

Missing Early Morkels

The first three generations of Morkels at the Cape are so well documented that it came as a surprise to find three new individuals in that category that we have been unaware of. One was Willem Morkel, second child of Stamvader Philip Morkel and his first wife Maria Biebouw. The other two were Johannes Theodorus Morkel and his son, Petrus Johannes Morkel baptised in 1797. These are new discoveries not listed in any Morkel Genealogy, starting with the venerable 1894 *Geslagregister* of C.C. de Villiers.

Willem, the unlisted second son

The Morkel Genealogies¹ list only one daughter, for Stamvader Philip Morkel and Maria Biebouw, Elizabeth, baptised 18 January 1710.

The FamilySearch scan of the early Cape Baptism Register² show that they also had a second son, Willem, baptised 3 July 1712. Baby Willem would have died young and he is not mentioned in any further documents. When Philip had a son with his second wife Catharina Pasma, and gave him the same name Willem, baptised in 1718. Infant mortality was high at the time and it is possible that missing baby Willem succumbed to the small pox epidemic of 1713, that also took his mother Maria Biebouw's life.

The death of a child is always sad but the main changes for us are to list the first Willem in the Genealogy, and to alter the subsequent sibling numbers. Thus b2 was for Willem Morkel ≈³ 1712 who died young, then b3 (not b2) for Catharina Jacoba Morkel ≈ 1 September 1715 and b4 (not b3) for Willem Morkel ≈ 25 December 1718.

Amended Morkel Genealogy (addition and changes in red)

a1 Philip MORTEL *27 Feb 1677 (?) Germany, † 12 Apr 1735 Onverwacht ,
x 25 Mar 1708 Maria BIEBOUW ≈ 2 Mar 1692, † 1713,
b1 Elizabeth MORTEL ≈ 18 Jan 1710, † 1752 Stellenbosch,
x 05 Sep 1728 Wouter DE VOS * 1689 Groll, † 1731 Libertas, Stellenbosch
xx 11 May 1732 Johannes LOUW * 1715, (b1 Elizabeth's 2nd husband)
b2 Willem MORTEL ≈ 3 Jul 1712 Died young
xx 17 Nov 1713 Catharina PASMAN ≈ 17 Aug 1691 Stellenbosch, † 1764 Onverwacht, Hottentots Holland
b3 Sophia Margaretha MORTEL ≈ 1 Sep 1715 Onverwacht, † 1793 Meerlust, Stellenbosch
x 10 Feb 1743 Johannes Albertus MYBURGH * 1719, † 1788 Meerlust
b4 Willem MORTEL ≈ 25 Dec 1718 Onverwacht, † 1788 Onverwacht,
x 11 May 1749 Sara VAN BRAKEL * 1716, † 28 Mar 1759 Onverwacht
xx 22 Jul 1759 Helena Catharina MALAN *1736 Morgenster, Hottentots Holland, † 1825 Stellenbosch

¹ The Morkel Genealogies commenced with C.C. de Villiers, 1894. *Geslagregisters van die ou Kaapse Families*; followed by a rework by Cor Pama; a later update by Franklin Boonzaier published by P.W. Morkel, 1961; and another update S.A. *Genealogies* published 1999 by GISA (Genealogical Society of South Africa).

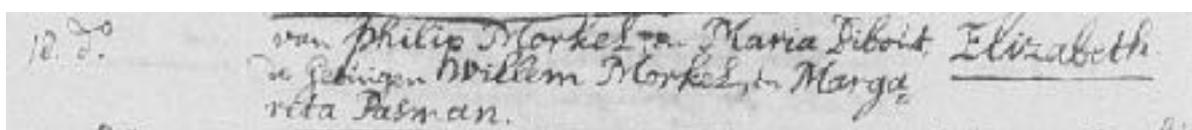
² "South Africa, Dutch Reformed Church Registers (Cape Town Archives), 16601970," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VRL9X7B> : 4 December 2014), Willem Morkel, 03 Jul 1712, Baptism; citing p. , Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, State Archives, Cape Province; FHL microfilm 2,214,107.

