ADOLPHE LINDER

# THE SWISS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA 1652-1970

## PART I
## ARRIVALS AT THE CAPE 1652-1819 IN CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

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## 1. PROLOGUE

Messrs Felix Ernst and Kurt Scheurer initiated the documentation of the Swiss in Southern Africa with a preliminary publication in 1977. Messrs. Oskar Berner and Adolphe Linder continued the work with more detailed publications covering the Province of Cape of Good Hope (now the Provinces of Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape), the former Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and the former South West Africa (now Namibia). This work documents the Swiss in the whole of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

**List of previous publications**

1. F. Ernst & K. Scheurer: History of the Swiss in Southern Africa 1652-1977. First edition (Johannesburg, 1977), second edition (Johannesburg, Nov. 1979).

2. Oscar T. Berner: Schweizer im einstigen Rhodesien. Biographische Notizen. Basel 1985.

3. Adolphe Linder: The Swiss at the Cape of Good Hope 1652-1971. Basel 1997.

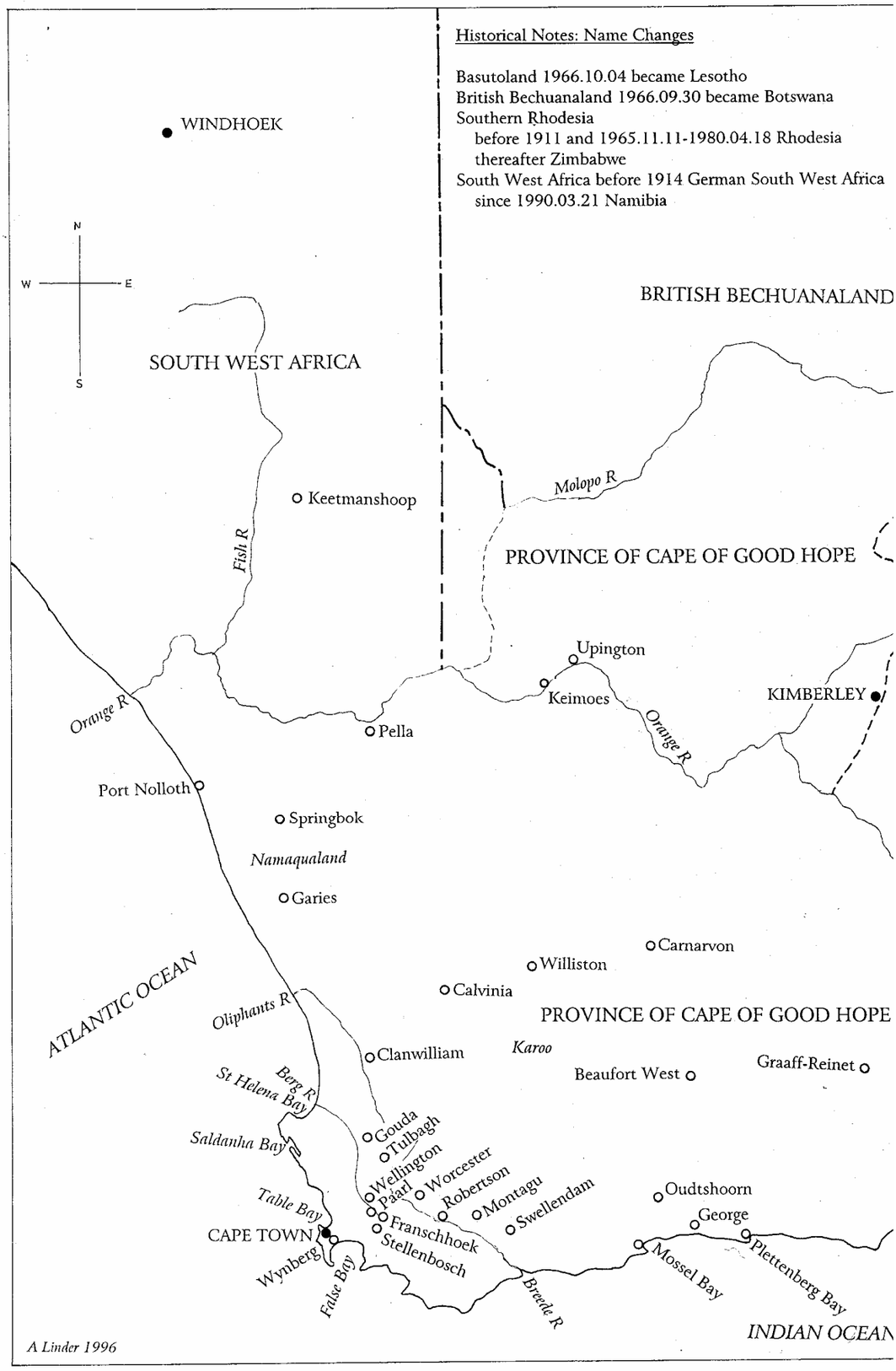
4. Oskar T. Berner: Die Schweizer im ehemaligen Südwestafrika / The Swiss in the former South West Africa. Windhoek 1998.

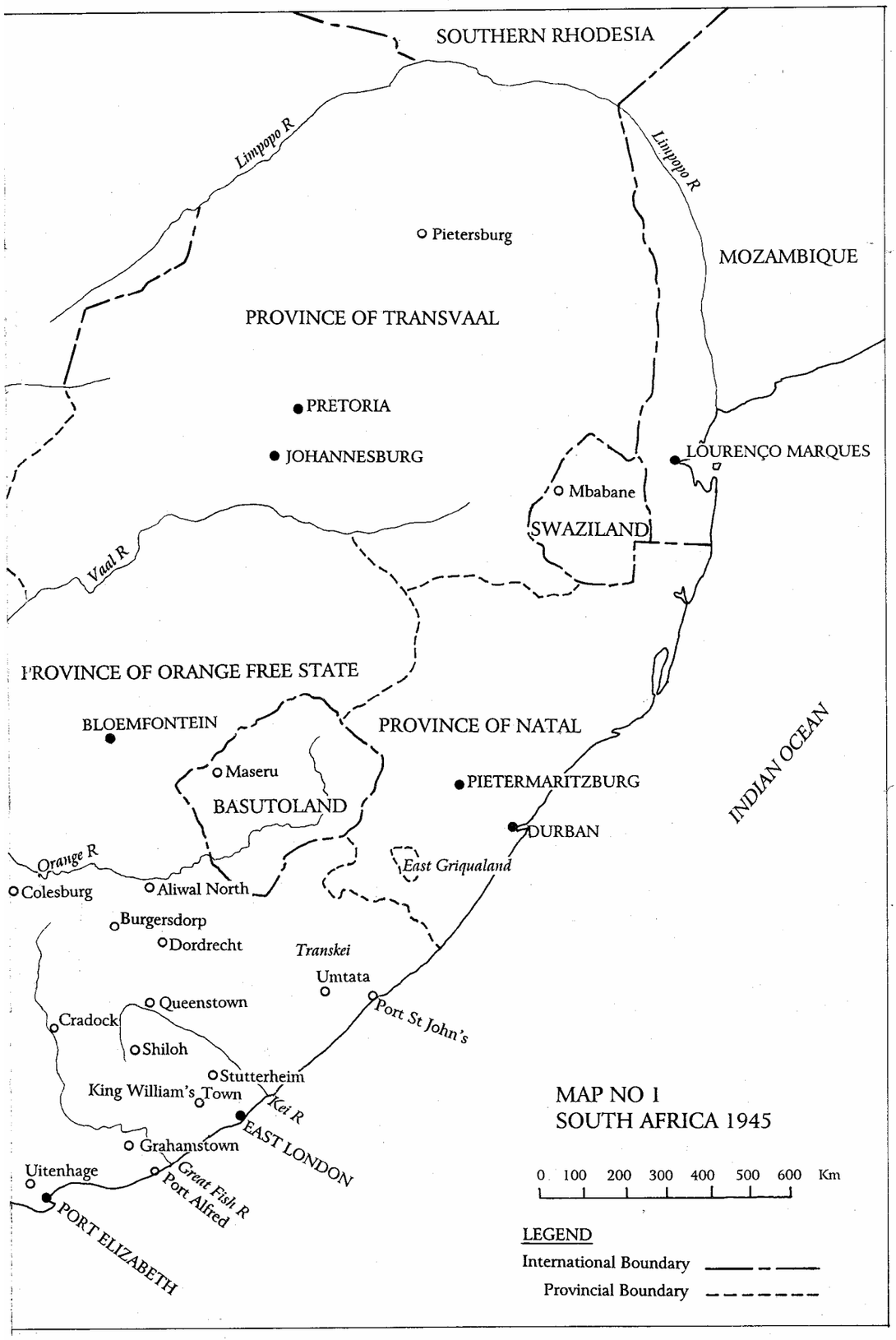
5. Adolphe Linder: Die Schweizer in Mosambik 1721-1990. Cape Town 1998.

6. Adolphe Linder: The Swiss Regiment Meuron at the Cape and afterwards, 1781-1816. Cape Town 2000.

7. Adolphe Linder: Os Suícos em Moçambique. Maputo 2001.

8. In preparation, Adolphe Linder: Die Schweizer und der Burenkrieg 1899-1902.


Historical Notes: Name Changes
Basutoland 1966.10.04 became Lesotho
British Bechuanaland 1966.09.30 became Botswana
Southern Rhodesia
before 1911 and 1965.11.11-1980.04.18 Rhodesia
thereafter Zimbabwe
South West Africa before 1914 German South West Africa
since 1990.03.21 Namibia
WINDHOEK
N
W
E
S
BRITISH BECHUANALAND
SOUTH WEST AFRICA
Keetmanshoop
Fish R
Molopo R
PROVINCE OF CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
Upington
Keimoes
KIMBERLEY
Orange R
Pella
Orange R
Port Nolloth
Springbok
Namaqualand
Garies
Carnarvon
Williston
Calvinia
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Oliphants R
PROVINCE OF CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
Clanwilliam
Karoo
Graaff-Reinet
Beaufort West
Berg R
St Helena Bay
Saldanha Bay
Gouda
Tulbagh
Wellington
Paarl
Worcester
Robertson
Montagu
Swellendam
Oudtshoorn
George
Table Bay
CAPE TOWN
Franschhoek
Stellenbosch
Wynberg
False Bay
Mossel Bay
Plettenberg Bay
Breede R
INDIAN OCEAN
A Linder 1996


SOUTHERN RHODESIA
Limpopo R
Limpopo R
Pietersburg
MOZAMBIQUE
PROVINCE OF TRANSVAAL
PRETORIA
JOHANNESBURG
LOURENÇO MARQUES
Mbabane
SWAZILAND
Vaal R
PROVINCE OF ORANGE FREE STATE
BLOEMFONTEIN
PROVINCE OF NATAL
INDIAN OCEAN
Maseru
BASUTOLAND
PIETERMARITZBURG
DURBAN
Orange R
East Griqualand
Colesburg
Aliwal North
Burgersdorp
Dordrecht
Transkei
Umtata
Queenstown
Cradock
Port St John's
Shiloh
Stutterheim
King William's Town
Kei R
EAST LONDON
Grahamstown
Uitenhage
Great Fish R
Port Alfred
PORT ELIZABETH
MAP NO 1
SOUTH AFRICA 1945
0 100 200 300 400 500 600 Km
LEGEND
International Boundary
Provincial Boundary

## 2. CHRONOLOGY 1652-1806

1652, April 6
Commander Jan van Riebeeck of the Dutch East India Company arrives with a leet of three ships and fifty men and establishes a settement on the shore of Table Bay.
1655
The first Company servants become free burghers. The first private farms are established. The settlement grows as more Company servants acquire burgher rights and occupy land for farming.
1700
The settlement had spread eastward to the foot of the Hottentots Holland Mountains and northwards to the foot of the Witzenberg Mountains.
1795, September 6
First British Occupation of the Cape. The settlement now extended northward into Namaqualand and the Karroo and eastward to the Fish River. Its population 16 000–20 000 Whites, 17 000-25 000 slaves and an estimated 14 000 Khoisan.
1789, July 14
Bastille Day. Start of French Revolution
1796-7
Napoleon's victorious Italian campaign and rise to power.
1797
Batavian Republic formed.
1802, February
By the Treaty of Amens the Cape is restored to Holland now known as the Batavian Republic.
1802 Mar 25
Peace of Amiens ends second coalition war. The Cape is to be restored to the Dutch.
1802 Dec 23
Bato, first ship to arrive in Cape Town with Batavian officials and troops.
1803 Feb 20
General Dundas hands the Cape to the Batavian Republic
1803 Mar 1
General Janssen inaugurated as Governor of the Cape.
1803 May 12
War between Great Britain and France and its allies resumed
1805, October 21
Battle of Trafalgar. Admiral Nelson defeats the combined French and Spanish fleets
1806 Jan 6
Battle of Blouberg, Second British Occupation of the Cape
1815, June 18
Battle of Waterloo, final defeat of Napoleon who is exiled on St. Helena.
1820
The 1820 Settlers from England land at Port Elizabeth
1824
The Zulu King Shaka grants English settlers a strip of coast, which was enlarged 1828. The town Durban was laid out on this land in 1835.

## 3. INTRODUCTION

### 3.1 The spelling of Swiss names

Names are reproduced as found in the records. Where this might be useful, the possible correct equivalent found in the *Familiennamenbuch der Schweiz* is added in square brackets.

The officials at the Cape, especially during the early years when illiteracy among Company servants was commonplace, wrote down the names as they heard them phonetically correct according to the Dutch alphabet. Some knowledge of Dutch phonetics is thereforee essential for the researcher and will add to the pleasure of the

general reader. The following comparisons with English and German spelling might suffice.

TABLE 1
Dutch phonetics

| Dutch | English equivalent | German equivalent |
|---|---|---|
| a | a as in last | a as in Last |
| e | e as in den | e as in denn |
| g | ch as in loch | ch as in Loch |
| j | y as in yes | j as in ja |
| ng | ng as in sing | in as in singen |
| o at end of word or syllable | o as in do | u as in gut |
| oe, oo | ou as in you | u as in du |
| ou | ow as in low | ou as written |
| sch | sch as in school | sk as in Skizze |
| sj | sh as in show | sch as in Schau |
| u | u as in the French word du | ü as in Tür |
| ui, uy | oi as in loins | eu as in Reue |
| v | f as in fat | f as in Fass |
| w | v as in vat | w as in was |
| y | ay as in tray | ei as in Ei |

Very often names would be distorted by usage to adapt to the Dutch tongue. Examples are Loubser and Losber for Laubscher, Yselle for Iseli and Hongerbuydel for Hungerbüller.

### 3.2 Swiss Origins of Arrivals

It is appropriate to mention at the outset that each Swiss is the citizen of a particular commune (village or town) and that he inherits this citizenship from his father irrerspective of where he was born. Thus a family might live for generations anywhere else, yet remain citizens of the commune of origin. Until the beginning of the nineteenth century nearly all families still lived at their place of origin, then industrialisation caused increasing population movements. An example is the watch industry which developed in the Jura attracting many families from, for example, the Bernese Oberland. Since the beginning of this century the place of birth of Swiss increasingly differs from their place of origin. Where both are known, the latter will be shown in brackets.

The system of passing citizenship from father to children born in wedlock resulted in anachronisms. The children of a Swiss man and his non-Swiss wife, who were born and raised in a foreign country, would be registered as Swiss, whereas when a Swiss woman married a Non-Swiss, even though he may have been born and raised in Switzerland, lost her Swiss citizenship and both she and her children were assigned the nationality of her husband. In this work we have treated all individuals born in Switzerland as Swiss.

Each commune in Switzerland keeps a register of its citizens. When a man marries, a new page is opened for him and his family. This system greatly facilitates genealogical research when the records are accessible.

The *Familiennamenbuch der Schweiz* lists all Swiss surnames both extinct and extant, citing when and in which communes they had received citizenship rights. Extensive but cautious use was made of this book to check or even determine the origin of Swiss where this was not recorded at the Cape. In special cases civil registrars were asked for verification and this was often kindly supplied together with additional information, as in the case of Gabriel Jenny of Ennenda GL, “The Major who turned Farm Labourer”. Information obtained by these means is shown between square brackets.

Another point to be remembered is that cantonal boundaries were only given their present shape in 1803. Before that date the Vaud was part of Canton Berne, Aargau belonged to Cantons Berne and Zurich, Thurgau was part of Canton Zurich and Canton St. Gall had not yet been formed. Men from Vaud would for instance name (Canton)

Berne as their birthplace. This is the reason why relativeley few men recorded Vaud, Aargau or St. Gall as their Canton of origin.

Many cantons bear the same name as their principal town. Origins are cited as recorded. Where this is known to refer to the town and not the canton, the symbol of the relevant canton is added, for instance Berne BE.

### 3.3 Location of Swiss in Africa

Until about 1819 Cape Town, the Mother City, was the only port of entry to South Africa. Generally, it is thereforee only when a Swiss is known to have lived outside Cape Town, that his place of residence is specified.

As the various African peoples gained freedom, geographical names have undergone widespread changes. In South Africa these changes are continuing, while internal administrative boundaries have been altered and may well be altered again. In order to avoid confusion, the designations in use until 1970 are applied throughout.

### 3.4 Local Currency

TABLE 2
Dutch money and its English equivalent as fixed by proclamation in 1770 which remained valid until 1806, when the Cape became a permanent part of the British Empire.
(Becklake: *From real to rand*, p. 11)

| Dutch money | | English money value in pounds, shillings and pence |
|---|---|---|
| 1 stuiwer | | 1d |
| 1 dubbeltjie | double stuiwer | 2d |
| 1 skelling | 6 stuiwers | 6d |
| 1 Dutch gulden* | 20 stuiwers | 1s 8d |
| 1 Rix-dollar* | 40 stuiwers | 3s 4d |
| 1 Silver ducatoon | 72 stuiwers | 6s 0d |

* Gulden and Rix-dollars were money of account only.

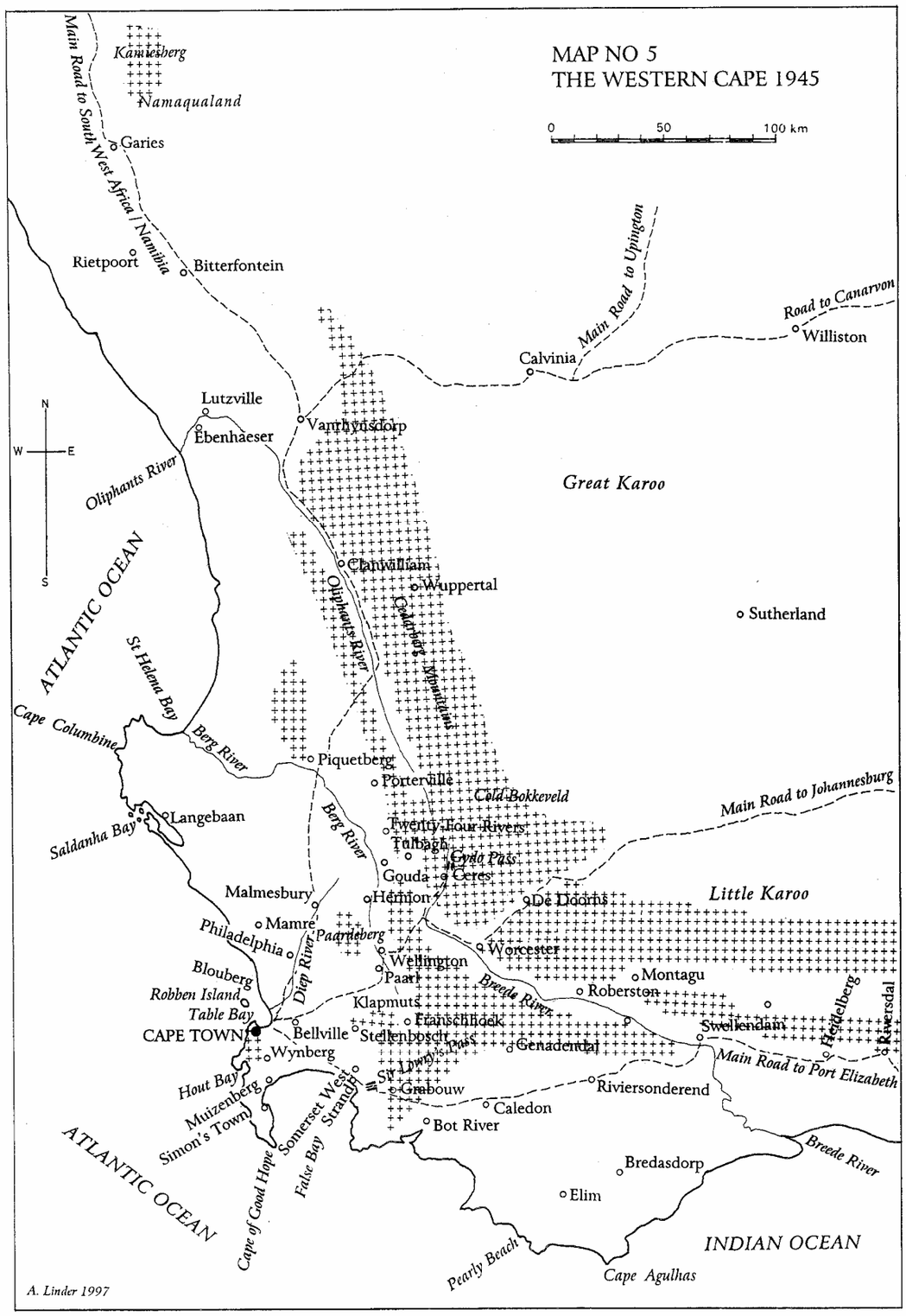
At the Cape and other overseas territories, the Dutch East India Company (VOC) made payment in so-called light money reckoning 16 stuiwers to the gulden. This was not reflected in the Company's account books.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Gulden / florin | 16 Cape Stuiwers | 1s 4d |
| 1 Rix-dollar | 48 Cape Stuiwers | 4s 0d |

The value of money is illustrated by the monthly salaries paid. From 1652 until 1795 pay for soldiers in the service of the VOC was initially 9 fl, later 11 fl, plus board and lodging. Soldiers loaned as farmhands could command fl 12 plus board and lodging. Jan Vorster was paid fl 45 when loaned as proficient mason to build the first church at Drakenstein.

### 3.5 Glossary

| | |
|---|---|
| Heemraad | member of country court |
| Kommandant | commandant, commander |
| Landdros | magistrate |
| Veldkornet | field-cornet, local government representative |


MAP NO 5
THE WESTERN CAPE 1945
0 50 100 km
Kamiesberg
Namaqualand
Garies
Main Road to South West Africa / Namibia
Rietpoort
Bitterfontein
Main Road to Upington
Road to Canarvon
Williston
Calvinia
Lutzville
Ebenhaeser
Vanrhynsdorp
N
W E
S
Oliphants River
Great Karoo
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Clanwilliam
Wuppertal
Cederberg Mountains
Sutherland
St Helena Bay
Cape Columbine
Berg River
Piquetberg
Porterville
Cold Bokkeveld
Main Road to Johannesburg
Langebaan
Saldanha Bay
Twenty-four-Rivers
Tulbagh
Gydo Pass
Gouda
Ceres
Malmesbury
Hermon
De Doorns
Little Karoo
Mamre
Philadelphia
Paardeberg
Worcester
Wellington
Blouberg
Robben Island
Table Bay
Paarl
Montagu
Roberston
Klapmuts
Franschhoek
Swellendam
CAPE TOWN
Bellville
Stellenbosch
Genadendal
Wynberg
Hout Bay
Muizenberg
Simon's Town
Somerset West
Strand
Grabouw
Riviersonderend
Main Road to Port Elizabeth
Caledon
Bot River
Breede River
Bredasdorp
Elim
INDIAN OCEAN
Cape of Good Hope
False Bay
Pearly Beach
Cape Agulhas
A. Linder 1997

## 4. SHORT HISTORY OF ARRIVALS DURING COMPANY RULE 1652-1795

### 4.1 Establishment of the settlement at the Cape

The Portuguese pioneered the sea route to the East Indian spice islands in 1498. They established their supremacy there and gained the monopoly in the spice trade which they defended successfully for a hundred years. By then the steady drain of manpower had exhausted the little country and the Dutch and English could oust them. In both these countries the merchants joined together to form commercial companies with royal charters which empowered them to conquer and rule territories. The Dutch East India Company (*Vereenigde Oostindiesche Compagnie*, abbreviated VOC), constituted by the Chambers of Commerce (*Kamers*) of Amsterdam (abbreviated KA). Edam (KE), Leerdam (KL), Rotterdam (KR) and Zeeland (KZ), gained predominance in Ceylon (present day Sri Lanka) and the East, with head-quarters at Batavia (present day Jakarta) and factories as far away as Formosa (present day Taiwan). Generally fleets set out twice a year when the tradewinds were favourable. If everything went well, they completed the return trip in 18 months.

Long periods at sea in cramped quarters and with stale food, were the cause of scurvy and other sicknesses amongst the sailors and soldiers on the ships. This was to some extent counteracted by making landfalls en route to take in fresh water and food. It was the report of the crew of the Dutch East-India ship *Haarlem*, that finally persuaded the VOC to establish a half way station there, where the crews could recuperate, fresh produce might be obtained, and the ships repaired. Junior Merchant, later Commander, Jan Van Riebeeck, was sent out with three small ships and 50 men. Van Riebeeck set foot on the shore of Table Bay on 8 April 1652 and in the same year the order went out that henceforth all Company ships were to call there, on penalty of officers losing their bounty.

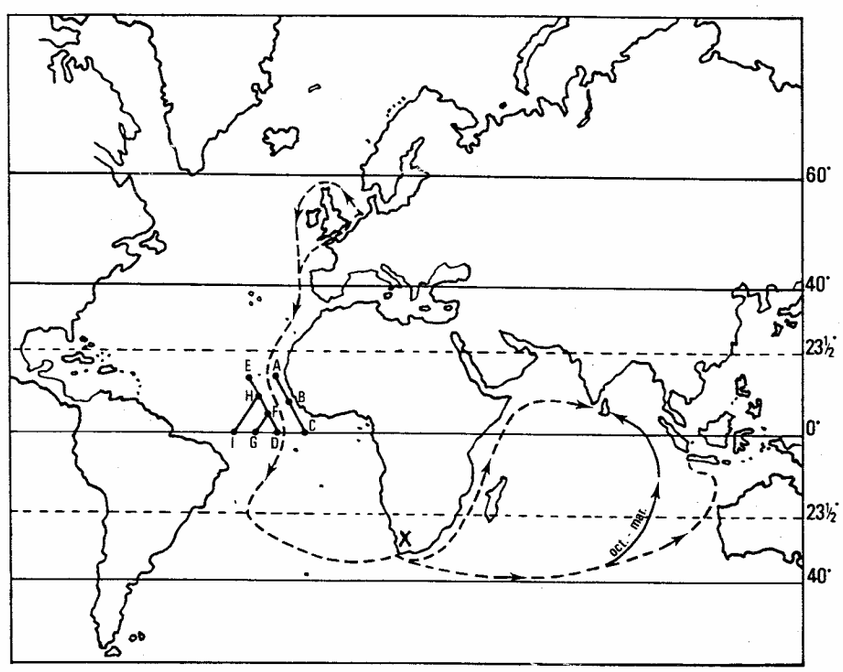
On average the ships would stay 26 days at the Cape. During this time the men could recover their strength, do maintenance work on the ship and take fresh provisions on board. Initially the Cape was not a popular station. While in port the men were commandeered off the ships to help with the building of the fort, the little settlement offered no entertainment and food supplies were at times inadequate. Van Riebeeck's men struggled to adapt their agricultural practices to local climatic conditions which at that time were exceptionally wet and cold. For meat supplies they relied on the sporadic bartering of beasts from local inhabitants, the nomadic Khoi. At one time food supplies were so short that the little garrison had to be fed on penguin eggs gathered on Robben Island. However, within a few years the halfway house was well established and thenceforth fulfilled its colonial role admirably.

### 4.2 The Voyage to the Cape

The Dutch sailing ships were beautiful to behold but made no concession to the comfort of those who sailed in them. Their size changed continuously as the design improved. The largest ones were of 140 tons standard displacement and 40 metres length. On average they carried 100 sailors and up to 300 soldiers, as the hired men were designated. These were all crowded together below deck. Fresh air and light could only enter the quarters by the few hatches and gun ports, which had to be closed during stormy and wet weather. The stifling atmosphere in this dark, overcrowded space was frequently aggravated by heat and smoke from the galley, not to mention the exhalation of 400 dead tired, seasick and often sopping wet men. Conditions were even worse in the tropics with the temperature below deck often becoming quite unbearable.

The duration of the sea voyage from Holland to the Cape varied greatly depending on wind and weather conditions encountered, but on average remained practically unchanged, namely

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| in 1659 | 133 days, | the return trip | 131 days, |
| in 1720 | 139 days, | | 114 days, and |
| in 1790 | 129 days, | | 112 days. |




MAP 2: The Seaway to Batavia and Ceylon.
The Cape of Good Hope is marked with a cross. (Bruijn: *Dutch Asiatic Shipping in the 17th and 18th Centuries*, Vol 1 p.65)

During times of war, when the Channel was unsafe and the longer route around the northern tip of the British Isles had to be taken, the voyage could become appreciably longer.[1]

A death rate of 6% during the trip to the Cape was average. Many men died during the first week, arriving on board ship weak and sometimes diseased from preceding confinement in the recruiting agent's house. Thanks to good food and unlimited beer (while supplies lasted) general health improved during the first weeks. The captain, who was of course interested in landing as many healthy men as possible at his destination, would admonish them to cleanse and wash themselves regularly. In addition the quarters were fumigated with elderberries and burning gunpowder, and disinfected by sprinkling with vinegar. However, as the drinking water became staler and often had to be severely rationed, pickled fish and meat ever saltier, breadflour and dried beans infected with maggots, all would grow weaker. The lack of fresh vegetables would bring on scurvy leading in extreme cases to death. No wonder that the first sighting of Table Mountain, rising above the horizon with its promise of bountiful fresh supplies, was to all the most beautiful sight.[2 & 3]

## HAPPY TO ARRIVE IN TABLE BAY

Albrecht Herport of Berne served the VOC in the East from 1659 till 1668 and on his return to Switzerland published his experiences. This is how he described the arrival in Table Bay[4]: "Water was again made freely available, which caused us such a great joy as cannot possibly be described by words and cannot be imagined by anyone who has not endured such thirst, when many had only that one wish, to drink their fill just once before they should die. The commander at the fort immediately sent us two cows and six sheep as well as green vegetables such as cabbages and turnips, which we, in our craving for fresh food, devoured leaves, stalks and all, and the lovely fresh water we drank as if it were good, new wine."

One must admire the Swiss who served out their contract at the Cape, went back home and then braved this onerous voyage to return again to the Cape which they had

learned to love. Only ten are known to have done so: Jakob Marik of Präz GR in 1710, Joseph Coen of Berne in 1746, Gabriel Jenny of Ennenda GL and Anthony Castelyn in 1757, Heinrich Schwarz of Wülflingen ZH in 1758, Coenraad Roets of Appenzell 1763, Hans Soeblee of Bougy-Villars VD in 1764, Johan Coenraad Wegelien of Diessenhofen TG in 1775, Nicolaas Schlaub of Basel in 1785 and Thomas Schoenmaker in 1790.

/ [1] Bruijn: *Dutch Asiatic Shipping in the 17th and 18th Centuries*, gives a detailed report on every sea voyage undertaken; [2] Thunberg: *Travels in Europe, frica & Asia*; [3] Boxer: *The Dutch East-Indiamen*; [4] Herport, Albrecht: *Reise nach Java, Vorderindien & Ceylon 1659-1668.*

### 4.3 Company Servants

The number of Dutch ships sailing around the Cape increased continuously, transporting increasing numbers of men. During the ninety years from 1610 to 1799 a total of 1 074 ships called at the Cape, whereas for the next ninety-five years from 1700 to 1794, this number nearly trebled to 2 851. It is estimated that the ships carried one million men to the Cape mainly en route to the East, but only brought back about three hundred thousand (30%). This caused an unsustainable drain on Dutch manpower, but fortunately the Netherlands had a large hinterland extending southward to the Alps and northward to Scandinavia, from which it could attract men. Mostly these came from adjoining German states – indeed, there were years when the entire garrison at the Cape consisted of Germans with a sprinkling of Swiss.

The Directors of the VOC in the Netherlands wished to be fully informed of everything that happened at their overseas trading stations. The scribes at the Cape were kept busy writing detailed records. One of the most important was the annual Muster Roll listing all the Company's employees and their pay, the Company's major expense item. Besides name and salary, these rolls also recorded birthplace, position in which employed and generally also the name of the ship and the date on which they arrived.. Copies of these rolls had to be sent to the Netherlands. Other records were retained, ready to be inspected by visiting commissioners. Nearly all this documentation has been preserved at the *Algemeen Rijksarchief*, The Hague (ARA) and the Cape Archives, Cape Town (CA). In addition the CA has Verbatim Copies (VC) and / or microfilm of the documents kept at the ARA but which are not extant at the Cape.

The annual Muster Rolls (MR) were the main source of information for drawing up the register of Swiss who came to the Cape as Company servants. Several copies of these rolls exist but names were sometimes left out or spelt differently. For some unknown reason many Rolls are missing at the Cape Archives. For instance for the twenty-three years from 1673 to 1695 only two rolls could be found. (See Table 3, p. 13)

### 4.4 Swiss Labour Migration to the Netherlands

The Alps were unable to accommodate the growing population and since early times many young Swiss had to find their living abroad. Mostly the men served as mercenary soldiers in foreign armies; they were renowned for their military prowess and much sought after. Those not martially inclined sought work on farms, in households and in industry. After the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) Germany, with its population drastically reduced and vast areas ravaged, offered work and cheap land. Large numbers of Swiss took advantage of the opportunities available there. By the time this vacuum had been filled, the Netherlands had grown prosperous from the spice trade, and good work opportunities could be found there. Later America became the promised land. The first emigrants from Switzerland went there in about 1730 and soon glowing reports filtered back attracting many more. Emigration across the Atlantic Ocean increased steadily and peaked in the 1880's at nearly 1% per annum of the total Swiss population.

TABLE 3

Muster Rolls of Company servants at the Cape used in the Compilation

| Year Decade | …0 | …1 | …2 | …3 | …4 | …5 | …6 | …7 | …8 | …9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1650-9 | - | - | - | - | - | - | A | AB | AB | AB |
| 1660-9 | AB | AB | AB | B | B | B | B | - | B | B |
| 1670-9 | B | B | B | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1680-9 | - | - | - | - | - | B | - | - | - | - |
| 1690-9 | - | - | - | E | - | - | BE | B | - | B |
| 1700-9 | E | B | B | BF | BF | B | BE | E | B | BCF |
| 1710-9 | BF | BF | BCF | BF | BC | BCF | BCF | BCF | BCF | BCF |
| 1720-9 | BCF | BF | BF | BF | F | BF | F | b | BF | BF |
| 1730-9 | BF | BF | BF | BF | BCF | BC | BC | BCF | BF | BF |
| 1740-9 | BF | B | BF | F | - | C | - | BF | BF | C |
| 1750-9 | BF | BF | BF | BF | BF | BF | BC | F | BF | F |
| 1760-9 | BF | BF | BF | BF | BF | BF | BF | BF | BF | BF |
| 1770-9 | BF | BF | - | F | F | BF | BF | BF | BF | BF |
| 1780-9 | BF | BF | BF | BF | BF | BF | BF | BF | BF | B |
| 1790-5 | - | C | - | - | - | D | - | - | - | - |

Symbols / Source

Cape Archives, Cape Town
A LM 48
B VC 40-47; VC 103 (MR 1756) & VC 166 (MR 1756)
C ZA 2/9/1-6
D BO 193 (MR 16.9.1795)
In the text referred to as MR CA followed by year(s)

(ARA) Algemeen Rijksarchief, The Hague, Netherlands [NL]
E VOC 4030-4059 referred to as MR ARA followed by year(s)
F VOC 11534-11702 referred to as ARA VOC MR followed by year(s)

## WHAT WERE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND THE NETHERLANDS?

Firstly there was a strong bond of sympathy between the reformed Netherlands and Geneva, Vaud and Basel. For instance in 1661 the Netherlands gave Geneva a considerable sum of money to help her in the defence against her Roman Catholic neighbours France and Savoy. This sympathy would have been strengthened by the support of the French Huguenots, many of whom fled from France to Geneva and Vaud, and thence travelled to Basel and on to the Netherlands. One such group was the Gauch family whose progenitor in South Africa, Steven Gous, was born during the family's brief sojourn near Geneva.

