

The Voorburg Morkels. Part 1

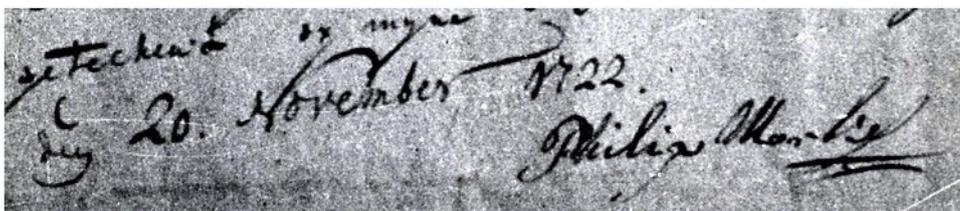
The Early years in Hottentots Holland and Pieter Loreth Morkel at Zonnebloem

This series in two parts about the *Voorburg* Morkels was triggered by emails from Cathy and Jenny Morkel. They pointed out that their great grand father, a brother of rugby Springboks Sommie and Dougie Morkel was missing in the Genealogy of P.W. Morkel (1). A Google search indicated that a few other brothers were also missing and emails from Gerrit Morkel, who researched his family, provided confirmation and details. Further reading uncovered information about other interesting members of this part of the family, and I felt it useful to draw together what we know about the *Voorburg* Morkels.

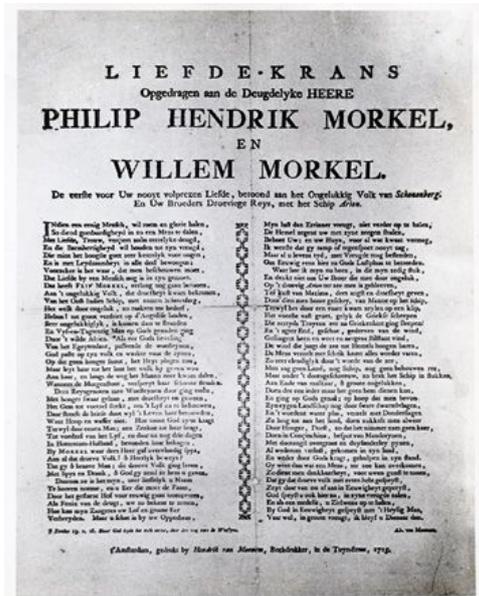
Part 1 takes the story back to stamouer Philip MORKEL and then quickly to third generation Willem MORKEL, who farmed at *Voorburg* and was the progenitor of this branch of the family. Much of this is also told in other stories on our website, but are brought together here to tell a complete story. Pieter Loreth MORKEL, who stayed at the Cape, and his family, is also included in Part 1. Part 2 is about the family who moved to Kimberley and the Transvaal. We tell of Hendrik Johannes MORKEL who was prominent in developing the townships of the goldfields of early Johannesburg, and one of his sons who was a large maize farmer in Northern Transvaal. Then about Willem (Japie) MORKEL, the father of Sommie, Dougie and their brothers and sister. The genealogies for this part of the family, up to the present, are in Part 2.

The Early Years in Hottentots Holland

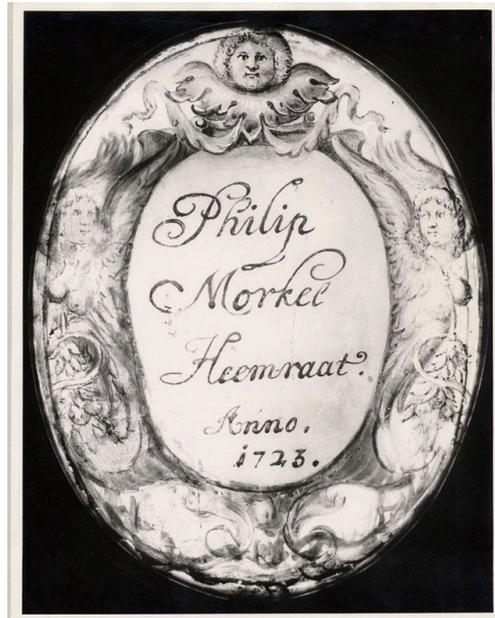
Stamouer Philip MORKEL from Hamburg Germany arrived at the Cape in 1708. He was a “Konstabel” or artillerist on the VOC (Dutch East India Company) ship *Oosterstein*. He married Maria BIEBOUW and they had one daughter, Elizabeth. Elizabeth married Jan LOUW and her granddaughter, Esther Elizabeth LOUW married 4th generation Willem MORKEL (our Willem III). Maria BIEBOUW died in 1713 and in that year Philip married again, with Catharina PASMEN. Catharina inherited a farm *Onverwacht* (later *The Bush* and then *Die Bos*) in Hottentots Holland from her sister Margaretha PASMEN who, with her husband Claas ELBERTSZ died in the small pox epidemic of that year.

