

# Retief Pt.2

Part 1 covered the first five generations of the Retief Family at *Welvanpas*. Our line now continues with Johannes who moved to Transvaal and his family.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Gen. Johannes RETIEF 1866 – 1942**

Johannes was the third son of Lang Daantjie Retief and Bettie Brink at *Welvanpas*. As child he went to the local school in Wellington and then to SACS (South African College School) in Cape Town. He was neat, somewhat of a perfectionist and an excellent chess player. He joined his brothers moving to the Transvaal goldfields and was the only one to stay in the Transvaal all his life. The search for gold was unsuccessful.

Barbara's brother, Hans (Johannes) RETIEF writes about this grandfather:

*Johannes joined the civil service of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek in the head office of the Customs Department. During the tariff war with the Cape Colonial government and the closing of the drifts in the Vaal River, Johannes attracted the attention of his superiors in the way he executed his duties at Viljoensdrift. In 1896 he was promoted to the position of inspector of government departments. He occupied this position until 1899 when the Second War of Independence (the Anglo Boer War) was declared.*



**Johannes RETIEF. On Commando during the Anglo Boer War. (1, p203)**

The Anglo Boer War was naked British imperialism driven largely by a desire to control the wealth of the gold mines in Transvaal. Johannes and Jakoos joined the Pretoria Commando, which proceeded to the Natal front to counter British soldiers massed on the border, ready for invasion. The brothers were present at battles at Dundee and Ladysmith (Natal) and Spioenkop. During a wet summer in Natal Johannes became very ill and had to return to Pretoria to recuperate. During 1900 the British gained superiority in Mafeking and Ladysmith, annexed the Orange Free State and occupied Johannesburg. Jakoos was in the Johannesburg area, which was in chaos. He sat desolately on a mine dump one day when a few English soldiers came by. He captured them but did not know what to do with them. He disarmed them, took their shoes and quoted some fitting verses of Shakespeare before letting them go.

The Boers withdrew from Johannesburg and Pretoria and began a desperate period of guerilla warfare. Both brothers were taken prisoner. Jakoos was billeted at *Welvanpas* under restrictive orders of martial law while Johannes, still recuperating spent the remainder of the war in Pretoria. His fiancé Elise Walder, stayed with her family in the Paarl. It was a difficult time for her, as she had no news from him during the war. After the war in 1902 they married and remained in the Transvaal. Johannes refused an offer of a position in the Colonial Service and, until 1910 when the Union of South Africa was formed, he was a partner in a real estate firm Retief and Falter. After the Union of South Africa was formed in 1910, he joined the Department of Agriculture as Director of Co-operative Unions and became head of the Department after five years. He always kept close bonds with the family at *Welvanpas*.



**Jacobus and Johannes Retief (1, p177)**

The oldest brother Dan who farmed at *Welvanpas* was a leader in the community, a member of the Cape Parliament from 1908 to 1910 and after Union, he was on the Executive Committee (Senate) of the Cape Provincial Council. From 1929 to 1940 he served in the national Senate. He was one of the driving forces and a founding Director of the K.W.V. (Wine Farmers Cooperative). Johannes used his experience to write the constitution. The K.W.V. was particularly successful in improving the quality of Cape wines, developing export markets and improving the economics for wine farming.

Johannes continued to live in Pretoria. After his wife Elise Walder died in 1934, his daughter Elise kept house for him. She was very musical and he accompanied

her while she studied music in Germany and in London. He never lost his love for chess and could play

blindfold. During his stay in Germany he was so good that he represented Germany at chess. The face for the Piet Retief statue at the *Voortrekker Monument* was reputedly based on his face. He died in Pretoria on 18 April 1942 at the age of 76.