³ ≈ is the symbol for baptism

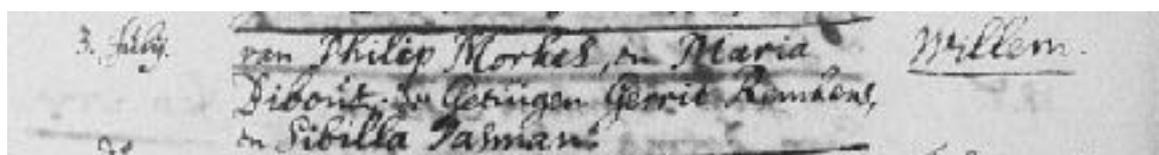
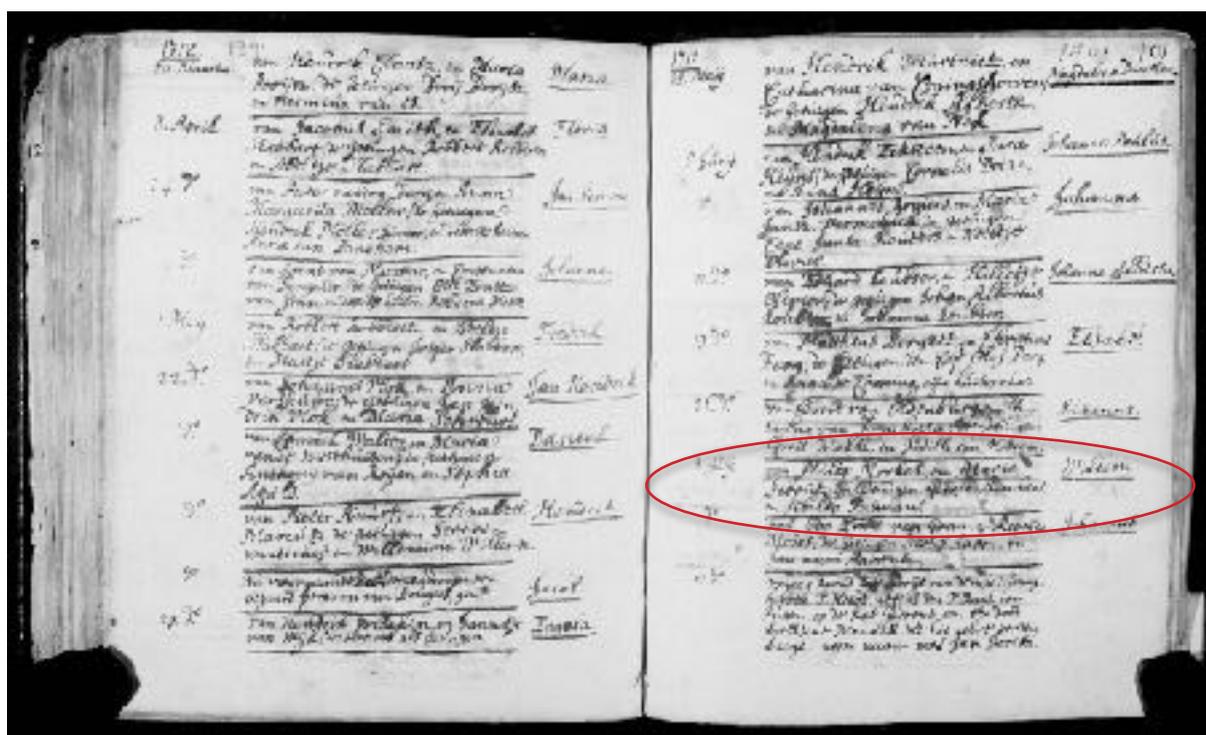
The baptism witnesses.

The registers show two Pasman sisters as baptism witnesses. Margarita (Margaretha) Pasman (oldest of three) for Elizabeth in 1710 and Sibella Pasman (youngest) for Willem's baptism in 1712. Maria Biebow died in 1713 (likely of small pox) and in the same year Philip remarried the middle sister, Catharina. Philip and Maria clearly knew the Pasman family well. Maria Biebow and the Pasman sisters were possibly old friends from childhood. Stellenbosch was a small town and they were the about the same age — there was less than a year between the baptisms of Maria Biebow and Catharina Pasman. This may explain how Philip was able to marry so quickly (with a three year old daughter he needed a wife), when males greatly outnumbered females.