A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive ink. The signature reads "Philip Morkel" and is dated "20. November 1722." There are some faint, illegible markings above the signature, possibly "geteckend" and "22 my 22".

Signature of stamouer Philip MORKEL Source: P.W. Morkel (1)



Grateful poem for hospitality by Philip and brother Willem MORKEL by survivors of the shipwreck *Schonenberg* 1725



Window pane 1723 in the 2nd church of Stellenbosch

Source: P.W. Morkel (1)

The stories of the first three generations are told in some detail elsewhere on our webpage <http://diebos.morkel.net> and are summarised here. For example a window pane from the second Stellenbosch church dated 1723 commemorating Philip MORKEL as *heemraad* has survived. In 1722 the ship *Schonenberg* went ashore near Cape Agulhas and about 80 shipwrecked sailors were hosted by Philip on his farm. An epic poem *Liefdekrans* expressing gratitude for his hospitality was printed in Amsterdam in 1725 and still hangs at the family farm *Die Bos*. An attempt to trace Philip (and his brother Willem who also came to the Cape but remained unmarried) was unsuccessful but yielded interesting information about the terrible state of Germany at the time, after the Thirty Year war of 1618 to 1648 and its aftermath – read the story on the webpage.



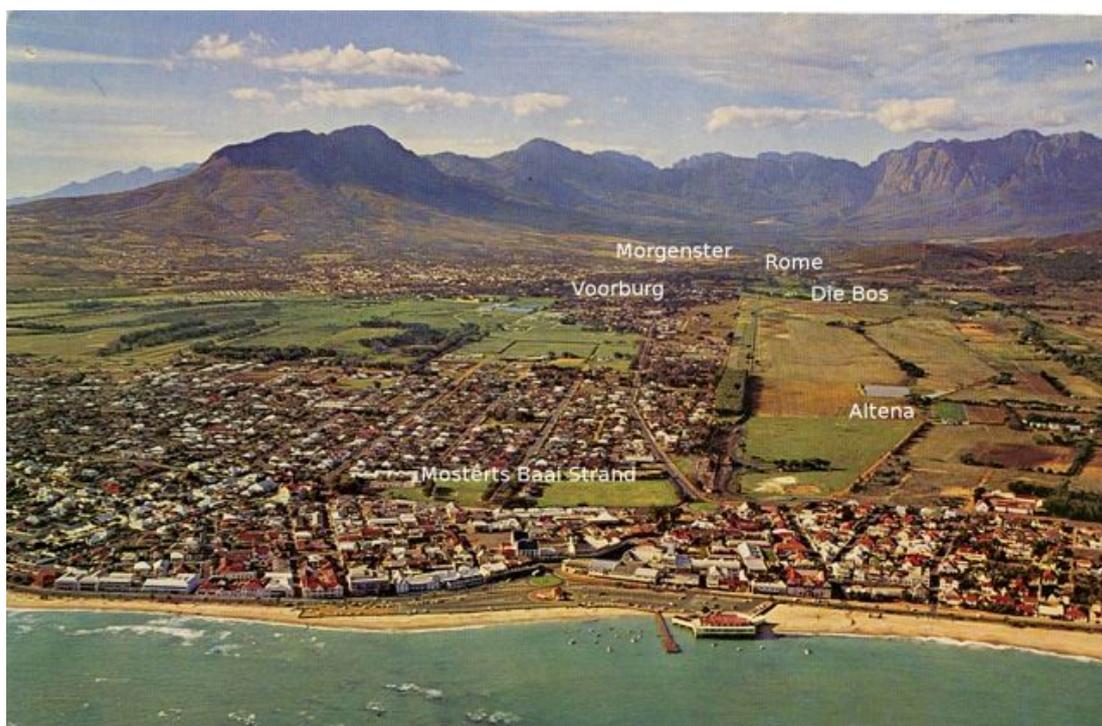
Signature of 2nd generation Willem MORKEL (Willem I) Source:

Source: A.M. Hugo en J. van der Bijl, (2, p144a)

Second generation Willem MORKEL 1718 – 1788 inherited well and prospered during good economic times at the Cape. When he died in 1788 his estate listed 7 farms (four were along the *Riviersonderend*) and 113 slaves. Willem had four sons, Philip Hendrik who farmed at *Rome*, hived off from *Onverwacht*, Willem who inherited *Voorburg* and *Mostertsbaai Strand*, Daniel who inherited the family farm *Onverwacht*, and Hercules who was 15 at the time of his father’s death. Hercules later farmed at *Welgelegen* who has since become the golf estate *Erin Vale*. Willem’s only daughter, Helena Catharina married Philip Albertus MYBURGH, of the well known farm *Meerlust*.