Secondly the Swiss had a strong tradition of military service in the Neherlands which was formalised by a treaty in 1693. By 1694 more than 5 000 Swiss were serving in the Netherlands. These were divided into five regiments: three containing mostly Bernese, one recruited in the Grisons and one in the cantons of Zurich, Glarus, Appenzell and Schaffhausen. Only eight years later, in 1702, 11 200 Swiss were serving in seven regiments, with numbers peaking in 1748 when 20 400 men were divided into nine Swiss regiments. After that numbers gradually declined and when Napoleon invaded the Netherlands in 1795, there were 9 000 Swiss in Dutch service. In many Swiss families it became a tradition to serve in Swiss regiments in the Netherlands. Many married and settled there and achieved high office, for instance Bartholomeus Eduard Paravicini di Capelli of the Grisons (1724-1810) who became General and Weapon-developer in the

TABLE 4

Swiss arrivals, excluding members of the Regiment Neuron, during successive ten year periods 1652-1795, analysed by Canton of Origin.

Legend: Language: G=Swiss German, F=French, I=Italian speaking;
Faith: Predominant faith in the canton P=Protestant, C=Catholic.

| Canton of Origin | Language | Faith | 1652-1666 | 1667-1675 | 1676-1685 | 1686-1695 | 1696-1705 | 1706-1715 | 1716-1725 | 1726-1735 | 1736-1745 | 1746-1755 | 1756-1765 | 1766-1775 | 1776-1785 | 1786-1795 | Totals | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BE | G | P | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 21 | 11 | 16 | 12 | 9 | 92 | 20.3 |
| ZH | G | P | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 13 | 21 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 77 | 17.0 |
| VD | F | P | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 3 | 57 | 12.6 |
| BS & BL | G | P | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 51 | 11.3 |
| SH | G | P | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 22 | 4.9 |
| GE | F | P | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 19 | 4.2 |
| NE | F | P | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 18 | 4.0 |
| GR | G | P | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 17 | 3.7 |
| SG | G | P | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 3.3 |
| AI & AR | G | P & C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 3.1 |
| AG | G | P | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 2.6 |
| SO | G | C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 1.8 |
| FR | F | P & C | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 1.3 |
| GL | G | C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1.3 |
| JU | F | P | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1.3 |
| TG | G | C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1.1 |
| LU | G | C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0.9 |
| NW & OW | G | C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0.7 |
| SZ | G | C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0.4 |
| UR | G | C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| TI | I | C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| VS | F & G | P & C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| ZG | G | C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Unknown | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 19 | 4.2 |
| Totals | | | 5 | 6 | 6 | 20 | 26 | 17 | 15 | 13 | 37 | 74 | 69 | 52 | 64 | 49 | 453 | 100.0 |

Dutch army. His grandson served as Aide-de-Camp to General Janssens, Governor of the Cape 1803-1806.

On average 13 000 Swiss served at any one time in Swiss regiments in the Netherlands. Assuming each gave nine years service, then over 103 years from 1693 to 1795, 150 000 Swiss served in Swiss regiments in the Netherlands. In comparison the estimated 16 000 who served the VOC in its overseas territories, is very small. Swiss also emigrated to the Nerherlands to seek employment in the private sector. An example is Stucki, a bookkeeper of Obermeil ZH, who settled in Utrecht. Two of his grandsons emigrated to South Africa, where one distinguished himself as a pioneer in the field of education.

WHAT WERE THE ATTRACTIONS OF EMPLOYMENT BY THE VOC?

*Adventure*: the chance of travelling to far away, exotic spice islands.

*Security*: Permanent employment for a contract period of five years plus the travelling time. The contract could, on completion, be extended at increased pay. The pay could either be accumulated or transmitted home to support the family left behind.

*Good pay*: Initially men were engaged as common soldiers on a monthly salary of nine florins (raised to fl 11 in the latter part of the eighteenth century) plus rations. However, there was the possibility of advancing to a better paid job. A carpenter or mason received fl 14 and a sergeant fl 18.

/ [1] Rial: *Die Schweizerischen Regimenter in den Niederlanden*; [2] Albach: *Die Schweizer Regimenter in holländischen Diensten.*

Various tables were compiled to facilitate the examination of the numbers of Swiss brought to the Cape by the VOC, their origins and, in broad outline, their achievements. Table 4 (p. 14) shows the number of Swiss recorded at the Cape, their Canton of origin and the date of arrival. In the 143 years from 1652 to 1795 a total of 453 Swiss were recorded, not including the members of the Swiss Regiment Meuron brought to the Cape in 1783. Had no Muster Rolls had been missing, the total might well have exceeded 470. Canton Berne which then included the Cantons of Vaud, Aargau and Jura, supplied the major portion of mercenaries for the Swiss regiments in Dutch service, and has the strongest representation amongst the Company servants, making up 36,8%. Notable is the small but steady influx of men from Basel, while in proportion to its population, the largest number of men probably came from Appenzell. Few came from the catholic cantons. Overall the numbers show a growing tendency, the fluctuations peaking when the Cape was under threat of attack from the French during the War of Spanish Succession 1701-1714 and the War of Austrian Succession 1740-1748, and from the English during the American War of Independence 1776-1781.

Table 5 (p. 16) analyses the activities of the Swiss stationed at the Cape. It shows that of the 453 Swiss recorded on Table 4 (p. 14), eighty were sick men left behind to recover before resuming their voyage to the East on other ships. Of the remaining 373, thirteen arrived as free settlers and 360 were stationed here as Company servants.

Table 6 (p. 18) tabulates the Swiss according to the highest position attained at the Cape.

HOW LARGE WAS THE PROPORTION OF SWISS IN THE COMPANY'S WORKFORCE?

In Tabe 7 the number of Swiss at the Cape was determined every tenth year and compared with the total for all Company servants on that year's Muster Roll. The weighted average works out to 1,6%. The Swiss thus formed one sixtieth of the Company's workforce at the Cape. Using this figure some interesting guesstimates can be made. If the Swiss made up one sixtieth of the one million company servants transported overseas then 16 000 Swiss served in the Company's overseas stations, of whom only 30% or 4 800 returned to Switzerland.

TABLE 5

Swiss arrivals, excluding members of the Regiment Meuron, during successive ten year periods, analysed according to highest positions attained

| | Ten year period ending | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Highest position attained | 1666 | 1675 | 1685 | 1695 | 1705 | 1715 | 1725 | 1735 | 1745 | 1755 | 1765 | 1775 | 1785 | 1795 | Total | % |
| Sailor | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 3.0 |
| Able seaman/Gunner | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 26 | 7.2 |
| Soldier only | 1 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 43 | 28 | 16 | 22 | 23 | 186 | 51.6 |
| Unskilled Labourer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 38 | 10.6 |
| Loaned | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 31 | 8.6 |
| Skilled Labourer | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 39 | 10.8 |
| Cadet | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1.7 |
| Corporal/Lance Corp. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 3.3 |
| Sergeant | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 1.7 |
| Officer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0.6 |
| Administration | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0.8 |
| Totals | 5 | 5 | 3 | 19 | 22 | 16 | 9 | 11 | 29 | 66 | 54 | 37 | 47 | 37 | 360 | 100 |
| Free Settlers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Men | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 9 | |
| Women | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | |
| Totals of above | 5 | 5 | 6 | 20 | 22 | 16 | 9 | 11 | 29 | 66 | 55 | 40 | 50 | 39 | 373 | |
| Sick left temporarily | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 15 | 10 | 14 | 11 | 80 | |
| Total Swiss at Cape | 5 | 6 | 6 | 20 | 25 | 18 | 15 | 13 | 37 | 74 | 70 | 50 | 64 | 50 | 453 | |

## 4.5 Recruitment for the Company

The VOC did not have their own recruiting officers but relied on freelance agents. For each enlisted man delivered to an outgoing ship, they received two months' pay which was deducted from his salary. The agents often used underhand means to persuad men to sign up and then kept them confined in their house until they could delivered, to make sure that the men did not abscond. The place of confinement in the agent's house often being unsanitary and the food poor, many men arrived on the ship in a sickly condition. After leaving the Netherlands the first landfall was made at the Cape, where the seriously sick were put ashore to recuperate and the local governor could select any men he might require. They would be chosen according to their ability to perform specific tasks: as soldiers at the fort doing mainly guard duty like Jakob Meyer of Bünzen AG, or as artisans, labourers, stable hands, herdsmen, etc. If found proficient, they might in time be advanced to more responsible positions, like Samuel Filibert Scheer of Basel, who, after first working as sick comforter at the hospital, was appointed assistant surgeon.

## 4.6 In Company Service

Nearly three quarters of the men never rose above the lowest rank of soldier or sailor. Only 12.2% advanced to able seaman, gunner, or corporal, while a further 1.7% were eventually appointed as sergeants and 0.6% as officers. In the civilian sphere 10.8% were employed as skilled artisans ranging from carpenter and mason to chief wagon-maker, gaol keeper and public executioner. Only three Swiss (0.8%) were recorded as doing clerical work in the Company's offices or stores.

LOW RANKING COMPANY SERVANTS HAD NO CIVIL RIGHTS.

The lower ranks of the Company servants occupied a lowly position on the social ladder and were not admitted as members of the church congregation. This precluded them from contracting legal marriages, as all marriages had to be performed at the Dutch Reformed Church. Many formed liaisons with slave girls or free girls of mixed blood. One of these, George Wanner of Schaffhausen, on gaining burgher status and membership of the church, manumitted (set free) his slave girl, had her and her son baptised and then married her.

No union with a non-Christian, be she slave or Khoisan, was sanctioned by the church and thus remained illegitimate. Children born from such a union were not normally baptised and went unrecorded. An example is Hans Soeblee of Bougy-Villars VD who, in 1791, lived in the mountains above Simon's Town with a Khoi woman by whom he had many children, all unrecorded. The roll and status of the mixed population at the Cape, 1652-1795 is described by Heese in *Groep sonder Grense.*

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Table 6 (p. 18) shows the canton of origin and the highest position attained in Company service of each Swiss stationed at the Cape. The figures do not include members of the Swiss Regiment Meuron stationed at the Cape from 1783 onwards, only nine of whom settled here.

Table 7 (p. 19) gives a ten yearly count of the men actually at the Cape and analyses the Swiss according to their date of arrival. Until about 1695 they occupied only the lowest ranks. After 1775 Swiss also occupied high positions both in the military and the civil establishments. Table 6 (p. 18) analyses the ranks attained on a cantonal basis. Surprisingly Neuchatel gets the lowest rating. The Grison and Basel grace positions near the top, 53% and 46% respectively having risen above the rank of common soldier or obtained burgher status. Berne and Zurich are average with only about 25% improving their situation, though three of the six Swiss sergeants and one of the two Swiss officers came from Zurich, and only one Bernese rose above the rank of corporal.

TABLE 6
Showing the number of Swiss Company servants who arrived at the Cape, analysed by Canton of origin and highest station attained at the Cape.

| | | | Military | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Canton of origin | 1 So. | 2 Cadet | 3 Corp. | 4 Sergt. | 5 Off. | 6 Burg-her | 7 Sum of 1-6 | 8 Sum of 2-6 | 9 8= % of 7 |
| SZ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 100 |
| GR | 7 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 15 | 8 | 53 |
| LU | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 50 |
| BL & BS | 21 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 39 | 18 | 46 |
| AG | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 40 |
| GE | 9 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 5 | 36 |
| NW & OW | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 33 |
| ZH | 46 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 62 | 16 | 26 |
| BE | 56 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 75 | 19 | 25 |
| SO | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 25 |
| SG | 12 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 3 | 20 |
| GL | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 20 |
| TG | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 20 |
| SH | 16 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 3 | 16 |
| VD | 37 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 43 | 6 | 14 |
| NE | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| AI & AR | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| JU | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| FR | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| TI | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| UR | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| VS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ZG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unknown | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 9 |
| Totals | 270 | 6 | 38 | 6 | 3 | 38 | 361 | 91 | 25 |

AT THE HOSPITAL

Besides fresh food and water, the settlement at the Cape was also required to provide amenities where the sick, unable to continue the voyage to Batavia, could be left to recover. Van Riebeeck built the first hospital which could accommodate up to 30 patients. When this became unsufficient, a former rice warehouse was adapted in 1676 to take in 100 patients and finally a large stone building which accommodated 225 beds was taken in use in 1699. This building seems to have been badly constructed. On 18.11.1704 the Governor's journal reported that it was feared it might collapse in the prevailing strong wind; the gables had been moving to and fro all day and some woodwork had been damaged. The foundation stone for an even larger double storey hospital had by then already been laid with great pomp and ceremony, but 20 years and half a million guilders later it was not yet completed.

The number of sick to be accommodated varied greatly but of course grew over the years as the number of ships calling at the Cape increased. On average about 2% of the ships were lost en route; deaths at sea during the outward journeys averaged about 6%, with a maximum of 11.9% lost in the decade 1770-1780. A very much larger percentage of the men must have been sick on arrival at the Cape, suffering mainly from scurvy. They would be left at the hospital until they had recovered and could continue the voyage to the East. Alas, conditions at the hospital were reported by various travellers as being such as to make the sick even sicker. Under such conditions the seriously ill had little chance of recovering. Deaths at the hospital were not recorded, though once mention was made of a Swiss, Ougert Ougerts, who had arrived on 17.4.1668 and died 17 days later. At that time Samuel Filibert Scheer of Basel was assistant surgeon at the hospital. Another Swiss, Jan Hendrik Eswyler of Zurich, served as assistant surgeon at the hospital nearly a century later, in 1751.

TABLE 7
Showing the number of Swiss arrivals at the Cape counted every tenth year period, and their status, not including members of the Swiss Regiment Meuron.

| | 1666 | 1675 | 1685 | 1695 | 1705 | 1715 | 1725 | 1735 | 1745 | 1755 | 1765 | 1775 | 1785 | 1795 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Company servants | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Soldiers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| military duties | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 18 | 16 | 11 | 10 | 15 |
| labourers & in stables | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| artisans | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
| on loan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| imprisoned | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| condemned on Robben I | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| sick in hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Sailors & Gunners | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cadets | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Corporals | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Sergeants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| Officrs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Company Officials | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Total Swiss Company servants | 4 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 5 | 6 | 20 | 29 | 31 | 36 | 33 | 28 |
| Total all Co. Servants | 434 | ? | ? | 711 | 495 | 684 | 735 | 1114 | ? | 1466 | 1493 | 1704 | 2155 | 1692 |
| Perentage Swiss | 0.9 | ? | ? | 1..3 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 0.7 | 0.5 | ? | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.5 | 1.7 |
| Free People | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Women | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Tradesmen & artisans | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Businessmen | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Farmers | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Not specified | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| Total free Swiss | 0 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 15 | 21 |
| Total free popluation | 188 | 250 | 531 | 1001 | 1458 | 1705 | 2497 | 3436 | 4488 | 5668 | 7252 | 8669 | 11574 | 14952 |
| Total Swiss at the Cape | 4 | 3 | 6 | 18 | 17 | 20 | 9 | 9 | 21 | 35 | 41 | 45 | 48 | 49 |

The sick were attended by male nurses appropriately called sick-comforters. Johannes Hersig of Berne was assistant sick-comforter 1771-1779, and another Bernese, Johannes Linacker, worked at the hospital as foreman in the laundry, 1789-1795.

MEMBERS OF THE GARRISON

Most men were incorporated into one of the regiments based at the Castle. Besides doing menial work and various guard duties at the Castle and in the settlement, they manned the look-out posts at the entrance of the settlement, fought in the actions against the Khoi and the San, accompanied expeditions into the interior, or were stationed at one of the numerous outposts. Thomas Schoemaker of Sulz AG rose to become an officer when in 1787 he was appointed lieutenant in command of the important soldier's post at St. Helena Bay. Hendrik Stoeder of Zurich was serving as ensign at the British occupation in 1795, and six (one each from Cantons Berne and Geneva, two each from Canton Zurich and Grison) adavanced to sergeants. Sixteen became corporals and thirteen, probably sons of well situated parents, undergoing military training, arrived as cadets.

BEUTLER'S EXPEDITION

Relatively few Swiss may have moved up in the ranks, but they seem to have always been ready to serve in adventurous situations. Thus of the 37 soldiers in Beutler's expedition, which in 1752 was sent out to explore the Eastern Cape as far as the Great Fish River, five were Swiss. Beutler's party included 71 men including a diarist, a cartographer, a surgeon, a botanist, and the soldiers. There were, in addition, a large number of Khoi servants, 11 ox-wagons carrying food and equipment, and a small boat. They stayed away from February to September, and in that time travelled beyond the

Key River where they encountered the first Xhosa. This was after the expedition had passed from the winter rainfall area into the summer rainfall area, the area populated by the Bantu people, where climatic conditions were suitable for the growing of sorghum, their staple food. From there Beutler had been instructed to cross the interior to the copper mines near the west coast. He found it impossible to travel across the dry Karoo because of the exhausted state of his party. The expedition brought back valuable information on the topography, climate, vegetation and inhabitants, and beacons were erected as far east as Algoa Bay to take formal possession of the territory, thus forestalling any French settlement there. / Forbes: *Beutler's expedition.*
The five Swiss with Beutler's expedition were Pieter Musiet (BE), Joseph Gundik (ZH), Hilarius Jene (GL), Benedict Gootje (BL) and Hendrik Frene (BE).

ON DUTY AT OUTPOSTS

Fifteen Swiss served at the various outposts established to protect the settlers against retaliatory actions by the Khoi whose land had been usurped, or to secure the coastline from foreign powers. Besides Thomas Schoenmaker already mentioned, the most notable amongst them were Jacob Swytzer of Basel, a corporal commanding three men at Groenekloof (present day Mamre) for five years (1728-1733), and Johan Smit of Berne, corporal commanding three men at Vissershok 1735-1739. It is possible that Aurelius Probenius of Basel was a member of the garrison at the fort in Saldanha Bay in 1670, when it had to be temporarily vacated during a French incursion.

*The duties of the garrisons at the outposts are exemplified by the following*:

*Groenekloof* was established 1700 after the Khoi had robbed Henning Husing, a prominent burgher, of a large number of cattle which he was grazing there. In order to ensure their safety and secure them against all hostility and thefts, a garrison of ten soldiers and a sergeant was stationed there.[1] After the Khoi no longer posed a threat, the garrison's duty was directed towards keeping the area clear of vagabonds and runaway slaves.

A fort was established at *de Rietvalley aan de Buffeljagtsrivier* (present day Swellendam) in 1743 with a garrison of one corporal and seven dragoons. Their duties were: to send a wagon load of timber to Cape Town four times annually; to protect the settlers and associated Khoi against the San; to provide officials and high ranking visitors with board and lodging and fresh draught animals; to protect the mountain forests and to breed cattle for the Company's meat requirements. / Tomlinson: *History of Swellendam.*

After the smallpox epidemic of 1715 had decimated the nomadic Khoi, they ceased to be a threat to the safety of the intruding graziers. The San on the other hand remained fiercely independent. These hunters and gatherers of roots and fruit were being pushed out of their hunting grounds and ever further into the barren wilderness. They retaliated by driving off the intruders'cattle, sheep and goats and murdering their herdsmen. When the situation became so bad that the colonists were obliged to retire from several places, the Council of Policy on 5.6.1777 decided no other option remained but to systematically exterminate the San. In a drive along the mountains of the North-Western Cape, three divisions of burghers, men of mixed Khoi, slave and European parentage and Khoi killed 503 San and imprisoned 239. / Theal: *History of South Africa,* Vol. IV, p. 188.

THE STATION AT SIMON'S TOWN

The climate at the Cape is characterised by dry summers with sometimes stormy south-easterly trade winds, and often equally strong north-westerly winds with lashing rain during the winter months. Table Bay lies exposed to the winter storms, which drove many ships onto the beach and wrecked them. In 1742 the order was given that all ships should henceforth anchor in False Bay during the stormy winter months. A station was established at Simon's Town and a few soldiers under a sergeant stationed there. The postholder at Simon's Town was required to act as harbour master. On sighting a ship he had to hoist the prescribed signal flag and then perform the duties of Equipage Master. As soon as a ship anchored he was the first to board it, receive the captain's

report, and note the ship's origin and destination, number of men on board, deaths since departure and the number of sick men.

Simon's Town appears to have been a favourite station for the Swiss. Between 1747 and 1795 nine Swiss served there: two from Geneva and four each from Cantons Berne and Vaud:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1747-1750 | Andrea Selsen | BE | soldier |
| 1750 | Jacob Coenraad | BE | soldier |
| 1758-1759 | Hans Soeblee | VD | soldier |
| 1759-1760 | Andries Vieso | GE | postholder |
| 1760-1762 | Hans Soeblee | VD | postholder |
| 1761 | Jacob Schoon | BE | postholder |
| 1763 | Adam Wendschoon | ?VD | postholder |
| 1764 | Joseph Jonie | VD | postholder |
| 1764-1774 | Hans Soeblee | VD | postholder |
| 1778-1783 | Hand Soeblee | VD | postholder |
| 1784 | Christiaan Wegeling | BE | soldier |
| 1795 | Christiaan Moesbag | GE | postholder |

### MEN SERVING IN OTHER CAPACITIES

A lesser number of men were assigned to the barn and stables as labourers, cattle herds and wagon drivers. Hans Coert Pieken of Appenzell had a successful life. He arrived in 1747, initially worked four years as a wood-cutter in the forest, then at Muizenberg held the position of gardener for two years and finally the job of Company's dairyman for four years. Benedictus Reyser of Berne and Nicolaas Bas of Chur GR did even better, becoming the Governor's coachmen in 1719-1722 and 1760-1767 respectively and as such received better pay than a sergeant.

Artisans were always valued and any new arrival with some sort of training had good prospects of earning improved pay either in the service of the Company or of burghers who loaned them from the Company. Many Swiss had the opportunity to use their skills but only four were recorded as foremen: Jan Bossert of Schaffhausen in 1737 in an unspecified post as foreman, and Domenicus Steyner of Schwyz, Baltus Wiederkehr of "Switzerland" in 1760 and Hendrik Muller of Zurich in 1767-1769, as foremen of the masons.

All transport being animal drawn, wagon-making was an important industry. Johan Hendrik Esbag of Basel was Chief Wagon-maker at the Cape for 18 years, 1778-1796, earning a princely fl 30 per month.

Surprisingly, quite a few Swiss arrived as sailors and one even served as captain: Christiaan Marik of Klosters GR who, from 1719 onward, commanded various ships based at the Cape.

Hendrik Wolfensberg of Zurich had an unusual craft: initially employed as blacksmith, he became the Company's brass-foundryman in 1741 and served in that capacity for six years, earning fl 18, the equivalent of a sergeant's pay. Similarly, Joseph Jonie of Bossy VD, after working as labourer and soldier, became the Company's seal-engraver in 1766 until his retirement in 1787.

The only Swiss scientist to come to the Cape during the Dutch Period was Jacob Baselr of Basel, an assayer, who was sent here in 1669 together with a party of miners to search for minerals. His task was to test ores extracted for their mineral content.

Three Swiss who had served as soldiers, were appointed Company hunters: Soors Provoost of Solothurn in 1723, Joseph Klein of Porchet VD in 1771 and Andries Bertram of Grison in 1788.

Only three Swiss were recorded as working in the Company's offices. Roedolf Schitz of Berne was a scribe 1750-1752; Rodolphe le Camus, probably of Fribourg, became first clerk to the Council of Policy in 1737 and Adolf Juriaanse of Lausanne VD was Secunde to the first magistrate at Graaff-Reinet 1785-1789.

### COMPANY SERVANTS ON LOAN TO BURGHERS

Company servants not needed by the Company could be loaned by burghers in whatever capacity they might want to use them, as domestic servants,

shoemakers'assistants, farm hands, shepherds, etc. Thirty-one Swiss soldiers were thus loaned. A legal contract for one year was drawn up and signed by all parties. After expiry the contract could be extended for a further period. Thus in 1756, after serving in Beutler's expedition, Hendrik Freene of Berne signed to serve Pieter Jurgens as farm hand and stayed with him for eight years, then took service with Willem van Wyk until 1772 when he applied for and received burgher status.

In 1718, Jan Vorster of Berne, progenitor of the Vorster family in South Africa, was loaned to the church community at Drakenstein to do the masonry work for their new church, and then loaned to former member of the Heemraad (Local Judicial Council) Schalk Willemsz van der Merwe. Eventually he applied for burgher papers with the intention of earning his living as a free mason at the Cape.

PENSION AND RETIREMENT

After a Company servant had completed his contract period of five years he was entitled to a free passage back to Europe. However, he was welcome to extend his service contract at increased pay. Most men were content to stay on: the secure life in pleasant surroundings to which they had become accustomed was preferable to an arduous sea voyage and an uncertain future in Switzerland.

At a time when life expectancy was short, few are recorded for longer than 20 years in Company service: Hans Soeblee (VD) served the Company 1757-1786, Jacob Haller (BE) 1760-1795 and George Wanner (SH) 1760-1791, who was battalion cook when he applied for and received a pension. Thomas Schoemaker served as officer from 1774 until he lost his appointment after the First British occupation of the Cape in 1795.

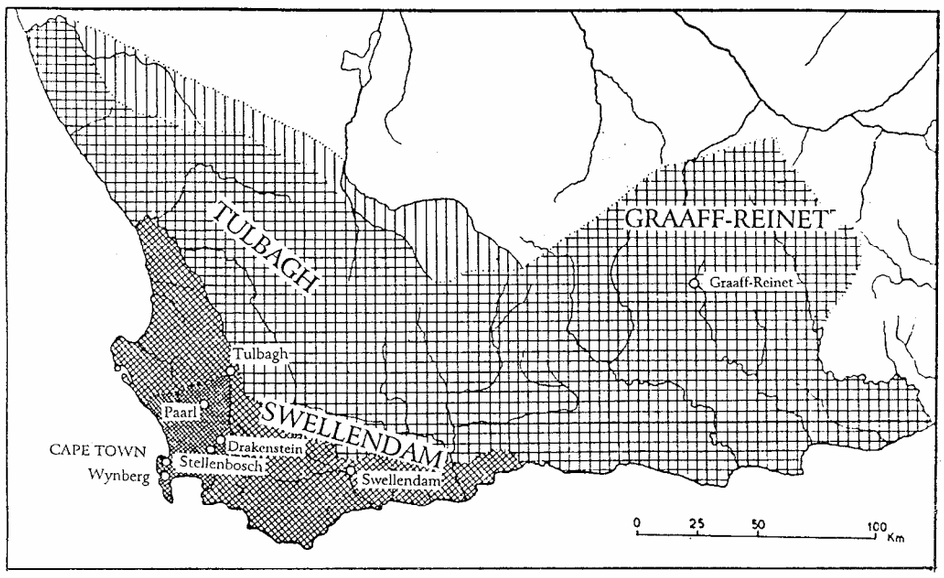
## 4.7 Freemen

Only a few years after the station had been established at the Cape, the Company came to the conclusion that free farmers could best assure a steady supply of agricultural produce. Suitable land was leased to selected men and thus a settlement was started which eventually spread to the Limpopo River in the north and the Orange River in the west. Henceforth Company servants who had served their contract period could apply for free burgher status and permission to settle at the Cape. These were granted on condition that the applicant remained at the Cape for at least twenty years, after which he would be entitled to a free passage back to Europe. Isaac Manget of Geneva was the first Swiss to settle here in 1658, only six years after Van Riebeeck's arrival, but he deserted from the Cape after only a few months. Thus the distinction of having been, albeit not of his own chosing, the first Swiss to have remained here permanently goes to Moses Chubli of Berne, who died and was buried at the Cape in 1667.

The Swiss who became freemen are classified in Table 6 (p. 18) according to the date for their arrival, and grouped into owners of small properties or farms, and those that never owned land. Of the 252 Swiss estimated to have remained at the Cape, 70 were recorded as freemen and burghers. A larger number remained in service where they had security of employment and good pay, while many must have died before they became freemen.

TABLE 8
Swiss freemen at the Cape counted every tenth year, including members of the Swiss Regiment Meuron.

| Year | 1666 | 1675 | 1685 | 1695 | 1705 | 1715 | 1725 | 1735 | 1745 | 1755 | 1765 | 1775 | 1785 | 1795 | Totals | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Farmers | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 12 | 17 |
| House owners | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 16 |
| No property | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 47 | 67 |
| Totals | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 70 | 100 |




MAP 3 The Growth of the settlement at the Cape.

until 1700 until 1750 until 1800 until 1806

From Historical Atlas of South Africa by Eric A Walker, Humphrey Milford Oxford Press, 1922

FARMERS AND FARM LABOURERS

The first farms were granted in Table Valley and along the Liesbeeck River from the mouth of the Salt River to Wynberg Hill, where a wild almond hedge was planted for protection against the Khoi. The expanding settlement deprived the nomadic Khoi of their traditional summer grazing areas, resulting in an extended conflict which ended by the defeat of the Khoi in 1679. This opened up the interior and enabled the settlement of the Stellenbosch and Drakenstein areas, though numerous Khoi homesteads continued to exist in their vicinity. Every burgher was required to possess a gun and sword and be a member of the burgher militia, which could be called up should any emergency arise. Readiness was ensured by holding inspections at regular intervals. Jan Oberholster of Zurich had the unique distinction of simultaneously serving as commander of both the Stellenbosch and the Drakenstein Dragoons. The smallpox epidemics in 1715 and 1745 were national disasters for the Khoi. Communities as far away as the Orange River were practically wiped out and farmers moved in to occupy the now largely depopulated areas.

Only four Swiss successfully applied to the Company for grants of land: Alexander Blanck of Schaffhausen near Klapmuts in 1681, Jan Margra of Lutry VD near Stellenbosch in 1686, Hendrik Muller of Basel in the Franschhoek Valley in about 1691, and Abraham Matthee of Tramelan BE near Pearly Beach in 1750. The last named may not have been a successful agriculturist. He had to supplement his income by working as a blacksmith, but he is the only one of the four whose name lives on through numerous descendants.

Two of the other Afrikaans families with Swiss origins are descended from men who acqired farms by purchase or marriage. Claas Loubser of Fräschels FR bought a small propertry at the mouth of the Salt River in 1676. Through good farming and by augmenting his income as wagon builder, he became a wealthy man. Jan Oberholster of Zurich acquired several farms near Klapmuts by marriage, proved himself a successful farmer and businessman, and also died wealthy.

Jan Sausche of Rougemont VD bought a farm in the Berg River valley below Paarl, but hired out his lands on a share crop basis and continued working as blacksmith. He never married and left no descendants.

Most Swiss freemen took work as farmhands, staying long years with farmers who treated them well. Some eventually hired part of the farm, the owner receiving as rent one third of all produce. Thus in 1773 Hendrik Freene of Canton Berne was recorded as owning 10 head of cattle and 200 sheep, and 1741 Johannes Litseler of Canton Basel had 32 head of cattle.

### TRADESMEN, TEACHERS AND BUSINESSMEN.

On obtaining burgher status those proficient at a trade would take employment, or, if they had sufficient enterprise, work for their own account. In 1688 Hans Jurgen Sleyer (SH) became a farmhand and in 1702 Pieter Frene (VD) took service as a shepherd. The first Swiss tradesman recorded, in 1688, is Jacob Krebs of Berne, a free shoemaker. Others to become free shoemakers were Johannes Struyk and Johannes Linacker both of Berne, in 1765 and 1795 respecively, the last named living in Stellenbosch. Hans Waber (BS) in 1701, Jan Vorster of Berne, in 1723, and possibly Samuel Cobie (BE) in 1763, became free masons. Frederik Furter of Basel worked as a carpenter in the Swartland (present day Malmesbury) after 1800. Jan Christiaan Yselle of Hasle BE set up as a tailor in 1760 and no doubt profited from his wife's connection with the wife of Colonel Gordon, Head of the Military Establishment. One Swiss, Pierre Sandoz of Neuchatel, worked as a free silversmith in 1754 but his dishonesty, combined with a deficient knowledge of his trade, led to his downfall. Both Jan Sausche (VD) in 1747 and Abraham Matthee of the Bernese Jura acquired farms in 1750, but appear to have made their living mainly as blacksmiths.

The several Swiss recorded as teachers all appear to hail from the northern parts of Switzerland. Jan Melchior Frick, sextant and teacher at the Drakenstein church 1733-1741, was from Steckborn TG. Henry François Grondeler, a music teacher, was from Basel; he and his son served for over 60 years as the organists of the Groote Kerk in Cape Town. Another Swiss, Matthias Liedy, a former soldier in the Regiment Wurttemberg was, at the time of the first British Occupation, teacher in the employ of a farmer. They probably had only a most rudimentary standard of education. In contrast, Johan Jacob Ziegler of Schaffhausen who was specially "imported" by prominent burghers of Cape Town to teach their children, was well educated and even applied for permission to open a Latin school.

Quite a few set up in business. The most successful were the two butchers Michiel Ley of Basel and Jan Oberholster of Zurich. The former appears to have been on a good footing with Governor Willem Adriaan Van der Stel, which brought him lucrative Government contracts, notably, together with Obersholster and two others, the monopoly of the meat trade. This sparked the famous protest action by farmers led by Adam Tas. Nicolaas Wederkeer of Bremgarten AG also set up business but died only five years later, in 1712. The inventory of his property and household goods includes books, a pipe-rack and a caged canary, indicating him to have been a cultured person. A few years later, Jacob Marik (GR) made an unsuccessful attempt to set himself up as dealer and baker. After 1749 Casper Schalker of Winterthur had a general dealer's shop near Paarl.

Johan Coenraad Gie of Zurich, on becoming a burgher, married the granddaughter of Michiel Ley. This brought him excellent connections: her father and uncles occupied important positions. As active freemason, co-founder of De Goede Hoop Lodge in 1772, Church elder, Burgher Councillor and Captain in the Burgher Infantry he also became prominent in public life. His name appears in an inscription on the pulpit in the Groote Kerk.

Jan von Winterthur of Seuzach ZH in 1776 became a burgher of Stellenbosch, owned property and married, but his profession is nowhere recorded.

### FREE SETTLERS

All shipping to the Cape was controlled by the VOC who provided transport only for Company servants, senior officials and their families. When prominent burghers wanted

to import Johan Jacob Ziegler of Schaffhausen as teacher for their children, the only way they could obtain a passage was to enlist him as a common soldier in the service of the Company and then to purchase his freedom on arrival. The same procedure was adopted by Johan Coenraad Gie of Zurich when he arranged for his brother Jan Casper to come and join him at the Cape.

