landdrost was Marthinus Bergh and the heemraden were Pieter van der Byl, Adam Tas, Jan Louw, Wouter de Vos, Theunis Botha, and Philip Morkel. Later at the sale of goods on Adam Tas's farm, Philip bought some sheep and a Koornharp (winner).



Centre pane of a Window of the 2nd church of Stellenbosch.

(The Landdrost or Magistrate was the chief executive of the district, employed by the Company and appointed by the Governor. He was assisted by a committee of citizens, the Heemraden.)

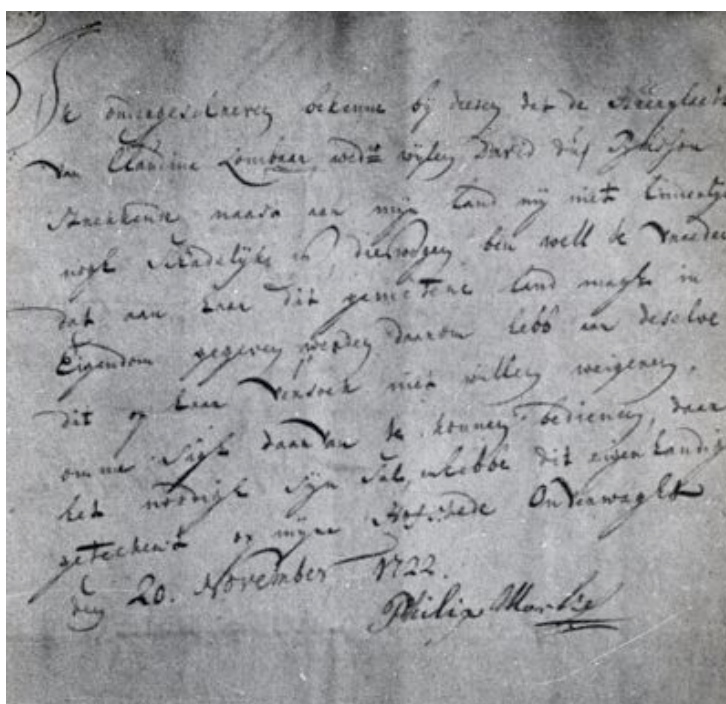
From, his mother-in-law, Sophia Schalk van der Merwe, the farm "Onverwacht" passed into

Philip's hands in 1718, and it has remained in the hands of his descendants ever since – a record surely in South African land tenure. *(The story in our family was that the Morkels had the record, of retaining the family name – i.e. father to son is the criterion. The farm "Steenberg" in the Cape Peninsula was apparently longer in the Louw family, but the name was lost when a daughter inherited the farm and changed her surname in marriage. At the time of transcribing this chapter (2006) a relatively small portion of the farm surrounding the house and outbuildings – including the Dovecote) remains in ownership of my nephew, Johan Morkel and his sons. I do not know what happened to Steenberg).*

The original grant of Onverwacht was on 15.5.1703 to Jan Hartog (14), which describes the farm as "Onverwacht, 117 morgen 535 sq. roods in extent, (1 morgen = 2.12 English acre or 0.856 hectare, 600 square roods = 1 morgen), extending to the Groote Rivier (Lourens?), Hottentots Holland, S.S.W. to the Kloof, N.E. and S.W. along the Schapenberg and East to the land of Vergelegen", and is signed W.A. van der Stel. It was transferred (Transfer- 684) from Hartog to W.A. van der Stel on 16.10.1706 and from him to Elbertsz on 11.9.1710 (Transfer 825). *(As Governor, W.A. van der Stel could not sign over land of Dutch East India Company (VOC) to himself so he granted land to Jan Hartog who was his gardener, who then transferred the land back to him. Adam Tas and fellow protestors managed to gain the attention of the Company directors (Heeren Sewentien) in Holland and the Governor was sacked and magnificent farm, Vergelegen and other properties, including Onverwacht, were sold at auction. Onverwacht was bought by Aletta Ter Mollen, widow of Hendrik Elbertsz, and it was registered in the name of her son, Nicholas or Claas Elbertsz on 11 September 1710).*

From the Elbertsz estate it was transferred to Philip Morkel (T.1241) on 29.6.1718, the transfer being signed Sophia Schalk v.d.Merwe. After Catharina Pasman's death it was transferred to her son Willem Morkel on 23.10.1764 (T.3999) and the transfer included Onverwacht, Mostert's Baay and Voorburg. Mostert's Baay had been a loan-place of Philip Morkel and was later granted

in ownership to his widow. It became known as Mosterd Baay Strand, from which the name was abbreviated to "The Strand" late in the nineteenth century. (Voters' Rolls in the 1870's and 1880's still have the name "Mosterd's Baay Strand"). The Morkels had a fishery there. The skippers of their boats took a bearing on the beautiful dovecote at Onverwacht to get through the rocks and reefs, and then sailed as safely to shore as the pigeons homed to their dovecote. *(Thus fairly soon after acquiring the original 117 morgen, the family acquired extensive properties adjoining the farm – even in the 1900s, as a kid, my*



Document signed by Philip Morkel 20 November 1722.

