

# Retief Pt 2

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

Johannes was the third son of Lang Daantjie Retief and Bettie Brink. 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 Offices. He occupied this position until 1899 when the Second War of Independence (the Anglo Boer War) was declared.*



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. They 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, Ladysmith and annexed the Orange Free State and occupied Johannesburg. Jakoos was in the 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.

**Johannes Retief. Om Commando during the Anglo Boer War. (1, p203)**

The Boers withdrew from Johannesburg and Pretoria and began a desperate period of guerilla warfare. Both brothers were taken prisoner. Jakoos was on parole at *Welvanpas* under restrictive orders of martial law while Johannes, still recuperating spent the remainder of the war in Pretoria. His fiancée 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 Union he joined the Department of Agriculture as Auditor of Co-operative Societies and became head of the Co-operative Division with the title of Registrar after five years. He always kept close bonds with the family on *Welvanpas*.

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 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 75.

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

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

Danie 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 the humanities and engineering. As an electrical engineer he spent two years in Berlin with the German Giant firm Siemens as trainee engineer. On his return after four months at Siemens he joined the Engineering Branch of the Post Office as assistant engineer for the telephone service.



**Elise Retief (née Walder) and children Elise and Danie (Daniel Pieter Johannes)**

*Retief family photo*



**Johannes and Elise (née Walder) Retief with children Elise and Danie (DPJ).**

*Retief family photo*

Danie 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 Hermann Grienke a German consular official who was married to South African Anna Hildegonda Hofmeyr. 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 Hofmeyr home Evergreen in Gardens, Cape Town (later part of *Jan van Riebeeck Hoërskool*).



**Danie and Elschen Retief and children.**  
**Elschen, Pieter, Daniel, Gisela, Johannes, Indrid, Barbara, Annelie and Daniel Snr.**  
*Retief family photo*



**Daniel Pieter Johannes Retief**

*Retief family photo*

Danie's job took him on promotion 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 Sea Point, 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.



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

As a senior engineer in Posts and Telegraphs Danie was involved (together with Dr. Boyce and Mr. Ramsay) with pioneering research on the protection of open-wire communication systems from lightning damage and interference in South Africa. He was also involved in recruiting engineers from overseas and made a journey with some danger to England during war time in 1944 in connection with contracts for the manufacture of long-distance equipment, where he experienced a bomb raid on London. His return journey in military aircraft had to take special routes to avoid attacks from enemy aircraft.

After the war his work took him a number of times overseas and on two occasions some of the children went along. Elschen had a sister in Switzerland and a sister-in-law in Austria.

Danie 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 microwave network for the country, which improved long distance dialling. He was also responsible for the installation of an coaxial submarine 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 by dialling a fellow engineer in England.

Elschen brought a strong European flavour to the family, at a time when South Africa was (as Australia in those days) far away from the world. The active overseas orientation was 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 and 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.



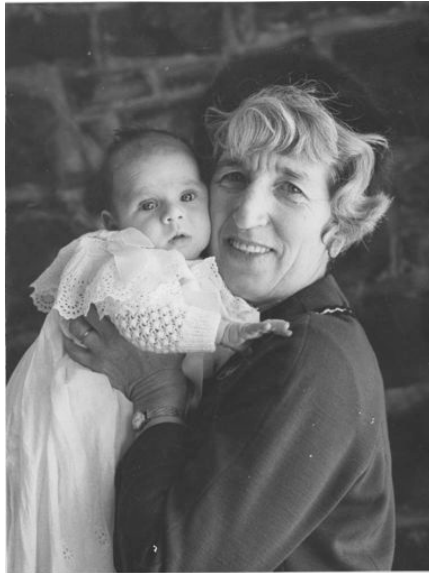
Danie and Elschen retired on Leisure Island, an island suburb of Knysna in a beautiful part of the country on the Garden Route. Part of our children's childhood was the vacations on Leisure Island both before we moved to Australia as well as several visits thereafter.



**The Retief tribe 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 and family. More grandchildren arrived in the years following the photo.**

#### **Sources and Notes:**

1. Helene Retief Lombard, 2008. *The Chronicles of Krakeelhoek*. Published privately. It can be obtained as a CD from Genealogiese Vereniging van SA
2. Charl Retief Morkel and Valerie Graff. 2002. *Searching for Francois Retif*. 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 memories
7. Johannes Retief *Retief Familie Kwartierstate*