Various men first recorded as freemen were almost certainly former Company servants who had obtained their freedom. An example is Nicolaas Fuchs of Basel, a naval chief surgeon who took his discharge at the Cape in 1785 to settle down to domestic life. Others are Jacob Huben, of unknown origin, in 1684; Hendrik Mulder of Basel, farming in the Franschhoek Valley, in 1695, Jan Francois David Engel of Canton Berne recorded in the 1770's. A special case is Hans Moole of Chur GR. Left at the Cape in 1772 by an English ship with the Governor's permission, and granted burgher papers, he was seven years later banned and deported as a useless subject.

Because the VOC engaged only male servants and only officials were allowed to bring their families with them, there was a complete lack of marriageable European girls. Many burghers married local women of mixed blood who were usually accepted as equals by the Cape community. Indeed, Governor Simon Van der Stel himself was of mixed blood. (See A.J. Boëseken: *Simon van der Stel en sy kinders*, p. 4) The VOC did, however, encourage officials departing from Holland to take their maids with them, in the hope that they might find a husband during the brief sojourn at the Cape. Two Swiss, Alexander Blanck of Schaffhausen and Claas Loubser of Fräschels FR married such girls. In 1780 the VOC granted a passage to Susanne Margaretha Nicolet of Lignerolle NE to travel to the Cape with her Swiss lady companion, Anne Albertine Bienvignon, to marry Colonel Robert Gordon, Head of the Military Establishment. Anne soon married Jan Christiaan Yselle of Hasle BE. Unexplained is the presence at the Cape of Anna Maria Holthalt of Switzerland, wife of Hans Jacob Huben in 1684, and Sophia Magdalena Schroeder of Zurich in 1758.

The VOC made no effort to attract free settlers to the Cape other than the French Huguenots. These arrived here in the 1680's after receiving favourable reports from an advance party which included a Swiss, Jan Margra of Lutry near Lausanne VD.

### 4.8 Crime and Punishment

TABLE 9
Showing the total number of Swiss found guilty of various misdemeanours, and the number condemned to labour on Robben Island, including members of Regiment Meuron 1652-1795

| Years | 1652-1666 | 1667-1675 | 1676-1685 | 1686-1695 | 1696-1705 | 1707-1715 | 1716-1725 | 1726-1735 | 1736-1745 | 1746-1755 | 1756-1765 | 1766-1775 | 1776-1785 | 1786-1795 | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total guilty | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 27 |
| On Robben Island | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 14 |

Having paraded the successful Swiss we must now also look at those who, by misfortune or foul deed, landed in the harsh hands of justice. The VOC kept its servants and the free burghers under very strict discipline and in keeping with seventeenth century penal punishment, even for minor offences, was severe. Painful corporal punishment supplemented with years of hard labour in chains on Robben Island was quite common. For instance, in 1673 Jacob Meyer of Bünzen AG was sentenced to five years labour on Robben Island for stealing a small quantity of brandy.

ROBBEN ISLAND
Robben Island lies in Table Bay, 5 km from the mainland. It is surrounded by the water of the Atlantic Ocean which is so cold that an unprotected swimmer cannot reach the mainland alive. (In summertime the temperature of the water is 14$^{o}$C) Its history as a place of banishment reaches back to 1614 when ten convicts from London were landed

there to form a settlement to supply fresh provisions to passing ships. This first European settlement at the Cape ended in failure. Jan van Riebeeck used penguin eggs gathered on the island as an important source for food during his first year at the Cape. He considered Robben Island as a place of refuge, if his settlement on the mainland was endangered by the Khoi. When his position became secure, he threatened the Khoi leaders with banishment there, should they not comply with his demands. It was not long before the island became a penal colony to which convicts were sent to labour in lime stone quarries, breaking much needed building stones. Robben Island was used in this manner until very recently when the last political prisoners were released from the island. It also served as a leper colony during the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Altogether 27 Swiss were condemned to corporal punishment, hard labour or incarceration. Of these at least 14 spent time on Robben Island. See Table 9 (p. 25)

David Hypze "of Switzerland" in 1697 was caught picking up goods washed ashore from Company ships wrecked in the  bay and sentenced to two years hard labour in chains. Jan Jacob Wald of Milde near Berne was condemned to five years hard labour after a boisterous drinking party at a burgher's house. Claas Loubser of Fräschels FR, a burgher of the Cape, was found guilty of defrauding the Company and sentenced to two years hard labour on Robben Island, which, let us hasten to add, was commuted to labour on public works.

For lesser offences painful corporal punishment and deportation was often imposed. Bartholomeus Jurger of Portels SG, a burgher found guilty of many illegal activities, was branded, scourged and banished to Mauritius. Leendert Meynraad of Schaffhausen and Charl Etienne Kiegel of Neuchatel were banned and sent away in 1712 and 1766 respectively.

For any Company servant to absent himself from work or strike his superior was regarded as a grievous offence and the punishment imposed was certainly a deterrent. In 1733 Adriaan Vermaire of Basel stayed away from work for three days and was sent in chains to labour for six months in the quarry on Robben Island. When, in 1705, Jan Jacob Peroude of Neuchatel struck his foreman, he was sentenced to eight years labour in chains on the island. Three years earlier Willem Soeter of Berne, on loan to a farmer, was whipped and fined for breaking his contract and taking service with another because, he said, of poor treatment.

Deserters and mutineers at sea could expect the death penalty or long years on Robben Island. Nicolaas Basje of Lucens VD was hanged in 1675 and his body left hanging as a prey for the birds. Jacon Boery of Zurich was placed against the execution post and shot in 1748. Four Swiss, amongst them 23 year old Honore Brune of Nyon VD, took part in a plot to mutiny at sea in 1766 and were sent in chains to Robben Island where all appear to have died.

During periods when the Netherlands was at war with France, French speakers could expect particularly severe sentences. Jean de Seine from "Griesons", a freeman, was heard discussing the possibility of a French landing and was sent in chains to Robben Island for ten years. Murder of course carried the supreme penalty. When Isaac Boshuysen of Geneva, a burgher of Stellenbosch, was party to a fatal assault he was lucky to be convicted to 20 years labour at the public works.

Hangings, corporal punishment and the like were carried out in public by the executioner, assisted by black slaves. No doubt it takes a special type of person to inflict the sometimes gruesome sentences and not surprisingly he was shunned by the people. Jan Weis of Solothurn must have performed his tasks well; he was retained as executioner for 18 years, from 1762 to 1781. His pay was approximately equivalent to that of a sergeant. At about the same time the position of head goaler was also filled by a Swiss, Hendrik Swarts of Winterthur ZH.

### 4.9 The Swiss Regiment Meuron at the Cape 1783-1795[1]

During the American War of Independence 1778-1783 popular sympathies in France and the Netherlands lay with the Americans and this led to open warfare with England in 1780. Within a short time England captured several Dutch colonies. But for the timely arrival of a French fleet under Admiral Suffrens, they would also have taken the

Cape. When the French fleet departed it left behind the Regiment Pondicherry to defend the Cape until Holland could send out troops to strengthen the garrison. On 7 February 1783 the Swiss Regiment Meuron disembarked in Table Bay and was lodged in a wing of the new hospital situated on present day Caledon Square.

Charles-Daniel, Count de Meuron of Neuchatel, formerly an officer of the Swiss Guard in Paris, was contracted by the Dutch East India Company to supply a regiment of 1 120 men fully clothed and equipped, ready to go to war anywhere required. All members of the regiment were required to be protestant, all officers, except those of two companies to be nominated, and two thirds of the soldiers to be Swiss – which could include men from the territories attached to the Swiss Conferation, namely from the Grey Leagues (Canton Grisons), the Bishopry of Geneva, Mulhouse, the Valais, Montbéliard and Saint Gall. The rest to be German. The regiment was granted the right to play Swiss martial music and to conduct its own court of justice, privileges on which all Swiss mercenary troops insisted. But instead of the traditional Swiss blood-red uniform they were required to accept a blue uniform with yellow trimmings, to distinguish them from their intended enemy, the British redcoats.

De Meuron assembled his regiment on Ile de Ré near the French naval base of La Rochelle. When he was short of Swiss officers he registered others as Swiss as for instance the second surgeon Anthonie Azerond of Brussels, Belgium and the engineer Louis Thibault from Paris. After the loss of many men during an epidemic while the regiment was assembling, 380 vacancies were filled with inmates from a nearby prison. A further 103 men died during the sea voyage to the Cape reducing the regiment on arrival to 850 men.

The French captain contracted to transport the regiment to the Cape, decided to make some illegal extra money by taking on commercial cargo first, with the result that the soldiers had to accept inferior accommodation on the ships while the cannon and other weaponry had to be stacked on the open deck where it was exposed to the corroding sea air. To make matters worse, departure was delayed and the season of most favourable winds was missed. Consequently the voyage was inordinately long. Many men were lost to scurvy and the weaponry became rusted during the long period at sea. Colonel de Meuron was most dissatisfied when the Governor, for fear of offending the French government, refused to support his claims against the dishonest captain.

Two months after their arrival when the men had recovered from the ordeal of the five months long sea voyage, and the equipment was cleaned and polished, the whole regiment paraded for a general inspection. The eight canon brought from France were fired. The troops parading in full uniform with flags flying and the band playing greatly impressed the local inhabitants.[2]

During the time that the regiment was stationed at the Cape, 72 officers, 48 of them Swiss, served there for various periods. They found life at the Cape pleasant. With the French Regiment Pondicherry also stationed here, social life was very lively with dances and theatrical activities. Cape Town was in fact referred to as *Little Paris.* Count de Meuron entertained lavishly at his house in Heerengracht. The officers of the various regiments stationed at the Cape formed their own masonic lodges, the Swiss naming theirs *Choix Helvetique.*

The lower ranks did not enjoy such favourable living conditions. The inactivity impaired their morale and this was aggravated by the bad pay received: the Company paid them with specially printed paper money which the locals only accepted at a large discount. Many soldiers deserted to take service with farmers.

*A Regimental Courtmartial*

On 29.8.1785[3] the regiment provided a grand spectacle when six of its soldiers, apparently former criminals recruited from French prisons, confessed to counterfeiting the paper money and were brought before the regimental court martial held in public on the Grand Parade in front of the Castle. Practically the whole population of Cape Town turned up to watch the colourful and in the end rather gruesome procedures. At the appointed hour the Swiss marched from their barracks down Buitenkant Street to the Parade. The procession was headed by the drummers and fifes playing traditional martial tunes, followed by the fluttering flags and the troops armed and in full uniform.

All the lieutenants and junior officers of the regiment together formed the court. They heard the case and decided on the appropriate sentences which were submitted for approval to the commanding officer Count de Meuron and his senior officers assembled in the Castle. Sentence was then pronounced to the waiting prisoners and the regiment, and immediately carried out on the nearby place of execution. The principal culprit was hanged, the others scourged, branded and banned to Robben Island for various numbers of years, there to be put in chains and labour in the quarries.

De Meuron was severely criticised for the harsh sentences passed, but he replied that the Swiss knew and respected their old laws and that these were very necessary for maintaining discipline under sometimes very difficult circumstances.

*The Regiment is transfered to Ceylon.*

By 1786 the effective membership of the regiment had diminished to such an extent that the Company decided to transfer it to Ceylon. The officers were given the option to resign, which quite a number did. The Regiment Württemberg arrived at the Cape in 1787 to replace the Swiss and by 1788 the Regiment Meuron had left leaving only a depot manned by a captain, sergeants and fifty soldiers.

After the regiment had departed from the Cape, officers passing on their way to and from Ceylon spent pleasant days with compatriots living here. Notable amongst these were Susanna Margaretha Nicolet of Lignerolle NE, wife of Colonel Robert Gordon, officer commanding the Dutch forces at the Cape. and her former maid and companion Anne Albertine Bienvignon of Vufflens-la-Ville VD, married to Jan Christiaan Yselle of Hasle BE, who provided board and lodging.

A few officers married Cape Town girls who left with them for Ceylon. Some officers resigned from the regiment in order to settle here. Of these the most prominent Swiss and the only one whose name lives on in South Africa was Jean-Charles de la Harpe. He became a successful businessman and farmer, owning at various times farms at Wynberg, near Elgin, near Mossel Bay where he built a mansion which was recently declared a National Monument but shortly after was destroyed by fire, and at Plettenberg Bay. The only surviving historical monument is the funeral hatchment in the Grootkerk, Cape Town, to commemorate Andre-Urbain de le Nieps Henry of Nyon VD, Officer Commanding the Regimental Depot.

Two of the Regiment's officers, Baron de Bonstetten of Berne and Simon de Sandol-Roy of Canton Neuchatel served the Dutch for a short period as Captains of the Recruits. Simon Henry de le Nieps Prevost of Nynon VD, after resigning from the regiment and successfully applying to the Company for a military appointment, departed for Europe but returned to the Cape in 1803 now known as Colonel Henry, as Commander and Chief of the Batavian troops.

/ [1] Linder, A.: *The Swiss Regiment Meuron at the Cape and afterwards, 1781-1816*; [2] KAB, VC 33, Journal, 7.2.1783; [3] KAB, VC 34, Journal, 29.8.1785; [4] KAB, BO 237.

*Members of the Regiment in action defending the Cape, 1795.*

On 11 June 1795 a British task force of nine vessels appeared in False Bay on a mission to seize the Cape. The Cape government was not sure whether they were hostile or not. Further confusion arose when the British produced a letter from Prince William V of Orange, in which he asked the Cape Government to accept the British as friends and protectors. The Cape was starved of news. Rumours spread that the Prince of Orange was in England, that the French had occupied the Netherlands and that the Dutch revolutionaries had formed a new government. The attitude of the Cape government toward the British forces who had clearly arrived to take possession of the Cape, was ambivalent. Opinion was split beween those who favoured the Prince and those who favoured the new government in Holland.

The garrison at Simon's Town comprised 60 infantry men and 80 gunners. Colonel De Lille immediately sent an additional 120 infantrymen and 80 gunners and signal guns were fired throughout the colony to call up the burgher commandos. Yet at the same time the British were allowed fresh supplies, could place their sick in the hospital at Simon's Town, and every day a limited number of sailors and soldiers were allowed ashore to

recuperate. De Lille instructed his men to avoid anything that might be construed as an act of war.

On 13 June De Lille abandoned Simon's Town without a fight, and at the first salvo from British warships also hastily retreated from Muizenberg. The British occupied Muizenberg and awaited reinforcements before advancing on Cape Town. During this lull Captain Johann Ulrich Kiburg of the Regimental Depot De Meuron led his men in many minor attacks against the British forces, but the Dutch troops made no concerted effort to attack the British encampment. When the British resumed their advance, resistance crumbled and a truce was signed on 14 September 1795. Little more than a month later the Swiss Regiment Meuron departed from Ceylon with flying colours to take service in the British army in India.

/ [1] Linder, A.: *The Swiss Regiment Meuron at the Cape and afterwards, 1781-1816*.

### 4.10 The end of the Dutch East India Company

In Febuary 1794 the Dutch government, now of the Batavian Republic, had taken over the Dutch East India Company after it was obliged to declare itself unable to meet the interest on its loans. To maintain a garrison capable of defending the country in case of attack was beyond its power. The economic situation of the Cape was precarious, the paper money issued was not readily accepted and internal trade became mostly barter trade. Inhabitants experienced difficult times. There was unrest in Swellendam and Graaff-Reinet, partly because the burghers received insufficient help from the government to help in the fight against intruding Khosas.[1]

When in 1802 the Cape was restored to the Dutch, it was be governed by the Batavian Republic through the medium of the Council for the Asiatic possessions and establishments.[2]

/ [1] Theal, G McC: *History of South Africa*, Vol. IV, p.305; [2] Theal, G McC: *History of South Africa*, vol. V, p.106.

### 4.11 Their Names live on

Of the estimated 311 Swiss who arrived before the First British Occupation in 1795 and remained permanently at the Cape (including members of the Swiss Regiment Meuron), only 32 contracted legal marriages and of these the names of only 14 live on through their male descendants. Their names are Claas Loubser (1676), Michiel Ley (1696), Jan Oberholster (1696), Jan Vorster (1717), Jan Melchior Frick (1721), Abraham Matthee (1743) Johan Coenraad Gie (1751), Jan Christiaan Yselle (1754), Jan Caspar Gie (1764), George Christoffel Wolhuter (1773), Johan Hendrik Stoeder (1773), Johan Hendrik Esbag (1774), Charles-Daniel de La Harpe (1783), Frederik Furter (1786), Charles-Daniel de La Harpe (1783) and Jacques-Gideon Tredoux (1787).

## 5. SUMMARY OF SWISS ARRIVALS DURING FIRST BRITISH OCCUPATION 1795-1803

After the armies of the French Revolution occupied the Netherlands, Britain lost no time in making prepartions to occupy the Cape and Ceylon, which they had long coveted to secure their tenure of India, the jewel of the British Empire. The Cape was conquered on 16 September 1795, and Ceylon on 16 February 1796. After six years, at the peace treaty of Amiens 27 March 1802, they refused to return Ceylon which provided safe harbours during the stormy monsoon period and could be defended against the French by the fleet stationed in India. On the other hand the Cape was handed back as the British fleet had not yet demonstrated its ability to successfully defend the Cape against the French.

The first British occupation thus lasted only six and a half years, which were marked by the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte and his military campaigns. This situation made it impossible for Britain to give much attention to the Cape and it remained largely unchanged. On the other hand all shipping connections with France and Holland ceased and there could be no influx of young men from Holland and its hinterland. Only one

Swiss settler, Christiaan Orffer of Bönigen BE arrived 2 June on an English ship 1800. Only one other Swiss who merits a mention was Lady Anne Barnard's cook Monsieur Revel, who arrived from and returned with her to England.

## 6. SUMMARY OF SWISS ARRIVALS DURING BATAVIAN RULE 1803-1806

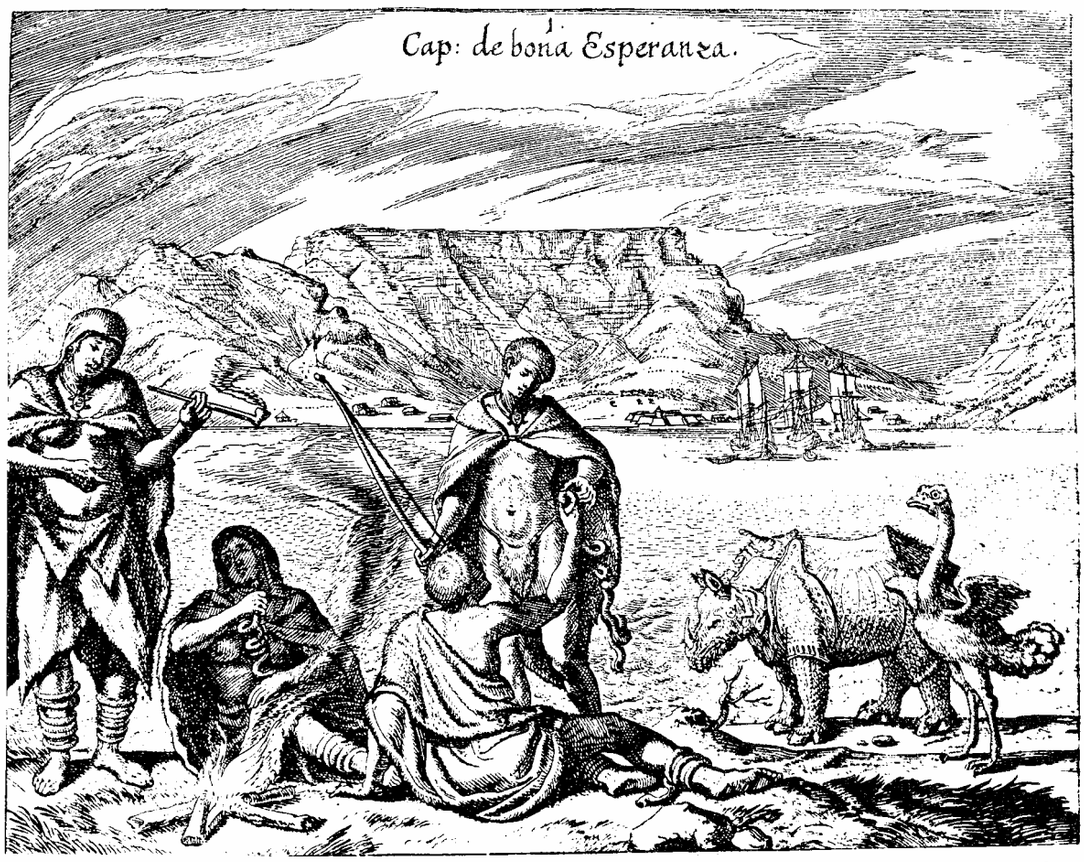
The Batavian Governor designate, General Janssens, arrived with the first contingent of Batavian troops in December 1802. The British delayed handing over the Cape until 20 February 1803 and General Janssens was ceremoniously inaugurated as Governor of the Cape of Good Hope on 1 March 1803. Scarcely two months later, on 12 May 1803, the war between Britain and France and its allies was resumed, and Dutch ships could no longer venture to sea for fear of being captured by the Royal navy.

Several of the high officials who arrived at the Cape with General Janssens had surnames indicating that they were descendants of officers in Swiss mercenary regiments serving the Dutch. The most prominent was Baron Rudolph Anthony De Salis, who acted as Govenor during Janssens journey of inspection to the interior. Shortly before the war with England was resumed, Georges-François Grand born 1749 in Lausanne, with an intriguing personal history, arrived to take up a nominal second position in the government. A number of Swiss arrived members of the Batavian National Battalions. The most noteworthy, Surgeon Johan Jacob Hablutzel born in Trüllikon ZH, and Cadet George Andreas Werdmuller born Maastricht NL, of Zurich ZH, both settled at the Cape. As happened during the First British Occupation, only one Swiss settler arrived, the watchmaker Jeremie Auguste Rouvière of Neuchatel. These three all have numerous descendants in South Africa.

## 7. SUMMARY OF SWISS ARRIVALS DURING FIRST FOURTEEN YEARS OF BRITISH COLONIAL RULE, 1806-1819

After the Second British Occupation of the Cape, a mere trickle of settlers arrived from Europe. While Britain directed all its resources to defeating Napoleon, and after Waterloo to the reconstruction of the European political landscape, it paid little attention to the newly acquired Cape Colony. The first visible change in this attitude was the arrival of the 1820 Settlers who disembarked in Saldanha Bay and Port Elizabeth.

During the fourteen years, 1806-1920, Only six Swiss arrivals were noted, of who four settled in the colony: Jacobus Petrus Fredericus Touchon of Neuchatel, who hoped to join the Regiment Meuron now in British service, and when this failed, remained here illegally in an outlying district. Louis Balthasar Meurant who gave Basel as his birthplace, arrived with wife and son as band master in a British regiment and decided to settle here. Johan George Gass who gave St Gall as his birthplace and settled in the Oudtshoorn District. Friedrich Schindler of Canton Glarus, a bricklayer who settled at the Cape. Leonard Brunner, who also married and settled in Cape Town as shopkeeper. In addition one Swiss came to die here: John Andrew Clason, a Swiss Major in the British Indian army who like many other British army officers sought to recover his health at the Cape.




The Cape of Good Hope as depicted by Albrecht Herport in his book *Reise nach Java, Formosa, Vorder-Indien und Ceylon, 1659-1668*. Photographed by S A Library, Cape Town.

**8. PERSONALIA 1652-1805**

**Herport, Albrecht** born Berne BE served the Dutch East India Company (VOC) in the East Indies from 1659 to 1667 as arquebusier. On his return home he became a landscape painter. He published his experiences with illustrations based on sketches he had made. During both the outward and homeward bound voyages the ship remained several weeks at the Cape, which Herport described in detail. / [1] Herport: *Reise nach Java, Formosa, Vorder-Indien und Ceylon 1659-1668*; [2] Thieme-Becker: *Künstlerlexikon.*

**Manget, Isaac** born Geneva [Mange?] was the first Swiss recorded at the Cape. He had entered Company service as cadet. While at the Cape in January 1658, possibly after having served the VOC in East India, he obtained burgher papers and took service with the local surgeon, who besides his practice, was allowed to run an inn and a shop.[1 & 2] Within three months Manget deserted from the settlement. Men on passing ships regarded the Cape as a harsh and dreary place, comparing unfavourably with the bustling activity and exotic ambiance of the East Indies. They derided those stationed here and were often willing to help them stow away on their ships. Manget was one of twenty-one men who thus absconded on the home fleet in April 1658.[3] The commander at the fort thenceforth placed guards on the beach during the days prior to the fleet's departure to prevent further loss of men.[4] / [1] KAB, VC 39: Letters of Freedom; [2] KAB, LM 2, p. 173; [3] Thom: *Journal*, p. 280; [4] Godee-Molsbergen: *Jan Riebeeck en sy Tyd*, p. 86.

**Scheer / Schersliefer, Samuel** born Basel BS. [Schär?] arrived 1666 as cadet, 28.5.1667-1668 junior surgeon.[1] "Samuel Schersliefer of Basel having arrived here as soldier and since been employed for about a year in the surgery, is appointed junior surgeon on the good evidence of his knowledge."[2] / [1] KAB, VC39, MR 1666-68; [2] Boëseken: *Resolusies 1651-69*, p. 355.

**Voegeli, Hans Conrad**, born Schaffhausen **[Vögeli** of Gächlingen SH?], 1666-1668 soldier. / KAB, VC39, MR 1666-68.

**Probenius, Aurelius** born Basel [Probst of Canton Solothurn?]. 1666-1671 cadet serving at outposts, 1668 at Diep River and 1670 at Saldanha Bay.[1] He and Cornelis van Benthem, corporal of the cadets, 5.9.1667 guilty of gambling with Catharina van Bengalen.[2] Became a member of the church community and returned to Switzerland.[3] While serving at Saldanha Bay Probenius would have been stationed at the fort built less than four years previously in Kraal Bay. It could only accommodate a handful of men. Presumably they were sent there six months at a time, and besides military duties sowed wheat, traded with the Khoi, stored ammunition and tended the canon placed on Konstabelkop to defend the bay and fire signal shots to alert the fort in Table Bay.[4]

Probenius was probably stationed in Saldanha Bay when, in 1670, French warships entered the bay and temporarily occupied the fort. The garrison prudently retired before the overwhelming force and only returned after the French had left.

/ KAB, VC 39, MR 1666-1671; [2] A.J. Boëseken: *Uit die Raad van Justisie, 1652-1672,* p. 178; [3] DRC, VC 603, p. 62; [4] Wierenka: *The Fort in Saldanha Bay.*

**Chubli, Moses** born Berne. [Kübli?] 1666 cadet, died 1667. He was the first Swiss whose death was recorded at the Cape. / [1] KAB, VC39, MR 1666; [2] KAB, LM 48, List of Deaths at Fort.

**Grivat, Jean Jacq / Hans Jacob** born Berne **[**Grivat or Grivaz of VD?]. 1667 free labourer working in the forest. 1668 soldier. / KAB, VC 39, MR 1666-1668.

**Ougertsz, Ougert** born in Switzerland. [Augis, VD, Augier, GE or Oggier, VS?] arrived sick 17.4.1668 on *Voorzichtigheid*, left behind and died 4.5.1668 in hospital. / KAB, VC 5: Journal.

**Basler, (Hans) Jacob** born Basel, arrived 19.9.1669 on *Polanen*, one of five experienced miners sent from Europe to search for minerals. For several years they were busy making excavations in Table Valley, Paarl Mountain, Riebeek Kasteel and other locations, often hopeful of success but always disappointed. Baselr was an assayer and had the task of smelting and testing the ores in an oven erected near Kloof Nek. / [1] KAB, VC 5, Journal; [2] KAB, VC 39, MR 1670-1671; [3] Boëseken: Resolutions 1651-1659, p. 395; [4] Theal: *History of South Africa*, Vol. III, pp. 177-178.

A SWISS WHO HAD MANY BRUSHES WITH THE LAW

**Blanck, Alexander** born Schaffhausen 1650, first recorded in Cape Town in 1670 when 20 years old, working as tar burner in Table Bay. His task was to produce tar by continuous heating of wood, to be used in waterproofing ships. Later in the same year he was on guard duty at Kyckuyt, a small fort built on the limits of the settlement to protect the Company's and free burghers' cattle from raiding Khoi. He used this vantage point for illegally bartering sheep with the Khoi, was caught and punished.[1]

Blanck and Jan Veth, a former company servant, 29.9.1670 traded illegally with Khoi by buying a blanket from them. They hid it in the bushes and during a house search denied any knowledge of it, but a few days later sold the blanket to Alexander Blanck.[2]

When his contract with the Company ended 1674, he opted to remain at the Cape as settler.[3] The Company, concerned about the shortage of marriageable women at the Cape, allowed free passage to maids accompanying senior officials' families to the East in the hope that they would be married during the month long sojourn at the Cape. Blanck charmed one such maid, obtained free burgher status and married his Annetje.[4]

How did they make a living? Quite possibly by providing lodgings to travellers who, while their ship anchored in the bay, were glad to exchange the cramped quarters on board with a decent room in a house.

In 1676 Blanck bought a slave from Governor Bax for 95 rixdalers to help with the work. Twenty years later Blanck rewarded this slave for his faithful service by giving him his freedom and registered him as a freeman.[5]

In 1680 Blanck and another were accused of cutting wood in a forbidden area (a restriction introduced to protect the indigenous forest). Blanck pleaded not guilty and was discharged, but his friend Hendrik Koster was fined 25 guilders.[6]

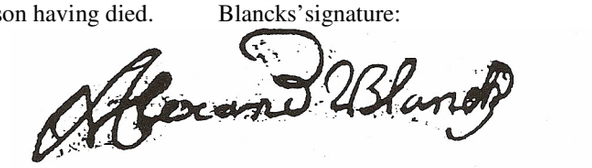
The years 1670 to 1677 were difficult. Hitherto Europeans could travel inland freely, but now the Khoi clans most affected by European encroachment became increasingly hostile. By 1674 it was unsafe for parties of less than twelve to venture further than 30 km from the Castle. Task forces were repeatedly sent out against the chief concerned, Gonnema, but though thousands of their cattle and sheep were captured, he and his people always managed to escape. As a result of these hostilities a trade boycott was imposed against Gonnema and this worked. He pleaded for peace and signed a treaty which opened up the interior to settlers. The village of Stellenbosch was founded and farms granted all around it from November 1679 onwards. Blanck in 1681 was granted 145 hectares west of Klapmuts which he named *Groenfontein.* To this he later added a further 65 hectares called *Groenenhof.* In 1682, just twelve years after leaving his hometown with only his hands in his pockets, he owned 210 hectares of land, had a wife and a son, a horse, 21 head of cattle, 13 pigs and for self-defence, three swords and two guns. Many Khoi still dwelt in the nearby Wemmershoek Valley and beyond Paarl, and every burgher was required to be armed and ready to do military duty when called upon.[8]

Guns are also good for hunting and where can you find a farmer who is not passionately fond of this sport? Blanck was no exception –1687 he was found guilty of illegally hunting hippos along the Berg River, which was expressly forbidden.[9]

From 1688 onward Blanck leased his wheatlands to share croppers (consecutively Dirk Visser, Callus Louw and Hans Jacob Brits)[10] and concentrated his efforts on husbandry and wine-making. In 1692 he had four horses, 44 head of cattle, 340 sheep and 6 000 vines.[11] He was obviously in the prime of his life and working hard to improve his farm. One of his boundaries ran along a stream flowing through a swampy area overgrown with bush where the flocks of birds that fed on his grapes found shelter. Blanck cleared the bush and channeled the stream, thereby altering its course and incidentally gaining about two hectares of valuable vlei land. He was accused of illegally enlarging his farm and fined 100 rixdalers.[12]

Only five weeks later the Governor recorded in his journal that Blanck had delivered six leaguers (1 leaguer = 575 litres) of wine subsequently found to be diluted with water, which he was ordered to remove at his own expense.[13]

In 1692 Blanck hired the soldier Michiel Wessel from Prussia as a farmhand and thenceforth always had one or more soldiers under contract.[14] All the contracts bear Blanck's signature but from April 1699 onward this became very jittery, indicating that at 49 he was getting sickly and feeble. In August 1700 Blanck died,[15] leaving no descendants, his only son having died. Blancks' signature:



/ [1] KAB, CJ 1, pp. 648-650 and CJ 2952, p. 360; [2] KAB, CJ 2952 pp. 324-326. [3] KAB, MR 1670-1674; [4] De Wet: *Die vry bevolking*, p. 148; [5] KAB, DO, ZK.8/4/1, 4.3.1678; [6] KAB, CJ 118, 30.9.1680; [7] KAB, DO ZK 8/4/1: G115 and IOSF 25; [8] KAB, A2250, CR 1682; [9] KAB, CJ 2:96, 22.2.1687; [10] De Wet: *Die vry bevolking*, p. 107 and KAB, 1/STB/18/40, 29.4.1693 and 28.4.1699; [11] KAB, A2250, CR 1692; [12] KAB, CJ 3:4, 19.2.1692; [13] KAB, VC 12, Journal, 28.3.1692; [14] KAB, CJ 2870:53; [15] KAB, A2250 CR 1700.

**Phlegel, Nicolas (also recorded as Siegel, David Nicolaas)** born Basel 1649, soldier. 19.8.1671 guilty of deserting his post while on guard duty at the Commander's quarters, and entering the living quarters of the washerwoman Catharina of Bengal, a slave of the Company, where he stole two fresh loaves of bread which another slave had stolen from the Governor's kitchen. The misdemeanour was viewed in a very serious light since as guard it was precisely his duty to prevent such thefts. He was condemned to spend two successive days sitting on the wooden horse with a five pound weight attached to each of his legs and to 4 months hard labour on Robben Island. In addition one month's pay was taken to cover the judicial expenses.[1] After serving his sentence he resumed his duties at the Fort, now listed as Daniel Nicolaas Siegel.[2] / [1] KAB, CJ 1, pp. 705-707; [2] KAB, VC 39, Vol.2 (1672), No. 140.

**Rengelsbach, Pieter** born "Lauterswiel", Switzerland [Lauperswil BE?] with 18 others guilty of mutiny on the outward bound ship *Amerika*. He was branded and hanged at the Cape. / Bruijn 1980, p. 151.

**Meyer, Jacob** born "Punt in Switzerland" [Bünzen AG?] arrived 1672 or earlier, soldier, 1673 convicted for stealing brandy, punished with three lashes and five years hard labour in the quarry on Robben Island. / KAB, CJ 780: 133.

THE CRIME THAT COST JACOB MEYER FIVE YEARS HARD LABOUR.

On 6.1.1673 a ship at anchor in Table Bay sent ashore an empty barrel to be filled with anis arrack (a brandy distilled in East India). Due to some delay, the full barrel could not be returned that same day and was left lying outside the Company's wine cellar in the Castle. The sentry posted at the entrance to the Governor's residence, which was on the opposite side of the courtyard, would keep an eye on it.

That night Jacob Meyer was on nightshift as guard at the inner gate of the Castle. From his post he could see the brandy barrel. As the night wore on temptation grew until it became irresistible. In full view of the sentry he approached the barrel, knocked out the bung and, using his tobacco pipe, sucked out a good mouthful. Jacob was delighted with the excellent brandy and hastened to fetch his friend Evert Faby of Amsterdam, who was on duty elsewhere. Together they returned, bringing with them a small tin pump from Evert's kist in the guards' quarters and two jugs.

They drank their fill. Evert then remembered the sentry in front of the Governor's residence. Instead of preventing the pilfering, that man, Wiggert Ofkens of Haarlem, had remained inactive. Full of the spirit of goodwill, Evert went over and offered him a drink – which Wiggert accepted. He handed his weapon, a pike, to Evert to hold while he drank and then went over to the barrel to replenish the jug before returning it to Evert and resuming his weapon and sentry duty.