Third generation Willem MORKEL 1761 – 1821 farmed at *Voorburg* and also owned the adjoining property *Mostertsbaai Strand*. On the latter property Willem and his brother Daniel operated a fishery. It was previously known as *Vlootjesbaai* (Fleabay), acquired as a loan farm by David du Buisson in 1714. Philip MORKEL's widow, Catharina PASMEN acquired the farm in 1748. Over the years a seaside village developed and consumed the farm. Those visiting for the summer holidays opened their cottages built in the sand and fleas had a feast. Later the town was named Somerset Strand and finally simply The Strand.

Willem and his brothers were members of the *Burgerwag*, a citizens militia, first under the VOC in the last days up to 1795 and later under General Janssens of the Batavian Republic in 1803 to 1806. They lived through the two British occupations of 1795 and 1806. Willem held the senior rank of *ritmeester* and was awarded a silver cup by General Janssens for bravery against a Hottentot uprising lead by Oerson Afrikaner. Aide-de-camp Paravincini di Cappeli describes a lavish dinner (fish from the Bay) and comfortable beds provided by Willem at *Voorburg* when the general and his party stayed overnight on their way to the Overberg interior. In 1819 Willem and his brothers (and neighbour M. W. THEUNISSEN of *Vergelegen*) as *Voorstanders* (leaders) petitioned the Governor Lord Charles Somerset to establish a new town and church, called Somerset West. The *Voorstanders* also guaranteed the cost of an organ for the church. *Voorburg* lay between *Onverwacht* and Somerset West and the home and farmyard bordered the Lourens river, close to where the historic bridge (second oldest in South Africa) still stands. Later owners in the 1840s renamed the farm *Bridgewater* and the name is preserved in that part of Somerset West.



Some of the old Morkel farms. Stamouer Philip's farm *Onverwacht* was later called *Die Bos*. Willem II and III's farms were *Voorburg* and *Mostertsbaai Strand* (presently The Strand). *Altena* was a late 19th century subdivision. The farms (except *Morgenster*) have been consumed by urban sprawl.

Source: Postcard bought by author in 1961

The MORKEL brothers were substantial wine farmers – in 1825 they had
 Daniel Johannes Sr. of *Onverwacht* – 100,000 vines
 Daniel Johannes, (his son) of *Rome* – 60,000 vines
 Philip Hendrik Sr. of *Morgenster* - 150,000 vines
 Willem of *Voorburg* and *Mostertsbaai Strand* – 80,000 vines.
 Source: Private communication from Jean Le Roux, Paarl. 28 September 2004

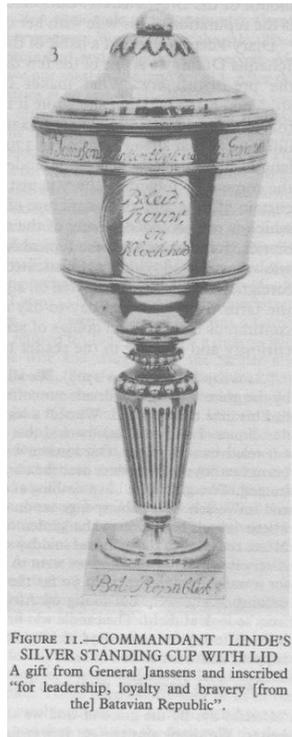
The farms were labour intensive and in 1815 slave numbers were (3):
Vergelegen: M.W. Theunissen & Sara C. Malan – 60 slaves
Onverwacht: D.J. Morkel & Sophia A. Brink – 55 slaves
Voorburg: Willem Morkel & Anna M. Wium, - 32 slaves
Morgenster: P.H. Morkel & Johanna P. Malan – 30 slaves
Welgelegen: Widow Hercules Morkel – 28 slaves

Handwritten text in Dutch, dated August 2, 1819, from the Somerset West Church. The text is written in cursive and mentions the church's organ and the signatures of P.H. Morkel, W.M. Morkel, and M.W. Theunissen.