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



**Ouma Elschen loved her grandchildren. 1969**



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

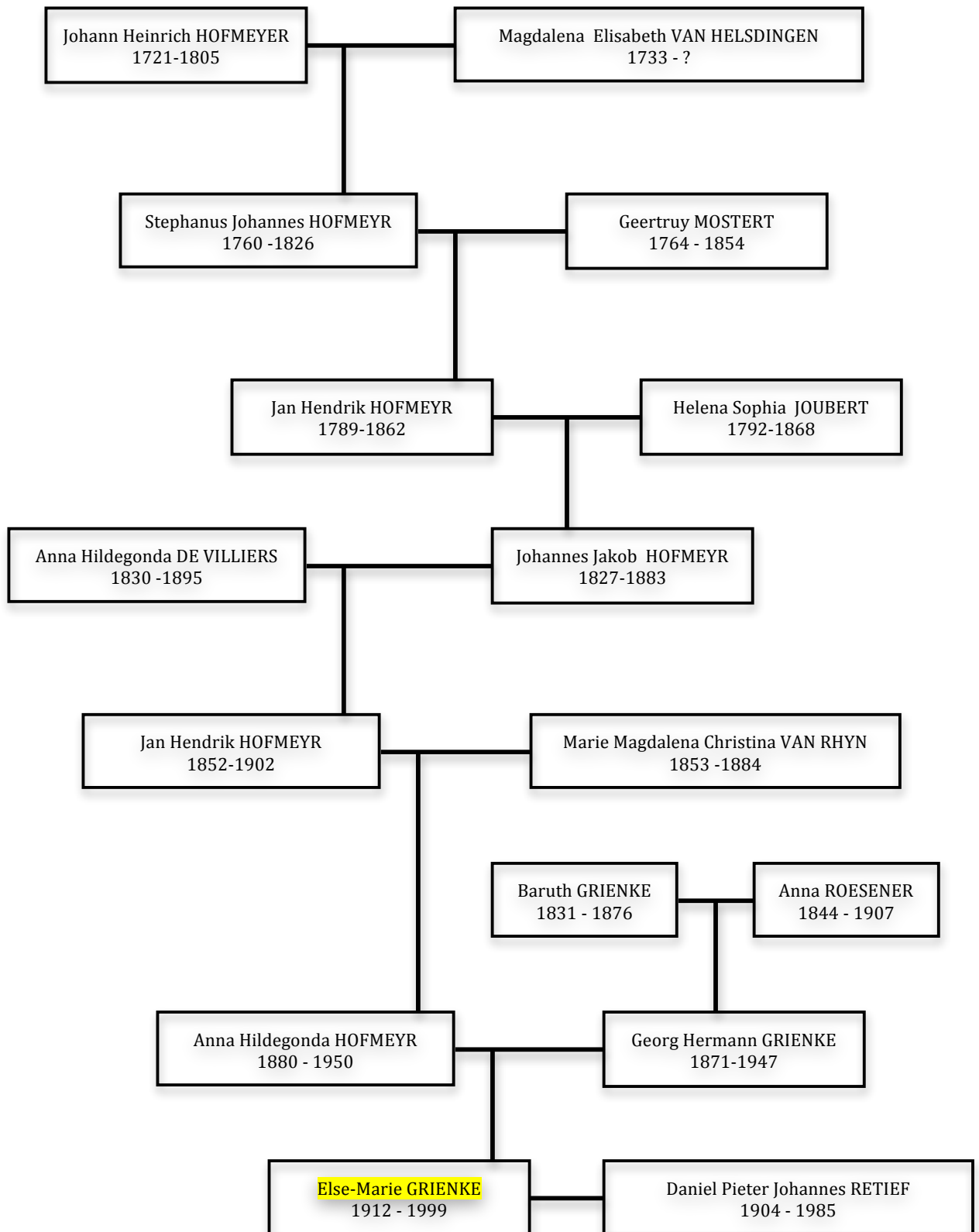


**Annie Hofmeyr in Paris before her wedding**



**Georg Hermann Grienke in uniform**





**Family-line for Else-Marie GRIENKE**

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

Gen A to D is a reconstruction of the Retif family in France following research by Charl and Valy (2). The South African part of the genealogy is from references 1,5 and 7.

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 † 24.9.1721 Franschhoek, Cape x 2.5.1700 Maria MOUY \*15.5.1685, Calais, France † 21.9.1758 Franschhoek, 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 10.2.1743 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, *D'Oliphantskop*, Cape x Debora 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, D'Oliphantskop, Wamakersvlei, Cape x 1.11.1772 Debora 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 Debora ~ 13.5.1781 x 16.12.1798 Joachim Christoffel ESTERHUYZEN ~ 1.10.1768
- d5 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
- 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 Carel 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 Welvanpas with Jacoba Cornelia VON WIELLIGH \*26.6.1804 † 18.4.1879**
- d10 Gideon ~ 25.5.1795 † 15.5.1856 x Stellenbosch with Helena Johanna HAUPTFLEISCH ~10.5.1801 † 12.5.1848
- d11 Anna Elizabeth \*ca 1797
- d12 Johannes Jacobus \*16.7.1818 from the second marriage x 29.12.1838 in Paarl with Debora Susanna ROSSOUW

**d9 Daniel RETIEF \* 7.6.1789, Welvanpas, Wamakersvlei † 8.12.1840 x Jacoba Cornelia VON 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 Andries 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**
- e7 Nicolaas von Wielligh \*1.4.1839 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**

- 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**
- f5 Wouter \*30.5.1868 died at ca 11 years of age
- f6 Nicolaas \*19.7.1869 died young
- f7 Elizabeth Maria (Aunt Lizzie) \*30.1.1876 † 195? x Paul ROUX of *De Hoop* Drakenstein \*21.7.1871
- f8 Gabriel \*14.8.1877 died young
- f9 Jacoba Cornelia (Aunt Jacoba) \*1.4.1879 – 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 Amalie RIEGER.**

- 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 Elise \* 5.5.1911 † 17.2.1960 x 21.4.1943 George Frederik JANSE VAN RENSBURG \* 5.9.1905 † 1.6.1984

**g1 Daniel Pieter Johannes RETIEF \* 5.11.1904 Pretoria † 27.10.1985 George x Else-Marie GRIENKE \*22.8.1912 Florianopolis, Brazil † 7.10.1999, Cape Town d.o. Georg Hermann GRIENKE 1871 – 1947 x Anna Hildegonda HOFMEYR 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 MORTEL \* 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 \* 11.11.1943 x 18.1.1965 Pieter Renier ROBINSON \* 8.7.1943
- h6 Georg Daniel \*30.9.1945 † 26.11.1961
- h7 Pieter Francois \*12.8.1947 x 17.4.1972 June Valerie LANG, xx 12.12.1998 Colleen Anne Beverley WELDON