**Johannes and Elise (née Walder) Retief, with children Elise and Dan (DPJ)**



**Elise Retief (née Walder and children Elise and Dan (DPJ)**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Gen. Daniel Pieter Johannes RETIEF 1904 – 1985**

Dan grew up in Pretoria with his sister Elise who was 7 years younger. He attended Pretoria Boys High School and spent some time at *Welvanpas* recovering from a bout of Malaria (Pretoria in those days still had outbreaks of the disease). At *Welvanpas* he connected with his cousins on the farm with whom he kept a close relationship all his life. He went on to the University of Cape Town where he completed degrees in arts and engineering. As an electrical engineer (at that stage a new discipline) he spent two years in Berlin with the German giant firm Siemens as trainee engineer. On his return he joined the Department of Post and Telegraphs as engineer for the telephone service.



**Dan and Elschen Retief and children.**

**Elschen, Pieter, Daniel, Gisela, Johannes, Ingrid, Barbara, Annelie and Dan snr.**



**Daniel Pieter Johannes Retief**

He was in Berlin in 1930, at the beginning of the great depression. South African students at that time gathered on Sunday afternoons for tea at the home of Georg Herman GRIENKE, a German consular official who was married to South African Anna Hildegonda HOFMEYER. Here he met their daughter Else-Marie (Elschen) GRIENKE. He returned to South Africa and soon afterwards Elschen followed and they were married in 1932. The marriage reception was in the historic Hofmeyer home Evergreen in Oranjezicht, Cape Town (later part of *Jan van Riebeeck Hoërskool*).

Dan's job took him to various locations in Johannesburg and Pretoria (and even Cape Town) as indicated by the towns where their seven

children were born – Annelie in Pretoria, Barbara in Bantry Bay, Cape Town, Ingrid in Pretoria, Johannes in Boksburg, and Gisela, Daniel and Pieter in Pretoria. The children started with German as home language, learning English and Afrikaans as they progressed in school and grew up in the community. A mixture of the three languages was common in the household.

When they settled in Pretoria they had homes designed by a German architect with advanced European style (Bauhaus) features, located in good suburbs of the city. Their first Pretoria home, built in 1945 immediately after the War, was perched high on the ridge of Waterkloof and was very special but Elschen unfortunately fell down the stairs holding on to a baby and seriously hurt her back. She suffered from back pain most of her life. Thereafter they had a single story house built lower down the hill and finally a new home in Lynnwood, which was then a new suburb.



**Dan and Elschen Retief retired at Knysna September 1985**

microwave network for South Africa, which made long distance dialling possible. He was also responsible for installation of an undersea coaxial cable from Cape Town to Portugal which made direct dialling to Europe and the rest of the world possible. Barbara and I attended a function where he introduced and demonstrated the system, dialling a fellow engineer in England.

As a senior engineer in Post and Telegraphs Dan was involved together with Dr. Boyce with pioneering research on the effects of lightning on telephone systems. He was also involved in recruiting engineers from overseas and made a journey with some danger to England during war-time in 1942 where he experienced a bomb raid on the city. His return journey in military aircraft had to take special routes to avoid attacks from enemy aircraft.

After the war his work took him regularly overseas and on occasion the family went along. Elschen had a sister in Switzerland and a sister-in-law in Austria.

Dan became the Deputy Postmaster General and chief engineer for Telephones. In current terms he was the CEO of Telecommunications

for the country - a major responsibility. He oversaw the installation of the

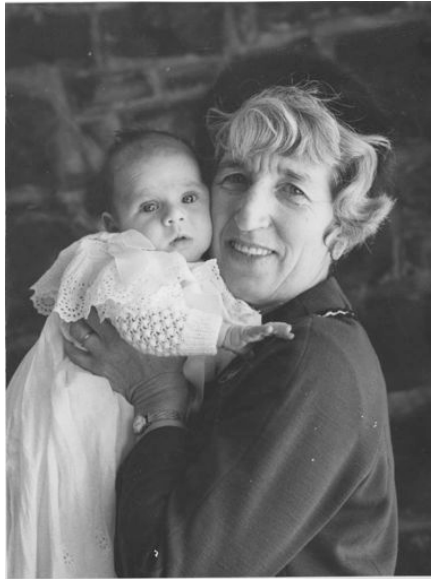


Elschen brought a strong European flavour to the family, at a time when South Africa (as was Australia in those days) was far away from the world. Any overseas orientation in those days were predominantly towards England. During and after World War II, Elschen experienced anti-German attitudes particularly from the English in South Africa. Before she came to South Africa she had studied modern dance with world-renowned exponents of this art form in Germany. When the children were old enough not to demand constant attention, she ran classes in modern dance for many years. She had views on health, diet and exercise considerably in advance of her time.