Then no doubt in a very happy mood, each carried away his jug full of joy-juice. When Evert arrived at the guards'quarters where he intended to place pump and full jug in his kist, he either through drunken clumsiness or boisterous spirits, woke up the soldiers sleeping there and a great party ensued, which left all drunk and good for nothing on the morrow.

The next day the three soldiers named were apprehended and incarcerated. All signed full confessions and were sentenced on 25.1.1673 by the Council of Justice under the chairmanship of Governor Goske. The council viewed Wiggert's action of abandoning his sentry post and weapon to an unauthorised person in a very serious light, which demeanour was aggravated by neglecting his duty of preventing the criminal opening of the barrel and later by making himself party to the crime by also tapping and drinking therefrom. Nevertheless, the Council did not wish to apply the full vigour of the law but rather to deal leniently with the prisoner. The lenient sentence pronounced was that Wiggert be brought to the place of execution where he was to be tied to a pole with the hangman's noose around his neck and to be severely scourged; then to be sent to Robben Island to labour on public works for ten years. Jacob Meyer and Evert Faby, for stealing the brandy and seducing others to do the same, were to be given three lashes and then sent to Robben Island for five years. All the savings which they had

accumulated and left in the care of the Company were confiscated and used to pay for the stolen brandy and to meet the cost of the court case.

In those times the full term of the sentence had to be served. Remission for good behaviour was unknown, though bad behaviour could well bring an extension of the time to be served. During his five years on Robben Island Jacob Meyer must often have looked with longing and regret across the water to Table Mountain and the settlement at its foot.

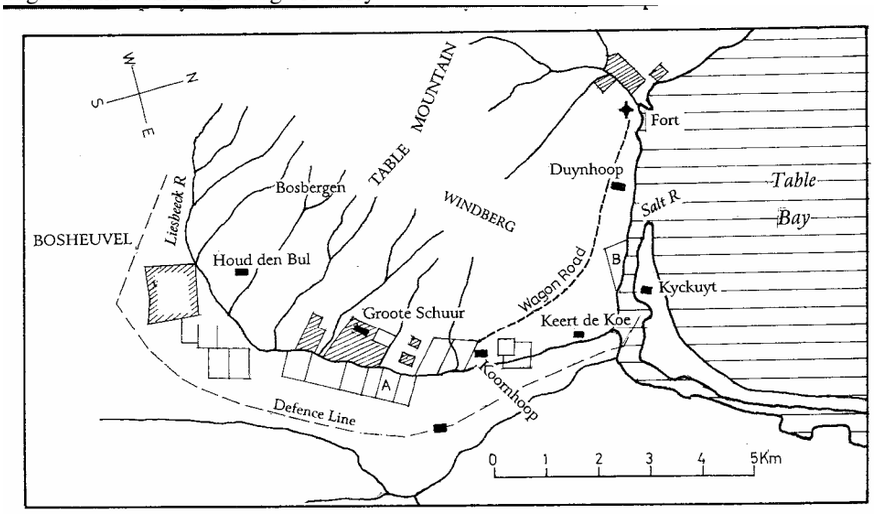
**Weiss, Christoffel**, birthplace not recorded. Swiss? 1672 Soldier. / KAB, MR 1672.

**Basje, Nicolaas** born in "Lucem, Switzerland" [Pache? of Lucens VD]. 1672, soldier. In 1675 he and six others were found guilty of mutiny on the outward bound ship *America* and condemned to be hanged and their bodies left as prey for the birds. / KAB, MR 1672.

A SUCCESS STORY

**Loubser, Claas** or **Laubscher, Niclaas** of Switzerland as he was variously recorded at the Cape, was probably Niclaus, the youngest son of Benedict Loupscher and Agnes Kägi, baptised 21.12.1651 at the Reformed Church, Fräschels FR.[1]

Loubser was first recorded at the Cape on 8.9.1676 when he bought a small farm in extent 5,1 hectares in Table Valley near the Soute River from Christiaan Janssen.[2] Soon after, when the Council of Policy decided to sell 14 imported slaves to the best and poorest farmers to be used for agriculture only at cost plus one stuiwer (one penny) with the promise that they would not be pressed for payment, Loubser was allocated one slave.[3] Together they cleared the land and sowed, and in December 1677 harvested six bags of wheat and half a bag of barley.[4]




MAP 4 The settlement at the Cape c. 1660.
Company buildings are shown black, Company lands shaded and burghers farms outlined. Jakob Kluthe's farm is marked A, the farm later bought by Claas Loubser B.

Loubser also built wagons and kept sheep,[5] possibly in partnership with Hendricq Colman who is recorded living with him.[6] He worked hard to improve his situation but got too ambitious. In 1680 Loubser was found guilty, together with master butcher Fredericq Pockelman, of defrauding the Company and condemned to two years labour on public works.[7 & 8] Pockelman had contracted with the Company to tend to the Company's flock of sheep. He did his job well, the animals were in prime condition when he was due to return them. But he could not bring himself to hand back these nice, fat sheep while his friend Claas Loubser had an equal number of very much leaner sheep. They made a deal: Claas received the fat sheep and his lean sheep were handed

over to the Company. Unfortunately for the two men, the swap was noticed. Brought before the judges, Pockelman was sentenced to three years and Claas to two years hard labour on Robben Island. Claas immediately apologised to the judges: he said he was very sorry indeed for his misdeed to which he had been seduced by Pockelman and promised in future to obey the law. The apology was graciously accepted and the sentence reduced to two years labour on public works at the Castle.

His farming nevertheless prospered. While serving his sentence, Claas may well have been allowed home every evening to help his friend Hendricq Colman with the farm work. By 1682 he had two slaves, eleven heads of cattle, 50 sheep and sowed/harvested 3/28 bags of wheat and 1/2 bags of rye.[9] Like so many farmers on the outskirts of the settlement he also tried to make a little extra money by trading cattle with the Khoi. The Company had prohibited this and in 1683 Claas was caught and fined 25 rixdalers plus court expenses.[10]

On 16.12.1685 he married Engeltjie Quint of Leersum, daughter of Jan Quynt, a horseman with the Dutch cavalry, and Wilhelmina Verwey.[11] Engeltjie may well have arrived here, like Alexander Blanck's wife, as a servant to some Company official.[12] They had nine children:[13]

1. Jan Albert baptised 29.9.1686.
2. Egbert [Eduard/Evert for Bendicht?] baptised 13.6.1688.
3. Aletta [for Agnes?] baptised 10.9.1690.
4. Benjamin baptised 1.8.1694, died in infancy.
5. Elizabeth and
6. Anna, twins, baptised 16.6.1697, both died young?
7. Jacob baptised 1.9.1698, died in infancy.
8. Jan Josua died before baptism?
9. Nicolaas Lodewyk died before baptism?

Besides hard work and wedded bliss Claas and Engeltjie endured difficulties common in those days. Over the years Claas owned many slaves, imported from Madagascar, Mozambique or the East. One of these, David of Malabar, importuned his wife and was condemned to be severely scourged and put in chains.[14] Later, after a group of slaves led by this same man ran away and were apprehended, he was put to death by breaking on the wheel.[14 & 15]

By 1692 Loubser was well on the way to becoming wealthy. He still owned only his original farm on which he sowed/harvested 2/20 bags of rye and 2/40 bags of barley, but must have had the use of additional land to graze two horses, 44 head of cattle, three pigs and 1000 sheep. He was also well armed with two swords and three guns.[16]

Thenceforth he expanded his farming activities with the help of soldiers hired from the Castle, amongst them Paulus van den Heuvel in 1708.[17] By 1695 he had planted 6 000 vines.[18] In 1694 he bought a house in Heerengracht (present day Adderley Street).[19]

### CLAAS LOUBSER'S FARMHOUSE BURGLED.

During the night of 4.11.1697 Claas's house was forcibly entered and various articles stolen. The two culprits, Jan Wiggins of Hannover and Henning Mathyz of Hamburg, were subsequently apprehended and confessed their complicity in the crime. Returning from work that evening, they had called on their fellow wagon-driver Oldendorp. With him was Benedictus Sweytzer who had said to them: "Come let us steal some food. Claas Loubser the wagonmaker received some sheep today, we want to go there." They went there and arriving after dark, went into the garden behind the shed. There Oldenburg and Sweytzer broke through the reed thatch into the shed, but found no sheep inside. On coming out again, being very disappointed and dissatisfied, they decided to break into the house and rob it. After placing their accomplices as lookouts to give warning should anybody approach, Oldenburg and Sweytzer first spied the house and finding everything quiet, broke open the back window and brought out their booty: two pots and a keg of butter, four quarters of pork and a small canister with tea and sugar candy. Together they carried all this to the Company's corn granary where they were stationed.

Jan was arrested on 7.11.1697 and Henning after a flight of three weeks. Oldenburg and Sweytzer, also having fled, remained at large and in hiding. On 28.1.1698, the Court of Justice condemned the four criminals "to be punished with the hangman's rope until death follows", their dead bodies to remain hanging from the gallows until they had been completely destroyed. Jan and Henning were hung the next day. Poor Henning, when the hangman pushed him off the ladder the hangman's rope snapped and fell to ground. His cries for mercy were of no avail, the executioner hanged him a second time alongside the other. Oldenburg and Sweytzer, still at large and despite citations not having made their appearance, were declared fugitives and outlaws and banished for life.

On 6.5.1697 the two vagabonding housebreakers were apprehended in a cave near "the round knoll" in which they had been hiding. They were brought to the Castle and tortured on 24.5.1697 and again on 26.5.1697, but refused to confess. On the morning of 27.5.1697 it was discovered that they had both escaped after a rope was found hanging down from one of the ramparts. They had apparently dug a passage under the threshold of the cell door. In front of the cell door they had picked up the rope with which they had been tortured and then removed the nails holding the lock of the outer door. Ascending the nearest steps, they had tied the rope to a gun and sliding down the parapet made good their escape.

The arrival of the new governor William Adriaan van der Stel on 9.2.1699, was celebrated by proclaiming a general pardon. This would also apply to the "fugitive servants of the Company Antonie Oldendorp and Benedictus Sweytzer, who were in hiding in the wilderness", provided they appeared within four weeks at the Castle and promised obedience. No record has been found of such appearance: no doubt they felt safer in their unknown place of refuge.[20]

It was not only burglars that were dangerous. The French traveller Francois La Vaillant wrote that the Salt River near the fort, thus close to Loubser's farm, "does not seem to be very deep, but when I was first there in 1695 I nearly lost my life and horse, and in 1705 Governor van der Stel nearly lost four horses there. Many lions and tigers are often seen there."[21] The last elephant on the Cape Flats was shot in 1704.

In 1700 Loubser's growing wealth is reflected in the census return: he now owned 12 male and 3 female slaves, 7 horses, 147 head of cattle, 800 sheep and 4 pigs. He also had 16 000 vines and 2 leaguers of wine, and sowed/harvested 10/100 bags of wheat, 4/50 bags of rye and 2/20 bags of barley.[22] To provide fodder for his animals he hired grazing rights in the as yet unoccupied hills and dunes stretching towards Tygerberg and Koeberg,[23] where in 1704 he was granted the farm *Welgemoed* (in extent 51,4 hectares) south-east of the Tygerberg, now the suburb Bellville[24] and in 1707 another farm (51,8 hectares) situated on the Deep River south-east of the Koeberg.[25] He also bought a second house in town from Christoffel Groenewald[26] who had recently bought Alexander Blanck's farm, and another from Pieter van der Poel.[27]

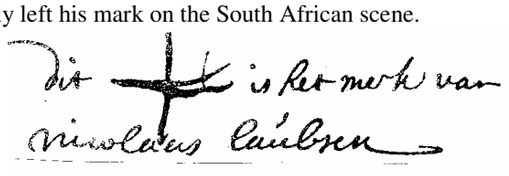
In 1719, shortly before his death, Loubser had as slaves 26 men, 2 women, 3 boys and one girl. In addition he owned 20 horses, 200 head of cattle, 18 000 vines and 5 leaguers of wine. He sowed/harvested 12/150 bags of wheat and 2/20 bags of rye[28] and leased one of his houses to Captain-General C.J. Slotsbo, for use as an inn.[28]

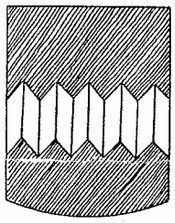
At his death in 1721[30] he was 70, an exceptional age for those times. He had sold his farms in the country to Jan Mostert who had married Hilletje Oliver, the widow of his son Evert. His remaining properties none the less made an impressive list. Two houses in Heerengracht (Adderley Street), one in Berg (St. George's) , another in Upper Berg Street (Oranjezicht) and his original farm *Buyten Post* on the banks of Salt River. His other assets included about 34 000 gulden in loans.[31]

Only two of his sons reached maturity, Johannes Albert and Evert. Both became prosperous farmers and their descendants initially spread along the West Coast. Both died relatively young. Johannes Albert, a prominent burgher of Stellenboch, died 1719 on his farm *Nooitgedacht* at Bottelary.[32] His son Pieter married the "rich Miss S. van Breda"and thereby became the owner of the farm *Roodebloem* (present day Woodstock).[33] Pieter's son Jacob (Claas Loubser's greatgrandson) acquired the farm *Groot Rietfontein* on the Berg River, near its mouth, where he was visited by

Commissioner De Mist and the German traveller Lichtenstein. The latter described Jacob Loubser as one of the richest colonists of the country".[34]

Claas is the only Loubser/Laubscher to come to the Cape and all with that name or variations of it are descended from him. He never learned to read or write. He could not even sign his name, but when required to do so made his mark, a firm, Swiss-looking cross. He certainly left his mark on the South African scene.



The original Laubscher Family Crest dated 1367 as recorded in the *Bieler Wappenbuch*

/ [1] CH, Fräschels FR, Reformed Church. The children of Benedict Loupscher and Agnes Kägi: Maria bapt. 1641, Barbara bapt. 1643, Salome bapt. 23.6.1645, Bendicht bapt. 31.8.1647, Catharina bapt.6.5.1649, Niclaus bapt. 21.12.1651, and Maria bapt. 7.6.1657; [2] KAB, DO: T145 (now lost), see Map 4; [3] De Wet: *Resolusies*, 1.4.1677; [4] KAB, VC 8: Journal, 20.12.1677 referred to as *Lobs*; [5] De Wet: *Die vry bevolking*, p. 68; [6] KAB, VC 39, MR: Free Persons 1679; [7] KAB, CJ 2, p. 118, 7.10.1680; [8] KAB, VC 39 MR: Free Persons 1680-81; [9] KAB, A2250: CR 1682; [10] KAB, CJ 2, p. 48, 22.4.1683; [11] NL, Leersum, Parish Register no. Utrecht: 29.1.1661: Jan Quynt (Majoor tot Reenen), Horseman with the cavalry of Beert van Ginckel, born Amerongen, Utrecht, married Wilhelmina Verwey. Children, all baptised at Leersum: Godert bapt. 6.7.1662, Teunt bapt.6.12.1663, Jan bapt. 8.4.1666, Engeltje bapt. 19.11.1668, and Hendrick bapt. 21.3.1675; [12] De Wet: *Die vry bevolking*, p. 148; [13] De Villiers: *Genealogies*; [14] Boëseken: *Resoluties*, p. 42; [15] KAB, CJ 780, p. 217, 29.2.1688; [16] KAB, J 183 Citizen Roll, Dec. 1692; [17] CJ 2870, p. 191 and CJ 2872, pp. 168, 203 and 360, CJ 2873, pp. 81, 274, 278 and 568, CJ 2874, pp. 79 and 346; [18] KAB, A2250 Citizen Roll 1695; [19] KAB, DO, T349, 31.3.1694 Erf corner of Heere and Bergdwars Street (354 sq.m.) from Beets Andries; [20] KAB, LM 13, Journal of Cape Governor, pp. 153-155; [21] Valentine: *Beschryvinge van de Kaap*, p. 279; [22] A2250, Citizen Roll 1700; [23] KAB, RLR 1:29 Grazing Licence 3.10.1705; [24] KAB, DOII. VC33, 26.9.1704; [25] KAB, DOII.CV84, 30.1.1707; [26] KAB, DO, T1172, 20.6.1717; [27] KAB, DO, T1223, 9.2.1718; [28] KAB, A2250, CR 1719; [29] KAB, CJ 2878:130, 18.1.1718; [30] KAB, MOOC 8/14-35 Inventory, 3.12.1721; [31] KAB, DO, T1332 and T1333, 3.5.1720 for *Welgemoed* and land at the Koeberg; [32] KAB, MOOC 8/5, Inventory no. 5, 16.3.1720; [33] Puyfontayne, HL de: *Louis Michel Thibault*, pp. 82 and 106; [34] Lichtenstein: *Reisen*, pp. 57ff.

**Chibonne, Claude** born Neuchatel, Switzerland, soldier, arrived 21.6.1682 on *Adrichem.* Guilty of desertion, he was condemned to flagellation and five years forced labour on Robben Island.

A WALK NO NOWHERE

Perhaps disappointed with conditions and treatment at the Cape, Chibonne and a comrade were persuaded to desert by a third soldier, Harmen Glesser of England. Harmen promised to lead them to St. Helena Bay (it lies on the West Coast 130 km north of Cape Town) which he claimed was a Portuguese settlement which they could reach within three or four days. From there they would be able to travel to Spain.

Glesser's information was of course wrong: there was no Portuguese settlement at St. Helena Bay.

They met that evening at the house of the burgher Jacob Aetse Brouwer who probably had a wine licence. It is likely that there they were informed of the absurdity of their plan – Glesser slipped away quietly and returned to the Castle. Claude and his friend, undaunted, decided to carry on. They crossed the Salt River and tramped north along the West Coast, living off mussles and grass. Luckily for them it was midwinter, the rainy season. Every stream carried water and the grazing was good.

On the ninth day they reached Langebaan Lagoon, where some Khoi were fishing from a boat belonging to Cape Town freemen. The fishermen gave them shelter and food. In reply to their questions, Claude and friend first claimed to have been left behind by a French sailing ship, but later admitted to desertion from the Castle. As a consequence they were taken back and after extensive examination by the Council of Justice, severely punished so as to serve as a deterrent to others. Their swords were broken at their feet and both dishonourably discharged from the military. Then they were handed over to the executioner who had orders to make them stand under the gallows with the hangman's noose around their neck, then tie them to one of the posts and give them a severe whipping. After having suffered all this disgrace and pain in full view of the public at the place of execution, Claude and his friend were taken to Robben Island to serve the last part of their sentence, five years hard labour with forfeiture of all their savings and outstanding pay which was confiscated to cover the cost of administering justice. / KAB, CJ 780: 195.

**Heyseler, Johann** born Basel, soldier, 17.9.1683 became a member of the Cape community, probably after having served out his five year contract. / Hoge: *Personalia*, p.482.

**Sleyer, Hans Jurgen** born Zurich **[**Schleier of Riein GR?]. Soldier, arrived 1.5.1684 on *Schelde*.[1] A soldier's monthly renumeration was at that time 9 florins (fl) plus ¾ realen (= 36 stuiwers) food allowance, 62 cans of wine, 12 lb. cheese, 1 bag of wheat, 8 cans of fishoil and 40 lb. rice.[2] On 28.5.1688 he is recorded as freeman farmhand in the Drakenstein District, 1712 as old and weak,[3] and 1719 as still alive but supported by the parish and unable to pay his debts to the Company. He never married.[4] / KAB, C 728; [2] Hulshof: *Compagnie's dienaaren;* [3] KAB, MR 1690-1712 and 1/STB/13/21; De Wet: *Resolusies*, 1719.11.21.

THE FIRST SWISS WOMAN AT THE CAPE

**Holthalt, Anna Maria** born in Switzerland 1644 **[**Holzhalt?],[1] housewife of Hans Jacob Huben. She became a member of the church congregation on 21.12.1684[2] and in the following year she and her husband are recorded as members of the Cape community.[3] They had one daughter Anne Marie who was baptised at the Huguenot church in Paarl on 4.10.1699[4] but may have died soon after.[1] On 26.8.1686 Anna Maria widow of Hans Jacob Huben, married Hans Henssz of Hamburg, a burgher of Stellenbosch.[5] Their ages were then respectively 42 and 57. They had no children of their own.[1] Anna Maria appears to have died at Stellenbosch in 1717 when 73 years old.[3] / [1] KAB, MOOC 7/1/28 and 1/STB/18/2, 1.8.1701; [2] KAB, DRC, G1/1/1, p. 69; [3] KAB, VC 39 and 49 MR Free Persons 1685-1717; [4] KAB, DRC, VC 644: French Baptism Register, Paarl; [5] KAB, DRC G7/1.

**Margra, Jan [**Marguerat, Jean of Lutry /Lausanne]. At the Huguenot Museum in Franschhoek a list of all the Huguenot settlers and their arrival is displayed. One entry reads *Marguerat, Jean 1688.* This was a Swiss from Lutry near Lausanne where the name still exists, and he actually arrived 23.6.1686.

A SWISS AMONGST THE HUGUENOTS

Jan Margra, as he was called here, may have arrived at The Hague in 1681 as a soldier in a Swiss regiment serving with the French.[1] He married a Dutch girl, Tryntje Dekker at Middelburgh where a strong Huguenot congregation lived, and in 1686, together with

the Huguenot brothers Guillaume and Francois du Toit embarked on the *Vrijheid* for the Cape, where they hoped to find a better life.[2] Each Huguenot settler was promised a farm of 60 morgen (51,4 hectares) plus a team of six oxen and a cart, a plough, seed and all that was further necessary for agriculture as a loan to be repaid within three or four years.[3]

Marga was allocated land near Stellenbosch (next to what is now the wine farm *Blaauwklippen*) which he named *Valley Lustre*.[4] Margra and the Du Toits found everything here to their satisfaction, sent a positive report back to Middleburgh and on 26.5.1688 obtained permission to bring out their wives.[5] It is possible that their report had a decisive influence in persuading other Huguenot families to emigrate to the Cape.

When in 1690 the Consistory of Batavia sent a sum of money to be distributed amongst the Huguenot settlers according to their needs, Margra was also given a share and on this basis is recorded as a Huguenot.[6] By 1692, after farming for four years, he had 12 head of cattle, 100 sheep, 3 000 vines and sowed/harvested 4/28 bags wheat, 2/8 bags rye and ½ bags barley.[7] He also had considerable debts from which he sought relief by making a partnership agreement with Barent Lubbe to farm jointly, for which Lubbe took over all his debts.[8] Barent Lubbe, the forefather of the Lubbes in South Africa, had a daughter, Elizabeth, born in 1702, who later married Jan Vorster of Berne, the forefather of the Vorsters in South Africa.[9]

Margra's age was never recorded at the Cape. Was it old age or sickness that caused him to sell his farm in 1697 after he had more than doubled his vineyard to 7 000 bearing vines? Jan Jansz Swart, the sick comforter at Stellenbosch bought Margra's farm for 1 600 gulden but failed to pay the purchase price. Margra had to resort to court action resulting in the farm being acquired by his friend Guillaume du Toit.[10] With the marriage of Guillaume's daughter to Jan Oberholster of Zurich, *Valley Lustre* later again passed into the hands of a Swiss.

Having sold his farm, Margra bought a smallholding in Stellenbosch called *Het Eiland*. This is possibly the island on which Governor Simon van der Stel spent a night and where he decided to found Stellenbosch in 1680. Some adjoining land is thought to have included what is now the Braak at the centre of Stellenbosch.[11] Only two years later Margra died leaving no descendants.

/ Boucher: *French Speakers*; [2] Coetzee: *Line of Descent*; [3] Valenttyn: *Beschryvinge van de Kaap*, p. 187; [4] KAB, DO, SFI 93, 8.6.1694; [5] KAB, C 1381, p. 81; [6] KAB, C 728, 8.11.1698; [7] KAB, J 183: Citizens Roll 1692; [8] KAB, 1/STB/18/40, 18.11.1692; [9] De Villiers: *Genealogies*; [10] KAB, DO, T412, 6.3.1697 and CJ 3:11, and CJ 3:44, and DO, T511, 11.4.1698; [11] KAB, DO, T452, 3.12.1698 for portion of *Callebasse Kraal*, 8565 sq.m. and T451, 2.12.1698 of adjoining land *Eylandje*. By T463 the latter was transferred from the estate of the late Margra to Jan Frederik Fols.

**Krebs, Jakob** born Berne may have arrived at the Cape in 1685, and after serving his five year contract, settled here as a free shoemaker.[1]

A SHOEMAKER'S TRADE DESCRIBED

A shoemaker not only repaired broken shoes but also made new shoes, fashioning them from a single piece of leather which he had tanned himself from raw skins. First the newly flayed skins were prepared for tanning by cleaning them roughly and salting them for preservation. They were then left in running water for about 30 hours to dehydrate, then dried and suspended in a lime solution and again dried, after which the skin would again be carefully scraped clean. Finally the tanning process itself took place by passing the properly prepared skins for varying periods through solutions of increasing tanning strength. It would take 12 to 18 months to produce leather of good quality.

The bark of selected bushes and trees was used as a tanning agent. The shoemakers collected these in the surrounding areas to such an extent that in 1709 the Governor found it necessary to issue a Plakaat (Proclamation) stating that the shoemakers, being in the habit of denuding the underwood and other useful kinds of timber of their bark for tanning purposes, were henceforth prohibited to do so without written authority.[2]

In 1689 Krebs was very sick. While in *extremis* he drew up a will[3] but he recovered and went on to do quite well at his trade. He hired soldiers, preferably with some knowledge of shoemaking, from the Castle[4]. In each case a proper contract was drawn up along set lines and these are preserved in the Archives. The man hired would be temporarily released from Company service and undertook to serve his master faithfully and honestly for a whole year, making while in good health seven or eight pairs of shoes every day. In return he was provided with lodging, food and drink, and paid 9 gulden every month, half of which was to be deposited to his credit at the Company's office. If the hired soldier was a trained shoemaker serving as foreman, pay was fixed at 13½ gulden monthly plus one stuiwer for each pair of shoes completed by the assistants; in addition he received one pound of tobacco each month.

On 7.12.1692 Krebs married Sophia Vink of Amsterdam – also a servant off a passing ship? By 1701 his household included one servant and 4 male slaves who probably assisted in the workshop. He also owned two houses, one on a plot of land in Church Square granted him in 1699 and a house bought 1701 from Pieter van der Byl.[5 & 6]

As Krebs grew older he hired fewer and fewer men and after 1706 none. He and his wife Sophia were last recorded on the Burgher Roll for 1709.[7]

/ KAB, VC 39, MR Free Persons 1688; [2] KAB, C 2275 Plakaat 6/9.8.1709; [3] KAB, CJ 2649, 24.5.1689; [4] KAB, CJ 2870, pp. 46, 133, 158, 181, 214, 261 and CJ 2872, pp. 26, 259, 345, 390 (Jan van Myburgh), 400 and 439; CJ 2873, pp. 90, 101, 147; CJ 2874 pp. 131 (Jan de Munnik, 1705).170; [5] KAB, J 183: Citizens Roll 1700; [6] KAB, DO, T461, 23.4.1699 from Jan Dirksz de Beer replaced by Grant ICV 3384, 1.9.1701 and T564, 20.4.1702 from Pieter van der Byl; [7] KAB, VC 49: MR, Free Persons 1701-1709.

**Boshuysen, Isaac** born Geneva 1662.[1] [Pouzait GE?] May have arrived 1688. 1692 burgher of Stellenbosch[23] and 1693-1699 again soldier in Company service.[1,3 & 4] Was 1697 involved in a fracas, found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to twenty years hard labour on public works,[1] / [1] KAB, LM 13, p. 123; [2] KAB, J 183 Citizens Roll Stellenbosch 1692; [3] ARA, VOC 4032, 1693; [4] KAB, MR 1697.

**De Seine, Jan** from "Griesons on the frontiers of Italy" described himself as an Italian. Boucher[1] suggests he may have been from a place near the French border as he appeared to have preferred the company of French peakers. It seems however more likely that he came from the Italian speaking Poschiavo Valley in Canton Grisons which borders on Italy. Considering his past association with the French, he would naturally prefer their company to that of German or Dutch speakers. In 1691 he was one of a handful of settlers left by the French on the island of Rodrigues in the Indian Ocean 650 km east of Mauritius. He deserted to the Cape and was allowed to remain there.[1]

One day in 1695, while attending a military parade at the Castle as substitute for his employer Pieter Rochefort, he was heard discussing with others the possibility of a French landing at the Cape.[2] For this treasonable talk he was sentenced to be scourged, have his sword broken at his feet and be banished in chains for 10 years.[3] After escaping from custody and being recaptured, he was sent to serve an extended sentence in Mauritius. There he again tried to escape and was shot by a pursuing party.[1] / Boucher: *French speakers*, pp. 300-301; [2] KAB, VC 13, Journal, 23.6.1695; [3] KAB, CJ 780: 247 and 52.

**Garle, Simon** born in Nyburg in Switzerland [Charlet? of Neuchatel?] Soldier, had a will drawn up 19.6.1691 while in Table Bay on a home bound ship from the East. / KAB, CJ 2597, p. 17.

AN EARLY FARMER IN THE FRANSCHHOEK VALLEY

**Mulder Hendirk** born Basel [Müller?]. At the time that the Huguenots were settled in Franschhoek, Mulder was allocated the farm *Keerweeder* in extent 59,4 hectares,[2] part of which was known about 1980 as *Swiss Farm Excelsior* at the end of the valley. His title deed is dated 9.1.1695. Usually ownership was confirmed four or five years after the settler had been allocated the land and had improved it sufficiently to show that he could make a success at farming. Mulder may thus have settled on the farm in 1691.[1]

In 1700 he is recorded with wife Belie Jansz and two sons [1 & 4] whose names do not appear in any church register, possibly because Belie Jansz was not accepted as a member of the Cape community.

When Adam Tas travelled around the district in 1706 drumming up support against Governor W.A. van der Stel who he accused of financial corruption and unscrupulous use of patronage, he also called on Mulder at *Keerweeder*. Adam Tas described the road leading to his remote farm as wretched and the bumpiest he had ever seen.[5] Mulder was then no longer the owner of *Keerweeder*, having sold it in 1700,[6] possibly because he was becoming old and sickly, the reason for which he was excused from military service in the Stellenbosch burgher force during the years 1702 to 1712.[7] No further information could be found about him. He may have died in 1712.

/ [1] KAB, VC 30, MR Free Persons 1690 lists two persons named Hendrik Mulder, one of whom might apply; [2] KAB, DO, Grant ISV 399, 9.1.1695; [3] KAB, VC 49, MR Free Persons 1700; [4] KAB, A2250 Citizen Roll Stellenbosch 1700; [5] Fouche and Boëseken: *The Diary of Adam Tas*, 191.1.1706 and 21.1.1706; [6] KAB, DO T533; [7] KAB, 1/STB/13/21 MR Stellenbosch and Drakenstein 1702-1712.

A HUGUENOT SETTLER BORN IN TRANSIT IF GENEVA

**Gauch, Jacob Etienne** [Gauche?], here known as Steven Gous, may have been born in 1683 or 1684 at Celigny GE. His parents, Huguenot refugees from the Pays de Gex, Andre Gauch born at Le Pont-de-Monvert and Jacqueline Decré born at Sauverny, were married 13.1.1683 at Celigny GE and reached the Netherlands with their first born, Jacob Etienne. They joined the Walloon church at Amsterdam on 16.4.1690 where a month later their daughter Mary was baptised. Shortly after they embarked on the *Spierdijk.* Father and son reached the Cape alone on 5.4.1691, mother and sister probably having died during the voyage.[1] At the Huguenot Museum, Franschhoek, Steven ist listed as *Gauch Etienne, Geneva 1691.*

27.2.1718 Steven married Catharine Bok, a former slave girl aged 13, by whom he had seven children, the last born in 1740.[2] His father had been a blacksmith but Steven took to farming and when his widow died in 1767 she could bequeath to her youngest son the farms *Berg en Dal* on the Deep River situated halfway between the present hamlets of Philadelphia and Kalbaskraal, and *Klipheuvel* on the Groen River, plus 12 000 gulden in cash.[3]

/ [1] Boucher: *French speakers*; [2] Cairns: *The children of Bok and Geringer;* [3] KAB, CJ 2668:34.

**Wolf, Jacob** born Berne on unknown date, 1693 soldier. / KAB, MR 1693.

**Willemsz, Hans Andries** born Basel. **[**Wilhem**?]** 1693 cadet and in the same year became burgher; 1695-1698 in Drakenstein district. / [1] NL, ARA, VOC 4030 MR 1693; [2] KAB, VC39: MR Free Persons 1693-1698; [3] KAB, A2250 Citizen Roll 1695.

**Bartelsz, Baltus** born Breed/Breedin in Switzerland. [Britten SO?] 1693-1700 soldier,[1] / [1] KAB, MR 1693; [2] NL, ARA, VOC 4038/4043, MR 1693 and 1700.

**Jurger, Barthalomeus** born Portels SG, date of birth not known. Also known as Jan de Switzer, 1693 soldier. 16.3.1696 burgher of Stellenboch, found guilty of illicit bartering of cattle with Khoi and of harbouring criminals and deserters. Sentenced to being severely scourged and branded, and banned for life to Mauritius, where he was quickly released to earn his own living.[2] / [1] KAB, MR 1693 and NL, ARA, VOC 4030 MR 1693; [2] KAB, LM 13.

**Levett, Jacques** born Geneva [of Carouge GE ?], 1693 soldier.
/ KAB, MR 1693; NL, ARA, VOC 4030 MR 1693.

**Orle, Jean,** place and date of birth not known. 1693 soldier. / KAB, MR 1693; NL, ARA, VOC 4030 MR 1693.

**Verduyn, Anthony** born Lausanne VD, 1693 soldier. / KAB, MR 1693.

**Wrelaan, Pieter** born Lausanne VD, 1693 soldier. / NL, ARA, VOC 4030 MR 1693.

**Peets Hans** born Berne [Pietsch?]. 1693 soldier. / KAB, MR 1693; NL, ARA, VOC 4030 MR 1693.

**Molant, Joseph** born Geneva [of Carouge GE ?], 1693 cadet. / NL, ARA, VOC 4030 MR 1693.

AN UNRULY DRINKING PARTY

**Wald, Jan Jacob** born Milde near Berne [Milden? the German name for Moudon VD, thus Vauthey, Jean Jacques of Bussy-sur-Moudon VD][1] Was 19.1.1694 loaned for one year as farmhand to Jan Geel in the Stellenbosch District,[2] thereafter stationed in the *grasveld* near Stellenbosch.[3] 1696 found guilty with three others, of theft at Pieter Rochefort's house. What happened was that Wald and his friends left their station without permission, went to Rochefort's house which they entered uninvited, took his meat, and used his frying pan and fire to fry the meat. As they only had hard bread with them, Rocheford graciously gave them a piece of his fresh bread, and seeing that Wald was available, asked him to shave his beard. Rocheford then brought out a small barrel of wine that they might enjoy a drink together. The men got drunk and started to steal things. A fight ensued; Rocheford brought more wine to calm them but that was like pouring fat into the fire, it made them even more drunk and disorderly. In the end they made off with the stolen goods.

When the court case came up, the judges must have been in a particularly bad mood. Wald for his part in this affair was sentenced to be severely scourged and to five years hard labour in chains on Robben Island.[4]

/ [1] *Familiennamenbuch der Schweiz*; [2] KAB, CJ 2870, p. 262 signed "W"; [3] KAB, MR 1696; [4] KAB, LM 13 and CJ 780:262.

**Otten, Jean** born Berne [Otth?], age unknown, 1695 soldier loaned as farmhand to Pierre Rousseau in Drakenstein District,[1] 1697 soldier.[2] / KAB, CJ 2872, p. 170; [2] KAB, MR 1697.

