The Malans and Morkels

At the auction of Vergelegen, ex-governor W.A. van der Stel’s farm, stamouer Jacques Malan bought one of the quarters which later was named Morgenster (Morningstar). For many generations, as near neighbours, the Malans at Morgenster and the Morkels at Onverwacht served together as Heemraden of Stellenbosch, and also as deacons and elders, first of the Stellenbosch, and later of the Somerset West churches. There were several marriages between the two clans as shown in the family tree. In my direct line, 2nd generation Willem Morkel and 5th generation Daniel Johannes Morkel had Malan wives. Oom John (7th generation), my father’s brother, also had a Malan wife, tunt Nettie.

Helena Catharina MALAN (1736 – 1825) born at Morgenster was 2nd generation Willem MORKEL’s (1718 – 1788) second wife. They had 7 children of whom 5 reached adulthood, including the four brothers Philip Hendrik, Willem, Daniel Johannes and Hercules, who feature prominently in several of our stories.

Signature of Helena Catharina MALAN, Weduwe (widow) MORKEL

Emmerentia Elizabeth MALAN (1822 – 1902) was married to 5th generation Daniel Johannes MORKEL (1822 – 1879). Ouma Bremsie was the strong person who saw the family through a difficult period in the 1860s and 1870s. The story I heard was that she sold family jewels and through careful parsimony helped the family survive the ostracism of the Neptune affair, powdery mildew and phylloxera pests in the vineyards and depressed wine prices.

Photo and signature of Ouma Bremsie - Emmerentia Elizabeth MALAN
De Wed (the widow) D.J. MORKEL
Antoinette MALAN (1878 – 1944) (tante Nettie) was married to my uncle, Johannes Albertus MORKEL (1888 – 1966) (oom Johnnie Bos). They were the great grandparents of Protea cricketers Albie and Morné Morkel.

P. W. Morkel’s family history (1, p10) contains some paragraphs about the Malan Huguenot origins in France. However, Danie Malan (7) has kindly provided more recent information which gives a different picture. Rather than originally from Italy, they are more likely to have come from Burgundy. Stamouer Jaques Malan likely came from Saint-Martin-de-la Brasque rather than Merindol. See also the Malanbond website (8) for extensive research of the family in Europe and South Africa.

Jacques 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.

Jacques Malan was one of the purchasers of the quarters (Morgenster) into which Willem Adriaan van der Stel’s large farm Vergelegen was divided in 1710, the others being Barend Gildenhuisen, the widow Gerrit Cloete and Jacobus van der Heyden. (1, p10) Jacques Malan was involved in helping the survivors of the wreck of the Schonenberg in 1722. He took an oxwagon with brandy, two mudde flour and some empty barrels which could be filled with freshwater to the wreck. Read about it in our story about the wreck. After van der Heyden’s death, Morgenster was owned by Jacques’ son, Daniel (1703 – 1770) who left it to his youngest son, Jacobus (1752 -1778) who married Willem Morkel’s daughter Catharina in 1772.

Catharina (1754 – 1818) was from Willem Morkel’s first marriage to Sara van Brakel. Willem’s second marriage was to Jacobus’ older sister, Helena Catharina Malan, from whom I am descended.

The beautiful Cape Dutch gables at Morgenster were erected after the death of Jacobus Malan in 1778. The stable has a gable dated 1779 decorated with two intertwined letter ‘M’s – for Malan and Morkel. The house at Morgenster has beautifully proportioned Cape Dutch gables which are dated 1786. At this stage Catharina had married again, to Rudolph Johannes Loubser and, according to the laws of the time, the farm was transferred to him. He died in 1795 and the farm reverted to Catharina who sold it in 1796 to A.J. van der Poel, who in turn sold it to M.L. Neethling in 1796. Philip Hendrik Morkel bought it in 1806.

Shortly before his death in 1778 Jacobus also bought the original van der Stel farm Vergelegen. Catharina Morkel then sold it to Wouter de Vos, who sold it to Marthinus Wilhelmus Theunissen, husband of Sara Catharina Malan, Jacobus’ daughter. One of their daughters, Catharina Jacoba Theunissen (1803 – 1831) married my great great grandfather, Hendrik Johannes Morkel (1798 – 1859).

The son of Jacobus Malan and Catharina Morkel, Daniel Jacobus Malan (1778 – 1862) farmed at a neighbouring farm, Altona. He was married to Alida Brink (1778 – 1853). One of their sons, Daniel Jacobus Malan (1815 – 1903) married Sara Catharina Morkel and farmed at Harmonie, yet another later division of the Vergelegen complex. Another daughter, Emerentia Elizabeth Malan (ouma Bremsie) (1822 – 1902) married Daniel Johannes Morkel, my great grandfather.

The next generation, Daniel Jacobus Malan (1847 – 1926) farmed first at Harmonie and then at Bridgewater (the old Voorburg farm of Willem Morkel). He married Antoinette Theunissen (1848 – 1890) and their daughter Antoinette Malan (1878 – 1944) married my uncle, Johannes Albertus Morkel (Johnnie Bos) (1892 – 1966).

These somewhat involved relationships are presented in the family tree diagram.
Gable of the Stable at Morgenster 1779. Intertwined ‘M’ letters for Malan and Morkel.

Source: 6, p20

Morgenster  Homestead built in 1789  Source:  P.W. Morkel (1)
The Malan – Morkel Connections
Compiled from GISA (2), Morkel (1) and Hopkins (4)
Sources:
7. Danie Malan emails Nov 2011
Letter of 1719 by ds. Beck of the Church of Stellenbosch co-signed by members of the Church Council, including Jacques Malan.