See the Appendix for the text

father's portion (Altena) was about 140 morgen and the main farm, Onverwacht, then called The Bush was about 700 morgen. This was after several substantial portions (e.g. Voorburg and Rome) were transferred to various sons during the late 1700s and early 1800s,

Willem left Onverwacht to his third son, Daniel Johannes, and in 1818 it was transferred to him, (Daniel Johannes) who in turn left it to his son Hendrik Johannes, from whom it passed

to his son Daniel Johannes, then to the son Hendrik Johannes Louw Morkel, (*Hennie Bos, my grandfather – the “Bos” refers to the farm’s name Die Bos, or The Bush the name now given to Onverwacht*) and in 1928 to Johannes Albertus Morkel (*Johnnie Bos*). The succession from father to son was once seriously threatened by the epidemic of dysentery in 1895, when the eldest boy died, while his younger brother was not expected to last the night. That he recovered was due to the devoted care of the little boy’s old coloured male nurse, Dawid. (*There was indeed an eldest boy, Daniel Johannes. The family genealogy does not give the date of his death and this story would put his death at 1895. The younger brother would have been my uncle, Johnnie Bos. The story is not quite true as there was a third brother, Hendrik Johannes who at around 16 drowned fishing at Kogelbay. My father, Daniel Johannes was born in 1895, the year of the dysentery epidemic.*)

Onverwacht has always been a wine farm, as were other neighbouring farms, and in the time of the slaves, there was great rivalry as to which farm would first finish picking and pressing. On the great morning, the slaves would, as they did every morning, gather at the farmhouse and sing their "morning-song". Then with shot-guns and mouth-organs they would hurry to the boundary of the farm, and fire a salute, and give a performance on their mouth-organs to let the neighbours know that "Onverwacht" had finished first as usual. They would then hurry back to the farm-house to a feast prepared by the mistress, washed down by new wine or "Mos" from the crop they had just gathered. Later in the year when the wine had matured, the broad band "Twee lêer" (*two leaguer – a leaguer was a large barrel of wine*) ox-wagons were inspanned and, laden with barrels of wine, hauled across the heavy sand of the Flats to Mowbray, to take the road to Cape Town and off-load their burden at the wine merchants in Strand Street.

The house at Onverwacht is very commodious, having 18 rooms, and the interior has the broad-planked yellow-wood floor so typical of old houses, but the front was re-built at some recent time. (*The old thatch roof was replaced with galvanised steel in 1896. My Aunt Alida mentioned that the family rented a house in the Strand while the renovations took place. Her sister Maria Dorothea – Tant Maraaitjie, was born at this time – thus dating the renovation. The front façade was most likely changed at this time.*) The Dove-cot is an architectural gem, and that it is so is fully appreciated by the present owners of the farm. The entrance to the Kraal, too, is graceful and unusual. One wonders whether Willem Adriaan van der Stel did not erect these delightful pieces. (*This is most unlikely. The architectural style of the Dovecote is neo classical, which came into fashion at the turn of the century around 1800 – almost a hundred year after van der Stel.*)

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, when the farmers at the Cape were on the friendliest terms with all the English who settled here, and when many daughters married Englishmen, the Morkel farm came to be known as "The Bush" after the wood of great pine trees, the oldest in the district, on it. (*This most likely happened during the time of Hendrik Johannes Morkel’s second wife, his cousin Esther Elizabeth Morkel. They were married in 1832 and she was on the farm until her death in 1880. A few of her descendants became English speaking, while the children from the first wife, Catharina Jacoba Theunissen (i.e. our family line) remained Afrikaans.*) Cloetenburg and Voorburg were also changed at this time to Oatlands and Broadlands, while Morgenster became Morning Star. While one deplores the loss of the names Cloetenburg, which recalls the Cloete connection with Vergelegen(?) and Voorburg (*lit: fore bastion*) which so well describes the position of that farm at the foot of the Hottentots Holland pass, yet the fact that the names were changed is in itself historical as showing the public sentiment at the time. (*According to Peggy Heap 1970 “The Story of Hottentots Holland” Balkema Publishers p62, Voorburg became Bridgewater, north of Onverwacht, not Broadlands – which is the former farm Fortuintje on the south side of the farm Bridgewater was so named because it was at the bridge across the Lourens River.*)

To return to the past – in 1721 Philip’s brother Willem Morkel joined him at the Cape. He had often been at Cabo before, for he was a surgeon on various Dutch East India vessels – in 1711 chief surgeon on the return-ship "Meyden", in 1718 chief surgeon on the "Groenswaard" and in 1721 chief surgeon on the "Westerdyxhoorn". He was described in a list of "eenlopend personen" (15) (single persons) as having his "domicilium" with Philip Morkel, and was held in such esteem that he was elected heemraad for 1724 and 1725 and in 1731 his name figured in the list of those who at a general call to arms would have to stay on the farms to protect the

country (16). In 1722 he no doubt assisted Philip Morkel in attending to a party of 80 shipwrecked sailors who straggled to Onverwacht. They were off the Dutch East Indiaman "Schoonenburg" (*sic. The ship was the Schonenberg*), shipwrecked four miles east of Agulhas (17), and had a long journey by foot with little to eat – so little that they relished the flesh of a hippopotamus they had killed.

News of the wreck, which took place on the 20th November, had already reached the Cape. The ship "Anna Maria" reported on the 26th November that her sistership "Schoonenburg" (*Schonenberg*) had gone ashore neat Agulhas, but that the seas were too rough for her to approach that vessel. Marthinus Bergh, the landdrost of Stellenbosch, was ordered to despatch some one to investigate the circumstances.

Meanwhile Jan de la Fontaine, Adriaan van Kervel, and the "equipagie-meester" (naval superintendent) Cornelis Valk of the Cape had also been sent off, and they sent a report on the 30th November that they had found the upper and under helmsman as well as "de derde waak" (*third watch*) of the wrecked ship at the house of Philip Morkel with yet 80 of their shipmates, having left 3 of their mates in the veld and one who had come on in a wagon. These testified that it was impossible to approach the ship on account of the heavy seas, and that they had been wonderfully lucky to have saved themselves as their boat had been smashed. The masts of the ship had fallen overboard and the whole of the after part broken away. There was only half a leaguer of water on shore which caused them to set out for the Cape.

