

Naming Traditions

Starting with 3rd generation Daniel Johannes Morkel born in 1764, the names of the first born sons in our family line goes in a steady sequence for nine generations:

- 3rd Daniel Johannes,
- 4th Hendrik Johannes,
- 5th Daniel Johannes,
- 6th Hendrik Johannes Louw,
- 7th Daniel Johannes (my father).
- 8th Hendrik Johannes Theron (my oldest brother),
- 9th Daniel Johannes (my nephew)
- 10th Hendrik Wade (his son)
- 11th Daniel Henri (his grandson)

It reflects a tradition among Afrikaner families to name first born son after his paternal grandfather. And it goes further to include 2nd and 3rd sons.

Naming the Sons

- 1st born son: Paternal grandfather's name
 - 2nd son: Maternal grandfather's name
 - 3rd son: Father's name
- Subsequent sons were often named after uncles and earlier ancestors.

While there was no compulsion, the tradition honoured ancestors and made grandparents happy. I analysed our own family line and found that the traditions were followed very consistently. The only aberration occurred early in the 2nd generation where with Willem the 2nd and 3rd child sequence was reversed. In my own case in the 8th generation, the paternal and maternal grandfathers were both called Daniel and my own name, André passed on to our 2nd son.

Naming the Sons in my Family Line

pg = paternal grandfather, mg = maternal grandfather, f = father

	<i>1st son</i>	<i>2nd son</i>	<i>3rd son</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1st generation	pg			Conform 1 son
2nd generation	pg	f	mg	2 nd & 3 rd reversed
3rd generation	pg	mg	f	Conform
4th generation	pg	mg	f	Conform
5th generation	pg	mg		Conform, 2 sons
6th generation	pg	mg	f	Conform
7th generation	pg	mg	f	Conform
8th generation	pg	f	Other	Conform, pg & mg same

Source: Compiled from P.W. Morkel 1961, and family records.

The naming sequence became complicated with infant mortality. When a child died young, his or her name was often given to a younger sibling. Thus in the 7th generation, my father, although the fourth son, was named after his paternal grandfather because the first born with that name died young. In the table above, the naming was recorded as “conforming”, because the first born was Daniel Johannes.

The tradition helps in unravelling family lines, but can also cause challenges of the same names cropping up repeatedly. In the example above, Willem's second child was also Willem. His first grandchild would now also be Willem, and so on down that line. The longest sequence I encountered in the family genealogy was six generations of Willem Morkel – from the first Willem born in 1718 to

the 6th Willem born in 1874. The last Willem in that line broke the tradition and his first son was Eric. He named his second son Willem but the child died young, so the sequence was broken.

The tradition also created many cousins with the same name. Thus myself and three brothers all named our first son Daniel, i.e. My father's name – resulting in four cousins with the same name. Variations on Daniel were used – Danie, Daniel and Daan and our own Daniel was pronounced in English rather than Afrikaans. In other families with many boys, and living in the same town, the cousins with the same first name would be numerous. When this happened, nicknames became common to tell them apart.

When my oldest brother was born, the sequence suggested Hendrik Johannes Louw Morkel. My mother felt the Louw could now be dropped. My father, in cahoots with my maternal grandmother suggested my mother's surname Theron as middle name. I continued this new tradition and it was also taken up by the sons, Danie and Hennie, of my oldest brother.

Naming the Daughters

For daughters the tradition was:

- 1st born daughter: Maternal grandmother's name
- 2nd daughter: Paternal grandmother's name
- 3rd daughter: Mother's name

Our family line conforms largely to the tradition. As with the boys, 2nd generation Willem and his wife Helena Catharina Malan deviates a bit. As with the boys, infant mortality complicated the patterns.

Naming the Daughters in our Family Line

mg = maternal grandmother, pg = paternal grandmother, m = mother

	<i>1st daughter</i>	<i>1st daughter</i>	<i>1st daughter</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1st generation	mg			Conform. 1 daughter
2nd generation	pg	?	m	Complex
3rd generation	mg			Conform. 1 daughter
4th generation	mg			Conform. 1 daughter
4th generation	mg	pg		2 nd wife Conform
5th generation	-	-	-	No daughters
6th generation	mg	pg	m	Conform
7th generation	-	-	-	No daughters
8th generation	-	-	-	No daughters

Source: Compiled from P.W. Morkel 1961 and various genealogical sources

André T. Morkel

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Sources

Morkel, Philip William 1961. *The Morkels. Family History and Family Tree*. Cape Town. Published Privately. Stellenbosch. Genealogical Institute of South Africa (GISA) *South African Genealogies*.

ANNEXURE

Analysis of Naming Traditions in Our Family Line

Abbreviations: pg: paternal grandfather; mg: maternal grandfather; f: father; u: uncle; d.o.: daughter of.

SONS

Where the first born son died young, later brothers were given the name. Thus my father, as 4th son had his paternal grandfather's name, because the first Daniel son had died.

1st Generation.

Philip Morkel x Catharina Pasman, d.o. Rudolf Pasman x Sophia Schalksz van der Merwe.

1st son – Willem. (Was this perhaps Philip's father's name? – I put conform in the table)

With only one son, the Rudolf name never became part of our family line.

2nd Generation.

Willem Morkel x Helena Catharina Malan, d.o. Daniel Malan x Maria Verdeau.