**Wederkeer, Nicolaas** born Bremgarten AG [Wiederkehr], age unknown, soldier. May have arrived 4.4.1694 on *Ijsselmonde*[1]; 1696-1706 soldier,[1] 1707 member of the Cape community,[2] owned property [3] and died 1719.[4] / [1] KAB, MR 1696-1705 and NL, ARA MR 1703; [2] KAB, VC 49, MR 1707-1711; [3] KAB, DO T752 bought 23.2.1709 from Cornelis van Soetemmer and sold 1710 to Jacob Cloete; T849 bought 13.2.1711 from Jacob Pleunis and sold 1711 to Philip Morkel; T900 bought 2.3.1712 from Estate Widow Elbersz and sold 1713 by Jan Oberholster to Jacob Pleunis; [4] KAB, MOOC 8/2:60 and A2250, Citizens Roll 1712.

A REFINED GENTEMAN, BUT HE HAD NO SOCKS

Three Swiss with the name Wiederkehr came to the Cape. The first 1759 was "Baltus (Balz?) Wiederkehr from Switzerland", a junior soldier. The second Wiederkehr was recorded sometimes as Baltus Wiederkelder, sometimes as Baltus Wydekelder born Arbon TG, a soldier. Nicolaas Wiederkeer of Bremgarten AG, the most successful of the three, arrived here 1694 and served as a soldier until 1707 when he became a free burgher. He may have made his living as a blacksith and appears to have been a friend

of Jan Oberholster of Zurich. Doubtless they assisted each other in their business enterprises but what little evidence is available indicates that they were opposites in character, Oberholster being something of a rough diamond, Nicolaas more refined. He appears to have been reasonably successful in business, never married and died young.

Immediately after his death an inventory was made of all Nicolaas' belongings. It lists a box holding 381 gulden which was entrusted to Oberholster, various blacksmith's tools and some merchandise plus the following: a house and household goods; 2 male slaves, 2 horses, a gun, 2 swords and a fencing sword, and his wardrobe comprising 1 black frock coat, trousers, hat and shirt, 1 brown frock coat and shirt, 1 jacket, 3 odd shirts, 1 pair of new shoes and last but not least a cage with 3 canaries. The fencing sword and canaries indicate a gentleman of some refinement but it is puzzling that the inventory lists no socks to wear with his black hat, frock coat, trousers and new shoes – or was he buried with his only pair of socks on his feet?

**Provoost, Soors** born Solothurn [Probst, Georg?], soldier. Arrived 23.12.1694 on *Pampas* (? its last voyage is recorded to have been in 1691[1]) 1695-1722 soldier, 1704 and 1706 sick, 1723-24 one of four Company hunters. / [1] KAB, MR 1696-1705, 1706 and 1723-1724; [2] NL, ARA MR 1703; [3] NL, ARA, VOC 4057/59 MR 1706-1707; [4] KAB, MR 1709-1710, 1712-1713, 1715-1717, 1719 and 1721-1722.

**Franse, Jacob** born Basel, arrived sick 26.4.1695 on *Waalstroom* , recovered and departed on *Swarte Leeuw.* / NL, ARA, VOC 4037, MR 1696.

**Baldinger, Hans Jorg** born Schaffhausen. 1696 loaned as farmhand to Alexander Blanck of Schaffhausen whom he served to the end. Blanck's widow must have disliked him, for she dismissed him immediately after Blanck's death in August 1700, when she would have had the greatest need for a man's help on the farm.[1] 1701-1705 soldier.[2] 1702 while stationed in the *rietveld* to harvest thatching reeds he was detained for allegedly selling stolen sheep.[3] / [1] KAB, CJ 2872, p. 241; [2] KAB, MR 1701-1704 and NL, ARA, MR 1703; [3] KAB, CJ 4-1.

**Boumann Pieter** born Berne **[**Baumann?**],** 1696-1698 soldier, 1699-1700 to end of contract period?, corporal.[2] / [1] KAB, MR 1696-1700; [2] NL, ARA, VOC 4043, MR 1700.

**Hofberger, Johannes** born Chur GR, 1696 soldier. / KAB, MR 1696.

**Loets, Hans Jacob** born Schaffhausen **[**Lutz?], 1696-1699 soldier.[1] 1700 loaned as herdsman to Oloff Bergh,[2] 21.7.1721 made will while lying very sick in the house of Michiel Ley of Basel.[3] 27.10.1701 loaned as servant to Johann Pheiffer.[4] / [1] NL, ARA, VOC 4037, MR 1696 and KAB, MR 1697 and 1699; [2] KAB, CJ 2873, p. 312; [3] KAB, CJ 2649:59; [4] KAB, CJ 2875:72.

**Lucher, Jacob** born Aarburg BE, arrived 22.10.1696 on *Vosmaar* for Kamer Zeeland. 1696-1707 soldier, 1709-1716 wagon-driver. / KAB, MR 1697-1699 and 1701-1716; NL, ARA, VOC 4043 and 4057-4059, MR 1700 and 1706-1707; NL, ARA, MR 1703-1715.

**Ryke, Frans** born Basel **[**Reich?**],** 1696-1697 soldier. / NL, ARA, VOC 4037 MR 1696.

**Ferne alias Ferny, Verney, Pharing** born Berne **[**Vernet or Vernez, VD**]**. 1696 soldier,[1] 1697 loaned to burgher Barend Jansz of Zwoll,[2] 1702 freeman hired as shepherd by former Burgher Councillor Fleuris Dirkse van Schalkwyk[3] and recorded as

free farmhand in Drakenstein and Stellenbosch districts until 1717.[1] / [1] KAB, MR 1696 and VC 49 MR 1702-1717; [2] KAB, CJ 872, p. 294; [3] KAB, CJ 2873, p. 249.

ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY

**Ley, Michiel** born Benken BL 18.12.1670 [Loew] is the progenitor of perhaps the least known of the old Cape families with Swiss ancestry. This family appears to be numerically small, perhaps because the early generations were merchants working indoors and not farmers enjoying a healthy outdoor life. Only two Leys are listed in the 1989 Cape Town telephone directory, yet Michiel Ley was one of the most successful of the early Swiss.

He was recorded as having been born in Basel but efforts to trace his birthplace remained unsuccessful until the archivist at the State Archives of Canton Basel Landschaft recalled an old established family of the small town Benken BL named Loew but pronounced locally "Ley" and long recorded like that in the church registers. Sure enough, he found there one baptism entry which fitted: "Born 18th December 1670, Hans Michel, son of Ulrich Löw and Katharina Schwarz."

Ley arrived at the Cape in 1696. He was then 26 years old and judging by his later life here, a man with above average education and possibly also a qualified butcher. Like all Company servants he was initially engaged as a soldier, thus of the lowest rank and pay, and then after arrival placed in a position where he could best serve the Company. Within little more than a year he was appointed Master Butcher with a salary equal to nearly three times his initial pay.[1 & 2] Company servants of the lower ranks were not permitted to marry, but thanks to his advancement Ley was able to marry on 8.12.1697 Engeltje, born in Delft, Holland, to Nikolaas Breda and Aagje Keisers.[3] In 1690 her mother was recorded as having a kindergarten in Cape Town.[4] In 1699 Ley bought a house in Eerste Dwars Street from Hans Hendrik Smit.[5]

The controversial governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel arrived to take office at the Castle in 1699 and soon Ley was a great friend of his. This may have helped Ley to practically run a private business while still in Company employ – witness the contract he made as Company's Butcher with the Company to loan a soldier to work for him.[6]

After expiry of the five year contract under which Ley arrived at the Cape, he continued as free master butcher,[7] always with at least one soldier loaned from the Castle in his employ.[7 & 8] Supplying meat to the public and the Company entailed buying animals from the farmers. He also conducted other business, for instance in 1708 he, together with three others, contracted to press the grapes harvested by the Company's servants on the farm *Welgelegen* (near present day Somerset West) for a half share of the produce.[9]

Ley was also a respected burgher. He served as deacon of the Grootekerk in 1703 and as Orphan Master in 1707.[10] He also assisted friends: nursing Hans Jacob Loets of Schaffhausen when very sick in 1701 and lending money to Jan Oberholster of Zurich.[11]

Ley also had his share of adversities: together with Willem Basson, Jan Oberholster and Anthony Abrahamsz he contracted to supply all the meat required by the Company. The price prescribed by the Company for the purchase of animals was however so unfavourable to the farmers that they refused to sell. One of them, Adam Tas, travelled around the country collecting signatures for a petition against the governor, citing also other grievances, and this was sent to Holland. Van der Stel then drew up a Defence which his faithfuls signed,[12] amongst them Ley and Oberholster. These troubles resulted firstly in the four partners having the meat contract cancelled at their request (it was taken over by Claas Hendriksz Diepenaar), secondly in Adam Tas being incarcerated in the Castle's dungeon and lastly, in Van der Stel being replaced in 1708.[13]

At about the same time four of Ley's slaves fled in an attempt to return to Madagaskar, were recaptured after committing murders and robberies, and executed with great cruelty.[14] Ley also encountered some friction with the new governor, Von

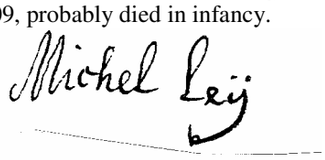
Assenburgh, who placed him under arrest in the Castle and released him only after Ley had apologised.[15]

By 1709 Ley, then 39 years old, was probably at the peak of his life. He now owned a farm and produced wine. The census that year reports him as having besides his wife, 3 sons and a daughter, 2 servants, 14 slaves, 4 horses, 30 head of cattle, 300 sheep and 2 pigs, 6 000 vines and 2 leaguers of wine.[16] He had just bought the farm *Welgemeent* comprising 3,95 hectares to the South-East of Table Mountain[17] and in the following year he bought a second house in Table Valley.[18]

On 7.10.1715 Ley was honoured by being elected Lieutenant of the Burghers[19] and a year later he died.[20] It is interesting that his widow hired a Swiss soldier, Johannes Lister of Basel to help her carry on.[21]

Ley and Engeltje had 5 children baptised of whom 3 grew up:

1. Nicolaas born December 1698, died in infancy.
2. Catharine born probably some time before 1709, married Martinus, the nineth child of Oloff Bergh, leader of the expedition to Namaqualand in 1682-83.
3. Nicolaas baptised 25.11.1703, married Jacoba Christina de Wit, became a prosperous merchant and 2nd Commissioner for the Slave Trade on Madagascar. His status required him to be addressed as "Sieur Nicolaas".
4. Johannes baptised 25.3.1706, married Anna Thibault, became a highly placed Company clerk and Commissioner of Civil & Marriage Affairs.
5. Jacobus baptised 8.12.1709, probably died in infancy.



/ [1] KAB, MR 1696-97 and 1699; [2] NL, ARA, VOC 4043 MR 1700; [3] KAB, DRC, G1/1/1; [4] Du Toit: *Onderwys*; [5] KAB, DO, T473; [6] KAB, CJ 2873, p. 144; [7] KAB, CJ 2873 p. 356; [8] KAB, CJ 2874 pp.160, 414 and 497; [9] KAB, VC 18, Journal, 19.12.1708; [10] KAB, VC 16 & 18 Journal, 04.12.1703 & 24.12.1707; [11] KAB, MOOC 8/4; [12] De Wet: *Resolusues*; [13] Fouche & Boëseken: *The diary of Adam Tas*, p. 84; [14] KAB, VC 18, Journal, 17.12.1707; [15] VC 20, Journal, 16.3.1711; [16] KAB, A 2250, Citizens Roll 1709; [17] KAB, DO, T772, 5.8.1709 from Jan Coetsee; [18] KAB, DO, T831, 1.10.1710 from Estate Christina de Beer; [19] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1715-1806, 7.10.1715; [20] Hoge: *Personalia*, p. 483; [21] KAB, CJ 2878: 36, 15.58.1716.

A FORCEFUL CHARACTER

**Oberholzer/ Oberholster**, **Jan,** originally Hans Oberholzer of Oberholz SG born at Aa near Wald ZH.[1 & 2] Probably arrived 1696 aged only 16 as soldier in Company employ. Although listed as soldier, he was probably employed in the butchery until 1701 when his contract ended.[3] He received permission to settle as a free burgher and after abandoning his catholic faith was admitted as a member of the Grootekerk congregation.[4] Soon thereafter he was elected as a deacon of the church.

Initially he made his living as a butcher and was associated with Michiel Ley and others in the meat contract which contributed to the recall of Governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel in 1708. Nevertheless Oberholster was doing well financially. His business activities spread to Drakenstein (Paarl) and Stellenbosch. On 19.1.1706 he could buy a house between Heere and Berg Dwars Street[5] and six months later married Helena, daughter of the Huguenot Guillaume du Toit [6] who owned several farms in the Drakenstein and Stellenbosch districts and had recently also bought the farm *Valley Lutry* from Jan Margra of Lausanne.

Oberholster must have had a happy, outgoing personality. As he moved around the country, he was speedily accepted into the farming communities and entrusted with public office. When he was elected deacon of the Drakensberg church,[7] a clash with its dominee (parson), the Reverend Engelbertus Franciscus le Boucq, was inevitable. The Reverend had been sent from Batavia but turned out to be a troublesome eccentric

whose behaviour angered the authorities so much that they sent him back within year. Before his marriage Oberholster had lived with a coloured woman by whom he had several children. Le Boucq used this to excommunicate him. Oberholster defended himself by instituting a civil court action, and despite this being unresolved at Le Boucq's departure, he was reinstated as deacon.[8]

Jan Oberholster is linked with Agnitie Colyn whose illegitimate children Johannes (baptised 24.10.1702, married Sara Coetsee) and Barbara (born later? and married Paulus Hartog) appear to bear what may have been Jan's parents' Christian names.

In 1709 Oberholster sold his house in Table Valley and moved to Stellenbosch[9] where he took over his father-in-law's farms[1] *Valley Lutry*, *Watergang* and *Land adjoining Cloetesdal* (sold to Johannes Heyns in 1715). Within one year he was elected Heemraad.[11]

In 1711 he bought the farm *Nietvoorby* near Klapmuts from the estate of Westerkerke[12] and in the following year was granted adjoining land named *Uitkyk*,[13] over which he had held a grazing licence.[14]

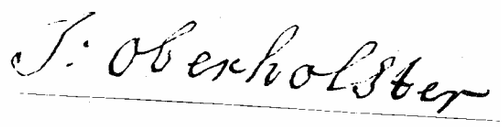
Possessing farms at Stellenbosch and near Klapmuts on the limits of the Drakenstein District, he managed to be a member of the mounted commandos both in Drakenstein and at Stellenbosch, and was elected Captain in 1713 of the former and 1715 of the latter.[15]

In a matter of only a few years Oberholster had become a wealthy farmer. On the Burgher Roll for 1712 he is listed with his wife Helena, 2 sons, 6 male slaves, 11 horses, 81 head of cattle, 500 sheep, 18 000 vines and 16 leaguers of wine. In the last growing season he had sown/harvested 10/30 bages wheat and he had six guns, a pistol and two swords.[16]

His wife Helena by whom he had 2 sons and a daughter died in 1714 and he married Judith du Plessis (born 1674 in Ireland), widow of Ary van Eeden. In this same year Oberholster also obtained a licence to graze his animals "beyond the 24 Rivers below the small round Elschenbosch forest", where the town of Porterville now stands.[17] He sold his Stellenbosch properties and apparently moved to his undeveloped farms near Klapmuts. For the first and only time he hired a soldier from the Castle as a farmhand.[18] In 1717 he reports having no vines[19] but 1719 lists 5 000 vines and 9 leaguers of wine.[20]

Oberholster and his wife drew up a joint will in 1718[21] and three years later when he died about 41 years old, he was survived by three children:

1. Guillaume, baptised 4.12.1707 and named after his mother's father. He became a farmer with 40 000 vines.
2. Johannes, baptised 24.8.1710 and probably named after his father's father, became a cattle and wheat farmer in the Swartland.
3. Johanna Barbara baptised 18.6.1713 and probably named after her father's mother, married Michiel Pentz, the progenitor of the Pentz family at the Cape.



/ [1] CH, Staatsarchiv Zürich: *Visitationen und Untersuchungen* and *Historisch-Biographischer Lexikon der Schweiz Band V*, p. 322-323; [2] Zürcher Kirchenbücher; [3] KAB, MR 1696-1701; [4] Kolbe 1719, p. 795; [5] KAB, DO, T670, 19.01.1706 from Abram van Dirksland and sold in 1709 by T784 to Hendrik Oswald Eksteen; [6] De Villiers, 1981, pp. 659-660; [7] KAB, VC 17 Journal, 18.12.1706; [8] KAB, CJ 4.II, nos. 7,11,14,17,19; [9] 1/STB 15/2; [10] KAB, DO, T823, 7.9.1710 bought from Estate Guillaume du Toit (a) *Valley Lutyu*, 51,4 hectares, sold by T878, 27.10.1711 to Willem Bota; (b) the Stellenbosch farm *Watergang*, 24,8 hectares extending E.N.E. to *Dekkers Valley*; (c) (Cloetesdal) *Aan 't Pad*, 53,1 hectares extending S.W. to *Watergang* and N.W. to *Dekkers Valley* – b and c sold by T1063, 23.11.1715 to Johannes Heyns; [11] KAB, RLR 3:10; [12] KAB, DO, T874 dd. 08.10.1711 from Estate Westerkerke, Nietvoorby, 51,4 ha, "extending to the wild hills near Jan Viloen (*Nazareth*) N.E. to E. to the hills towards Stellenbosch, N.W. to the road to Stellenbosch; sold by T1384 dd. 09.06.1721 to Hans Hendrik Hattingh; [13] KAB, DO, Grant OSF 1.121, 20.10.1712, the

Stellenbosch farm *Uitkyk*, 51,8 ha., extending S.E. to the wild hills toward Simonsberg, S.W. & S.E. to the wild hills and to Chris. Groenewald and others to Klapmuts, sold by T1362, 16.1.1721 to Abraham Coetzee; [14] KAB, RLR 1:230, 3.5.1710 to graze above the corner of Klapmutsberg toward the Simonsberg; [15] KAB, 1/STB 13/21; [16] A2250, Citizens Roll 1712; [17] KAB, RLR 3:10, 15.8.1714; [18] KAB, CJ 2877, 29.11.1714; [19] KAB, J 184, Citizens Roll 1717; [20] KAB, A2250, Citizens Roll 1719; [21] KAB, MOOC 7/1/3:67.

**Anthony, Adolf** born Geneva [Anthonet of Pizy VD or Antoine of Geneva GE?], 1697 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1697.

**Sweytser, Benedictus [**Schweizer?], was he Swiss? 1697 soldier.[1] While living in Berg Street, together with others burgled Class Loubser's house and fled, never to be seen again.[2] / [1] KAB, MR 1697; [2] KAB, LM 13, p. 153.

**Hypze, David** born Switzerland **[**Hübscher?]. Soldier[1], 5.6.1697 guilty of theft and condemned to two years hard labour in chains.[2] With three others had picked up goods washed ashore from Company's ships *Waardingveen* and *Oosterlandt* wrecked in Table Bay, and hid them in the dunes.[3] / [1] De Wet: *Die vry bevolking*, p. 225 listed as free farmhand; [2] KAB MR 1697; [3] KAB, CJ 780: 265.

**Waber/Wober, Hans** born Basel. 1697-1699 sailor,[1] 1699-1700 loaned as mason to Abraham Hartogh for half a year,[2] 1701-1702 freeman.[3] / [1] KAB, MR 1697-1699; [2] KAB, VC 49, MR 1701-1702.

**Lemmink, Juergen** born Berne **[**Lehmann?], arrived 14.5.1697 on *Mijdrecht*, artillerist.[1] 1705 condemned for unknown reason.[2] / KAB, VC 103, MR 1705; [2] KAB, MR 1705.

**Rode, Hendrik** born Basel **[**Roth?], arrived 24.4.1697 on *Lands Welvaren*,[1] 1697-1704 soldier,[2] 1705 wagon driver,[1] 1705-1706 loaned as farmhand to Sieur Jacobus de Wet, book-keeper and cellarmaster.[3] / [1] KAB, VC 103, MR 1705; [2] KAB, MR 1697-1704; [3] KAB, CJ 2874:69, 23.9.1705.

**Ziegler, Hans / Jan Caspar** born Lucerne [Ziegerli of Dagmersellen LU?], 1697 soldier,[1] 1697-1699 loaned to shoemaker Martin Mecklenburg,[1] 1700-1703 loaned to shoemaker Jan Christoffel Haak for two shillings for each pair of shoes made and every Sunday free.[3] 1707-1714 again loaned to Mecklenburg.[4] / [1] KAB, MR 1697; [2] KAB, CJ 2872, p. 329; [3] KAB, CJ 2874, p. 84; [4] KAB, CJ 2874, p. 197.

BREACH OF CONTRACT SEVERELY PUNISHED

**Soeter / Loetert, Willem** born Berne **[Suter?]**. 1698-1700 soldier loaned to Sr. Henning Husing.[1] 1700.5.15 contracted for six months as farm foreman to former Burgher Councillor Guillaume Heers,[2] and 22.11.1700 loaned as farmhand to Jan Wessels.[3] He left his employment illegally, was fetched back but again deserted and took service illegally with free burgher Paul Heuns, remaining there eight months. Brought before the court he could not substantiate his claim that Wesssels had given him neither pay nor food, was found guilty and condemned to be scourged and fined.[4] 1702-1703 soldier.[5] / KAB, CJ 2872, p. 437; [2] KAB, CJ 2873, p. 183; [3] KAB, CJ 873, p. 326; [4] KAB, CJ 4, p. 28; [5] KAB, MR 1702-1703.

**Rosenberg, Daniel** born Berne, 1699-1700 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1699; NL, ARA, VOC 4043, MR 1700.

**Luttie, Hans Juergen [Lüthi?].** No origin given, was he Swiss? Is he identical with Loode? 9.6.1705 guilty of theft, condemned to five years hard labour in chains on Robben Island. / KAB, CJ 782: 13.

**Loode, Hans alias Luti, Hans Jacob** born Basel, soldier, 19.10.1700 loaned to Captain Olof Bergh as cattle-herd at fl 9 per month. Possibly the person mentioned in Simon van der Stel's Defence. / KAB, CJ 2873, p. 312.

**Hans, Jacob** born "Surig" (Zurich?), 1701 soldier. / KAB, MR 1701.

**Alse, Hendrik** born Basel **[Ahles?],** 1701 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1701.

**De Wyse Isaac** born Solothurn [Weiss?] arrived 24.3.1702 on *Gent* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1702-1704 soldier, 1705-1707 cattle-herd, 1708-1712 wagon driver and 1715-1717 again cattle-herd. / KAB, MR 1702-1705 and 1708-1717; NL, ARA, MR 1703; NL, ARA, VOC 4059, MR 1707 and NL, ARA, MR 1709-1710, 1712-1713, 1715 ad 1717.

**Muller, Jeronimus** born Basel, 1703 cadet. / KAB, MR 1703.

**Groenewout / Creynewink, Johannes** born Berne [**Grünenwald** of Bernese Oberland?], arrived 15.12.1704 on *Vosmaar* for Kamer Amsterdam. Soldier,[1] 1705 loaned as miller to the Town Council of Stellenbosch,[2] 1706 sick[3] and 1707 ranger (*veldwagter*).[4] / [1] KAB, MR 1705; [2] KAB, CJ 2874: 59; [3] NL, ARA, VOC 4047, MR 1706; NL, ARA, VOC 4059, MR 1707.

**Peroude, Jan Jacobs** born Neuchatel 1678 **[Perrenoude**?]. Soldier, arrived 14.6.1705 on *Gansenhoef*. 15.7.1706 guilty of assault on master smith Bastiaan Sigemund.[1] Last recorded June 1708 as convict on Robben Island.[2] / [1] KAB, CJ 4: 25; [2] KAB, MR 1708.

REVENGE MAY BE SWEET, BUT CAN LEAVE A BITTER TASTE

According to the records of the Council of Justice, Peroude had been delegated to assist in the smithy. His foreman found him negligent in his work and had cause to discipline him with words and corporal punishment and then sent him back to the soldiers' barracks to resume work there. However, Peroude, incensed at the treatment received and neglecting his guard duties, waylaid the foreman on his way home on Saturday evening and attacked him with a halfpike. He struck him on the head causing a grievous wound and then fled. In the bright moonlight he was however seen by several people and apprehended.

He was sentenced to be publicly displayed under the gallows with the hangman's around his neck, then scourged and sent to Robben Island for eight years' hard labour in chains.

**Broederen, Wolderigh** born Appenzell [**Bruderer, Huldreich**?], arrived 12.12.1706 on *Concordia* for Kamer Zeeland. 1708-1709 wagon-driver, 1710-1713 stablehand. May have died during first small pox epidemic in 1713. / KAB, MR 1708-1713; NL, ARA, MR 1709-1711 and 1713.

**Marik, Jacob** born Präz GR 17.10.1678[1] **[Marugg],** arrived 6.5.1707 on *Barneveld* as corporal.[2] 27.10.1707 member of the Grootkerk congregation,[3] 1708-1709 sergeant with pay fl 20.[2 & 4] Appears to have returned to Switzerland in 1710 but arrived back 1.10.1713 on *Waarde* as cadet,[5] and rejoined the church congregation.[6] 1714-1717 Assistant in the store with pay fl 18,[5 & 7] 17.1.1717 requested burgher papers and

permission to start a business.[5] On 21.1.1717 he paid fl 3 500 for a full partnership in the business of Hans Caspar Gehringer of Reetz, a dealer and baker, whose previous partner had recently died. This did not work out well and after a year the contract was cancelled,[8] whereupon Marik again entered Company service.

Somehow he seems to have prospered. On 15.11.1719 he bought erf and house from Jacob Paesen,[10] to which he later added more land.[11] 16.6.1720 he married Margaretha Cors of Amersfoort in the Netherlands. In 1726 he was appointed sergeant in the Burgher Watch,[12] from which pisition he resigned on 1.8.1730,[13] possibly due to ill health. Yet at this time he bought the farm *Stellenberg* at the foot of the Wynberg.[14]

When Marik died 21.12.1730 he left a wife and seven children:[15]

1. Elizabeth baptised 6.7.1721, married 1740 Jan Hendrik Ehlers of Stralsund, Germany, who was repatriated in 1746.
2. Anna baptised 1.10.1723, married Jan Frederik Delitsch.
3. Maria baptised 9.7.1724, married Paulus Pieter Artois, a leading burgher who went to Holland on a deputation. (See Beyers: *Die Kaapse Patriote*)
4. Jacob baptised 23.6.1726, died 1755.
5. Christiaan baptised 5.10.1727, married Sara Helena Ferreyn, had a son Jacob who probably died young and a daughter Magdalena Jacoba who married Hendrik Ostwald Eksteen, and died 1755.
6. Hendrina baptised 7.11.1728, married Heinrich Langejan of Halberstadt, Germany, with whom she returned to Europe.
7. Jan or Johannes baptised 20.8.1730, died 1755.

Marik's erstwhile partner Gehringer had a female slave, Anna Groothenning of Bengal by whom Gehringer probably had a daughter, Maria, born c. 1703. Gehringer manumitted Anna who was baptised 1.1.1713 and a month later married Gehringer's then partner Christian Bock of Wolfenbüttel. 6.3.1718 she had a son, Jacob, possibly by Marik.[9] Could this be N.N. Marik who died 1768 in Swellendam at the house of Jacobus Bota the elder?[23]

### ALL MARIK'S MALE DESCENDANTS WIPED OUT IN THE SECOND SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC

Marik had a good life at the Cape. He owned property and was respected, serving as corporal in the Burgher Watch. Maybe he was also somewhat hot tempered: while on duty one night in 1725 he gave the burgher Dirk Eends three strokes on the head with the switch and then another on the right arm, which Dirk claimed left him unable to work for eight days. Marik was summoned before the Military Board which attended to disciplinary matters of this nature. He admitted guilt saying that the incident had happened in the heat of the moment and promised it would not happen again while on watch duty.[16] He was forgiven and soon thereafter promoted to sergeant.[17]

Marik died in 1730 survived by his wife and seven healthy children, three sons and four daughters, the eldest nine years old. It looked as if he had planted the name Marik firmly on South African soil and that in time there would be many descendants.

The sons did well. Jacob junior was probably a businessman. His place of residence is indicated on a map of Cape Town in Picard's *Gentleman's Walk* (p. 382) and also owned a small holding on the Salt River.[18] Of his other sons, Christiaan was a shoemaker who hired a soldier from the Castle to work for him[19] and also owned a house,[20] while Johannes, the youngest, after working until his eighteenth year in Company employ[21] and still living with his mother in 1749[22] set up as a baker.[22]

Misfortune struck in 1755. Christiaan died suddenly in February. A few months later the second smallpox epidemic broke out at the Cape and took away Christiaan's only son Jacob and both his brothers. Thus within the space of six short months all male descendants of Jacob Marik were wiped out, leaving only the widow, four daughters and a granddaughter.[22]

/ [1] Schmidt-Pretoria: *Deutsche Wanderung*; [2] NL, ARA, MR 1709; [3] KAB, DRC, VC 604; [4] KAB, MR 1708; [5] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1717: 4; [6] KAB, GI 13/1 *Attestatie,* 14.10.1713; [7] KAB, VC 40-41, MR 1714-1716; [8] KAB, CJ 2878: 70; [9] Hoge: *Personalia*; [10] KAB, DO, T1311; [11] KAB, DO, T1854, 15.10.1728 from Anthony Wagenaar; [12] De Wet: *Resolusies*, 8.1.1726; [13] *Ibid*, 1.8.1730; [14] KAB, DO, T1970, 2.12.1730; from Jacobus Hendriksz; [15] KAB, VC 55; [16] KAB, BKR 1, 7.5.1725; [17] De Wet: *Resolusies*, 8.1.1726; [18] KAB, DO, T3042, 27.8.1753; [19] KAB, CJ 2892: 20, 6.4.1751; [20] KAB, DO, T2856, 9.1.1750; [21] KAB, BRD 13; [22] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1749: 98; [23] KAB, VC 53, MR 1751; [24] KAB, MOOC 6/1.

**Bosch / Bas, Jan** born Zurich, arrived 19.7.1708 on *Kartago* for Kamer Zeeland. 1708-1712 soldier. May have died during first smallpox epidemic. / KAB, MR 1709 and 1711-1712; NL, ARA, MR 1709-1712.

**Bourgois, Samuel Montandon** born Neuchatel [**Bourgeois or Bourgoin**?], 1710 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1710; NL, ARA, MR 1710.

**Swytzer, Jan Baptist** born Switzerland [**Schweizer**?]. Recorded as having entered Company service in 1710. He initially served in India, arriving there on *Raadhuis van Middelburg*. Recorded at Cape from 1714 onward: 1714-1716 soldier, 1717 wagon-driver, 1718-1721 soldier. / KAB MR 1714-1715 and 1717-1721; NL, ARA, MR 1716-1719 and 1721.

**Wiederkelder, Baltus**, born Arbon TG [**Wiederkehr**?]. Arrived 6.11.1710 on *Donau* for Kamer Zeeland, 1710-1723 soldier,[1] 1715 joined church community.[2] / [1] KAB, MR 1711-1723. NL, ARA, MR 1711-1713, 1717-1719 and 1721-1723; [2] KAB, G1, 13/1: Attestation.

**Maartens, Claas** born Aron / Arouw [**Martin** of Aarau AG?]. Arrived 6.10.1711 on *Rijssel* for Kamer Zeeland, 1713-1714 able seaman with pay fl 12, 1715-1716 stablehand. / KAB, MR 1713-1716; NL, ARA, MR 1715-1716.

**Overmeyer, Samuel** born Basel [**Obermeier** of Basel BS?]. Arrived 9.5.1711 on *Den Berg* for Kamer Amsterdam as lance-corporal, with pay fl 12. 1711-1712 soldier, 1713 corporal. May have died during the first smallpox epidemic. / KAB, MR 1711-1713; NL, ARA, MR 1711 and 1713.

**Roux, Anthony** born Geneva. 1710 soldier,[1] 1.7.1711-3.7.1713 loaned as servant to apothecary Jan Caspar Rigter,[2] 1714 sodier.[1] / [1] KAB, MR 1710-1711 and 1714; [2] KAB, CJ 2875: 54.

**Heeme / Hemert, Casper** born Zurich **[Hämig**?**]**. Arrived 16.9.1711 on *Voorburg* for Kamer Delft. 1711-1714 soldier. / KAB, MR 1711-1715; NL, ARA, MR 1712-1713.

**Binder/Beynder, Hans / Jean** born Berne. Arrived 16.5.1711 on *Unie* for Kamer Zeeland, initially sick, 1712 cattle-herd, 1713-1717 stablehand,[1] 1717-1718 loaned as farmhand to Ernst Mostert,[2] 1718 again stablehand, 1719-1723 wagon-driver,[1] 1725-1728 loaned as farmhand to Anna Rousseau wife of Jan Blignau[3] and 1725-1728 again wagon-driver.[1] / [1] KAB, MR 1710/11-1713, 1717-1723 and 1729; NL, ARA, MR 1712-1713, 1717-1719, 1722-1725 and 1728-1729; [2] KAB, CJ 2878: 108, 10.9.1717-29.1.1718; [3] KAB, CJ 2881: 55, 2.12.1725-29.1.1728.

**Meynraad, Jan Leenert** born Schaffhausen [**Meinrath, Johann Leonhard** of Neunkirch SH?]. Arrived 31.8.1712 on *Limburg* for Kamer Haarlem.[1] 1712-1717 soldier,[2] 25.2.1717 guilty of stealing and deported to Europe.[3] / [1] NL, ARA, MR 1717; [2] KAB, MR 1713-1717; [3] KAB, CJ 6: 6.

THE FIRST SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC AT THE CAPE AND WORSE

The first epidemic which ravaged the Cape in 1713 was introduced in March of that year by some clothing belonging to ship's people who had been ill during the passage from India but had recovered before reaching Table Bay. The clothing was sent to be washed at the Company's slave lodge and the women who handled it were smitten first. Within the next six months, the winter months, some 200 of the approximately 500 slaves, and nearly a quarter of the Europeans at the Cape died.

The plague ceased when the hot months set in. At the beginning of 1713 fourteen Swiss were known to have lived at the Cape and of these three may have died of the pox: the Company servants Wolderig Broeders of Appenzell, a stablehand; Jan Bos of Zurich, a cattle-herd; and Samuel Overmeyer of Basel, a corporal at the Castle. None of the free Swiss died.

One of the Company servants that survived, Jan Leendert Meynraad of Schaffhausen, while on duty at the Castle in 1717, was caught stealing beer glasses from the Governor's table, was sentenced to be scourged by the black slaves and sent to Robben Island to await the first convenient ship to deport him to Europe.

Meynraad probably did not look forward to his homecoming. Switzerland was experiencing a long period of poverty and hunger. More than ever young Swiss had to leave their homes and seek a living abroad. Some found their way to the Netherlands where they took service with the Dutch East India Company which they knew entailed a very long and perilous sea voyage in uncomfortable, overcrowded ships to the ends of the earth – Java, Sumatra or Borneo – where they had to work and make war in alien conditions and an unhealthy climate. Very few could expect to be assigned to the Cape which was relatively peaceful and had a healthy climate. Mostly the young men signed up to serve in one of the many Swiss regiments serving with foreign kings. As a result of their brilliant success in their fight for freedom, the Swiss had become famous for their prowess as soldiers and were much sought after as mercenaries. Thus in 1748, when the total population of Switzerland was about one and a half million, nearly 77 000 served all over Europe, equivalent to roughly 2½ % of the men in their prime of life.