The skipper had come ashore on the evening of the 21st by boat, and ordered the men to take the provisions out of it. He had spent the night under a tent made of a red flag, but in his evidence he said 5 or 6 of the men had ill-used and robbed him. As there was no water, the upper-helmsman with some of the crew set out of (*for?*) the Cape and the skipper sent a letter with them to the Governor (18).

Meanwhile Jacob Malan, the 22-year old son of Jacques Malan, owner of part of Willem Adriaan van der Stel's farm Vergelegen, lying to the north of Onverwacht over the Schaapenberg, was sent on to the scene of the wreck in a wagon with two muids of meal, some brandy and two oxen.

The skipper Albertus van Soest reported that the people at the wreck were destroying the goods, and drinking the liquor and asked for a galjot to be sent round to take off the cargo; smaller boats would not be safe on that coast.

But de la Fontaine found the cabin broken and the lading wet, and so it was decided to burn the wreck, which took fire so suddenly and so fiercely that those aboard were hard put to it to get ashore safely.

Meanwhile the wagons laden with goods saved from the wreck went to the house of Jacobus van der Heyden. He had another portion of Vergelegen called "Morgenster". Leibbrandt in his manuscript book No. 24, p.54 (Cape Archives) notes that "Ex-skipper Albert van Soest had saved nearly all the goods and the valuables from the wrecked ship Schonenberg, and placed them on the farm Vergelegen belonging to van der Heyden, who even paid for the wagon loads, but denied any knowledge of the goods or of their removal from his house. ..."The whole family's strong pretended ignorance of the matter" was condemned in a letter to the Council of Seventeen in Holland.

The wrecked sailors of the Schonenberg returned to Holland in the "Herstelde Leeuw" and the "Middewout", but the upper-and under-helmsmen and the skipper had to appear before the Court of Justice to answer for their actions. The helmsmen were eventually acquitted, but the skipper was found guilty of carelessness in handling the vessel and discharged from the service "Met stilstand van gagie" (*with termination of pay*).

**They fond succour in Hottentots Holland,
At the hands of Morkel, This man gave lavishly
To all that sorry company. O Noble Deed!**

That you, O kindly spirit should sustain these pitiful mortals
With food and drink! O God, You manifested Your mercy through him I
Now let it be my privilege, in deep respect,
To sound abroad your name. Let fame honour it
In the stary Courts above, and trumpet it through all eternity!
When Phoenix can so well make known your virtue
How shall my humble muse bring added lustre to your name?
But your richest reward lies with your Creator;
And my desire is rather to call forth joy,
Than to add to your praise.
May Heaven grant you the- day-spring of its joy,
And protect you and your household from all evil.
I pray you may never- undergo disaster or failure,
But throughout your life enjoy happiness,
And departing, dwell forever in God's Heaven.

**But how could I have progressed far in these good words
Without referring to your brother,
Who also experiencing shipwreck,
Remained on the Arion, in danger at sea,
Off the coast of Maxima;
Thus causing great anxiety and sorrow;
For the cries of Man could be heard from that ship,
When suddenly it was swept with spread sails onto a rock,
Where the bow sat fast,
Even as happened with the Greek ships,
In former days bearing the wealth of Troy to Greece;
And the stern, damaged and driven before the wind,
Swung back and forth without cessation.
The wind lashed the waves sky-high
And the people, overcome with terror, endured it all
In misery. Owing to a raging sea,
They saw no land, no ship, no safe anchorage.
And amid their death-shrieks, the vessel parted!
Breaking amidships, O, terrible misfortune!**

Then each strove as served him best
And trusted in God's mercy that he would reach
His own country. After heavy to pests
Through angry seas, and amidst loud peals of thunder,
At length they reached the shore; then struggled on
Suffering hunger and thirst from which there was no respite;
Then coming to Cochin-China, they were derided by Mandarins,
And weighed down by the fear of Death and a thousand torments.
At length liberated, they once again
returned to their native land,
Where by the power of God,
They found help in their need. .

You, therefore, know what mortals can endure at sea.
It is, then, my privilege to express appreciation of your kindness
In feeding these poor shipwrecked sailors.
May your name be praised now and for evermore!
May God feed you hereafter in his Halls of Bliss,
And may you dwell with his saints through all eternity.
Farewell, in deep joy I now remain your servant,

(i) Exodus 23, 18: But God led His people round, by way of the desert.
Ab. van Mommen.

(The Dutch text of the Liefdekrans is in the Appendix).

One can imagine that the shipwrecked sailors must have been almost at the end of their tether, for such deep expressions of gratitude could only have been evoked by people in desperate straits.

Willem Morkel, the surgeon, apparently never married. The two brothers died within a year of each other, Willem in 1734 and Philip on the 12th April, 1735.

From Willem's will it can be seen that, although he himself left no descendants being unmarried, he very materially assisted the only nephew who was also named after him. Willem's will was dated the third of November, 1733, at Onverwacht. He left most of his estate to his nephew Willem:- some bills of credit dated the 24th of July 1711, due in the year 1742, lying at the Court of Holland in the office of the Receiver-General, Mr. van Hogendorp, - to the total value of 7,000 Carolian guilders. The nephew was also to receive 6,000 Cape gulden (guilders) when he came of age (in 1739). The nieces Sophia and Elizabeth were each also to receive 6,000 Cape gulden, and to Philip Wouter de Vos, Elizabeth's son by her first husband, he left 3,000 gulden. These monies had been placed with Philip Morkel, who with his wife and Marthinus Bergh were the executors. Philip's will stated that his wife was to have the usufruct of his estate till the children came of age.