Philip's brother Willem was the other witness to Elizabeth's baptism and his ship would have been at the Cape at that time (he was an *chirurg/opperbarbier*, employed by the VOC).



Baptism entry for Philip and Maria's first daughter, Elizabeth Morkel. 18 January 1710.
Note witnesses Willem Morkel (Philip's brother) and Margarita Pasman.

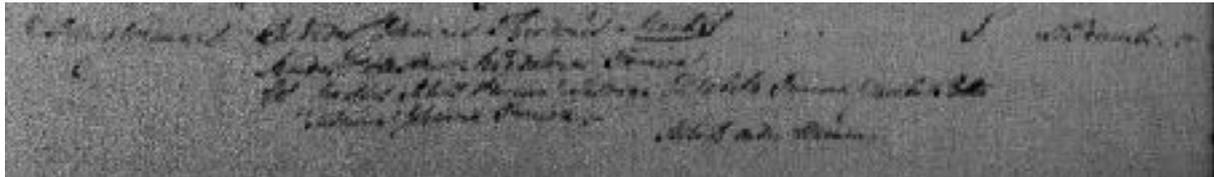


Baptism entry for Philip and Maria's second son, Willem Morkel. 3 July 1712.
Note Sibilla Pasman as witness.

The mysterious Johannes Theodorus MORKEL and his son Petrus Johannes

On 17 December 1797, Johannes Theodorus MORKEL (J.T.M.) and his wife Hester Magdalena FERREIRA, had their son Petrus Johannes MORKEL baptised⁴. According to the register, they lived in Waveren (Tulbagh). They are not listed in the Morkel genealogies.

How do they fit into the Morkel family? Why did Johannes Theodorus live in Waveren, which at that time was about as far away from the Morkel farms in Hottentots Holland as you could get?



Petrus Johannes Morkel	
South Africa, Dutch Reformed Church Registers (Cape Town Archives)	
Name	Petrus Johannes Morkel
Event Type	Baptism
Event Date	17 Dec 1797
Event Place	Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa
Father's Name	Johannes Theodorus Morkel
Mother's Name	Hester Magdalena Ferreira
Parents' Residence Place	Waveren

Baptism of Petrus Johannes MORKEL

The almost illegible register has been transcribed by FamilySearch staff

<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DRH9-188?mode=g&i=30&cc=1478678>

How do they fit into the Morkel family?

If we assume that J.T.M. were between 30 and 20 years old when he and his wife had their son Petrus Johannes baptised in 1797, his (J.T.M.'s) date of birth would then have been between 1767 and 1777.

At that time there was only one Morkel family at the Cape. That of second generation b4 Willem MORKEL (≈ 1718), who would have been between 49 to 59 years old. He could have been the father. If we assume J.T.M.'s d.o.b. as 1777, Willem's two oldest sons should also be considered. Philip Hendrik (≈1760) would have been 17; and his brother Willem (*1761) 16. Even the third son, Daniel Johannes (*1764) cannot be ruled out completely for if the d.o.b. was a year or two later, he (Daniel Johannes) would have been 14 or 15.

If the mother were Willem's wife, H.C. MALAN, then J.T.M. would have been just another son, together with the others. But that is most unlikely as he was not listed in the Morkel Genealogy and was sent to the outskirts of the settlement. Regardless of whether his father were Willem or

⁴ South Africa, Dutch Reformed Church Registers (Cape Town Archives), 1660 - 1970, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1VFTS-SMD>; 4 December 2014). FHL microfilm 2,214, 108

one of his sons, he would have been an embarrassment for the family in the community. Willem was prominent in the community — an elder in the church and a former *Heemraad*. The mother could have been a slave on the farm. If so, she must have been quite special for her son to carry the Morkel surname. It is also possible that the mother was a girl from a neighbouring farm. We do not know. Whether J.T.M. was sent to Waveren when he was an infant with his mother or nurse, or perhaps later as a young man, is unknown, and it remains a mystery. At Waveren he married and had a son, Petrus Johannes MORKEL, baptised in 1797 — also not listed in the Morkel Genealogy.

André Morkel
February 2017