The history of early modern Europe seems to be a chronicle of almost continuous warfare. At the time of the first smallpox epidemic at the Cape, the Spanish War of Succession was being fought between France under the Sun King, and the allies, comprising England with their famous Duke of Marlborough, Austria and the Netherlands. This war lasted 14 years, 1701-1714. One of the biggest battles took place at Malpaquet. Some 200 000 men supported by 200 cannons faced each other. The Swiss regiments serving with the Dutch were ordered to take the French defensive positions by frontal attack. After several vain attempts during which they suffered grievous losses, they succeeded in surmounting the enemy positions – and found themselves facing Swiss regiments in the service of the French. After a short moment of shocked hesitation the fight was continued and the allied troops forced the French to retire.

All Swiss troops served their respective commanders loyally, the Swiss regiments in the service of the French king holding the battlefield until the whole French army had retired. It is recorded that the allies lost 20 000 men at Malpaquet, including 8 000 of their 20 000 Swiss. Of the Swiss regiment Hirzel, which spearheaded the attack for the Dutch with 1 600 men, only one officer and seventy soldiers survived.

**De Koning, Lucas** born "Nieucasteel" [Neuchatel?], 1712 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1712.

**Van Mygen, Gillis** born Basel [**Mäglin** of Basel BS?]. Arrived 5.7.1713 on *Berbices* for Kamer Zeeland. 1714-1715 soldier (1715 at Vissershoek),[1] 1721-1741 loaned as farmhand to Jan Carstens.[2] / KAB, MR 1714-1715; NL, ARA, MR 1715; [2] KAB, CJ 879: 109, 1.5.1721-22.9.1741.

**Chaparel, Ary** born Geneva, arrived 24.3.1714 on *Kockengen* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1714-1717 soldier. / KAB, MR 1714-1716 and NL, ARA, MR 1715.

**Reyser, Benedictus** born Berne, arrived 24.3.1714 on *Kockengen* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1714-1718 stablehand, 1719-1722 coachman with pay fl 20. / KAB, MR 1714-1722; NL, ARA, MR 1715-1719 and 1721-1722.

**Stockert, Jan** born Zurich, arrived 9.56.1714 on *Ter Horst* for Kamer Delft. 1714 soldier, 1715-1718 cattle-herd. / KAB, MR 1714-1718; NL, ARA, MR 1715 and 1717-1718.

**Coopman, Bartolomeus** born Zurich **[Koopmann**?], 1716 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1716.

**Timmerman, Hans** born Walensee (not Swiss?) [**Zimmermann**?], arrived 4.11.1716 on *Meerhuizeen* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1717 sailor, 1725 potter. / KAB MR 1717 and 1725; NL, ARA, MR 1717.

**Litse(le)r, Johannes** born Basel **[Lisser?]**, arrived 6.7.1716 on *Boekenrode* as soldier.[1] 1716.8.15-20.3.1719 loaned to widow of Michiel Ley[2] and from 20.3.1719 onward to farmer Cornelis Victor, but this contract was cancelled 19.6.1719 because Litser absented himself.[3] Subsequently loaned to Johannes Colyn 19.9.1720-16.9.1720,[4] to Johannes Franken 16.9.1720-18.9.1724,[5] to Anthony Visser 18.9.1724, cancelled July 1725[6] and to Johannes van Helsdingen 1725.9.1725-September 1731.[7] 1732 sick,[8] 15.11.1732 loaned to burgherAbraham Addehaan.[9] 1733 burgher.[1] From 1736 until his probable death in 1746 he lived at Paarl with Johann Melchior Frick of Steckborn TG.[10] Litser never married. In 1741 he had 32 head of cattle, a gun and a sword.[11] / [1] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1733-1734: 102; [2] KAB, CJ 2878: 36; [3] KAB, CJ 2879: 1; [4] KAB, CJ 2879: 25; [5] KAB, CJ 2879: 81; [6] KAB, CJ 2880: 148; [7] KAB, CJ 2881: 46; [8] KAB, MR 1732; [9] KAB, CJ 2883: 89; [110] KAB, VC 50, MR 1736-1745; [11] KAB, A2250, Citizens Roll 1741.

**Vorster, Hans / Jan** born Berne [**Foster**]. Arrived 13.5.1717 as sailor on *Velsenhoofd.*[1] Not to be confused with Jan Vorster, master of the *Boekenrode* 1718 in Table Bay en route from Batavia to the Netherlands. Vorster was soon loaned for one year as a mason to builder Cornelis Leenderts Huspot.[2] It was in this year that Huspot was asked to draw up plans for the first church 12,3 x 24,5 metres, to be built in Paarl. Until then the Drakenstein congregation had worshipped in a makeshift structure at present day Simondium. The new church was to be built with the help of hired artisans under the supervision of Dominee van Aken and his elders. A mason was engaged and given some slaves to break and dress the stones needed for the walls, and some carpenters to cut and prepare the timber for doors, windows and roof. Their choice of mason proved to be unfortunate. The slaves under him complained of continuous maltreatment. Van Aken and his elders went to investigate and arrived to see the mason belabouring a slave with his stick. When van Aken tried to intervene, the mason threatened him with a raised stick. A scuffle ensued ending with the elders giving the mason a good hiding and accepting his resignation on the spot.

After a lapse of six months during which time the elders were no doubt on the lookout for a rally good and reliable mason, they engaged Jan Vorster.[3, 4 & 5] After completing his contract with Huspot in July 1718, Vortsre moved to Paarl. He was given two slaves to help him dig the trenches for the foundation and the walls. Clay was used instead of mortar which was not available, and work often had to be suspended during wet weather. When a big rain came the unfinished walls had to be protected with thatching. Despite all these precautions a corner of the unfinished building collapsed during a particularly wet spell in October 1719. Nonetheless work progressed reasonably well and in June 1720 the church could be inaugurated.[3 & 4]

Vorster's work must have been very saisfactory for on completion of the church he was immediately hired by one of the leading burghers of Paarl, former Heemraad Schalk Willemsz van der Merwe[6], who kept him in his employ until Vorster successfully applied for burgher papers in 1723, stating that he was a mason and believed he would be able to earn a living that way.[1]

While at Paarl he married Elisabeth, daughter of Barend Lubbe, one time partner of Jan Margra of Lutry VD and now farming on *Wolwedans* between Paardeberg and the Mosselbank River The marriage is not recorded in any church register. From 1724 onwards Vorster and his wife are recorded at the Cape, the last time in 1728. It is probable that Vorster died at the end of that year.[7]

Elisaberth moved back into the country with her family where her three children grew up in the farming community.

1. Aletta baptised 2.4.1722, married Pieter Gous.
2. Jan baptised 17.09.1724.
3. Barend baptised 1.12.1726, farmed on Tygerkloof at the foot of Porterville Pass. Married 1746 Dorothea Maria Smit. They had 13 children including 10 sons who all became farmers in the Stellenbosch and Graaff-Reinet districts and with the Great Trek spread throughout South Africa.

Balthasar Johannes Vorster, a great-greatgrandson of Jan Vorster was inaugurated as President of the Republic of South Africa in October 1978.



/ [1] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1723: 123; [2] KAB, CJ 2878: 95, 16.7.1717; [3] DRC, G3/1/1; [4] Grobbelaar: *Die geskiedenis van die Gemeente 1691-1795*, pp. 26-27; [5] KAB, CJ 2878: 154; [7] KAB, VC 49 MR 1724-28.

**Marik / Marok, Christiaan** born Klosters GR **[Marugg],** arrived 22.6.1719 as Master of the Hooker *Zeelandia* to be permanently stationed in Table Bay. Having served the Company for ten years, Marik requested and was granted the position vacant after the death of skipper Daniel Bent on the ship *Rydous*.[1] Must subsequently have beome a burgher for on 14.2.1719, as member of the burgher watch, the military council fined him for absenting himself from guard duty without permission of his officer, for which he could give no reason.[2] / [1] Leibbrandt: *Requesten 1719*: 83; KAB, BKR 1.

**Pury, Jean-Pierre** born Boudry 1675 to Henry Pury, pewterer at Neuchatel, and Marie born Hesler. He received a good eduction and was well read. His active intelligence forever led him beyond the barriers of everyday life, but never to success.

After a financial failure he took service with the Dutch East India Company as corporal and sailed to the East Indies on the *Prins Eugenius* which lay at anchor in Table Bay from 18.10.1713 until 21.11.1713. After having served his four year contract he returned from the East to the Netherlands on the *Hoogermeer* with the title of book-keeper. The *Hoogermeer* lay in Table Bay from 22.2.1718 till 7.4.1718. This coincided with the grape harvest. The victiculture introduced by French Huguenots after 1688 must have been of special interest to Pury. The Cape made a very favourable impression on Pury. On arrival in Amsterdam he published two pamphlets extolling the potential of the temperate zones for European settlement. Nothing much came of this but Pury

himself later managed to found a Swiss protestant colony in the American state of South Carolina which he named Purysburg. The colony failed mainly because of malaria, for which no cure was then kown. Pury died 1844 at Purysburg.

/[1] Louis-Edouard Roulet: *Jean-Pierre Pury*: [2] Jean-Pierre Pury: *Memoire sur le pais des caffres;* [3] Neue Helvetische Gesellschaft: *Schweizer im Ausland.*

**Restou Jan** born Neuchatel [**Resteau** of Geneva GE?]. 1718 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1718.

**Richart, Frederic** born Basel [**Richard** of Arlesheim or Ettingen BL?]. Arrived for Kamer Amsterdam 19.5.1718 on *Abbekerk*, lance-corporal with pay fl 12 per month. Soldier 1718-1721. / KAB, MR 1718-1721, and NL, ARA, MR 1718-1719 and 1721.

**(De) Vilar, Louis** born Morges VD. Arrived 9.2.1720 on *Bentfeld* for Kamer Amsterdam.1720-1723 soldier. / KAB, MR 1720-1723 and NL, ARA, MR 17121-1723.

**De Ley, Jan** born Bee BE [Delaie of Bex, VD], cadet. 20.10.1720 taken into service for life by former Heemraad Daniel Hugo of Drakenstein District, as De Ley had lost his right hand and was of no further use to the Compay. / KAB, CJ 2879: 92.

**Frick, Jan** (Hans) **Melchior** baptised Steckborn TG 3.12.1689, died Paarl December 1741, grandson of Hans Melchior Frick and son of Christophel Frick and his wife Anna Bassler.[1] Arrived 2.10.1721 on *Krooswijk* for Kamer Rotterdam. He did duty as a soldier in various regiments stationed at the Cape. After his initial contract of four years expired he elected to continue in the service of the Company.[2 & 3]

During peacetime soldiers were required to perform whatever work made the best use of their talents to the benefit of the Company. Perhaps Frick, being literate, was assigned to do clerical work at the Castle where a Paarl farmer got to know him. In 1728, with Frick's consent, this farmer loaned him for two years to teach his children.[4]

Frick found his surroundings – the beautiful Paarl valley and the free and god-fearing farming community – much to his liking. He adapted quickly and was soon accepted as an equal, becoming a member of the church. After two years he accepted a teaching contract with yet another Huguenot farmer, Andries du Toit,[5] and at the same time applied to the Governor for release from Company service.[6] The two farmers must have been very satisfied with his teaching abilities: when in 1733 the sextant of the Drakenstein (Paarl) church resigned to go full-time farming, Charl du Plessis and Andries du Toit presented Frick to the church elders with the recommendation that he be employed as sextant and teacher. This was approved unanimously and Frick was told to report back to their next meeting when the rules for the school would be ready for adoption and his appointment could be finalised.[7]

As sextant Frick was provided with a house which at his request was nicely repaired. Then, being nearly 44 years old, he lost no time in bringing home a bride, 20 year old Maria Marais, the daughter of yet another Huguenot farmer, Charles Marais.[7] Everything was gong really well for Frick. Through his wife he had family relationships in the community and as the years[8] passed she bore him two sons and two daughters. His financial position also improved, and in 1737 he applied to the Governor for a plot of land near the church on which to build a small house.[9]

In those times a man of fifty was considered to be old and his end near. A few days before his 52nd birthday, he died. It must have been a sad blow for his young wife Maria, to be suddenly left a widow with four young children and the fifth on the way – it was born four months after Frick had been buried.



The children:

1. Charl Christoffel baptised 9.1.1735, died Paarl 7.2.1821. 1770 bought the farm De Hoop of 51,8 ha at Daljosaphat, where he reared cattle and sheep and made wine.[10]
2. Anna Maria baptised 1.7.1736, married Barend Paul Pietersen.
3. Johannes Hendrik baptised 25. 5.1738, died Paarl 7.9.1767.
4. Hester baptised 3.1.1740, married Hendrik Diederick Mohr of Elmshoorn, the progenitor of the Mohr family at the Cape.
5. Melchior Stephanus baptised 4.3.1742, died Cape Town 13.9.1790.

/ [1] CH, Frauenfeld TG, Staatsarchiv des Kantons Thurgau; [2] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1729-1732, p. 116; [3] KAB, MR 1722-23, 1725 and 1728; NL, ARA, MR 1722-1723, 1725; [4] KAB, CJ 2882:20; [5] KAB, CJ 2882:127; [6] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1729-1732, p. 116; [7] Pama: *Groot Afrikaanse Familie-naamboek*, p. 124; [8] KAB, VC 50 MR 1734-1741; [9] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1737-1738:5; [10] KAB, DO, T4339, 1770.3.10.

**Pegeling, Christiaan** born Basel [**Begli** of BS or **Begle** of BL?], 1722 cadet, sick. / KAB, MR 1722; NL, ARA, MR 1722.

**Zigfried, Jan Balthasar** born Zurich [**Siegfried**?], soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1722; NL, ARA, MR 1722.

**Flemmiger, Jan Casper** born Zurich [**Fleming** of Zurich ZH], 1724 soldier, sick. / NL, ARA, MR 1724.

**Lauson, Albert** born Lausanne VD [Lassone of Chessel VD?], 1724 soldier, sick. / NL, ARA, MR 1724.

**Reenking, Anthon** born Chur GR, 1724 sailor, sick. / NL, ARA, MR 1724.

**Swytzer, Jacob** born Basel [**Schweizer**?], arrived 26.4.1726 on *Landskroon* for Kamer Amsterdam. Soldier, 1726-1728 at the Castle, 1728-1733 stationed in Groenkloof (Mamre), the last three years as corporal commanding the three men stationed there.[1] He and burgher Jacob van Borhem were foud guilty of maltreating a slave boy named Marius causing his death.[2] / [1] KAB, MR 1726 and 1729-1733; NL, ARA, MR 1727-1731, 1733; [2] CJ 15, p. 105, 17.9.1733 and CJ 150 p. 329.

**Bertrand, Joseph**, born Haux BE, 1727 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1727.

**Porry, Anthony** born Geneva [**Porret** of Fresens NE?]. 1728 soldier. / KAB, MR 1728.

**Du Bois, Jan George** born Neuchatel. 1728 soldier, sick, 1730 soldier. / KAB, MR 1728 and 1730; NL, ARA, MR 1728.

**Vermaire, Adriaan** born Basel, arrived 23.2.1729 on *Borssele* for Kamer Zeeland. 1729 sick, 1730-1732 cattle-herd and wagon-driver,[1] 1733 guilty of staying away for three days from work at the stable, sentencd to be scourged by black slaves and to six months hard labour in chains on Robben Island.[2] / [1] KAB, MR 1730-1733; NL, ARA, MR 1730-1732; [2] KAB, CJ 15: 8.

**Massonet, Charles** born Berne [**Mossonet** of Ependes or Forel VD?], 1729 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1729; NL, ARA, MR 1729.

**Coen, Joseph** born Berne [**Kuhn**?], arrived 19.2.1730 on *Ketel* for Kamer Rotterdam. 1730-1734 soldier,[1] 28.5.1735 loaned for one year as farmhand to Michiel Basson,[2] 9.8.1736 for two years as farmhand to Abraham de Villiers[3] and 11.8.1738 for one year as labourer to Pieter Jurgen van der Heyde.[4] 1740-1743 soldier (1740 in Waveren).[1] Appears to have returned to Switzerland in 1743 but came back 1746 on *Straat van Cappel* for Kamer Zeeland, 1747 soldier.[5] / [1] KAB, MR 1730-1734, 1740-1742; NL,

ARA, MR 1730, 1733-1734, 1740 and 1743; [2] KAB, CJ 2885: 34; [3] KAB, CJ 2886: 44; [4] KAB, CJ 2886: 44; [5] KAB, MR 1747; NL, ARA, MR 1747.

**Bossert / Bosschert, Jan** born Schipphousen [**Bosshart** of Schaffhausen?], arrived 24.4.1732 on *Adrichem* as cadet with pay fl 10 for Kamer Amsterdam. 1732-1736 soldier, 1737 foreman. / KAB, MR 1733-1737; NL, ARA, MR 1733.

**Nevergelt, Ulrich** born Zurich **[Nievergelt]**, arrived 2.8.1732 on *Petronella Alida* for Kamer Edam, 1733-1737 soldier, sick, 1738-1743 soldier. / KAB, MR 1733-1742; NL, ARA, MR 1733-1734, 1738-1740 and 1742-1743.

**Smid, Jan** born Berne **[Schmid**?], arrived 25.10.1733 on *Popkensburg* for Kamer Zeeland. 1734 soldier station at Groenkloof (Mamre), 1735-1739 at Vissershoek, from 1737 as corporal commanding three men stationed there. / KAB, MR 1734-1739; NL, ARA, MR 1734 and 1737-1739.

**Wynserje, Abraham** born Berne **[Winzenried?]**, arrived 26.4.1734 on Adrichem for Kamer Delft. 1734 soldier. / KAB, MR 1734; NL, ARA, MR 1734.

**Roman, Ferdinand** born Mels SG, arrived 31.8.1734 on *Boot* for Kamer Rotterdam. 1737-1742 soldier stationed at Rivier Zonder End.[1] 2.4.1744-3.5.1746 loaned as farm overseer to Michiel Romond.[2] / [1] KAB, MR 1737-1742; NL, ARA, MR 1737, 1739 and 1742; [2] KAB, CJ 2889: 12.

**Le Camus, Rodolphe** born Geneva [**Camus** of Massonnens FR?], son of Jean le Camus and Marie-Madeleine Guainier. Joined Company service 1725 as cadet and was sent to the Indies. Arrived 1735 from Indies on *Petronella Alida*, was employed here as second clerk of the Council of Policy and from 1737 as first clerk with pay fl 20. In the same year, while sick in hospital he requested to return to the Indies with his former military rank,[2] / [1] Boucher: *French speakers*, p. 306; [2] KAB, MR 1735-1737 and C 1099: 15.

**Olbrecht, Johan Ulrich** born Egelshoven [**Albrecht** of Engishofen TG?]. 25.3.1736 became a church member, 30.8.1736 departed for Batavia. / KAB, DRC, VC 604.

**Crevoost / Crefen, Jan Joost** born Neuchatel [**Crevot** of Montcherand VD?], arrived 18.9.1736 on *Westerbeck* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1736-1741 soldier,[1] 3.2.1742-18.2.1743 loaned as farmhand to Catharina Ley, widow of Martinus Bergh. 1743 again soldier.[1] / [1] KAB, MR 1736-1737, 1741, 1743; NL, ARA, MR 1743; [2] KAB, CJ 2888: 42.

**Stots, Johannes** of "Vaierl in Switzerland" (**Stotz** of Wädenswil ZH or Wängi TG?), arrived 19.10.1736 on *Enkhuizen* for Kamer Edam. 1737 woodcutter. / KAB, MR 1737; NL, ARA, MR 1737.

**De Koning, Andries** born Montreul [Montreux VD? De Kennen of Coisins VD?]. Remained here after the *Duinbeek* was stranded 11.9.1736. Recorded 1737 as an incompetent mason with suspended pay. / KAB, MR 1737.

**Meyer, Johannes** born Zurich **[Meier**?], arrived 14.9.1736 on *Papenburg* for Kamer Rotterdam. 1737 woodcutter. / KAB, MR 1737; NL, ARA, MR 1737.

**Habek, Hendrik** born Schaffhausen **[Habicht** or **Haber**?], arrived 8.11.1737 on *Cornelia* for Kamer Edam. 1738-1741 wagon-driver. / KAB, MR 1738-1741; NL, ARA, MR 1738-1739.

**Gruetter, Joseph Anthony** born St. Gall SG, arrived 9.9.1738 on *Kasteel van Woerden* for Kamer Rotterdam. 1740-1741 soldier stationed at the battery at Salt River, 1742-

1752 dairyman, 1753-1757 corporal stationed on Robben Island. / KAB, MR 1739-1742, 1747-1748, 1750-1756; NL, ARA, MR 1739-1740, 1742-1743, 1745, 1747-1755 and 1757.

**Giller(s), Michael** born St. Gall [**Killer** of St. Gall SG?], arrived 13.9.1738 on *Leiduin* for Kamer Edam. 1738-1745 soldier, / KAB, MR 1739-1742; NL, ARA, MR 1739-1740 and 1745.

**Switser, Jan Willem** born Baatsbergen [Schwitzer of Beatenberg BE?], arrived 25.10.1738 on *Papenburg* for Kamer Amtserdam. 1739-1742 soldier, 1742 stationed at the battery at Salt River. / KAB, MR 1739, 1741-1742; NL, ARA, MR 1739-1740 and 1742.

**Keyser, Jan Frederik** born Switzerland **[**Kaiser? 1739 sailor, sick. / KAB, MR 1739.

**Wolfensberg(en), Hendrik** born Zurich, arrived 16.10.1739 on *Huis te Marquette* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1740 blacksmith, 1741-1747 brass-foundryman with pay in 1742 fl 14, in 1745 fl 18. / KAB, MR 1740-1742, 1747; NL, ARA, MR 1740, 1742-1743, 1745 and 1747.

**Kesler /Seester, Jan** Georg born Basel [Kessler of BS or BL]. 1740 cook, sick. / KAB, MR 1740; NL, ARA, MR 1740.

**Claas, Hendrik** born Glarus **[**Claus of GR or Klaus?], arrived 20.1.1740 on *Vreeland* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1740-1743 soldier. / NL, ARA, MR 1743.

**Smit, Juriaan** born Chur GR **[**Schmid?**]**, arrived 20.2.1740 on *Wickenburg* for Kamer Zeeland. 1740-1742 builder's carpenter with pay in 1741 fl 14, 1743 cattle-herd,[1] 1.9.1744-1.9.1747 loaned to Anthony Visser at fl 24 per month.[2] / [1] KAB, MR 1741; NL, ARA, MR 1740, 1742-1743; [2] KAB, CJ 2889: 27 (S).

**Snyder, Johannes** born Schaffhausen **[Schneider**?**]**, arrived 20.2.1740 on *Huis ten Spijk* for Kamer Edam. 1740 soldier at the Castle, 1741-1745 stationed at Rietvalley on the Buffeljagd River (now Swellendam).[1] 1745-1747 loaned to burgher Pieter van Taak,[2] 1747-1750 loaned to farmer Tobias Moster[3] and 1750-1752 loaned as farmhand to the widow Hendrik Hop.[4] / KAB, MR 1740-1743 and 1745; KAB, CJ 2889: 50; [3] KAB, CJ 2890: 10, KAB, CJ 2891: 38.

**Bessiere, Isaie** born Lausanne VD [**Bessire** of Pery BE?], gunnery officer on the *Huis te Rensburg* which rounded the Cape in 1741. / Boucher: *French speakers*, p. 297.

**Rediger, Joost Hendrik** born "Lennis" [Luins VD?]. 1741 soldier, sick, 1742 wagon-driver. / KAB, MR 1741-1742.

**Steyger, Jacob** born Switzerland **[Steiger**?], arrived 25.1.1741 on *Amsterdam* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1741 sick, 1742-1745 soldier. / KAB, MR 1741-1742, 1745; NL, ARA MR 1743.

**Pebler, Jan Hendrik** born Glarus [**Bäbler** of Elm or Matt GL?], arrived 18.5.1741 on *Gunsterstijn* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1741 sick, 1742 soldier. / KAB, MR 1741-1742.

**Breeker, Jacon** born Zurich **[Bregger**?], arrived 2.8.1741 on *Woitkensdorp* for Kamer Zeeland. 1741-1745 soldier. / KAB, MR 1741-1742, 1745; NL, ARA, MR 1742-1743.

**Schalker, Casper** [**Schalcher, Hans Kaspar**] baptised Wülflingen (Winterthur) ZH 24.2.1714, son of Abraham and Verena born Denzler in Schwamendingen ZH.[1] Arrived 25.1.1741 on *Westhoven* as soldier for Kamer Zeeland.[3 & 3] Coming from a then highly industrialised area he may have had a relatively good education, to which he added a lot

of know-how at the Cape in the service of former merchant Olaf de Wet[4] and Orphan Master Alexander Croese.[5] 1749, eight years after his arrival, Schalker became a burgher and thenceforth was recorded as single man with gun and sword,[6] weapons which every burgher had to possess to be able to perform his military duties. Apparently he had no horse and no mention is made of his slave Thomas of Boegies whom he set free, albeit on condition that he remain a freeman in his service until death.[7]

In 1762 Schalker moved to the Drakenstein District[8] where 19.8.1764 he married Maria Guillaumet, widow of Louis Jordan, owner of the farm *Schoonoort*. They settled on a plot of land at Paarl leaving the farm to her five sons.[9] Schalker seems to have earned his living as a sort of legal agent and shopkeeper as is evident by his signature as agent on a contract by which Hendrik Freene took service as a farmhand in 1765,[10] and by the inventory of his possessions[11] compiled after his death 6.1.1770.[12] The inventary lists a shopcounter and scales, plus an extensive stock of goods including items varying from 14 spades and 70 handkerchiefs to 53 cups and saucers, coffee, tea and sugar, 16 ell black satin, 45 knives and 100 feet of wooden planks. His personal items included a large Bible and 23 other books, 19 sheets of writing paper, 2 packs of playing cards and a silver pocketwatch. Everything was sold by public auction on 12.3.1770, realising 702 rixdalers and 5 stuiwers.[13] Schalker left no descendants.

/ [1] CH, Zurich, *Staatsarchiv des Kantons Zürich, Todeseintrag im Totenbuch von Wülflingen zwischen 20. und 23. Januar 1771*; [2] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1748: 111; [3] KAB, MR 1742, 1747, 1748; [4] KAB, CJ 2888: 93; [5] KAB, CJ 2889: 36; [6] KAB, MR Freemen 1749, 1751-1756, 1756-1762; [7] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1761: 77; [8] KAB, MR Freemen 1763-1770; [9] KAB, DO, T4146, 5.3.1767 from Abraham de Vries; [10] KAB, CJ2900: 81; [11] KAB, MOOC 3/11/7:52; [12] KAB, MOOC 6/1, p. 67; [13] KAB, MOOC 10/10.

**Sausche, Jan** born Rougemont VD **[Saugy, Jean?]**, arrived 8.12.1741 on *Meerlust* as a corporal for Kamer Edam[1] but was used as a blacksmith.[2] In 1745 he was loaned for two years to former Burgher Councillor Fred. Rossouw,[3] after which he became a burgher[4] living in the Cape District and having in 1751 a slave servant, gun and sword.[5] A year later he was owner of the farm *De Vleesbank* east of Hermon in extent 51,2 hectares.[6]

Sauche's birthplace lies in the Alps only a few kilometres from Gstaad. He must have been happy in his new home surrounded by the Boland mountains. He did not live to enjoy his new home for long. In March 1756 he was no more.[7] The inventory taken after his death indicates that he confined his farming activity to animal husbandry, relying for a living on his work as a blacksmith, assisted by a soldier loaned from the Company.[8] He left the working of the land to another, described as "the young Schoeman", for a half-share of the harvest.

The inventory[7] describes the buildings and lists the contents of each room. The buildings would have been built from materials found locally, using stone and clay for walls which were probably not higher than two metres, wood for rafters, bamboo and thatch for the roof. Only the front entrance would be secured by a door and each room would have only one small window not larger 500 mm square with no glass panes, only wooden shutters to keep out wind and cold. Floors were made of compacted clay mixed with cow dung to give them a soft texture. The living room contained amongst others, one old sideboard, one bed, an old mirror, a table and five chairs; the kitchen a shelf with three tin plates, a three-legged iron cooking-pot, a copper kettle, three water buckets and a wooden kist; the loft two bags of salt; the shed not much more than a few empty bags of sailcloth; the coal shed some charcoal and some pieces of cut wood; the smithy contained adequate though largely old equipment; and the stable seven horses. In addition he had an old ox-wagon, an old horse cart and farming equipment left standing

in the open, 160 sheep and ten draught oxen. Everything was sold by public auction, realising 581 rixdalers and seven stuiwers.[9]

/ [1] KAB, MR 1741; [2] KAB, MR 1741 and NL, ARA, MR 1741; [2] KAB, CJ 2889: 47 (S); [4] KAB, BRD 13, p. 302; [5] A2250 Citizens Roll; [6] KAB, DO, T3217, 25.9.1756; [7] KAB, MOOC 8/8, 31; [8] KAB, CJ 2892: 52 Jan Valkenhagen of Mecklenburg; [9] KAB, MOOC 10/7.

**Burghart, Jan Hendrik** born Basel **[Burckhardt** ?]. 1742 cadet, sick. / KAB, MR 1742.

**Poeser, Frederik [Buser**?**],** 1742 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1742; NL, ARA, MR 1742.

**Titou, Lourens** [**Tittel** of BS?] 1742 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1742; NL, ARA, MR 1742.

**Troethout, Frederik** born Berne **[Troutot**?]. 1742 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1742; NL, ARA, MR 1742.

**Eengoet, Simon** born Berne **[Ingold**?], arrived 20.2.1742 on *Popkensburg* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1742-1743 soldier. / NL, ARA, MR 1743.

**Eneytsman / Eweytsman, Hendrik** born Zurich [**Enzmann**, **Weissmann**?], arrived 16.4.1742 on *Niewvliet* for Kamer Zeeland. 1742-1743 soldier. / NL, ARA, MR 1742-1743; KAB, MR 1743.

**Steinmuller, Jan / Jacob** born Glarus, arrived 22.3.1742 on *'s Heer Arendskerke* for Kamer Zeeland. 1742 soldier, 1743 corporal with pay fl 14. / KAB, MR 1742; NL, ARA, MR 1743.

**Du Pon, Joseph** born "Burioin" [Bournens VD?], arrived 12.8.1743 on *Loeverendal* for Kamer Zeeland. 1743-1745 soldier. / KAB, MR 1745.

**Matthee, Abraham** born Tramelan BE. In the civil records of Tramelan the name is spelt **Mathez**. Three sons were baptised Abraham at the probable time of Abraham Matthee's birth:

a) 28.2.1716, son of Pierre and Suzanne Vuilleumier who had married 22.6.1713. Their first born son was baptised 1714 Jehan Pierre.
b) 1719.5.7, son of David and Elisabeth Vuilleumier married 10.5.1703.
c) 1722.24.5, son of Jehan and Eve Vuilleumier married 23.10.1704.

Matthee may have named his first son Johannes Petrus after his father (and elder brother?) which would indicate Pierre and Suzanne as his parents.

A FATHER OF MANY SONS

Matthee arrived 28.2.1743 on *Zaamslag* for Kamer Zeeland, served as soldier 1743-1750[1] and 27.8.1750 applied for burgher status.[2] At the same time he was granted a loan farm on the Groot Hagel Craals River situated at the Groot Hagelsberg (near Pearly Beach) for which, instead of the usual annual rent of 24 riksdalers, he was to allow the Company to graze 3 four year old trek-oxen.[3]

The title deed was endorsed twice, on 29.11.1755 and again on 12.2.1757, stating that Matthee had been given notice to vacate the farm for having failed to pay his dues. In the second endorsement his farm is named *Haviela* situated between Uylekraal and Hagelkraal.[4]

Matthee married Cape Town 1.10.1751 Johanna Mathysz of the Cape, daughter of Philip Martyn and Anna,[5] baptised 11.6.1747 at Stellenbosch as an adult together with her natural son Dirk by Michiel Hendrikse.[6] She died 1760 after only nine years of

marriage, leaving Matthee with Dirk aged 11, and five sons: Johannes Petrus, Joachim, Abraham and Elias aged respectively 8, 7, 6, and 4 years and Michiel, the youngest, aged 15 months. The inventory taken on behalf of the Orphan Chamber underlines his inability to pay the dues to the Company as noted on his title deed: his loose possessions consisted of no more than two iron pots, two porcelain basins and some tin utensils, two bedsteads, a rickety ox-wagon, a plow and a harrow, some farming tools and 150 sheep, 30 heads of cattle big and small, and five horses,[7]

Matthee never remarried. He continued on the farm, possibly in company with Cornelis and Martinus Hendriks who are recorded next to him on the annual census roll.[8] He died on 21.11.1768 when all his sons were still minors.[9] Again an inventory was made and this shows that he had improved his situation considerably since his wife's death. Significantly, it records less sheep and cattle but instead carries a long list of carpenter's tools and equipment. All his possessions, including the farm, were sold by public auction realising 384 rixdalers, which the Orphan Chamber held in trust for the children.[10]

Abraham Matthee's children:

0. Dirk Matthee is recorded in 1768 as overseer of roads along the Steenbras River, Hottentots Hollands Kloof, Palmiet River and around Bot River.[11]
1. Johannes Petrus baptised 9.1.1752, married Anna Dorothea Guillaumet, had one daughter only.
2. Joachim baptised 11.2.1753, married Christina Johanna Henn, farmed in the Swellendam district, left 12 children.
3. Abraham baptised 25.8.1754, married Sara Johanna Swart and had 5 children who settled an farmed mainly around Riviersonderend.
4. Elias baptised 3.10.1756, married Elisabeth Maria Bester and had 13 children. He died 1823 on his farm *Bloemfontein* in the Caledon District.
5. Michiel baptised 1.10.1758 at Bot River, married Sara Anna Bester sister of Elisabeth Maria; died 1835 on his farm *Klippen Drift*.

/ [1] KAB, MR 1745 and 1748-50; NL, ARA, MR 1748 and 1750; [2] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1750, p. 68; [3] KAB, RLR 14/1:21; [4] KAB, RLR 14/1, p. 65; [5] DRC, G13/3; [6] DRC, G2/4/2; [7] KAB, MOOC 8/9:40; [8] KAB, J 203; [9] KAB, MOOC 6/1; [10] KAB, MOOC 10/9: 38 and 40: Vendue Rolls; [11] KAB, J 203: 1768.

**Coller, Jan Hendrik** born Switzerland **[Koller**?**]**, arrived 24.2.1744 on *Akerendam* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1745-1749 soldier. / KAB, MR 1745, 1747 and 1749; NL, ARA, MR 1747.

**Schiess, Johannes** born Canton Appenzell, arrived 24.2.1744 on *Akerendam* as soldier.[1] 25.1.1745-25.1.1746 loaned as farmhand to Hendrik Greef,[2] 25.1.1746-24.1.1747 to Michael Gross.[3] 1747 burgher [1] and settled at the Cape.[4] Died 19.7.1770,[5] unmarried and leaving no possessions other than his gun and sword.[6] The church saw to his burial.[5] / [1] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1746: 70; [2] KAB, CJ 2889: 35; [3] KAB, CJ 2889: 82; [4] KAB, VC 52-53, MR 1748-1768; [5] KAB, MOOC 6/1; [6] KAB, A2250, Citizens Roll 1751-1765.

**Ekker, Stephanus** born Frutigen BE **[Egger**?], arrived 13.5.1744 on *Ouwerkerk* for Kamer Zeeland. 1745 soldier. / KAB, MR 1745.

**Bassie, Isaac** born Basel**,** arrived 12.10.1744 on *Huis ten Foreest* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1745 corporal. / KAB, MR 1745.