Source: 5, p97.
Minutes of Church of Stellenbosch Council Meeting, 11 April 1738

Signed by ds. Salomon van Echten, elders Gerrit van der Bijl and Daniel Malan, and deacons Arnoldus Maasdorp and Willem Morkel

Source: 5, p144.
Appendix 3

Family Lines of the Malan and Morkel Connections

a1  Jacques MALAN * St Martin d’Aigues † 1741 x Drakenstein 1699 Isabeau LE LONG * 
     La Motte D’Aigues † Stellenbosch 1736. Both Huguenots.

b1  Jacobus MALAN * Drakenstein 2.7. 1700. Died young.
b2  Elisabeth Anna MALAN * Drakenstein 11.9.1701 x 29.4.1725 Hermanus KRIEL * 1694 † 
     1739 xx 5.12.1745 Johannes Caspar SCHLEE.
b3  Daniel MALAN * Drakenstein 11.9.1703 † Stellenbosch 25.1.1770 x Maria Verdeau * 
     1700 †1750, d.o. Hercules Verdeau 1672 – 1722 and Maria Catharina WIBEAUX. xx 
     13.10.1750 Emerentia STEYN * 21.3.1717 † 1762. (Morgenster).
b4  Maria MALAN* Drakenstein 6.4.1705 x 30.4.1724 Adriaan LOUW
b5  Catharina MALAN * Drakenstein 20.3.1707.
b6  David MALAN * Drakenstein 19.7.1710 † 1792 x 17.4.1735 Eleonora MELIUS ~ 28.4.1715 
     xx 22.1.1750 Elisabeth MARAIS
b7  Jacob MALAN * Drakenstein 8.11.1710. Died young.

Children of b3 Daniel MALAN (1703 – 1770) x Maria Verdeau (1700 – 1750)
c1  Maria Elisabeth MALAN ~ 26.9.1725 x 28.4.1743 Josias DE KOCK
c2  Magdalena MALAN ~ 27.7.1727
c3  Jacobus Hermanus MALAN ~ 27.11.1729 † 3.4.1768 x Anna Elisabeth LOUW ~ 19.7.1739

c4  Daniel Wynand MALAN ~ 9.9.1731 † 31.5.1765 x 26.12.1753 Elsabe WIUM

c5  Hercules Adriaan MALAN ~ 7.2.1734 x Maria Rosina LOUBSER ~ 9.5.1745

c6  Helena Catharina MALAN ~ 11.3.1736 † 27.10.1759 Willem MORKEL

c7  Susanna Magdalena MALAN ~ 3.3.1739
c8  David MALAN ~ 22.1.1741 x 27.3.1768 Helena Catharina VLOK ~ 21.4.1743
c9  Petrus Gerhardus MALAN ~ 19.3.1744
t0  Jacobus MALAN ~ 25.5.1752 † 31.8.1778 x 13.8.1772 Catharina MORKEL ~ 
     10.11.1754. d.o. Willem MORKEL and Sara VAN BRAKEL (Morgenster).
c1  Elisabeth MALAN * 21.10.1753 x 27.10.1771 c5 David MALAN * 11.9.1751 son of b6 
     David MALAN and Elisabeth Marais

c2  Anna Maria MALAN 28.11.1756 X 19.7.1772 Eduard WIUM

c3  Maria Isabella MALAN ~ 6.8.1758

Children of c5 Hercules Adriaan MALAN (1734 -?) x Maria Rosina LOUBSER (1745 -?)
d1  Johanna Petronella MALAN ~ 3.2.1765 † 23.11.1843 x Philip Hendrik MORKEL, s.o. 
     Willem MORKEL and Catharina MALAN. (Morgenster).

Children of c10 Jacobus MALAN (1752 – 1778) x Catharina MORKEL (1754 – 1816).
d1  Sara Catharina MALAN ~ 1.10.1773 x 19.5.1793 Martinus Wilhelmus Theunissen farmed at 
     Vergelegen. Parents of Catharina Jacoba Theunissen x Hendrick Johannes MORKEL

d2  Emerentia Elisabeth MALAN ~ 1.10.1775 x 5.11.1797 Wilhelmus Hendricus Theunissen.

d3  Daniel Jacobus MALAN * 2.2.1778 † 30.11.1862 x 22.5.1853 Alida BRINK (1778 – 1853)

Children of d3 Daniel Jacobus MALAN (1778 – 1862) x Alida BRINK
e1  Maria Elisabeth MALAN ~ 20.501804 died young
e2  Catharina Jacoba MALAN ~ 7.3.1806 died young
e3  Daniel Jacobus MALAN ~ 24.5.1807 died young
e4  Jacobus Daniel MALAN * 29.3.1809 †1863 x Elisabeth BRINK

e5  Susanna Justina MALAN ~ 18.11.1810 †1878 x J. EDGAR

e6  Sara Catharina MALAN *6.3.1812 †14.8.1879 x David Johannes Petrus BUISSINE * 
     3.3.1811 † 30.8.1893
e7  Johannes MALAN *18.10.1813 Died young
Descendants of Daniel Jacobus MALAN (1815 – 1903) x Sarah Catharina MORKEL (1827 - 1902)

Daniel J. MALAN 1847 – 1926 x Antoinette M. Theunissen 1848 - 1890