Promissory note for the organ of the Somerset West Church, signed 2 August 1819 by the *Voorstanders*, Philip Hendrik MORKEL Willem MORKEL(senior), Daniel Johannes MORKEL and Marthinus Wilhelmus THEUNISSEN of *Vergelegen*.

Source: Hopkins (4, p47)

Fourth generation Willem MORKEL 1785 – 1839 married Esther Leonora LOUW, the granddaughter of Elizabeth MORKEL, daughter of stamouer Philip MORKEL. Esther Leonora was a younger sister of Maria Dorothea LOUW who was married to Willem's uncle, Daniel Johannes MORKEL at the neighbouring farm *Onverwacht*. The family Genealogy lists that several of their fourteen children were baptized in the Paarl and for two are shown born at *Keulenberg*, Agter Paarl – presumably where they farmed at that time. His wife, Esther Leonora came from the Paarl, where her father Hendrik LOUW farmed and speculated with property. Willem inherited *Voorburg* and *Mostertsbaai Strand* when his father died in 1821, and moved back there. Subsequent children (1822 on) were baptized in Somerset West.



Silver Cup awarded by General Janssens in 1806 and the uniform of a *Ritmeester*. The photos are of *Ritmeester* (Commandant) Jacobus LINDE, a colleague of Willem MORKEL. Willem received a similar Cup and would have worn a similar uniform.
Source: Burrows (5, p55)

The Cape was going through tough economic times during the second half of the 19th century (a combination of vineyard pests such as Phylloxera and England abolishing tariffs against French wines made for a collapse of wine exports). The interior beckoned – diamonds were discovered at Kimberley and later gold at the Witwatersrand and many Morkels moved inland at this stage.

Two of the six sons of the fifth generation interests us – Hendrik Johannes MORKEL 1810 – 1859 and Pieter Loreth MORKEL 1818 – 1878. The story of the former and his descendants are told in Part 2. For the remainder of Part 1, let us talk about the latter, Pieter Loreth, who stayed at the Cape, and some of his descendants.

Pieter Loreth MORKEL 1818 – 1878 x Petronella Wessels 1821 – 1905

Pieter Loreth MORKEL was a butcher and businessman in Cape Town in the mid-1880s. His home *Zonnebloem* overlooked Woodstock and was a prominent feature on the road into the city.

In 1843 he placed an advertisement in English and Dutch, decorated with an engraving of a sheep (1, p39)

PIETER LORETH MORKEL
Butcher,
Shambles, No.4

In tendering his most sincere thanks to his friends and the public, who have so liberally patronized him since he commenced his business, begs most respectfully to inform them, that he will constantly supply them with the

BEST MEAT

that the market will at any time of the year afford, and trusts, by unwearied attention to the wants of customers, to merit a continuance of that favour which has so kindly manifest towards him.

Indian visitors and families residing in the neighbourhood of Rondebosch, Wynberg, or wherever Postwagons or Omnibusses pass, can likewise be furnished with every article that they require, to receive their orders, they may rely upon a punctual and speedy execution thereof.

ORDERS LEFT AT HIS RESIDENCE, ZONNEBLOEM, ARE EQUALLY ATTENDED TO AS THOSE LEFT AT THE SHAMBLES.

PIETER LORETH MORKEL
Slagter
Hal No.4

In het betuigen van zynnen opregten dank aan zyne Vrienden en het Publiek die hem zoo goedgunstig ondersteun hebben, neemt de vryheid hem eerbiediglyk te verwittigen, dat hy hen steeds zal voorzien met het