These children were Elisabeth, christened about 1710, who married Wouter de Vos and re-married Johannes Louw, Sophia Margaretha, christened on the first of September, 1715, who married Johannes Albertus Myburgh of Meerlust, and Willem, christened on Christmas day, 1718, who married Sarah van Brakel on the 11th May, 1749, and re-married on the 2nd July, 1759, Helena Catharina Malan, daughter of Daniel Malan and Maria Verdeau.

(Two granddaughters of Elisabeth Morkel and Johannes Louw, Maria Dorothea Louw and Esther Leonora Louw married Philip Morkel's grandson, Daniel Johannes Morkel and great grandson, Willem Morkel, respectively.)

Sophia Margaretha (named after her grand-mother Sophia Schalk van der Merwe and the Aunt Margaretha who had died) thus first connected the Myburgh and Morkel families and there have been many links since.

Johannes Albertus Myburgh owned Meerlust on the Eerste River, that great house built by the wealthy contractor for meat, Henning Huisling, which the defenders of Willem Adriaan van der Stel considered more sumptuous than Vergelegen. After his death it passed into the hands of another rich and important Cape Burgher, Johannes Blankenberg, who died there in 1737 (19), and then to the Myburghs.

Elizabeth's husband, Wouter de Vos was heemraad in 1774, 1782 and 1783, and Captain Lieutenant of the 4th Company of Dragoons in 1791(20). *(This is an error. Elizabeth's husband died in 1731. Heemraad and Captain Luitenant Philip Wouter de Vos was his son).*

Catharina Pasman continued to farm Onverwacht till her death, and so naturally was interested in the Hottentots Holland Kloof - the pass to Overberg (lit. over the mountain) which was the only route to the East, unless one went round by Roodezand, through what is now called the Tulbagh Kloof. Onverwacht lies near the foot of the pass.

On the 20th November, 1747, the Landdrost of Stellenbosch commissioned the Heemraad Daniel Malan to "speak seriously" to the inhabitants and to obtain contributions, according to their use of the Kloof and their means, for the repairing and remaking a road over the Hottentots Holland Kloof. Not much was obtained by Daniel Malan's efforts; only 283 rixdollars, of which he had contributed 20 rixdollars and Catharina Pasman, widow Morkel., 15 rixdollars. Catharina Pasman had a number of loan-farms Overberg; Ezelsjacht (which might be translated Zebra Chase) on the Rivier Sonder End, which was given in ownership to her in 1757, Poespasvlei on the same river, Uitvlugt on the Swart-berg, Botter River, the first farm granted to her on 23.4.1736, but which she left on 6.4.1755. She also had Altena at the top end of the Slange Kloof on this side of the Hottentots Holland till 1752. *(This is a different Altena to the farm I grew up on).*

In 1768 Willem Morkel, having the farms over the Kloof de Donkerhoek, d'Ezelsjacht and de Bokke Rivier, had to pay 4 rixdollars and 8 schellings yearly for the maintenance of the Hottentots Holland Kloof road (2"). He had as well Elberskraal on the Gouritz River (1757 - 1776), which had been vacated by his cousin Philip Wouter de Vos, Weltevreden on the False River (1754 - 1757), and Uitvlugt on the Swarteberg (1753 - 1756). Incidentally Willem's son Philip Hendrik had two very distant loan-farms. In 1787 he had "De Nieuwe Brug" on the

Great Fish River (near Algoa Bay) under the Wagenpadsberg, and "Waterval" situated at Buffelshoek' on the spruit of the little Fish River, for which he had to pay a yearly rent of 16 ducats, or 72 stuivers or 24 rixdollars yearly. These farms were overrun by the Kaffirs during the first British occupation (1795 - 1803), when the Kaffirs penetrated to the western side of Mossel Bay. D.G. van Reenen mentions them as abandoned in his journal of General Janssens' journey to the interior. In 1815 Lord Charles Somerset gave Philip Hendrik's loan-farm to the Moravian Mission at Baviaanskloof (Genadendal). That farm was called Wolvekloof, and in compensation Lord Charles Somerset allocated to him nearby ground twice the area of Wolvekloof (23).

But to return to the road over the Hottentots Holland Kloof; Some small books kept by the toll-keeper of the pass recording wagons, horses and stock coming down the Hottentots Holland Pass have been preserved in the Cape Archives (24) for the years 1799 - 1808 and Morkel names often figure amongst them - Hercules Morkel, D.W. Morkel, P. Morkel, F. Morkel, W. Morkel, J. Morkel, and A. Morkel came down the pass with empty wagons, with loaded wagons, on horseback, even in a cart; or their servants trudged down in charge of sheep or spans of oxen or droves of goats or cattle. The charges were 2 schellings for a cart or an empty wagon, one schelling for a riding-horse, and one rixdollar for two loaded wagons.