Dan and Elschen retired on Leisure Island, a resort suburb of Knysna in a beautiful part of the country on the Garden Route. Part of our children's childhood memories were vacations on Leisure Island both before we moved to Australia as well as several visits thereafter.



**The Retief tribe on Christmas 1971. In South Africa we were part of two extended families. In Perth our children missed their grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles. Joining us are Aunt Magda Retief from *Welvanpas*, and her daughter Ydie-Ann with her husband Robbie Raath and two children. More grandchildren arrived in the years following our photo.**



**Ouma Elschen with Philip for his baptism. 1969.**



**Ouma Elschen loved her grandchildren**



**Georg and Annie (née Hofmeyer) Grienke**

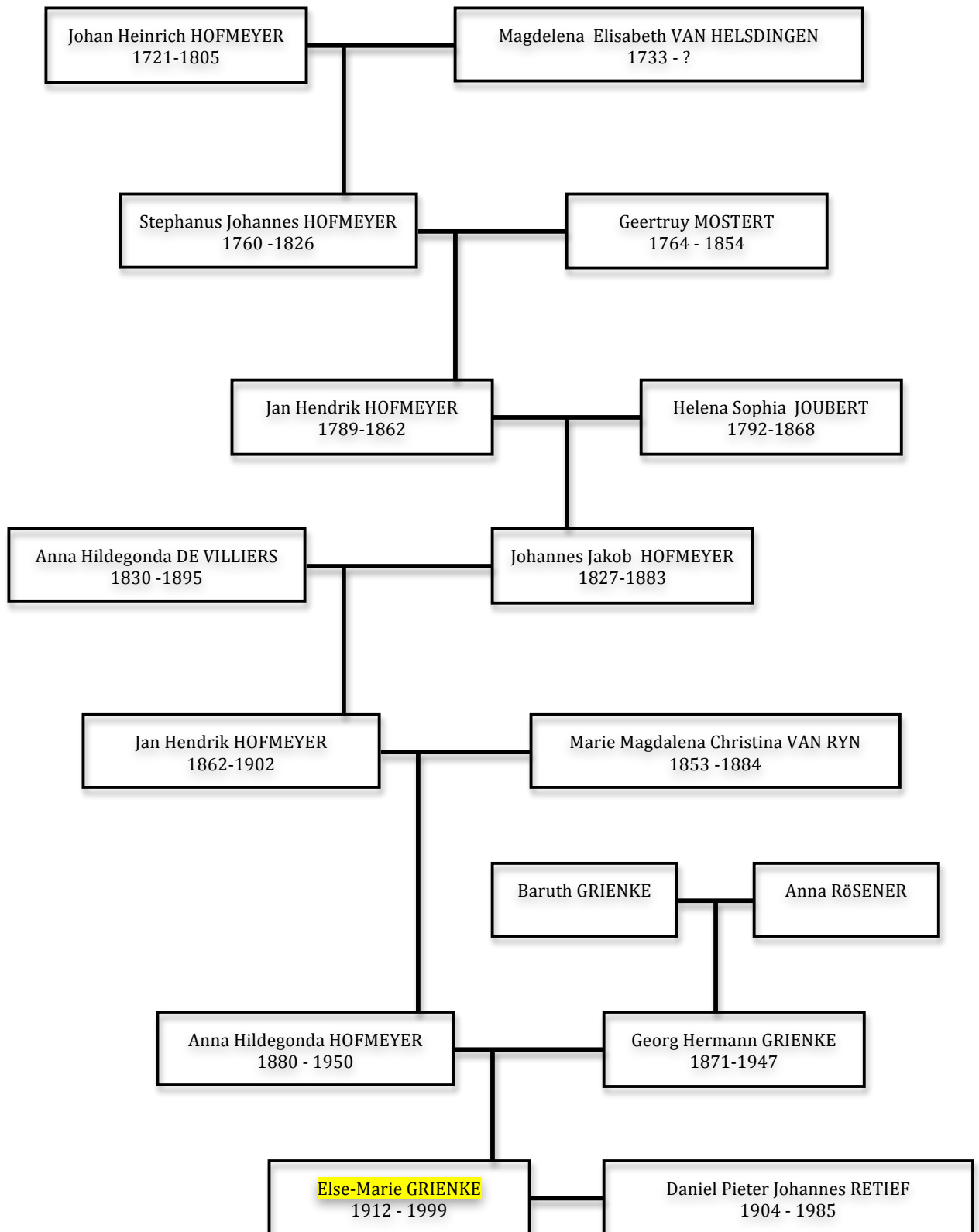


**Annie Hofmeyer in Paris before her wedding**



**Georg Hermann Grienke in uniform**





**Family-line for Else-Marie GRIENKE (7)**

## Retief Family Line (1,2,5,7)

The first four generations are from a reconstruction of the Retif family in France following research by Charl and Valy (2):

Gen A ca 1570 –1600: Paul RETIF x Marie LEBRETEZ  
Gen B ca 1600 – 1620: Pierre RETIF x Rachel GAULLIST  
Gen C ca 1620 – 1650: Jaques RETIF \* 1631  
Gen D ca 1650 – 1680: Francois RETIF \* 2.2.1663