BESTE VLEESCH

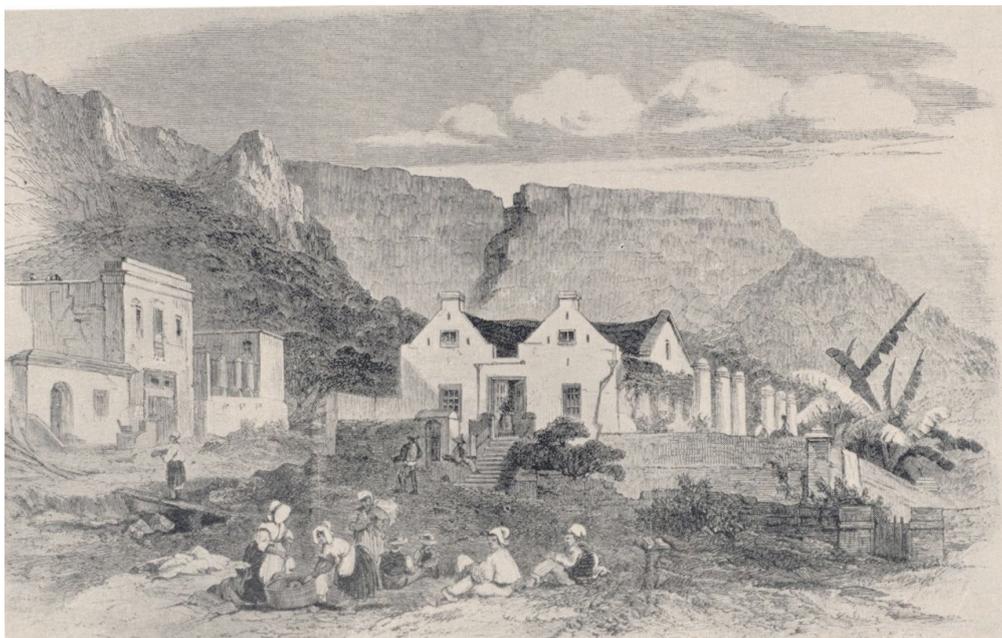
dat de Markt te eeniger tyd het jaar oplevert, en vertrouwt door onvermoeide oplettenheid aan de behoeften zyner Begunstigers, eene voortdoring te verwerven van die gunsten welke reeds zoo ruim aan hem bewezen zyn.

Visiteurs van Indie en Huisgezinnen, wonende in die nabyheid van Rondebosch, Wynberg, or waar ook maar een Omnibus of Postwagen passeert, hunnen insgelyks voorzien werden met al hetgeen zy nodig hebben – en, daar hy altyd aan de Hal tegenwoordig is om hunne Orders aan te nemen, kunnen zy op eene behoorlyke en spoedige bezorging staat maken.

ORDER AFGEGEVEN TEN ZYENEN HUIZE AAN ZONNEBLOEM WORDEN EVEN ZOO UITGEVOERD ALS DIE WELKE AAN DE HAL WORDEN BESTELD.

Pieter Loreth Morkel's business expanded. In 1856 he was established at 41 Leeuwe Street and in a building opposite the Shambles where he was still operating. (1, p40). In 1870 he retired from business, but soon after started afresh as a butcher, but in 1873 gave it up for a

complete change of occupation. In 1875 he ran a boarding house in Strand Street and died in 1875. His widow carried on with the boarding house.



Zonnebloem

Source: Victor de Kock (5, p83)

- a1 Philip MORTEL 1677 – 1735 x Catharina PASMEN 1691 - 1764
- b3 Willem MORTEL 1718 – 1788 xx Helena Catharina MALAN 1759 - 1825
- c5 Willem MORTEL 1764 – 1825 x Anna Margaretha WIJM 1763 - 1830
- d2 Willem MORTEL 1785 - 1839 x Esther Leonora LOUW 1788 - 1859
- e6 Pieter Loreth MORTEL 1818 – 1878 x Susanna Petronella WESSELS 1821 - 1905

Pieter and Susanna had eleven children, five boys and six girls. Their third child, Petrus Johannes MORTEL 1844 – 1905 married Sarah Margaret RUBIDGE, from a well-known 1820 British Settlers family. Several of their seven children lived in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). Among them, Arthur Loreth Rubidge MORTEL 1871 – 1937, Olive Maud Rubidge MORTEL x James Robert TOWNSEND, and Ivy Crause Rubidge MORTEL x Theophilus Cecil FLYNN.

The fourth child, Maria Elizabeth Anna MORTEL married Charles Duncan COXWELL of Kent, U.K. In Perth we have friends, Martin Pinnell, a genealogy enthusiast, who alerted us that his mother was from the Coxwell family.

Sources:

1. P.W. Morkel, 1961. *Morkel Family History and Family Tree*. Published privately.
2. A.M. Hugo en J. van der Byl, 1963 *Die Kerk van Stellenbosch*. Tafelberg Uitgewers. Kaapstad
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4. D.H. Hopkins, 1969. *Nederduitse Gereformeerde Gemeente. Somerset Wes*. Issued at the 150th anniversary of the Church of Somerset West.
5. Edmund H. Burrows, 1994. *Overberg Odyssey. People, Roads and Early Days*. Published by the author and the Swellendam Trust
6. Victor de Kock, 1952. *Our Three Centuries*. Central Committee for the Van Riebeeck Festival, Cape Town, 1952.