Tolls were exacted even in living memory, as Mr. Johnnie Morkel of "De Bos" will tell one. He remembers several in the district and that at night it was a nuisance having to wake the toll-keeper to open the gate. The position of Onverwacht so close to the Pass must have caused its owners often to dispense hospitality to travellers overberg. Lady Ann Barnard mentions spending a night at Onverwacht. The family was from home, but the tutor, of whom she made a drawing which appears in Miss Dorothea Fairbridge's book, attended to all their needs and the next morning lent them a span of oxen to assist them over the pass. In July 1795, the contingent of men from Swellendam hurrying to Cape Town to defend it from the English with their Commandant Delport, stayed at the widow Morkel (25). (*This widow would have been Helena Catharina Malan (1736 - 1825), widow of Philip's son Willem Morkel*). From the top of the pass they must have seen the English vessels anchored off Simons Town, whose arrival had occasioned their coming to the Cape. Delport went on alone to find out how things were at the Cape.

To return to the earlier life of the late husband of the widow mentioned - Willem, son of the first Philip; His first wife was Sarah van Brakel. Both Jacobus van der Heyden of Morgenster and Welmoed, and Barend Gildenhuisen, buyer of that quarter of Vergelegen which had most of the buildings (26) had married van Brakels. After Sarah van Brakel's death, Willem remarried Helena Catharina Malan on the 22nd July, 1759 (27). She, christened 16.3.1736 was the daughter of Daniel Malan of Morgenster, and Maria Verdeau. Her brother Jacobus, son of her father's second wife, Emerentia Steyn, married in 1772 Willem's only surviving child by his first wife Sarah van Brakel, Catharina Morkel, and to Jacobus did Daniel leave "Morgenster" in his will (G.A.M., O.O.C. 7/19).

The Malans, as everyone (*in South Africa*) knows, are of Huguenot descent. Mrs. Kannemeyer in her "Huguenote-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 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". (28)

This resulted in peace for a while, but in 1685 persecution, murder, and fire again harried them. Jaques Malan 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, Jaques 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 (29).

Jaques 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 Geldenhuysen, the widow Gerrit Cloete and Jacobus van der Heiden who had the portion called Morgenster, for which he had paid the highest price. But after van der Heyden's death, Morgenster was owned by Jaques' son, Daniel, who left it to his youngest son, Jacobus (30), who, as has been said, married Willem's daughter Catharina in 1772. Morgenster was later to pass into Morkel hands.

As his father had been, Willem was a heemraad in 1750 and in 1753, and as that is an office defunct for over a century, it may be interesting to quote Petrus Borchardus Borchard's description of its proceedings in 1801 - 1804. This was most likely in the tradition of the early proceedings. Borchard thus describes it:

"On the first Monday of the month, the first official attendant who presented himself to sight at the drostdy was the messenger, dressed in black, with a silver shield blazoned with a lion on a red field, suspended by a chain and hanging on the left side of his breast, preparing the court-room, and afterwards walking on the stoop in front of the drostdy-house. Next arrived the secretary, with his portfolio and papers, attended by one of his clerks, a quarter of an hour before the board attended. The Heemraden followed successively, dressed generally in black, and when assembled with the landdrost, the large village bell beside the Drostdy-house was tolled for some minutes, whilst the national flag was hoisted, and the public assembled in the hall in front of the court-room.

"The Board being assembled, the doors were closed and prayers read by the secretary, and the minutes of the preceding meeting read and confirmed, and signed by all present - the landdrost rang the clear-sounding silver bell, and the large folding doors were thrown open, and litigants and others attracted by business or desiring to communicate with the board on various matters were admitted. The President (*Landdrost?*) used to be seated at the upper end of the table covered with a suitable green cloth, silver inkstands being used; opposite him sat the secretary and on either side of the table sat the heemraden. The business of the day began with civil suits.

"The names of the parties were called in succession by the messenger according to the roll. Each case was distinctly read by the secretary, and then heard; those requiring discussion and consideration were decided with closed doors, but the judgment was pronounced in public. The suits being finished, other matters connected with the general administration of the district were disposed of, the accounts examined, and the landdrost as cashier authorised to pay those passed, and the meeting closed by one or two o'clock. The sittings, I should have mentioned, generally commenced at nine, sometimes at eight o'clock...

"Among the notables elected from time to time as heemraden were the Van der Byls, Cloetes, Meyburghs, de Villiers, du Toits, Marais, Hoffmans; Faures, Herolds, Mosterds, de Waals, Neethlings, Wiums, Morkels and others whose names escape me; they were mostly men of influence and landed property, and of the most respectable families."

Willem Morkel had ten children. The first two named Catharina Adriana died young and the third Catharina married, as has been noted, Jacobus Malan of Morgenster, while the youngest daughter by his second wife, by name Helena Catharina, married Phillipus Albertus Myburgh, a son of the owner of Meerlust of the same name. There are several Morkel-Myburgh connections. Pieter Gerhard Myburgh, who lived at that lovely farm Parel Valley, off the Stellenbosch-Strand road, married a Miss Morkel. Morkels who were transport-riders, after the discovery of diamonds, to Kimberley, married Misses Myburgh. The Theunissens who later owned Vergelegen also married into the Morkel family.

Willem's eldest son, Philip Hendrik, married Johanna Petronella Malan, daughter of Hercules Adriaan Malan, a son of Daniel Malan. Morgenster, where the Daniel Malan family lived, is just over the Schapenberg which forms a boundary of Onverwacht, so that these connections are not surprising.

Willem's will with Helena Malan was dated the nineteenth of January, 1783, and was shown in the Orphan Chamber on the 16th May, 1788, so that his death occurred between those two dates, although it was not entered in the black-covered Deeds Register, now in the Archives, which goes back to about 1757. He left Ezelsjacht on the River Sonder End to Philip Hendrik Morkel, but the stock of his brother Daniel Johannes could run there. To Willem was left Voorburg and Mosterd Baay, and the cost of building a house, wine-cellar, slave-lodge and stable at Voorburg was to come out of the general estate. To Daniel Johannes was left Onverwacht and Zeeman's Rust, and to Hercules Brakkefontem "over't Oliphant's Pad aan't Rivier Sonder End", (*across the elephants path bordering the River-Without-End*) the proviso that Willem's stock could graze there. A slave-girl was left to the daughter Helena Catharina (30).