**a1 Francois RETIF \*2.2.1663, Mer, Loire, France † 23.9.1721 Franschoek, Cape x 2.5.1700 Maria MOUY \*15.5.1685, Calais, France † 21.9.1758 Franschoek, d.o. Pierre MOUY †1735**

b1 Maria \*16.5.1702 x 10.4.1729 Pieter ROUSSEAU – 11 children

b2 Anna \* 29.10.1704 x Pieter HUGO – 8 children

b3 Jacques \* 16.10.1706 - unmarried

**b4 Francois RETIEF \* 7.4.1708 † ca 1789 x Anna MARAIS † 24.5.1774**

b5 Pierre \* ca 1712 died in infancy

b6 Paulus \* 27.5.1714 † ? x 19.2.1743 Dorothea MELIUS ~ 22.8.1717

b7 Pierre \*13.12.1716 † 7.6.1800 unmarried

b8 Hester \* 1.2.1719 † 15.4.1805 x Jacques MARAIS 12.7.1709 † 6.6.1751

b9 Magdalena \*20.11.1720 † 10.4.1817 x 29.1.1747 Tielman ROOS \*22.1.1728 † 28.8.1780

**b4 Francois RETIEF \*7.4.1708 *Pattatskloof* † ca 1789 Wamakersvlei, Cape x Anna MARAIS \*ca 1722 † 24.5.1774, d.o. Daniel MARAIS x Aletta ROSSOUW**

c1 Francois \* 1.1.1743 † 10.6.1807 x 10.2.1765 Margaretha JOUBERT \*1.3.1748 † 23.10.1821

c2 Anna Aletta \*18.7.1744 † 18.4.1795 x 5.9.1762 Jacobus Johannes MALAN

c3 Daniel ~ 5.6.1746 †? X 17.4.1768 Hester MARAIS \*20.3.1746 † 22.1.1798

c4 Maria ~ 19.5.1748 † 16.4.1813 x 31.5.1767 Francois DU TOIT ~23.8.1744

c5 Jacobus ~ 21.12.1749 died in infancy

c6 Petrus ~ 7.11.1751 † 4.2.1813 x 27.4.1783 Maria Elizabeth REDELINGHUYNS ~ 15.12.1765 † 27.9.1829

**c7 Jacobus RETIEF ~ 7.9.1754 , † 12.5.1821, *Soetendal*, Cape x Deborah JOUBERT † 9.6.1814, d.o. Pieter JOUBERT x Martha DU TOIT 1729 – ca 1771, xx July 1815**

Johanna Petronella VAN BLERK ~ 5.6.1774

c8 Paul \*ca 1757 died in infancy.