**Eggely, Joseph** born "Canton Baden" [**Eggli** of Berne?]. 1745 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1745.

**Verry, Coenraad** born Zurich [**Ferri** of Winterthur ZH?]. 1745 assistant cooper, sick. / KAB, MR 1745.

**Winger /Minger Nicolaas** born Berne **[Wenger** or **Minger**?**]**, arrived 15.6.1745 on *Hartenlust* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1745-1751 soldier. / KAB, MR 1745, 1747, and 1749-1751; NL, ARA, MR 1748 and 1750-1751.

**Schallenberger, Felix** born Switzerland [Emmental BE?], arrived 19.2.1746 on *Scheijbeek* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1746-1749 soldier,[1] 28.1.1750 until after 1761 loaned as farmhand to Jan du Busson.[2] / KAB, MR 1747-1748; NL, ARA, MR 1748; [2] KAB, CJ 2891: 39.

**Siedeler, Sebastiaan** born Zurich [**Siedler** of Ottenbach ZH?], arrived 26.7.1746 on *Slot van Kapelle* for Kamer Zeeland. 1747 soldier. / KAB, MR 1747; NL, ARA, MR 1747.

**Selsen / Sesselaar, Andries** born Peets / Pelts BE [Bex VD? see De Ley, Pitselaer and Castelyn], arrived 31.8.1746 on *Patmos* for Kamer Zeeland. Until 1750 served as soldier stationed in False Bay and then for one year at the Castle.[1] 6.3.1752-6.3.1754 loaned as farmhand to Johannes Mostert Jacobsz,[2] and 4.4.1754 obtained burgher papers.[3]

While still soldier in Company service, 18.6.1752, he married Christina van Wyngaarden. 12.10.1755, as widower, married Clara Dirksz of the Cape[4] by whom he had a daughter, Johanna Catharina, who married Johan Georg Berend. In 1759 Selsen appears to have returned to Switzerland. On 11.9.1759 an inventory was made of the possessions of Clara Dirksz, "legally separated wife of departed Andries Sesselaar."[5] Clara later married the free black Thomas Arends.[6]

/ [1] KAB, MR 1747-1751; NL, ARA, MR 1747-1748 and 1750; [2] KAB, CJ 2892: 63; [3] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1754: 82; [4] KAB, VC 53, MR 1756; [5] KAB, MOOC 8/9: 32; [6] KAB, MOOC 7/1/16: 43.

**Looman, Jan Hendrik** born Berne **[Lehmann**?**]**, arrived 24.10.1746 as sailor on *Batavier* for Kamer Delft with pay fl 10. 1749 able seaman with pay fl 14. / KAB, MR 1749.

**Meyer, Hendrik** born Zurich **[Meier**?]. 1747 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1747.

**Pieken, Hans Coert**, born Appenzell **[Büchler?]**, arrived 9.1.1747 on *Gustaaf Willem* for Kamer Zeeland. 1747-1751 woodcutter, 1752-1753 gardener at Muizenberg, 1754-1758 dairyman, 1760 wagon-driver and cattle-herd. / KAB, MR 1747-1756, 1758 and 1760; NL, ARA, MR 1747-1748, 1750-1752, 1754-1758 and 1760.

**Morye / Monse, Aarnoud** born Switzerland **[Moreillon** of Vevey VD?] arrived 17.2.1747 on *Beukestijn* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1747 soldier. / KAB, MR 1747; NL, ARA, MR 1747.

**Mort, Jacob** born Berne [**Mouthe** of Orbe VD?], arrived 4.8.1747 on *Kasteel van Tilburg* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1747-1752 soldier. / KAB, MR 1750-1752; NL, ARA, MR 1750-1752.

**Kupko, Martin** born "Surig"[Zurich, Switzerland?] arrived 16.10.1747 on *Schakenbos* as naval gunner for Kamer Rotterdam. 1756 artillerist. / KAB, MR 1754 and 1756; NL, ARA, MR 1756.

**Boery, Jacob** born Zurich **[Buri**?]. 1748 guilty of desertion and executed. / KAB, CJ 732: 36.

UNLUCKY DRAW BRINGS DEATH TO JACOB BOERY

Three soldiers had absented themselves from duty and were punished with house-arrest at the Castle. Being unable to go out, they sat drinking wine with others in the smithy and there agreed to escape that night. They would tie a long rope to a canon on

the rampart, slide down it, take a rowing boat on the beach, row out to one of the ships of the homeward bound fleet lying in the bay and there stow away. Unfortunately two of the men fell when they lost their grip on the rope while sliding down, and injured themselves. Unable to walk away, all three hid in a nearby limekiln, where they were found the next morning.

Brought before the Court of Justice, the following sentence was passed: that whereas the heinous crime of desertion from Company service should be most severely punished to deter others, to execute all three accused is considered too harsh. The prisoners are thereforee to be taken to the place of execution, there to draw lots: the man who draws the shortest lot was forthwith to be placed against the execution post and shot to death, the other two banned for life from the Cape.

A footnote to the minutes of the court dated 4 May 1748 states that the shortest lot was drawn by Jacob Boery of Zurich and the death sentence had been inflicted on him.

**Kisler / Fisler, Jan** born Berne [Geissler of Ins BE or Gisler?], arrived 2.11.1748 on *Dishoek* as junior sailor for Kamer Edam with pay fl 8. 1750 sailor. / KAB, MR 1750; NL, ARA, MR 1750.

**Weeper / Wever, Casper** born Glarus or Berne [**Weber**?], arrived 18.12.1748 on *Geldermalsen* for Kamer Zeeland. 1749 sick, 1749-1750 wagon-driver. / KAB, MR 1749-1750; NL, ARA, MR 1750.

**Chigri, Hans Jurgen** born Bern [**Kilcher, Gigeror or Geiger**?], arrived 23.12.1748 on *Witsburg* as sailor for Kamer Edam with pay fl 11. 1749 sailor. / KAB, MR 1749.

**Sandoz, Pierre** born Neuchatel, arrived 23.12.1748 on *Witsburg*. 1748-1752 soldier,[1] 1753 burgher, earning his living as gold and silversmith. Departed illegally in April 1754 after fraudulently claiming to have discovered gold.[2 & 3] / KAB, MR 1749-1752; NL, ARA, MR 1752; [2] KAB, C 132, 23.4.1754; [3] KAB, CJ 3220: 4.

NOT CLEVER ENOUGH

Pierre Sandoz of Neuchatel came to the Cape in 1748 as a soldier. As far as can be ascertained, he performed his duties well and never caused any trouble. At the end of his service contract he requested permission to remain here as a free burgher earning his living as a silver and goldsmith. Perhaps his father had been a silversmith in Neuchatel and Sandoz had gleaned the rudiments of the art from him? His deficient training would prove fatal.

There is no record of Sandoz having set up shop in Cape Town – perhaps he was a travelling craftsman. Then suddenly in 1754 he turned up at the Castle with important news: he claimed to have discovered gold in the faraway Swellendam district. The Dutch had from the beginning hoped for and unsuccessfully searched for precious metals. Sandoz'claim caused great excitement.

The magistrate in Swellendam was instructed to excavate a quantity of the ore and have it transported to the Cape, where the best available experts were assigned to attend a sample smelting by Sandoz to verify the gold content. Sandoz prepared the fire carefully with selected charcoal. He placed the crucible containing the ore in the fire and increased its heat with a steady flow of fresh air from the bellows. It would take several hours of heating before the ore smelted, so the Governor's experts gladly accepted Sandoz'suggestion that they go and attend to their own business and return at the appropriate time.

When they returned the smelting process had already been completed and Sandoz presented them with the crucible containing two separate small nuggets, one of silver and the other of gold. The experts were amazed – not at the quantity of precious metals presented but at the fact that these had congealed in two separate nuggets when by training and experience they knew the result should have been one nugget containing an amalgam of gold and silver. Now highly suspicious of Sandoz, they obtained a small quantity of the ore, repeated the smelting in their own oven – and found neither gold nor silver! Sandoz was formally invited to attend another smelting under their direction

when his fraud would be exposed, but on that day it was found that he had secretly taken sevice on an English ship lying in Table Bay and had departed with it.

**Gisselaar / Gesselaer, Hendrik** born Berne [**Gisler or Geissler**?], arrived 5.2.1745 on *Getrouwheid* for Kamer Zeeland as drummer with pay fl 10. 1749 sick, 1750 soldier. / KAB, MR 1749-1750; NL, ARA, MR 1750.

**Pitselaar, Johann** born "Peets" [**Pittier** of Bex VD?], arrived 5.3.1749 on *Getrouwheid* for Kamer Zeeland. 1749 sick, 1750-1755 soldier stationed at Klapmuts. / KAB, MR 1749 and 1751-1754; NL, ARA, MR 1750-1755.

**Saadri, Stanislou** born Berne [**Sartori** of Mellingen AG?], arrived 2.6.1749 on *Elswoud* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1749 soldier. / KAB, MR 1749-1750.

**Coenraad, Jacob** born Berne or Beets [**Konrad** of Dürrenroth BE?], arrived 2.6.1749 on *Elswoud* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1750 soldier in False Bay. / KAB, MR 1749-1750.

**Babtist, Jan** born Berne [**Bapst**?], arrived 2.6.1749 on *Elswoud* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1749 soldier, 1750-1751 sick. / KAB MR 1749-1751.

**Schindelaar, Kilius** born Glarus [**Schindler**?], arrived 2.6.1749 on *Elswoud* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1749-1753 soldier. 1752 member of Beutler's expedition. / NL, ARA, MR 1750-1753.

**Scheff(l)er, Jan Nicolaas** born Berne [**Schäfer**?], arrived 16.6.1749 on *Sparendijk* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1749-1753 soldier. / KAB, MR 1750-1753; NL, ARA, MR 1750-1753.

**Schulz, Rudolf** born Berne, arrived 12.7.1749 on *'t Hof d'Uno* for Kamer Haarlem. 1750-1752 scribe. / KAB, MR 1750-1752; NL, ARA, MR 1750-1752.

**Freene / Freere, Hendrik** born Berne 1726[1] [**Frene** of Lajoux JU] arrived 13.7.1749 on *Arnestijn* for Kamer Delft. 1749-1756 soldier, 1752 member of Beutler's expedition.[2] 9.3.1757-21.6.1765 loaned as farmhand to Pieter Jurgens (contract signed Henry Frene)[3] and to Willem van Wyk 21.6.1765 at fl 14, Casper Schalker of Wülflingen acting as agent.[4] 1772 burgher[5] and from 1774 onward recorded in Drakenstein[6] as having 200 sheep and 10 head of cattle.[7] 1794.10.7, now 68 years old, he drew up his will on the farm *Bartholomeusklip* (10 km south-east of Hermon), bequeathing to the poor of Drakenstein community 50 guilders Indian valuation and to Geertruida, daughter of Messenger of the Court of Drakenstein, Joseph Patainger, 500 guilders. The will was registered 17.2.1795 probably shortly after Frene's death.[8] / [1] KAB, VC 166, MR 1756; [2] KAB, MR 1750-1756; NL, ARA, MR 1750-1755; [3] KAB, CJ 2895: 10; [4] KAB, CJ 2900: 81; [5] Leibbrandt: *Requesten, 1772*; [6] KAB, VC 55, MR Free Persons, 1774; [7] KAB, J 207; [8] KAB, MOOC 7/1/4:8.

**Bolland, David Antoon** born Bern [**Bolens** of VD?], arrived 13.7.1749 on *Arnestijn* for Kamer Edam. 1750 soldier. / KAB, MR 1750; NL, ARA, MR 1750.

**Burghard / Bortchard, Johan Georg** born Savaye BE [**Burkhard**? of Safern BE or Vers-chez-Savary VD?], arrived 18.8.1749 on *Voorsichtigheid* for Kamer Rotterdam. 1750 soldier, 1751-1755 piper. / KAB, MR 1750-1754; NL, ARA, MR 1750-1754.

**Siegfried, Rudolf** born Switzerland, arrived 29.11.1749 on *Akerendan* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1750 and 1754 wagon-driver, 1751-1753 reed cutter in the veld. / KAB, MR 1750-1754; NL, ARA, MR 1750-1752.

**Vautier, Frans** born Switzerland, 1750 assistant carpenter, sick. / KAB, MR 1750.

**De Coning, Jan** born Geneva, arrived 12.1.1750 on *Anna* as junior sailor for Kamer Zeeland. 1750-1754 naval gunner[1]; 27.9.1754 burgher, but continued in Company service;[2] 24.11.1754 married Geertruyda Gunter, widow of Jacob Bordencamp; 26.1.1756 repatriated on *Stadswyk.*[3] / [1] KAB, MR 1750-1754; NL, ARA, MR 1751-1754; [2] KAB, DRC, VC 621: 75; [3] KAB, VC 55.

**Eswyler / Eisenwyler, Jan Hendrik** born Zurich [**Etzweiler**?], arrived 8.2.1750 on *Gerechrigheid* for Kamer Zeeland. 1750 soldier, 1751 assisant surgeon. / KAB, MR 1750-1751; NL, ARA, MR 1750-1751.

**Engelin Engel, Engelaar, Jacob** born Schaffhausen [**Engeli**?], arrived 31.3.1750 on *Bevalligheid* for Kamer Delft for Kamer Edam. 1750-1753, soldier. / KAB, MR 1750-1753; NL, ARA, MR 1750-1753.

**Beyland, Louis** born Berne [**Byland**?], arrived 31.3.1750 on *Bevalligheid* for Kamer Delft. 1750-1755 soldier. / KAB, MR 1750-1755; NL, ARA, MR 1750-1755.

**Meyer, Jacob** born Zurich **[Meier?]**, arrived 31.3.1750 on *Bevalligheid* for Kamer Delft. 1750-1751 soldier, 1752-1755 stablehand, 1756-1767, 1768 listed as saddle-maker at the stables and 1769-1773 wagon-driver[1]. 1773 recorded as burgher with wife, four male and one female slaves, one horse, gun, pistol and sword.[2] Died 28.2.1774[3] / [1] KAB, MR 1750-1756, 1758, 1760-1771; NL, ARA, MR 1750-1755, 1757-1771 and 1773; [2] KAB, A2250, Citizens Roll 1773; [3] KAB, MOOC 6/1

**Gertsen, Samuel** born Berne [**Gertsch or Gerster**?], arrived 16.4.1750 on *Amstelveen* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1750 soldier with the recruit guards. / KAB, MR 1750; NL, ARA, MR 1750.

**Kaufman, Joseph** born GR, arrived 3.8.1750 on *Leiden* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1750-1754 gunner, 1755-1756 First Gunner with pay fl 16. / KAB, MR 1751-1752 and 1754-1756; NL, ARA, MR 1751-1754.

**Struyk, Johannes** born Berne 1725[1] [**Streich** of Haslital BE], arrived 29.12.1750 on *Standvastigheid* for Kamer Edam. 1751-1759 soldier, 1760 quarryman, 1764-1765 soldier,[2] 12.9.1765 burgher and shoemaker,[3] until 1768 at Cape.[4] 1769-1782 listed as resident in Stellenbosch with only pistol and sword, 1782 without these,[5] 25.4.1788 buried at Stellenbosch.[6] / [1] KAB, VC 166; [2] KAB, MR 1751-1756, 1758 and 1760-1765; NL, ARA, MR 1751-1756 and 1758-1765; [3] KAB, C 807 and *Requesten* 1765: 87; [4] KAB, 1/STB/15/4, 29.8.1769 registered as resident at Stellenbosch; [5] KAB, VC 54-55 MR 1767-1774 and A2250, Citizens Roll 1767-1774; KAB, MOOC 6/1.

**Gundik, Joseph** born Zurich [**Kündig**?], arrived 29.12.1750 on *Standvastigheid* for Kamer Delft. 1751-1761 soldier, 1752 member of Beutler's expedition, 1755-1759 stationed at Saldanha, 1760-1761 postholder at Gansekraal south of Saldanha commanding two men.[1] 14.12.1761-4.1.1763 loaned as servant to Joseph Boomgardener (S),[2] 5.1.1763 loaned as farmhand to David Frederick Strauss[3] and 31.10.1791 released from service.[4] 28.8.1792 listed under Company's servants with cancelled pay.[5] / KAB, MR 1752-1755, 1758, 1760-1761; NL, ARA, MR 1752-1761; [2] KAB, CJ 2897: 53; [4] KAB, CJ 2898: 9; [5] KAB, C 1064, p. 105.

**Guinand, Abraham** born "Nyburg" [**Guinand** of Les Brenets or Les-Ponts-de Martel NE?] 1751 blacksmith. / KAB, MR 1751.

**Thellum, Johan Isaak** born Lausanne VD [Thelin of Biolet-Orjulaz or Mex VD?], arrived 5.1.1751 on *Zaamslag* for Kamer Zeeland. 1751-1754 gunner with pay fl 14. / KAB, MR 1751-1754; NL, ARA, MR 1751-1753.

**Superbiller, Jan Coenraad** born Appenzell 1724 [**Zuberbühler**?], arrived 23.1.1751 on *Slot van Kapelle* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1751-1757 soldier.[2] / KAB, VC 166, MR 1756; [2] KAB, MR 1751-1757; NL, ARA, MR 1752-1756.

**Simmons / Immos, Abraham** born Berne [**Simon** of BE and VD?], arrived 29.1.1751 on *Elswoud* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1751-1752 soldier. / KAB, MR 1751-1752; NL, ARA, MR 1751-1752.

**Oberchans, Jan** born Zurich [**Oberhänsli**?], arrived 29.1.1751 on *Noord Nieuwland*. 1751 soldier, 1752 corporal. / KAB, MR 1751-1752; NL, ARA, MR 1751-1752.

**Jenny, Gabriel** born Ennenda GL 5.3.1718, son of table merchant Johann Balthasar and Barbara Becker.[1] Arrived 1751 as "Hilarius Jenny" on *Middelburgh* for Kamer Zeeland. Returned to Switzerland after completion of contract but arrived back at the Cape 2.10.1757 on *Overnes* for Kamer Amsterdam. Died 1788.[3]

A MAJOR WORKS AS FARM LABOURER

A young Swiss from the Canton of Glarus who gave his name as Hilarius Jenny came to the Cape in 1751, served out his contract with the Company as soldier, was with Beutler's expedition, then returned home. Two years later the arrival of yet another Jenny from Glarus who gave his name as Gabriel was recorded. Research indicates with near certainty that both were one and the same person. In that case his pseudonym "Hilarius" was a misnomer: he had a very tragic life.

Gabriel came of good stock. His paternal grandfather was a masterbuilder, councillor and judge. His father was a table dealer in Lugano near the Italian border. Both Gabriel and his younger brother Hans Jakob followed their father's trade. Hans Jakob eventually established himself in St. Petersburg, Russia. Gabriel turned out to be a black sheep and ended up at the other end of the world.

When only 17 years old he married a girl five years older and soon thereafter appears to have taken service with a Swiss mercenary regiment, possibly in the Netherlands. Did he return home on leave every second year as suggested by the birthdates of his children? The list also highlights the high infant mortality rate of that time, due possibly to the lack of proper hygene:

1. Barbara 18.9.1736, died in infancy.
2. Barbara 1.9.1737, died in infancy.
3. Gabriel 29.7.1739.
4. Hans Balz 2.10.1741, died young.
5. Barbara 31.7.1743, died 2.8.1746.
6. Katharina 1745? died 26.7.1747.
7. Barbara 17.6.1747.
8. twins Katharina 4.6.1751, died October 1751 and
9. Johann Balthasar died 1771 when member of the Swiss Regiment Bouquet in Dutch service commanded by Major-General and Member of War Council, Councillor Paravicini.

By 1748 Gabriel now 30 years old, was a major but also had serious problems, possibly of a financial nature. Only three weeks after his mother died and he lost the protection she and her wealth had afforded him, he was placed under guardianship. The rhythm of his life was broken. No children were born in 1749 and when the youngest, the twins were born, he was far away at the Cape, serving the Dutch East India Company as a common soldier.

After his contract terminated he returned home, but his circumstances had worsened. Not only was he still subject to guardianship, but his wife was now similarly restrained and a divorce set in motion. Gabriel again departed for the Cape where he had found contentment. This time he went intending to stay. He immediately sought leave from military duties and worked first as wagon-driver and cattle-herd,[2] then as a loaned farmhand on various farms in the Drakenstein and Tulbagh Districts, never serving longer than two years on any one farm.[4-8]

After being placed on pension in 1766 he moved to Cape Town,[9] where he died 1788. In his will he named "the cook at the Castle George Wanner of Schleitheim SH" as his executor, leaving all his worldly possessions to his children in Switzerland.[3] Were they notified of his death? The closing entry in the civil register in Glarus under the name Gabriel Jenny reads "+? verschollen!" (lost), indicating that his death had not been reported.

/ CH, Glarus, Landesarchiv des Kantons, Band Glarus Nr, 106 & 133, *Geschichte vom Netstal, fol. 371*; [2] KAB, MR 1751-1755 and 1758; NL, ARA, MR 1751-1755 and 1758; [3] KAB, CJ 2680: 40, Will, 29.2.1788; [4] KAB, CJ 2896: 11, loaned 1759-1761 to Gerrit van Wyk; [5] KAB, CJ 2897: 9, loaned 1761-1763 to Pieter Theron; [6] KAB, J 2898: 35, loaned 1763-1765 to Louis Mostert; [7] KAB, CJ 2900: 22, loaned 1765-1766 to Mathys Taute; [8] KAB, DRC, VC 663; [9] KAB, DRC, VC 619.

**Castelyn, Anthony** born "Peets"BE [Bex VD? see Selsen and Pitselaer], arrived 1.4.1751 on *Gustaaf Willem* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1751-1755 soldier. After completion of his contract he returned home but came back 12.2.1757, again on *Gustaaf Willem.* / KAB, MR 1751-1753 and 1758; NL, ARA, MR 1752-1755 and 1758.

**Gie / Kie, Johan Coenraad** born Zurich 22.3.1727, brother of Johan Caspar, and son of Andreas **Gy** and Anna Margaretha born Liguren, both of Huguenot families. A carved copy of his seal is exhibited at the Koopmans de Wet House in Cape Town.[1]

A FOUNDATION MEMBER OF THE FIRST MASONIC LODGE AT THE CAPE

Gie arrived 1.4.1751 on *Rozenburg* for Kamer Amsterdam[2] and in the same year became a member of the Grootekerk community, submitting an attestation dated Zurich 3.3.1750.[3] 1751-1755 served as soldier,[2] 1756 requested burgher papers and 18.12.1757 married Engele Johanna Ley born 8.3.1740, granddaughter of Michiel Ley of Basel.

In 1764 he persuaded his brother Jan Casper to come to the Cape to work for him. Over the years Gie bought many properties in Table Valley:

a) 1761 by T3632 an erf from Hermanus von Wielligh, sold 1775 by T4690 to Abraham de Haan;
b) 1772 by T4521 an erf from Estate Hilletje Verschuur widow of Hendrik Hop, sold 1799 by T7626;
c) 1773 by T4526 an erf from Jan Meynderts Cruywagen, sold 1798 with warehouse by T7325 to his son Coenraad Johannes Gie;
d) 1780 by T5290 an erf from Pieter Damus, sold 1783 by T5619 to his son Johannes Gie;
e) 1780 by T5294 an erf from Agatha Henning, sold 1782 by T5407 to Johan Jurgen Lingenvelder;
f) 1783 by T5574 an erf from Hendrik Pieter Moller, sold 1800 by T50;
g) 1785 by T5911 together with Jean Martin an erf with dwelling house and two warehouses.

Apparently a successful businessman, he also served as Captain of the Burgher Force, as Burgher Councillor and as Elder of the Grootekerk. Anreith's pulpit in the Grootekerk is inscribed: *Deze preekstoel is onder het opzicht van den Burger Ouderling Johan Coenraad Gie gemaakt en daar van de eerste Predicatie gedaan door den oudste leraar de Eerwaarde Heer Jan Petrus Serrurier den 29 Nov. Anno 1784.*

Gie was also a keen freemason. Before the establishment of a lodge, the local freemasons had a loose association which welcomed and entertained fellow freemasons, many of them high officials, passing through Cape Town. When in 1772 the *Loge de Goede Hoop* was founded with ten members, Gie was the first secretary. In 1777 he was elected chairman, but not being conversant in English was not re-elected in 1778.[4]

On 2.3.1790 the following request by Gie was granted: "Burgher Councillor and as such having session in the Council of Justice, has reached the high age of 63 and finds his bodily and mental powers weakening so that he can no longer properly perform his duties, especially as he is getting deaf…..wishes to retire from office, with retention of his rank as member of the Court of Justice and on a level with junior burgher function.[5]" He seems however to have carried on business on his own account, for in the same year

he submitted a list of provisions required for the troops and soldiers who had been on board the wrecked ship *Le Comte* and who were to be conveyed to France in the English ship *Aurora*.[6] Finally, in 1792, he sought discharge from his duties as Captain of the 3rd Burgher Infantry Company as for the last two years he had suffered from severe dizziness and other bodily ailments and had repeatedly been unable to carry out his duties.[7] Gie died 23.7.1793.[8]

He had six children:

1. Twins born 1762, Anna Catharina and
2. Johannes, married Anna Catharina Kirst, died 1793.
3. Jasper born 1764, died 1765.
4. Andreas Casparus born 1765, died 1767.
5. Michiel Coenraad born 1767, married Elsabe Antoinetta la Febre widow of Andre Urbain de Lenipe of Nyon VD.
6. Coenraad Johannes born 1769, married Anna Margaretha Blanckenberg.

/ [1] De Villiers: *Genealogies;* [2] KAB, MR 1751-1755; NL, ARA, MR 1751-1755; [3] DRC, G1/13/1; [4] Cooper: *The origins and growth of Freemasonry in South Africa 1772-1876*; [5] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1789: 15 and 1790: 56; [6] *Ibid.* 1790 131; [7] KAB, C 1005: 63; [8] KAB, MOOC 6/1.

**Musiet, Pieter** born Berne 1718,[1] [**Murset** of Twann BE?] arrived 25.4.1751 on *Arnestijn* for Kamer Zeeland. 1751-1756 soldier, 1752 member of Beutler's expedition.[2] / KAB, VC 166; [2] KAB, MR 1751-1756; NL, ARA, MR 1751-1755.

**Netz, Nicolaas** born Berne [**Ness** of Zeiningen AG?], arrived 27.4.1751 on *Lycochton* for Kamer Edam. 1751 woodcutter, 1752-1755 wagon-driver. /KAB, MR 1751-1755; NL, ARA, MR 1752-1755.

**Gootje, Benedict** born Basel [**Gautschi**?], arrived 19.8.1751 on *Erfprins* for Kamer Delft. 1752 soldier, member of Beutler's expedition, 1753 soldier at the Castle, 1754 sick. / KAB, MR 1752-1754; NL, ARA, MR 1752-1754.

**Rieker, Maarten** born Romont [**Rieger** of Rotmonten SG?], arrived 14.12.1751 on *Hercules* for Kamer Zeeland. 1752-1753 soldier. / KAB, MR 1752-1753; NL, ARA, MR 1752-1753.

**Hoober, Jacob** born Appenzell [**Huber**?], arrived 16.12.1751 on *Nieuw Nieuwerkerk* for Kamer Zeeland. 1752-1755 sailor with sailor's pay fl 8 on the boat *Elizabeth* stationed in Table Bay with a crew of skipper and five men. / KAB, MR 1752-1753 and 1755; NL, ARA, MR 1752-1753 and 1755.

**Gornicker, Jacob** born Zerry / Zerig [**Honegger** of Zurich?], arrived 26.1.1752 on *Snoek* for Kamer Zeeland. 1752-1753 soldier. / KAB, MR 1753; NL, ARA, MR 1753.

**Lehmann, Christiaan David** born Altstettyn [ZH or SG?]. 1752-1753 soldier. / KAB, MR 1752-1753.

**Swarts Hendrik** born Seuzach / Winterthur ZH **[Schwarz]**, baptised 1.7.1731, son of Hans Ulrich Schwarz and Margaretha Hagenbuch.[1] Arrived 3.2.1752 on *Nieuwvijvervreugd* for Kamer Zeeland. 1752-1755 soldier.[2]

Swarts appears to have returned home after completion of his contract but arrived back at the Cape 4.1.1758 on J*erusalem* for Kamer Rotterdam and was immediately employed as gaoler. This was a big improvement on his previous position as common soldier. As soldier he had drawn a salary of fl 11 per month plus rations and was forbidden to marry; as gaoler he belonged to the privileged class, having a status equal to that of the free burghers. He received fl 18 per month, was accepted as a member of the church and could marry. Within a year he wed local girl Engela Margaretha Bruyns who bore him seven children before Swarts died prematurely on 7.10.1771, possibly after a prolonged illness, seeing his will was drawn up two years previously.[2, 3 & 4]

It is interesting to note that Swarts was gaoler from 1758 to 1771, while Jan Weis of Solothurn was public executioner from 1761 to 1782. Thus during ten years, 1761-1771, two Swiss were responsible for carrying out the sentences handed down by the Court of Justice.

Swarts was survived by six children:[1]

1. Margaretha baptised 15.5.1760, died in infancy.
2. Johannes Hendrik baptised 20.9.1761, died before 1776.
3, 4. Twins Johannes Ulrich and Andries Albertus baptised 1.12.1765.
5. Margaretha Elizabeth baptised 28.2.1768.
6. Hendrik baptised 31.12.1769.
7. Engela Margaretha baptised 10.2.1771.

The two daughters married brothers Bernhardus and Johannes Hermanus Mulder and lived in Papendorp (present day Woodstock) and had many children.[5] Of the sons, records were found of Andries Albertus only: 1792 he was reported as an unmarried farmer in the District of Graaff-Reinet with two slaves, four horses, 100 head of cattle and 200 sheep.[6] Ten years later, in the prime of life at age 37 he was reported as living alone in the Swartberg Moutains and owning only four goats[7] - thus it would appear that the male lineage died out.

Fourteen years after Swarts's death his widow married Matthias Guillaumet born 1711 in Berlin, Germany. (See Casper Schalker)

/ [1] CH, Seuzach, *Bevölkerungsverzeichnis E.II.700.9 & 112.1 S. 266*; [2] KAB, MR 1752-1755, 1758 and 1760-1771; NL, ARA, MR 1753-1755, 1758 and 1760-1762; [3] KAB, MOOC 6/1; [4] KAB, MOOC 7/1/19: 86 Will, 31.10.1769 and CJ 2623: 38; [5] KAB, J 37 no. 596; [6] KAB, J 110; [7] KAB, J 122.

**Mangaaven, Pieter** born Berne [**Manganel** of Montcherand VD?]. 1753 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1753.

**Tobler, Michiel** born Appensell, arrived 11.3.1753 on *Vreugde* for Kamer Edam. 1753 soldier. / KAB, MR 1753; NL, ARA, MR 1753.

**Hilbert / Hubert, Jacob** born Switzerland, arrived 21.3.1753 on *Kattendijke* for Kamer Zeeland. 1754-1755 wagon-driver. / KAB, MR 1754-1755; NL, ARA, MR 1754-1755.

**Schitz, Roedolf** born Berne 1731[1] **[Schütz?]**, arrived 17.3.1753 on *Bloemendal* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1753-1756 soldier, 1754 sick.[2] / [1] KAB, VC 166; [2] KAB, MR 1753-1756; NL, MR 1753-1756.

**Bosch, Pieter** born Lausanne VD **[Bosse** or **Bosset**?], arrived 16.10.1753 as junior sailor on *Leiden* for Kamer Zeeland. 1754-1762 blacksmith with pay fl 14. / KAB, MR 1754-1756, 1758 and 1760-1762; NL, ARA, MR 1754-1756 and 1758-1761.

**Caspaye, Anthony** born Geneva **[Casper**?**]**. 1754 soldier, sick. / KAB MR 1754; NL, ARA, MR 1754.

**Frank, Pieter** born Berne. 1754 soldier, sick. / KAB MR 1754; NL, ARA, MR 1754.

**Guaex / Guon, Jean** born Geneva [**Guaix**, **Guex** or **Guay**?]. 1754 soldier, sick. / KAB MR 1754; NL, ARA, MR 1754.

**Jorkes, Ulbe** born "Zurig" [in Switzerland?], arrived 20.1.1754 on *Marienbos* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1754 sailor on shore duty with pay fl 10. / KAB, MR 1754; NL, ARA, MR 1754.

**Ober, Isaak** born Berne [**Oberli** of Emmental BE?], arrived 22.1.1754 on *Voorburg* for Kamer Delft. 1754-1755 soldier. / KAB, MR 1754-1755; NL, ARA, MR 1754-1755.

**Cobie, Samuel** born Berne [**Kübli** of Berner Oberland BE?], arrived 22.1.1754 on *Erfprins* for Kamer Delft. 1754-1760 mason with pay fl 14, 1762 soldier,[1] 1763-1770 freeman,[2] died 18.7.1773.[3] / [1] KAB, MR 1754-1760 and 1762; NL, ARA, MR 1754-1756 and 1758-1760; [2] KAB, VC 54; [3] KAB, MOOC 6/1.

**Roets, Coenraad** born Appenzell 1725 [**Rutz**?], arrived 22.1.1754 on *Visvliet* for Kamer Zeeland. 1754-1761 soldier.[2] Appears to have returned to Switzerland and arrived back at Cape 12.1.1763 on *Tulpenberg* for Kamer Zeeland. 1763-1767 soldier.[2] / KAB, VC 166; [2] KAB, MR 1754-1756, 1758, 1760-1761 and 1763-1767; NL, ARA, MR 1754-1757,1759-1761, 1763 and 1765-1767.

**Yselle / Esseling / Yssel / Iseli, Jan Christiaan** born in 1732[1] on the farm *Bärgli* near Hasle BE [**Iseli** of Hasle BE. The now also spelled Yssel after clergy who studied in Holland associated the name with the Yssel lake],[2] arrived 22.1.1754 on *Visvliet* for Kamer Zeeland. 1754-1759 soldier, initially sick. Had part of his pay sent home.[3 & 4] 10.7.1760 burgher earning his living as tailor.[5] Married 26.9.1762 Johanna Dororthea van Daalen baptised 18.11.1742, illegitimate daughter of Gustavus Dale and Johanna Franken. They had nine children. Johanna died January 1781.[6]

Only once, 12.10.1773 did Yselle loan a man from the Castle, namely the sailor Willem Steer of Hamburg, as servant at his house, but the contract was cancelled prematurely 31.7.1774.[7] It appears from later census returns that he preferred to work with slaves.[8]

Yselle prospered. He bought a house by T4913 dated 22.4.1777 from the estate of the late Lodewyk Trichtner (sold 1801 by T349 to Martha Hurlingh) and another by T7291 dated 1.12.1797 from insolvent estate of Joachim Daniel Hiebner (sold 1818 by T647). Then on 13.3.1793 he bought by T6696 a house on corner Berg and Church Street, possibly on speculation, as he sold it within a year to Catharina Johanna de Wet, widow of Pieter Ludovicus Le Sueur.