In 1791 (31) Philip Hendrik Morkel was a Captain Lieutenant, and Willem was a first Lieutenant in the 2nd, Company of Dragoons (*Cavalry*) under the Captain Phillipus Albertus Myburgh, while Daniel Johannes was a sub-lieutenant, positions they still occupied in 1794. In March 1795 (32) Morkel members of the Krygsraad (*Council of War*) of Stellenbosch were Willem Morkel, D.J. Morkel, and P.H. Morkel. They were thus members of the last Stellenbosch Krygsraad ever to function.

When the Cape was captured by the British in 1795, the inhabitants were asked to sign an oath of allegiance, and those who refused were imprisoned in the Castle. Apparently the members of the Stellenbosch Krygsraad did sign the Oath, but they were later required to sign another or to be assumed to have resigned from their offices, Several of the Krygsraad preferred the second alternative. Willem Morkel, however, had signed the Oath. The viewpoint of the others is expressed in a letter written by Phillipus Aibertus Myburgh, sen. :(33)

*At the Farm Meerlust,
13th of October 1797.*

*To R.J. van der Riet, Esq.
Landdrost together with the War Raaden
and Heemraden of the Colony Stellenbosch.*

*Gentlemen,
I have perused with the utmost surprise and found. against my expectation your letter of the 2nd instant together with the further invitation by your messenger by command of His Excellency, the Earl of Macartney, commander-in-chief of the Cape etc. against next Monday the 16th instant. These therefore are to inform you that I thought I had no longer a seat in the combined assembly of Heemraaden and War Raaden because not only I myself but also the whole college of War Raaden, as far as they had no relation to any other college, have unanimously declared that they could not take the officer's Oath, as we have already in the commencement of this British Government taken an Oath in the College of War Raaden for the maintenance of Public peace in the country and as I myself together with the whole college are conscious of having never by any means rendered ourselves guilty of any breach of that oath so that I do not consider a new Oath to be of the least importance as I am persuaded that you nor any person whatever is able to cause the said Oath to take effect in its full Virtue and Value.*

Further you will not be able to deny that when we represented in the present instance to you that we could not take the officer's Oath, the Landdrost has replied to us, that those of the members who were not willing to take the Oath could no longer continue in Office - accordingly not only I myself but also the other members have taken the Common Oath with the other inhabitants and if you have considered yourself not to be authorised to discharge me together with my fellow members from our office, then you ought to have previously reported on the subject to his Lordship and not to have administered to us the common oath - It therefore is evident that the Landdrost and Heemraaden : I speak for myself : discharged me from my office, and so I wish to continue.

And a further proof thereof occurs when it is considered that orders have been sent by the Landdrost and Heemraden to the Veldwachtmeesteren, and that the Veldwachtmeesteren now have been appointed by His Lordship, which appointments have

formerly always been under the direction of the War Raaden who have now received not the least notice the eof; from whence there-fore more evidently follows that we are no longer in that office so that I an confident that as the College Landdrost and Heemraden have for the said reasons discharged me from my office, I can no longer be invited to take seat in the said War Assembly.

And finally it causes me a very great surprise that, in the manner in which they proceeded the Landdrost and Heemraden should still have considered me to have a seat in any college as the War Raad in the country as well as in Gape Town has under the former National Government never been subordinate either to the Burgher Senate or Heemraden but on the contrary have always depended immediately on Government, so that I think that we the War Raaden are of course deprived of our Prerogatives and treated contrary to the 7th Article of the Capitulation in purporting -

"That the inhabitants in this Colony shall continue to preserve their Prerogatives which they at present, enjoy as well as the Present Publick Worship without any alteration".

So that I conceive that the Landdrost and Heemraden assume to do what is not of their province - though you have already taken the Officer's Oath, still you apprehend that His Lordship has intended to send here Dragoons to Quarter, as I am too well persuaded of His Lordship's Powers and Influence than that I should suppose to condemn any person without previously hearing him.

And it also would be too laughable to believe that the Dragoons were already in readiness on the day of Assembly so it could not be known what in the said assembly would take place. This I think enough for information.

*I am with Esteem and Salutation,
Gentlemen,
Your humble servant,
P.A. Myburgh.*

The landdrost sent this letter on to Lord Macartney, and he wrote a note on its margin to the effect that for the protection of the district dragoons would be quartered on those not taking the Oath.

The dragoons were quartered as follows; (34)

10th November - on P.A. Myburgh for him and his son P.A. Myburgh - 22, dragoons.
20th November - P.A. Myburgh Senr. for his son G. Myburgh - 10 dragoons.
The widow Melk for her son-in-law Phil.Hendk. Morkel dwelling with her (probably at Elsenburg) - 10 dragoons.
Daniel Morkel - 10 dragoons
Dirk Cloete - 10 dragoons
J.A. Meyburg - 10 dragoons.

This quartering followed a letter written in the Castle of Good Hope on October 20th, 1797 (35). Lord Macartney was standing no nonsense, and he instructed the landdrost to prepare good and sufficient quarters for forage and maintenance for as many dragoons as the Governor may judge proper to station with the War officers that have refused to take oaths or to serve, "for as their excuses are neither reasonable or admissable it will be but proper that they should maintain the party sent for their own defence".