**c7 Jacobus RETIEF ~ 7.9.1754 , † 12.5.1821, *Soetendal*, Wamakersvlei, Cape x 1.11.1772 Deborah JOUBERT ~4.5.1749 † 9.6.1814, d.o. Pieter JOUBERT x Martha DU TOIT 1729 – abt 1771, xx July 1815 Johanna Petronella VAN BLERK ~ 5.6.1774**

d1 Francois ~17.10.1773 † 1838 in Natal x 30.11.1794 Martha Elizabeth JOUBERT ~ 28.4.1776 xx 24.8.1817 Martha Maria MARITZ

d2 Martha Elizabeth ~ 18.6.1775 died very young

d3 Anna Aletta ~ 19.1.1777 x 12.5.1793 Daniel Gerhardus MALAN

**d4 Pieter \*12.11.1780 † 6.2.1838 Voortrekker Leader** died in Natal x 4.7.1814 in Graaff Reinet with Magdalena Johanna DE WET, widow GREYLING

d5 Debora ~ 13.5.1781 x 16.12.1798 Joachim Christoffel ESTERHUYZEN ~ 1.10.1768

d6 Martha Elizabeth ~20.7.1783 x 31.8.1800 in Cape Town with David Carel HAUPTFLEISCH ~ 23.11.1777 xx 7.4.1810 in Stellenbosch with Charl Wynand DU PLESSIS

d7 Jacobus ~ 10.7.1785 (Koos Pines) x 6.8.1809 at Stellenbosch with Maria Margaretha HUGO

d8 Margaretha Louisa ~ 15.7.1787 † 21.4.1884 x 1.6.1811 at Stellenbosch with Gideon Johannes JOUBERT \*ca 1782 † 21.4.1851

**d9 Daniel \*7.6.1789 †8.12.1840 x at Stellenbosch with Jacoba Cornelia VAN WIELLIGH \*26.6.1806 † 18.4.1879**

d10 Gideon ~ 25.5.1795 † 15.5.1856 x Stellenbosch with Helena Johanna HAUPTFLIESCH ~10.5.1801 † 12.5.1848

d11 Anna Elizabeth \*ca 1797

d12 Johannes Jacobus 816.7.1818 from the second marriage x 29.12.1838 in Paarl with Debora Susanna ROUSSOUW

**d9 Daniel RETIEF \* 7.6.1789, Welvanpas, Wamakersvlei † 8.12.1841 x Jacoba Cornelia VAN WIELLIGH \*26.6.1804 † 18.4.1879 d.o. Nicolaas VON WIELLIGH x Elisabeth DE WAAL.**

e1 Elizabeth Clasina Aletta \* 28.2.1826 (Tant Betta) x her cousin Gabriel Andreas RETIEF \* 5.12.1823 s.o. Gideon RETIEF x Helena Johanna HAUPTFLEISCH

e2 Jacobus Daniel \*29.5.1828 † 23.5.1866 x 2.9.1851 in Wellington with Maria Helena Johanna DE VILLIERS

e3 Debora Johanna \* 26.7.1830 died in infancy

e4 Jacoba Cornelia Emmerentia \*25.2.1832 † 14.7.1876 x ca 1850 Jacob Stephanus VAN DER SPUY

e5 Nicolaas von Wielligh \*26.6.1835 died in infancy

**e6 Daniel Pieter Johannes RETIEF (Lang Daantjie) \* 27.8.1837 Welvanpas † 15.6.1895 x Elizabeth Maria BRINK \* 17.7.1841 † 5.10.1901 d.o. Johannes Mattheus BRINK x Elizabeth Maria DE VOS**