1st son: Philip Hendrik (pg's name)

2nd son: Willem (f's name)

3rd son: Daniel (mg's name)

4th son: Hercules (wife's maternal grandfather)

3rd Generation.

Daniel Morkel x Maria Dorothea Louw, d.o. Hendrik Louw and Hester Loret

1st son: Willem (pg's name)

2nd son: Hendrik Johannes (mg's name)

3rd son: Daniel Johannes (f's name)

4th son: Willem (There were three earlier Willem sons who died young)

4th Generation.

Hendrik Johannes Morkel x Catharina Jacoba Theunissen, d.o. Marthinus Wilhelmus Theunissen x Sara Catharina Malan

1st son: Daniel Johannes (pg's name)

2nd son: Marthinus Wilhelmus Theunissen (mg's name plus surname)

3rd son: Hendrik Johannes Louw (f's name plus f's mg's surname as well)

4th son: Marthinus Wilhelmus Dirk Theunissen (mg's name – the first MWT died young)

5th son: Willem Pieter (any of many Willem relations)

5th Generation.

Daniel Johannes Morkel x Emmerentia Elizabeth Malan, d.o. Daniel Jacobus Malan x Alida Brink

1st son: Hendrik Johannes Louw (pg's name)

2nd son: Daniel Jacobus (mg's name)

3rd son: Hendrik Johannes Louw (pg's name – the first HJL died young)

6th Generation.

Hendrik Johannes Louw Morkel x Helena Catharina Philippina Mijburgh d.o. Johannes Albertus Mijburgh x Esther Leonora van Breda

1st son: Daniel Johannes (pg's name)

2nd son: Johannes Albertus (mg's name)

3rd son: Hendrik Johannes Louw (f's name) Died at 16yrs.

4th son: Daniel Johannes, my father (pg's name – the first DJ died young)

7th Generation.

Daniel Johannes Morkel x Catharina Elizabeth Theron d.o. Charl David Theron x Frida Magdalena Stahl

1st son: Hendrik Johannes Theron (pg's name + m's surname)

2nd son: Charl Theron Morkel (mg's name + m's surname)

3rd son: Daniel Theron Morkel (f's name + m's surname)

4th son: André Theron Morkel (u's name – my Mother's oldest brother + m's surname).

When my father wanted to call their first son Hendrik Johannes Louw Morkel, my mother argued that the Louw name went back too far. He then suggested using her surname Theron as middle name. I continued with this tradition in naming our own children. All four of us named our first son Daniel.

8th Generation.

André Theron Morkel x Barbara Elise Retief, d.o. Daniel Pieter Johannes Retief x Else-Marie Grinke

1st son: Daniel Retief Morkel (pg's and mg's names + m's surname)

2nd son: André Retief Morkel (f's name + m's surname)

3rd son: Philip Retief Morkel (after 1st Morkel in South Africa + m's surname)

4th son: Charl Retief Morkel (f's mg name and also u's name + m's surname)

DAUGHTERS

Abbreviations: pg: paternal grandmother, mg: maternal grandmother, m: mother, a: aunt.

1st Generation.

Philip Morkel x Catharina Pasman d.o. Rudolf Pasman x Sophia Schalksz van der Merwe.

1st daughter – Sophia Margaretha (mg's name)

2nd Generation.

Willem Morkel x Helena Catharina Malan, d.o. Daniel Malan x Maria Verdeau.

1^{st, 2nd & 3rd} daughters: Catharina Adriana (pg's name) First two died young.

4th & 5th daughter : Maria Elizabeth & Maria Sophia (name ?) Died young

6th daughter: Helena Catharina (m's name)

3rd Generation.

Daniel Morkel x Maria Dorothea Louw, d.o. Hendrik Louw and Hester Loret

1st daughter: Hester Anna (mg's name)

4th Generation – 1st Marriage

Hendrik Johannes Morkel x Catharina Jacoba Theunissen, d.o. Marthinus Wilhelmus Theunissen x Sara Catharina Malan

1st daughter: Sara Catharina (mg's name)

4th Generation - 2nd Marriage

Hendrik Johannes Morkel xx Esther Elizabeth Morkel, d.o. Willem Morkel Esther Leonora Louw

1st & 3rd daughter: Esther Leonora Louw (mg's name, including surname) First ELL died young.

2nd & 4th daughter: Maria Dorothea Louw (pg's name plus surname) First MDL died young.

5th Generation.

Daniel Johannes Morkel x Emmerentia Elizabeth Malan, d.o. Daniel Jacobus Malan x Alida Brink

No daughters.

6th Generation.

Hendrik Johannes Louw Morkel x Helena Catharina Philippina Mijburgh d.o. Johannes Albertus

Mijburgh x Esther Leonora van Breda

1st daughter: Esther Leonora (mg's name)

2nd daughter: Emmerentia Elizabeth (pg's name)

3rd daughter: Helena Catharina (m's name)

4th daughter: Alida (f's mg's name)

5th & 6th daughter: Maria Dorothea Louw (f's ggm's name) First MDL died young.

7th daughter: Sophia Margaretha (Catharina Pasman's mother's name?)

7th Generation. Daniel Johannes Morkel x Catharina Elizabeth Theron d.o. Charl David Theron x Frida Magdalena Stahl

No daughters.

8th Generation.

André Theron Morkel x Barbara Elise Retief, d.o. Daniel Pieter Johannes Retief x Else-Marie Grienke

No daughters.