Lord Macartney's secretary, Andrew Barnard (husband of Lady Anne Barnard) twice went to Stellenbosch to enforce the taking of the oath and had some trouble with the Myburghs of Meerlust.

"On Sunday morning" (November the 11th, 1797), he reported, "I sent to old Mr. Myburgh to come to me to the Drosty in order to enquire of him the reason of his son's absence, and also to desire that he would either send for his other son Gerrit Myburgh and Jurgen Appel who are both at his place at Graaff Reinnet to come up to take the oath of allegiance here or else they might immediately take it in the pre-sence of the Landdrost there, he said that they

should both appear in the course of seven weeks, he said his son Phillipus Myburgh was at Overberg, but engaged that he should come to the Drostry at Twelve o'clock on Monday which I understand he did, and has taken the oath..."

Nevertheless the quartering was proceeded with.

"December 15. His Excellency directed a letter to be written to the Landdrost and Heemraden of Stellenbosch to say that in consequence of the readiness shown by several of the gentlemen composing the Council of War to conform to the orders of Government, His Lordship does not require their monthly attendance unless particularly summoned for the purpose".

Another letter was sent on January 2nd, 1798 to the landdrost of Stellenbosch desiring him to issue orders for assembling the Council of War as soon after the next Saturday as possible,

Sunday, the 7th January 1798 was appointed - Sunday, when the inhabitants would in any case attend church. Then the Stellenbosch Krygsraad met for the last time in history. All the officers, the landdrost, R.J. van der Riet, and Andrew Barnard were present. These officers were;- (36)

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Hendrik Oostwald Laubscher | P.A. Myburgh |
| P.G. van der Byl | Dirk Wouter Hoffman |
| Sam J. Catz | P.H. Morkel |
| Wouter de Vos | Phillipus Willem Wiun |
| Willem Morkel | J. J. Hamman, |
| Rudolph Cloete | P.J. du Toil |
| Dirk Cloete | J.A. Meyburgh Jn. |
| D.J. Morkel | J.G. Faure |
| IP. de Villiers | P. Malan |
| Arend van As | P.A. Myburgh Jn. |
| P. Minnaar | C.J. Hoffman |
| C. Albertyn. | |

"Mr. Barnard went there to be present at the meeting. Every member had taken his place according to the rank he held in that assembly. He had the whole proceedings of it read over to those who had been absent at the last two meetings, in which it evidently appeared that the Landdrost had done his duty in the fullest sense of the word and that the complaints exhibited against him to His Excellency in their Petition were totally void of foundation. After cautioning them against offending a second time, a Government over watchful over their Interests, and one that, although full of Mercy, yet knew likewise how to punish, he broke up the Assembly."

Thus ended the Krygsraad. The quartering of the dragoons was long remembered by the Myburgh family. But Phillipus Albertus was not beaten yet. According to a tradition in the family as recorded by Mrs. Trotter, he made the best of things, overloaded the dragoons with kindness, invited the wife of their officer to come from Cape Town (*the Captain was newly wed*) and stay in the house, and entertained all of to his choicest wines and foods – in fact it became a holiday for the dragoons and the quartering soon degenerated into a farce.

(P.A. Myburgh, son of Johannes Albertus Myburgh and Sophia Margaretha Morkel – daughter of Philip, was a strong-willed person. He had spent years as a big game hunter in the interior exploring deep into the then wild Africa, crossing the Orange River. He did not suffer bureaucracy kindly – apart from playing games with the British, he also wrote a caustic letter about the lack of seating for his wife in the Stellenbosch church.)

In 1803, the Cape was handed back to the Batavian Republic in Holland, and during that rule Hercules Morkel was a veld cornet at Hottentots Holland and Willem, Wz (*Willem's son*) had risen to be a ritmeester. These who had to keep watch at Hottentots Holland "op orde van den gouverneur en chef" (on order of the Governor and Chief) under the Company of the ritmeester Willem Morkel (37) were:

Daniel Morkel, Capt. Lieut.
Phillipus Myburgh, 1st Lieut.
Willem Morkel, Wz, wagtmeester.
Willem Morkel, Jz, wagtmeester.

The Ritmeester Willem Morkel distinguished himself during the time of the Batavian Republic and was highly praised by General Janssens.

General Janssens had been hard put to it to get the Cape into a fair state of defence when he heard of the recurrence of European hostilities in 1804. Most of his regulars had been recalled to Batavia, and he was left with only the resources of the inhabitants and the Waldeck Regiment. So he increased the Hottentot Regiment to the number 600, and encouraged enlisting by the burghers in their various units. These were instructed to be armed and prepared. Among those units were the dragoons of Ritmeesters Morkel and Wium.

The "Kaapsche Courant" dated the 29th October, 1804, states that "The Governor and General-in-Chief accompanied with a part of the general staff made a "tournée" along the Hottentots Holland and Stellenbosch, and on the 19th inspected the company of Burgher cavalry under the Ritmeesters Wium and Morkel. They were pleased at the way those officers carried out their duties. The men were spick and span and appeared much better exercised than one would have thought possible in the time they had been under arms. They were diligent and content, their officers beloved and respected. The Governor and General-in-Chief were entertained to some hospitality by the family of Ritmeester Morkel and had lunch at Stellenbosch with the landdrost in company with the officers."