**e6 Daniel Pieter Johannes RETIEF (Lang Daantjie) \* 27.8.1837 Welvanpas † 15.6.1895 x Elizabeth Maria BRINK \* 17.7.1841 † 5.10.1901 d.o. Johannes Mattheus BRINK x Elizabeth Maria DE VOS**

f1 Daniel \*21.3.1861 † 20.5.1944 x 9.10.1895 in Wellington Anne Maria COATON \*19.12.1869 † 25.3.1935

f2 Johanna \*17.7.1862 died young

f3 Jacobus (Jakoos) \* 15.3.1864 † 4.8.1932 unmarried

**f4 Johannes RETIEF \*16.6.1866 Welvanpas † 18.4.1942 Bloemfontein O.F.S. x Elise WALDER \* 15.6.1870 Zürich, Switzerland † 4.2.1934 Pretoria Transvaal**

f5 Wouter \*30.5.1868 died at ca 11 years of age

f6 Nicolaas \*19.7.1869 died young

f7 Elizabeth Maria (Aunt Lizzie) \*30.1.1879 † 195? X 21.7.1871 Paul ROUX of *De Hoop* Drakenstein \*21.7.1871

f8 Gabriel \*14.8.1877 died young

f9 Jacoba Cornelia (Aunt Jacoba) \*1.4.1795 – 195? X ca 1902 Johannes LOUW of *Rooshoek*.

**f4 Johannes RETIEF \*16.6.1866 Welvanpas † 18.4.1942 Bloemfontein O.F.S. x Elise WALDER \* 15.6.1870 Zürich, Switzerland † 4.2.1934 Pretoria Transvaal d.o. Jakob Ferdinand WALDER x Annalie REGER.**

**g1 Daniel Pieter Johannes RETIEF \* 5.11.1904 Pretoria † 27.10.1985 x Else-Marie GRIENKE \*22.8.1912 Florianopolis, Brazil † 7.10.1999, Cape Town**

g2 Elize \* 5.5.1911 † 17.2.1960 x 21.4.1943 George Frederik JANSE VAN RESNBURG \* 5.9.1905

**g1 Daniel Pieter Johannes RETIEF \* 5.11.1904 Pretoria † 27.10.1985 x Else-Marie GRIENKE \*22.8.1912 Florianopolis, Brazil † 7.10.1999, Cape Town d.o. Georg Hermann GRIENKE 1871 – 1947 x Anna Hildegonda HOFMEYER 1880 - 1950**

h1 Annelie \*1.10.1933 x 15.12.1955 Francois Rossouw MARITZ \* 12.9.1932

**h2 Barbara Elise \*25.9.1936 x 25.5.1963 x André Theron MORKEL \* 11.9.1932**

h3 Ingrid Suzanne \*18.9.1939

h4 Johannes \* 2.3.1942 x 28.2.1970 Loula Aletta DREYER \* 22.9.1945

h5 Gisela Marion \* 11.1.1943 x 18.1.1965 Pieter Renier ROBINSON \* 8.7.1943

h6 George Daniel \*30.9.1945 † 26.11.1961

h7 Pieter Francois \*12.8.1947

## Sources and Notes:

1. Helene Retief Lombard, 2008. *The Chronicles of Krakeelhoek*. Published privately. It can be obtained as a CD from *Die Genealogiese Vereniging van Suid-Afrika*
2. Charl Retief Morkel and Valerie Graff. 2002. *Searching for Francois Retief*. This website.
3. 1 morgen = 0.856 hectare. 1 hectare = 100m x 100m
4. C.De Bosdari, 1953. *Cape Dutch Houses and Farms*. Balkema. Cape Town. p14: "... the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century forms a clear-cut dividing line between two gable-styles, and how an older style, the florid, perhaps Dutch in its origin but certainly a product of the Cape alone in its development, then reaches its zenith and abruptly, without any lengthy period of decadence intervening, is supplanted by a newer style, the neo- classical, whose hallmarks are European but no wise specifically Dutch".
5. Dr. P.J. Retief, 1971. *Die Retief-familie in Suid-Afrika*. Family Genealogy published privately.
6. Retief Family photos and memories
7. Johannes Retief *Retief Familie Kwartierstate*

[http://husky1.stmarys.ca/~wmills/retief\\_manifesto.html](http://husky1.stmarys.ca/~wmills/retief_manifesto.html)

## Piet Retief's Manifesto

*Piet Retief was leader of one of the treks (like a wagon train in the United States) which became part of the Great Trek. He was fairly well-to-do and better educated than many of the participants. Just as his trek was preparing to leave, Retief sent a letter to the **Grahamstown Journal**. It was translated and printed in that newspaper as follows:*

Numerous reports having been circulated throughout the colony, evidently with the intention of exciting in the minds of our countrymen of prejudice against those who have resolved to emigrate from a colony where they have experienced, for so many years past, a series of the most vexatious and severe losses; and, as we desire to stand high in the estimation of our brethren, and are anxious that they and the world at large should believe us incapable of severing that sacred tie which binds a Christian to his native soil, without the most sufficient reasons, we are induced to record the following summary of our motives for taking so important a step, and also our intentions respecting our proceedings towards the native tribes which we many meet with beyond the boundary:

1. We despair of saving the colony from those evils which threaten it by the turbulent and dishonest conduct of vagrants, who are allowed to infest the country in every part; nor do we see any prospect of peace or happiness for our children in any country thus distracted by internal commotions.

2. We complain of the severe losses which we have been forced to sustain by the emancipation of our slaves, and the vexatious laws which have been enacted respecting them.

*(Author's note: This clause has been used to portray the Trekkers as leaving the Colony because they wanted to persist with slavery. This is clearly refuted by clause 5 where he clearly states that no one shall be held in a state of slavery. Retief refers to the method of compensation – severely reduced and to be collected in person in London, requiring an expensive journey of many months (or the use of expensive agents). Many farmers were thrust into financial penury. Retief could have left this out for most of the border farmers did not own slaves – the slave owners were mostly on the farms of the Western Cape. The real grievances far outweighed the compensation for emancipation of slaves. It was convenient for the British to show once again how bad the Boers were – the point Retief makes under clause 4 – and the mud has stuck even to this day.)*

3. We complain of the continual system of plunder which we have ever endured from the Caffres and other coloured classes, and particularly by the last invasion of the colony, which has desolated the frontier districts and ruined most of the inhabitants.

4. We complain of the unjustifiable odium which has been cast upon us by interested and dishonest persons, under the cloak of religion, whose testimony is believed in England, to the exclusion of all evidence in our favour; and we can foresee, as the result of this prejudice, nothing but the total ruin of the country.

5. We are resolved, wherever we go, that we will uphold the just principles of liberty; but, whilst we will take care that no one shall be held in a state of slavery, it is our determination to maintain such regulations as may suppress crime, and preserve proper relations between master and servant.

6. We solemnly declare that we quit this colony with a desire to lead a more quiet life than we have heretofore done. We will not molest any people, nor deprive them of the smallest property; but, if attacked, we shall consider ourselves fully justified in defending our persons and effects, to the utmost of our ability, against every enemy.

7. We make known, that when we shall have framed a code of laws for our future guidance, copies shall be forwarded to the colony for general information; but we take this opportunity of stating, that it is our firm resolve to make provision for the summary punishment of any traitors who may be found amongst us.

8. We propose, in the course of our journey, and on arriving at the country in which we shall permanently reside, to make known to the native tribes our intentions, and our desire to live in peace and friendly intercourse with them.

9. We quit this colony under the full assurance that the English Government has nothing more to require of us, and will allow us to govern ourselves without its interference in future.

10. We are now quitting the fruitful land of our birth, in which we have suffered enormous losses and continual vexation, and are entering a wild and dangerous territory; but we go with a firm reliance on an all-seeing, just, and merciful Being, whom it will be our endeavour to fear and humbly to obey.

By authority of the farmers who have quitted the Colony.

(signed) P. Retief