General Janssens was soon to have an opportunity of still further commending Willem Morkel. But before this, on the 3rd of April 1803, as recorded in D.G. van Reenen's Journal (V.R.S.17 &17) (*?sic*) "We (i.e. Janssens and party) partook of our midday meal at the Eerste River at Philip Myburgh's and spent the night at Willem Morkel's at Hottentots Holland" before proceeding to the land of the Kaffirs to make a treaty with the chief Gaika. He passed on the way many farms abandoned by the colonists during the inroads by the Kaffirs made during the first British occupation. Among these were the Morkel farms on the Fish and Little fish rivers.

To return to Janssens' commendation of Willem Morkel. The "Kaapsche Courant" in its issue of the 9th February had an item of news which said that on the night between the 1st and 2nd February 20 men of the Hottentot Battalion and three corporals had deserted. The cause was not known, but the most guilty was probably the Hottentot corporal Oerson Africaner who had also deserted under the English when he had not been punished. The deserters were very well armed. The mounted Burghers under Linde, Wium, Human and Morkel pursued them and five deserters lost their lives and one was wounded. Two of the burghers, Roux and Swanepoel, were wounded, and Matthias Zaayman of Human's company was killed.

General Janssens was generous in his awards for this action. To the parents of Zaayman were given the use of a loan-farm as long as they lived, and such a farm was also given to Roux and to Swanepoel. The Ritmeesters Willem Wium and Willem Morkel, Linde and Human, were presented with silver beakers. On one side of these beakers was an inscription describing the event and under it the ritmeester's name, while on the reverse side were the letters B.R, standing for Batavian Republic.

The rule of the Batavian Republic came to an end with the capture of the Cape by the English in 1806. After the defeat near Blaauwberg Strand, which was largely caused by the defection of the German mercenary troops of the Waldeck regiment, General Janssens retreated towards Hottentots Holland, and tradition has it that he spent the first night at Meerlust. Here their commanding officer came to apologise for the conduct of the German troops, but Janssens in disgust kicked him down the steps. (38).

It is supposed that the treaty was signed at Brink's Inn at the foot of Hottentot's Holland, but before that General Janssens had said goodbye to his last few faithful supporters, among whom were the Morkels.

In the words of his own despatch (39) :-

"On the 10th January 1806 Cape Town capitulated... Burgher Cavalry Captains Wium, Morkel, and van Reenen whose dwellings were in those districts already occupied, were honourably discharged and sent back to their homes. Their parting was affecting. The burghers shed tears when they took leave of their unfortunate Governor".

References

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|----------|---|
| C.A. | = Cape Archives |
| Stel | = Stellenbosch |
| C.J. | = Court of Justice |
| B.O. | = British Occupation |
| M.O.O.C. | = Master's Office records in the Archives |
| V.C. | = Verbatim Copies |

- (1) C.A.M.O.O.C. 7/7
- (2) Personalia of the Germans at the Cape 1652 -1806 by Dr. J. Hoge
- (3) Personalia of the Germans at the Cape 1652 -1806 by Dr. J. Hoge
- (4) Above and J.L.M. Frnaken in "Die Huisgenoot" of 21.9.1928, p.9
- (5) "Hugenote Familieboek" by A.J. Kannemeyer, p240
- (6) Hoge "Personalia"
- (7) C.A.V.C.40
- (8) Hoge "Personalia"
- (9) C.A.M.O.O.C. 8/2 No.87
- (10) Hoge "Personalia"
- (11) C.A.M.O.O.C 7/2
- (12) C.A. Stel. 13/21
- (13) C.A. Stel. 13/22
- (14) Old Cape Freeholds, Vol1. p474 in Deeds Office.
- (15) C.A. Stel. 13/3 No.2. p.17
- (16) C.A. Stel. 13/23
- (17) C.A. C.J. 327 p. 42
- (18) C.A. C.J. 327
- (19) Hoge "Personalia" p.33
- (20) C.A. Stel. 13/21
- (21) C.A. Stel. 13/27
- (22) C.A. Resolutiën 23.11.1757.
- (23) C.A. G.H. 23/5
- (24) C.A. Stel. 19/141
- (25) C.A. V.C.76 p.47
- (26) Uitgaande Brieven, Leibbrandt, 1710 p126
- (27) De Villiers Geslachtregister.
- (28) "Hugenote Familieboek" by A.J. Kannemeyer, p157
- (29) idem
- (30) C.A.M.O.O.C 7/32 No.68
- (31) C.A. Stel. 13/27
- (32) C.A. Stel. 13/11
- (33) C.A. B.O. 21 p.677
- (34) B.O. 21 P.783
- (35) C.A. B.O. 56
- (36) C.A. Stel. 13/11
- (37) Stel. 13/11
- (38) Mrs. Trotter
- (39) Life of Sir David Baird BY Theodore Hook : Appendix.

Appendix

Text of letter by Philip Morkel 20 November 1722.

Dutch text:

“Ik ondergeschreven bekenne bij deesen dat de huurplaatz van Claudina Lombaar wedw.wijlen David du Buisson, strekkende naast aan mijne land mij niet hinderlijk noch schadelijk is, dieswegen ben well te vreedden dat aan haar dit gemetene lnd magh in eigendom gegeven werden daarom hebb aan deselve dit op haar versoek niet willen weigeren omme sigh daarvan te kunnen bedienen, daar het noodigh sijn sal, en hebbe dit eigenhandigh geteekent in mijne hostede Onverwacht den 20 November 1722. Philip Morkel.”

Translation:

“I, the undersigned state hereby that the loan farm of Claudina Lombaar, widow of the late David du Buisson, lying next to my property, does not bother nor damage me, therefore I am satisfied that the measured land may be given in ownership therefore I will not refuse her request to make use of same, as required, and have I written and signed it by myself in my home Onverwacht on 20 November 1722. Philip Morkel”