After the death of Johanna Dorothea, Yselle on 3.3.1782 married Anne Albertine Bienvignon of Morges VD,[9] who may have arrived at the Cape at the beginning of 1780 as personal maid to Colonel Robert Gordon's bride, Susanna Margaretha Nicolet of Lignerolle NE. They had four children.[9]

A HOUSEHOLD DESCRIBED

In 1800 Yselle and his wife, togther with their nine children including those from Yselle's first marriage, lived at 32 Longmarket Street in a house which besides using one room as tailorshop, they shared with two boarders – an English officer with two servants and a bottler with one slave. The Yselles also had six male slaves, six female slaves and 6 slave children of their own on the premises. Somehow Mrs. Yselle managed to cope with so large a number of people in the house and at the same time keep open house for officers of the Regiment Meuron who passed through the Cape.[8] Anna was described by all and sundry as a kind hearted woman and maybe it was she who persuaded her husband to manumit two of their slaves: Carolina of the Cape in 1791[10] and the slave boy Lourens born in Pondicherry in 1807.[11]

Yselle died 18.5.1807, at the age of 75.[12] His children by Johanna Dorothea van Daalen:

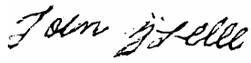
1. Johan Christiaan baptised 1.4.1764, farmer in the Field Cornetcy Lower Zeekoei River, District Cradock.
2. August Ernst baptised 30.6.1765.
3. Godlieb Fredericus baptised 25.10 1767, died 11.2.1782 of enteric fever? See 7. below.
4. Gabriel Ernst baptised 18.2.1770, left Cape Town 29.10.1789 with attestation for Swellendam and became burgher of Graaff-Reinet, farming in the Field Cornetcy Upper Zeekoei River, District Cradock
5. Johanna Maria baptised 19.4.1772, died 30.5.1772.
6. Johanna Magdalena baptised 25.4.1773, died 1773? George Wanner of Schaffhausen and his wife were her godparents.

7. Johanna Magdalena baptised 4.6.1775, died 7.2.1782. See 3. above.
8. Christiaan baptised 4.5.1777, died 2.7.1779.
9. Petrus Albertus baptised 7.3.1779, burgher of Graaff-Reinet.
   His children by Anna Albertina were:
10. Maria Louisa baptised 13.4.1783, married William Sturt of Dorestshire, British army officer. They left for England where Sturt became a clergyman. Later he took up an appointment at the Anglican Church, Simon's Town where Maria died and lies buried.[13]
11. Elisabeth Cornelia baptised 22.10.1786. She married Johannes Weidemann and had seven children.
12. Jacob Lodewyk baptised 2.11.1788. No further record found.
13. A child born 22.1.1791, died before baptism.

A VISIT TO JAN CHRISTIAAN YSELLE'S BIRTHPLACE[14]

Yselle always gave Hasle in Canton Berne as his birthplace except once, on a legal document he named "Begle". Imagine my excitement when letting my fingers do the walking on a map through the Emmental, they chanced upon a homestead near Hasle called "Bärgli". Had I actually located the house where one of the early Swiss immigrants was born? During a subsequent visit to Switzerland I took the first opportunity to visit Bärgli. From the station the approach led through the village of Hasle, then curved around the foot of the Hasleberg, from where a track climbed the steep slope and tunnelled through a fringe of huge beech trees into a silent, semi-dark pine forest. Eventually the track emerged upon open grasslands on the Egg (watershed) where cowbells tinkled and a large farmhouse spread its roof between walnut trees.

My map directed me over the Egg and down the other side into a steep and narrow glen covered by an old and gloomy pine forest. Half-way down was a clearing where the homestead should have been – but there was none. All I could find after a careful search were odd bits of building-rubble, lower down an old neglected fountain and a small dam soiled with rubbish and the remnants of a small orchard. The house had been demolished only a few years ago. Sad and disappointed I turned to go back. I had set out on a trip into the past, and had arrived too late.



/[1] KAB, CJ 2683: 45; [2] KAB, VC 166; [3] KAB, MR 1755-1756, 1758; NL, ARA, MR 1758; [4] KAB, C 137, p. 239, 10.4.1791; [5] KAB, C 807; [6] KAB, MOOC 7/1/28, Joint will, 21.3.1777 lodged 1.2.1781; [7] KAB, CJ 2906: 76; [8] Cape Directory 1800 and BRD 25 Citizens Roll 31.12.1799; [9] KAB, CJ 2676: 39, Will 14.3.1782; [10] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1791: 1796; [11] KAB, CO 4312: 46, 2.2.1807; [12] KAB, MOOC 6/2; [13] Mrs. Pat Sheriff, Belmont NSW, Australia.

**De Boer, Hans** born Basel [**De Boor** of Winterthur ZH?], arrived 2.3.1754 on *Bevalligheid* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1754 soldier. / KAB, MR 1754; NL, ARA, MR 1754.

**Sporre, Heinrich** born Oberwinterthur ZH 1731 **[Sporrer**?**]**, arrived 2.3.1754 on *Bevalligheid* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1754-1756 soldier. / KAB, VC 166; KAB, MR 1754-1755 and NL, ARA, MR 1754.

**Walter, Jacob** born Schaffhausen, arrived 2.3.1754 on *Bevalligheid* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1754 soldier. / KAB, MR 1754; NL, ARA, MR 1754.

**Janson, Petrus** born "Hal in Switzerland" [Hallau SH?], arrived 25.5.1754 on *Nieuwvijvervreugd* for Kamer Zeeland. 1754 soldier. / KAB, MR 1754; NL, ARA, MR 1754.

**Hinderman, Hendrik** born Berne [Aargau?] 1726,[1] arrived 27.9.1754 on *Standvastigheid* for Kamer Rotterdam. 1754-1758 soldier,[2] died 1760 leaving all his

kitchen utensils to Claas Jonge and Coenraad Schallberg of ZH, and nominating as heir the child with whom free woman Josina of Madagaskar was pregnant.[3] / [1] KAB, VC 166, MR 1756; KAB, MR 1755-1756; NL, ARA, MR 1755-1758; [3] KAB, CJ 2665, Will, 2.1.1760.

**Robi, Pieter** born Berne 1726 [**Rubi** of Berner Oberland BE?], arrived 19.12.1754 on *Huis ten Dank* for Kamer Zeeland.1 1754-1756 soldier.[2] / [1] KAB, VC 166, MR 1756; [2] KAB, MR 1755-1756; NL, ARA, MR 1755-1756.

**Hansman, Christiaan Coenraad** born Basel. 1755 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1755.

**Immerie Balthsar** born Berne **[Immer**?]**,** 1755 sailor, sick. / KAB, MR 1755.

**Victor / Vieso, Andries** born Geneva, arrived 21.91755 on *Welgelegen* for Kamer Edam. 1756-1758 soldier, 1759-1760 postholder in False Bay. / KAB, MR 1756; NL, ARA, MR 1756-1760.

**Ledderman, Jan Nicolaas** born Berne. 1756 sailor, sick. / KAB, MR 1756; NL, ARA, MR 1756.

**Bas, Nicolaas** born Chur GR, arrived 24.1.1756 on *Keukenhof* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1756-1759 carter in the Company's horse stables and on Paarden Island, 1760-1761 assistant second coachman, 1762-1767 first coachman with pay fl 20.[1] His duties would have been to keep the horses groomed and the coaches clean, and to convey the Governor and other high officials.

Married 28.6.1766 Catharina van Hoorn, widow of Paul Tatz of Danzig. He drew up a will on 17.11.1768 (which he signed with an X)[2] and died 18.12.1768 leaving no children.

/ [1] KAB, MR 1758, 17601776; NL, ARA, MR 1756, 1758-1767; [2] KAB, CJ 2622: 29; [3] KAB, MOOC 6/1.

**Hermans, Frans Joseph** born Stans [**Hermann** of Stansstad NW?], arrived 8.3.1756 on *Kattendijke* for Kamer Zeeland. 1756 lance-corporal, sick, 1758-1764 wagon-driver and cattle-herd. / KAB, MR 1756, 1758, 1760-1764; NL, ARA, MR 1761-1762.

**De Vasserot, David Baron** [**De Vasserole** of Rolle VD?], no birthplace recorded. Formerly lieutenant among the Swiss in the service of the British East India Company at Madras, arrived on the French return ship *La Diane*. Had obtained permission to remain at the Cape to recuperate and now asked for a passage home. / Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1756: 90.

**Hongerbuydel, Abraham** born Zurich [**Hungerbüller**?], arrived 26.8.1756 on *Amstelveen* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1756-1761 soldier.[1] After completing his contract apparently stayed on as freeman but was never again recorded here except as a witness in a court case in 1768. He was then a tanner.[2] / KAB, MR 1758, 1760-1761; NL, ARA, MR 1757-1761; [2] KAB, CJ 790: 7, p. 72-98.

**Evel, July** born Berne [**Ewalt** of Aubonne of Pizy VD?]. 1757 soldier. / NL, ARA, MR 1757.

**Kitzendanner / Helfendanner, Johannes** born Zurich [**Giezendanner**?], arrived 24.2.1757 on *Walcheren* for Kamer Zeeland. 1757 sick, 1758-1761 soldier. / KAB, MR 1758, 1760-1661; NL, ARA, MR 1757, 1759-1961.

**Soeblee / Souble, Hans / Johannes** born Bougy-Villars above Rolle VD **[Sublet**?], arrived 18.7.1757 on *Barzande* for Kamer Zeeland. Initially served as soldier, from 1760 as postholder at Simon's Town. Returned home in 1762 but arrived back again on 1.6.1764 on *Thornvliet.* 1764 initially sick, then again served as postholder at Simon's

Town until 1786, except during 1776-1777 when he worked on the new buildings and in the quarry.[1] Then successfully petitioned for a pension, stating that he had served the Company faithfully for 22 years and was now old and sick.[2] He went to live in the mountains above Simon's Town where he was recorded in 1797 as a gardener with wife.[3]

HE FOUND HAPPY RETIREMENT ON THE MOUNTAIN ABOVE SIMON'S TOWN

Many widerspread Afrikaans family names of Swiss origin testify to the contribution made to the eventual South African nation by early Swiss immigrants. Many other Swiss also settled here and had families, but for various reasons their names have not been perpetuated. One of these was Jean-David Sublet, known here as Hans Soeblee. He was born in the little village of Bougy high up on the mountainside above Rolle VD, overlooking Lake Geneva. His parents François Sublet and Marguerite Broillet took him to the local church for baptism on 25.3.1734.[4] No doubt he helped them until he reached manhood, when economic conditions forced him to seek his livelyhood abroad. At that time mass emigration to America was taking place. South Carolina and Pennsylvania were praised as the "new world" where any young man could get as much good land as he could work. Soeblee preferred to enter a five year contract with the Dutch East Inda Company. He was sent as soldier to the Cape where he arrived in 1757, served his contract period "behind the Steeneberg in False Bay" (Simon's Town) and then returned home to Switzerland. The Cape had however cast a spell on Soeblee and maybe also urged on by the continuing poor economic situation at home, he again took service with the Dutch Company. The sea voyage was tough. Soeblee arrived back sick and had to spend some time in hospital to recover from the privations but then succeeded in again being stationed in False Bay where he was put in charge of the military post.

When he reached the age of 52 he was granted a pension and allowed to live on the Company farm *Wildschuts Brandt* in the mountains above Simon's Town. He must have felt very much at home there in a location which was so like his old home in Switzerland. We are lucky indeed that the Dutch travel writer Cornelis de Jongh describes a visit to Soeblee's house in 1792.[5] De Jongh had travelled from Simon's Town across the mountains to the Atlantic sea shore to view the wreck of a recently stranded Dutch sailing ship. On the return trip he and his companions were treated to a frugal lunch at a farmer's house and had a brief nap. De Jongh wrote 29 August 1792: "After the brief nap we rode to a neighbouring house inhabited by a certain Souflie (sic). This man who is a European, was married to a Khoi woman and had chosen for himself a little patch of land in these lonely mountains which are seldom visited by humans. Here he had knocked up a hut. Naturally you would expect to find in the habitation the throne of Poverty – but no, Souflie built everything with simplicity and taste. His house was comfortably furnished and a neat vegetable garden next to the house contained a variety of vegetables. Souflie had many children, mostly daughters. Some were married, the others, of marriagable age, earned money doing the washing for the crews of the visiting ships which called at Simon's Town. And thus lived these people happily, knowing no needs other than those dictated by nature. After having refreshed with wine and bread, we rode on… "

In October 1801 Soeblee drew up his last will which was handed to the Orphan Chamber after his death in April 1802. In it he nominated the "bastard Khoi woman Ester of the Cape" as his sole beneficiary and prescribes that his baptised slaves may be sold. His children are not mentioned in his will, but judging by de Jongh's report he must have left many descendants in the Simon's Town area.

/KAB, MR 1760-1762, 1764-1771, 1775-1783; NL, ARA, MR 1758, 1760-1761, 1654-1765, 1767-1770, 1773-1776, 1778, 1780, 1782; [2] KAB, C 747; [3] KAB, J 443; [4] CH, Aubonne VD, *Office d'Etat-Civil*; [5] Cornelis de Jongh; *Reizen,* Vol.I, p.75-76.

**Hegge / Heyge/ Heger, Jacob** born Zurich [**Hegi** of Zurich ZH], arrived 7.10.1757 on *Roozenberg* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1757-1761 soldier, [1] 1770 recorded as freeman.[2]

/ KAB, MR 1758, 1760-1761; NL, MR 1758-1761; [2] KAB, VC 55, MR 1770 as Jacobus Heger.

**Lopman, Hans Hendrik** born Zurich [**Lochmann**?], arrived 16.10.1757 on *Huis te Manpad* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1757-1764 soldier, 1765 corporal. / KAB, MR 1758, 1760-1765; NL, ARA, MR 1758-1761, 1763-1765.

**Rus, Johan Felix** born Zurich **[Rust**?], arrived 31.10.1757 on *Kasteel van Rilberg*. 1757-1761 soldier. / KAB, MR 1758, 1760-1761; NL, ARA, MR 1758-1761.

**Immenhuysen, Leonard** born Stein am Rhein SH **[Immenhausen?]**, arrived 7.12.1757 on *Lekkerlust* for Kamer Haarlem. 1758-1764 wagon-driver and cattle-herd at the Company's stables. / KAB, MR 1758, 1760-1765; NL, ARA, MR 1758, 1761-1752.

**Winkeler, Godfried** born Canton Schwyz **[Winkler**?]. 1758 soldier, sick.
/ KAB, MR 1758; NL, ARA, MR 1758.

**Winkel, Anthony** born "Swaets" [Switzerland?]. 1758 junior sailor, sick.
/ KAB, MR 1758; NL, ARA, MR 1758.

**Very, Hendrik** born Zurich **[Frei**?], 1758 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1758; NL, ARA, MR 1758.

**Mulder, Andries** born Basel **[Müller**?]. 1758 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1758; NL, ARA, MR 1758.

**Ruben, Jan Rudolf** born Basel **[Rubin**?]. 1758 artillerist, sick. / KAB, MR 1758; NL, ARA, MR 1758.

**Schallenberg, Coenraad** born Zurich [**Schallenberger** of Lingern OW], arrived 4.1.1758 on *Jerusalem* for Kamer Rotterdam. 1758-1760 soldier. (See Henrik Hinderman of Bern) / KAB, MR 1758; NL, ARA, MR 1758-1760.

**Veer, Coenraad** born Zurich **[Fehr**?], arrived 4.1.1758 on *Jerusalem* for Kamer Rotterdam. 1758-1762 soldier. / KAB, MR 1758, 1760-1762; NL, ARA, MR 1758-1761.

**Schroeder, Sophia Magdalena** born Zurich c. 1719, married 11.6.1758 in Grootekerk Cape Town, Dirk van der Schyff, widower. Both died April 1779. According to the inventory made after their death, they lived in a hired house with two rooms and a kitchen and were survived by four children:
1. Dorothea baptised 4.11.1759, married Jan Gerdis Treurnicht.
2. Christiaan Frederick baptised 21.11.1762.
3. Nicolaas Johannes baptised 18.8.1765, married Alida Brits.
4. Sophia Magdalena baptised 16.11.1766.
/ [1] De Villiers: *Genealogies*, p. 256; [2] KAB, MOOC 8/17: 43.

**Scholsen, Jochem** born Zurich [**Scholze** of Zurich ZH?], arrived 25.8.1758 on *Luxemburg* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1759-1761 soldier, sick, 1762-1763 wagon-driver and cattle-herd. / KAB, MR 1760-1763; NL, ARA, MR 1759-1760, 1762-1763.

**Engel, Johannes** born Losapre / Loserre / Loterne [Lucerne?] 1731, arrived 7.5.1758 on *Vlietlust* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1758 soldier, sick, 1760 stablehand, 1761-1762 reed cutter, 1764 soldier. / KAB, MR 1758, 1760-1764.

**Wagman / Wegeman, Jacob** born Zurich 1734 [**Wegemann** of Zurich or Falländen ZH?], arrived 4.11.1758 on *De Drie Papagaaien* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1759 sick,

1760-1761 soldier, 1763-1764 corporal, 1765 sergeant with pay fl 20. / KAB, MR 1760-1765; NL, ARA, MR 1759-1761, 1763-1765.

**Chuaat / China, David** born Giez VD, arrived 19.10.1759 on *Zuiderburg* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1760-1764 on fortification works. / KAB, MR 1760-1764; NL, ARA, MR 1760-1764.

**Klein, Joseph** born Berne 1738, arrived 19.10.1759 on *Zuiderburg* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1759-1764 soldier. / KAB, MR 1760-1764; NL, ARA, MR 1760-1761, 1763.

**Wiederkeer, Baltus** born Switzerland, arrived 27.10.1759 on 's *Gravezande* as junior sailor for Kamer Delft. 1760 foreman of masons, 1761-1762 blacksmith with pay fl 14. / KAB, MR 1760-1762; NL, ARA, MR 1761-1762.

**Steyner, Dominicus** born Canton Schwyz **[Steiner]**, arrived 10.12.1759 on *Keukenhof* as sailor for Kamer Zeeland. 1760 foreman of masons, 1761 sick. / KAB, MR 1760-1761; NL, ARA, MR 1761.

**Hoemard, Jan Pieter** born Canton Basel [**Humard** of Fregiecourt JU?], arrived 10.12.1759 on *Keukenhof* as sailor for Kamer Zeeland. 1760-1763 worker on fortifications, 1764-1765 quarryman, 1765-1775 doorkeeper at the artisans quarters with pay after 1769 fl 16. / KAB **,** MR 1760-1771, 1775; NL, ARA, MR 1760-1771, 1773-1775.

**Vanjeu, Abraham Louis**, born Neuchatel. Able seaman, 1760 sick. / KAB, MR 1760; NL, ARA, MR 1760.

**Roffemaer / Bosmaer, Christiaan** born Berne [**Rouvenaz** of FR?]. Arrived as assistant carpenter, 1760 sick. / KAB, MR 1760; NL, ARA, MR 1760.

**Michiel, Jan,** born Berne [**Michel**?**]**. Arrived as assistant carpenter, 1760 sick. / KAB, MR 1760; NL, ARA, MR 1760.

**Meyer** [**Meier**?]**, Jacob** born Zurich 1739, arrived 9.3.1760 on *Oosthuizen* for Kamer Haarlem. 1760-1764 soldier. / KAB MR 1760-1764; NL, ARA, MR 1760-1761, 1763-1764,

**Peter, Hans Ulrich**, born Zurich, arrived 9.3.1760 on *Oosthuizen* for Kamer Haarlem. 1760 soldier. / KAB, MR 1760; NL, ARA, MR 1760.

**Bornee, Johannes** born Berne [**Bornet** of Chateau-d'Oeux or Chavannes de Bougis VD?], arrived 22.3.1760 on *Ouderamstel* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1760-176 soldier.
/ KAB, MR 1760-1761; NL, ARA, MR 1760-1761.

**Masselyn, Johan** born Berne [**Mocellin** of VD?], arrived 28.3.1760 on *Barbara Theodora* for Kamer Zeeland. 1760-1761 soldier. / KAB, MR 1760-1761; NL, ARA, MR 1760-1761.

**Nedere, Cerelius** born St. Gall [**Niederer** of St. Gall SG?], arrived 5.7.1760 on *Renswoude* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1761 soldier. / KAB, MR 1761; NL, ARA, MR 1761.

**Schoon, Jacob** born Berne [**Schön** of Walterswil BE?], arr. 14.7.1760 on *Gouverneur Generaal de Clerck* for Kamer Delft. 1761 soldier, postholder in False Bay after Hans Soblee of Bougy-Villars VD. / KAB, MR 1761; NL, ARA, MR 1761.

**Kaller, Coenraad,** born Zurich [of Winterthur, ZH?], arrived 12.9.1760 on *Deunisveld* for Kamer Edam. 1761 soldier. / KAB, MR 1761.

**Weis / Weys, Jan** born Solothurn **[Wyss**?], arrived 8.11.1760 on *Vlietlus* as sailor for Kamer Zeeland. 1761 wagon-driver, 1762-1780 executioner with pay fl 14 in 1769, fl 18 in 1773. / KAB, MR 1761-1771, 1775-1780; NL, ARA, MR 1761-1763, 1765-1766, 1769, 1773-1776, 1778-1780.

AN EXECUTIONER WHO WORKED WITH SWISS PRECISION

Through the years quite a few Swiss were found guilty for various misdemeanours and punished. A Swiss who always stayed on the right side of the law was Jan Weis from the Canton of Solothurn. He was executioner for 19 years, from 1762 to 1780.

Defaulting servants of the Company were usually punished by banishment or hard labour on Robben Island combined with some slight punishment by the executioner. Slaves on the other hand were very severely dealt with in order to deter any general uprising, especially when found guilty of desertion or murder. Looking through the list of sentences executed by Weis it is easy to see why the hangman is usually shunted by his fellow men. In the four years 1768-1771 for instance, his duties included:

8 hanged.
5 broken on the wheel. In one case he was required to first pinch the victim with red hot pliers and then cut his head off and impale it. In another case first the prisoner's right hand had to be chopped off and then all his limbs broken starting from the feet up; as an act of grace, Weis was then allowed to give the *coup de grâce.*
1 throttled to death.
13 whipped and branded with a red hot iron.
4 whipped only.
1 exposed on the pillar and whipped.
1 struck on the head with the executioner's sword.

/ KAB, CJ 792, pp. 360-362.

THE FIRST SWISS COOK AT THE CAPE

**Wanner, George** born Schleitheim SH 1736, arrived 8.11.1760 on *Vlietlus* as sailor for Kamer Zeeland. 1760-1781 soldier, 1782-1788 one of three battalion cooks.[1]

In 1768 his female slave Magdalena (Lena) Johanna, illegitimate daughter of Jaob Barck of Königsberg, Germany and Lea of the Cape, bore him a son named Jacob after her father, and Wanner got permission to manumit both.[2] On 30.9.1770 after she had borne him another son, he had them both baptised and three months later married Lena at the Grootekerk.

When Lena's father died in 1772 she inherited some money which enabled Wanner to buy a house.[3] Wanner and Lena were on friendly terms with Jan Christiaan Yselle of Hasle BE and stood in as godparents to one of his daughters. Wanner also regularly sent money home to his parents.[4]

Lena died 1779[5] and Wanner married Clasina de Wolff of Utrecht, widow of Hendrik la Croiz. In 1784 he sold his first house and bought another, probably more comfortable house.[6] He was now nearing the fifties, in those days considered old age. In 1791, "having served a long time as cook in the Castle, had in consequence of bodily infirmities been placed on pension and now, being very old (55) and no longer able to serve", asked for burgher papers. This was granted in consideration of his age and that he had to provide for a large household.[7] His last address was Buytenkant 22, Cape Town, but he died 1.7.1798 in Waveren / Zwartland.[5]

By Lena he had three children:

1. Jacobus Christiaan baptised 30.9.1770.
2. Georg Joseph baptised 30.9.1770. 1799 and 1802 recorded as member of the (non-European) Vry-Corps[7] and 1821 as living ummarried at 2 Pepper Street.[8]
3. Magdalena Johanna baptised 4.9.1774.

By Clasina he had only one daughter who died at birth, in 1785.

/ [1] KAB, MR 1761-1771, 1775-1788; NL, ARA, MR 1761, 1753-1766, 1768-1771, 1773-1778, 1780-1782, 1784-1787; [2] Leibbradt: *Requesten* 1768-70: 69; [3] KAB, DO T4451; [4] KAB, BRD 29, 1778, 1779; [5] KAB, MOOC 6/2; [6] KAB, DO T5798; [7] KAB, C

195, *Resolutiën,* 5.8.1791; [8] KAB, BRD 29 and 30, Roll of Free Corps; [9] KAB, RDG 121.

**Meyer, Johannes** born Schaffhausen [**Meier**?]. 1761 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1761; NL, ARA, MR 1761.

**Keyser, Antony** born Berne [**Kaiser**?]. 1761 soldier working on new hospital in Simon's Bay. / KAB, MR 1761; NL, ARA, MR 1761.

**Boose(n), Frederic** born Neuchatel 1737 **[Bosse** or **Bosset**?], arrived 13.5.1761 on *Jonge Lieve* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1761 sick, 1762-1765 soldier. / KAB, MR 761-1764; NL, ARA, MR 1762-1764.

**Jonie / Jone, Joseph**, probably a Huguenot emigrant, for although he gave his birthplace as "Bosse" BE (Bougis-Bossey VD near Celigy GE, birthplace of Jacob Etienne Gauch?), when he married in 1766 he submitted an attestation from Rennes in Bretagne, France. Arrived 1761 aged 17 on *Hoop* for Kamer Delft. 1762-1763 worked on new hospital in Simon's Bay, 1764 postholder there until Hans Soeblee returned from Switzerland, 1765 soldier at the Castle, 1766-1787 seal engraver,[1] 1788 pensioned[2] and probably died in 1796. As late as 1788 he still sent part of his pay home but the precise destination is not given.[3]

Married 17.8.1766 Catharina Logerenberg (1746-1812). Their children:

1. Hendrina Elisabeth baptised 30.8.1767, married (1) Pieter Arbman, married (2) J.A.F. Touchon of Neuchatel.
2. Alexander baptised 16.10.1768, died when 2 months old.
3. Josephus baptised 16.10.1769, became lieutenant in the artillery and an excellent cartographer whose work was highly praised by Thibault. Died 1811.
4. Petronella baptised 8.9.1771, died 1773.[4]
5. unbaptised child, died 11.9.1774.[4]
6. unbaptised child., died 27.7.1780.[4]

/ KAB, MR 1762-1771, 1775-1789; NL, ARA, MR 1764, 1766-1771, 1773, 1775-1787; [2] KAB, C 747, p. 181; [3] Jeffries: *Kaapse Archiefstukke 1778-1782;* [4] KAB, MOOC 6.1 and 6/2.

**Geybel, Joseph** born Basel [**Geibel**?]. 1762 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1762; NL, ARA, MR 1762.

**Scheuch, Jacob** born Zurich, 1762 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1762; NL, ARA, MR 1762.

**Cobie, Jan** born Berne [**Kübli** of Berner Oberland BE?]. 1762 soldier. / KAB, MR 1762; NL, ARA, MR 1762.

**Meister, Christianus / Crisostimus** born Zurich, arrived 4.2.1762 on *Huis te Boede* for Kamer Zeeland. 1762-1763 sailor on *Jonge Mnr. Willem* based in Table Bay. / KAB, MR 1763; NL, ARA, MR 1762-1763.

**Haller, Jacob** born Berne 1732, arrived 13.2.1762 on *Vrouwe Geertruida* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1762-1771 soldier,[1] 7.8.1770-17.5.1771 loaned as farmhand to Johann Caspar Holtmann (S),[2] 1795 soldier, sick.[3] / KAB, MR 1762-1771; NL, ARA, MR 1763, 1765-1771; [2] KAB, C 1151; [3] KAB, BO 193, p. 108.

**Hoeneker, Hendrik** born Zurich 1736 [**Honegger**?], arrived 12.7.1762 on *Bleiswijk* for Kamer Delft. / [1] KAB, VC 48, MR 1768; [2] KAB, MR 1763-1769; NL, ARA, MR 1763-1769.

**Pieters, Pieter** born Zurich **[Peter**?], arrived 21.8.1762 on *Velsen* for Kamer Zeeland. 1763-1764 wagon-driver and cattle-herd with pay fl 12. / KAB, MR 1763-1764; NL, ARA, MR 1763-1764.

**Bunsel, Jacob** born Zurich 1734 [**Bünzli**?], arrived 17.9.1762 on *Leimuiden* for Kamer Amsterdam. / KAB, MR 1763-1767; NL, ARA, MR 1763-1765.

**Libo, Francois** born Berne 1733 [**Libot** of Ropraz VD?], arrived 17.9.1762 on *Leimuiden* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1762-1765 soldier. / KAB, MR 1763-1765; NL, ARA, MR 1763, 1765.

**Meyer, Hendrik** born Neuburg near Winterthir ZH [**Meier**?], arrived 17.9.1762 on *Leimuiden* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1762 corporal, 1763 soldier. / KAB, MR 1762-1763; NL, ARA, MR 1763.

**Wendschon, Adam** born Berne or Stralsund Germany, arrived 17.9.1762 on *Leimuijden* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1763 postholder in False Bay. Always recorded as from Berne except when brought before the Court of Justice where his origin was noted as Stralsund, Germany. He was found guilty and imprisoned, 1765-1769 condemned prisoner. / KAB, MR 1763-1769; NL, ARA, MR 1763, 1766-1769.

**Stel, Johannes** born Berne 1740 **[Still** or **Stähli**?], arrived 5.1.1763 on *Overschie* for Kamer Delft. 1763-1765 soldier. / NL, ARA, MR1763-1765.

**Koning, Nicolaas** born Berne 1731 (**König**?), arrived 14.7.1763 on *Erfprins* for Kamer Delft. 1764 -1768 soldier; 1768 stationed on Robben Island. / KAB, MR 1764-1768; NL, ARA, MR 1764-1768.

**Klein, Joseph** born PorchetVD 1742, arrived 26.8.1763 on *Barbara Theodora* for Kamer Zeeland. 1763-1770 soldier, 1771 Company's hunter. / KAB, MR 1764-1771; NL, ARA, MR 1764.

**Gaayer / Galeyer, Nicolaas** born Schaffhausen [**Gayer / Geier**?], arrived 23.9.1763 on *Lekkerland* for Kamer Delft. 1764-1767 wagon-driver, 1768 cattle-herd. / KAB, MR 1764-1768; NL, ARA, MR 1764-1768.

**Reynaud, Claudius** born Geneva. 1764 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1764; NL, ARA, MR 1764.

**Rood, Ulrik** born Appenzell [**Roth**?]. 1764 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1764; NL, ARA, MR 1764.

**Henry, Jacob** born Berne 1742 [of Damphreux JU?], arrived 1.1.1764 on *Huis Om* for Kamer Zeeland. / NL, ARA, MR 1764.

**Gringer, Hans** born Berne, arrived 9.2.1764 on *Immagond* for Kamer Edam. 1764 sailor with pay fl 12 and in the same year advanced to able seaman with pay fl 14.
/ KAB, MR 1764; NL, ARA, MR 1764.

**Muller, Hendrik** born Zurich 1741, arrived 15.5.1764 on *Westvriesland* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1765-1766 stationed at military post Saldanha Bay, 1767-1769 foreman of masons on fortification works. / KAB, MR 1764-1769; NL, ARA, MR 1764-1766, 1768-1769.

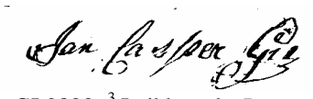
**Morel, Nicolaas** born Lucerne [of Hitzkirch LU?], arrived 24.5.1764 on *Liefde* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1764-1765 stationed at military post in False Bay, 1766-1767 carpenter with pay fl 14. / KAB, MR 1765-1769; NL, ARA, MR 1764-1769.

**Gie, Jan Casper / Hans Casper** born Zurich 1742, brother of Johan Coenraad Gie, arrived 15.5.1764 on *Schoongezicht* as sailor, died 1.1.1801 at 15 Bree Street.[1] On arrival was loaned as farmhand to his brother[2] until 1777 when Jan Casper became a burgher.[3]

Married 12.12.1784 Johanna Elisabeth Krause, daughter of Johann Gottlieb Krause and Johanna Elizabeth Kuylets of the Cape, widow of George Guerint of Richelieu, France. They had three children baptised:

1. Casparus Andreas 13.7.1788.
2. Johan Coenraad 31.10.1790, died 1797?
3. Magdalena Dorothea 30.9.1796, died 1839.

No marriages of these were recorded, but two adult baptisms 3.12.1840 might relate to their descendant Johan Coenraad, born 1820 and Casper Coenraad born 1822, married Regina (of the Cape?).



/ [1] KAB, MOOC 6/2; [2] KAB, CJ 2899; [3] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1777: 10.

**Chevalier, Jean B.** born Berne [of Moutier BE or Vicques JU?]. 1765 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1765.

**Meyer, Johannes** born Zurich **[**Meier?], arrived 12.2.1765 on *Compagnies Welvaaren* as able seaman for Kamer Amsterdam. 1765-1767 on the boat *Hanswors* stationed in Table Bay, 1768 on shore duty. / KAB, MR 1765-1767; NL, ARA, MR 1765-1766.

**Culyn, Pieter Lodewyk** born Berne 1738 [**Kübli** or **Kübler**?], arrived 19.2.1765 on *Ouderamstel* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1765-1769 soldier. / KAB, MR 1766-1770; NL, ARA, MR 1766-1770.

**Stapher, Jacob** born "Horinge ZH" **[Stauffer**? of Horgen ZH?] 1731, arrived 21.2.1765 on *Walenburg* for Kamer Rotterdam. 1766-1767 soldier. / KAB, MR 1765-1767; NL, ARA, MR 1765.

**Meyer Pieter** born Appenzell **[Meier**?], arrived 25.12.1765 on *Vryburg* for Kamer Zeeland. 1766-1770 worker on fortifications. / KAB, MR 1766-1770; NL, ARA, MR 1766-1770.

**Bosarde Pieter** born St. Gall **[Bossart?]**, arrived 25.12.1765 on *Vryburg* for Kamer Zeeland. 1766 sailor, sick, 1767-1770 stationed at Saldanha Bay. / KAB, MR 1766-1770; NL, ARA, MR 1767-1770.

**Redein, Anthony** born Canton Schwyz [**Reding** of Arth SZ?]. 1766 soldier sick. / KAB, MR 1766.

MUTINY DURING THE OUTWARD VOYAGE SEVERELY PUNISHED

**Brune Honore** born Nyon VD 1746 **[**Brun?], age 20,
**Chatillon, Nicolaas Joseph** born Neuveville [La Neuveville BE?], age 23,
**Kenard, Louis** born Jony BE [Jongny VD? or **Kehrvand** of Rolle VD?]) 1736, age 30,
and **Trischaar Louis** born Neuchatel 1736 [**Treuthand** of Canton Neuchatel?], age 30
all three arrived 14.5.1766 as prisoners on *Duinenburg.*

Because Holland and England were at war and the Channel was unsafe for Dutch ships, the outward bound fleet departing from the Netherlands in mid-winter avoided passing through the Channel by sailing across the North Sea and around Scotland and Ireland. Under cold and stormy conditions crews were kept hard at work tending their ships. On the *Duinenburg* murmurings arose because they had to work for up to eight hours without bread. One night a German sailor reported to the captain that a group of 23 French speaking crew members planned to seize the ship on the next day, beach it on the nearest coast and make off with the 16 chests of money known to be on board. One

of the prospective mutineers was seized and tortured until he revealed the whole conspiracy, whereupon all the mutineers were incarcerated and on arrival at the Cape delivered to the Court of Justice.

The sentences pronounced were very severe and also showed a lot of imagination. They gave the executioner Jan Weis of Solothurn a busy day. The Swiss conspirators were punished as follows: Louis Kenard was placed under the gallows with the hangman's noose around his neck; Brune and Chatillon were tied to separate poles and severely beaten on their bare backs with rods; after this ordeal Kenard and Chatillon were branded with redhot irons and all three placed in leg irons and sent to serve various terms of hard labour on Robben Island: Kenard for 25 years, Brune and Chatillon for 5 years each. Trischaar's punishment was to witness the administration of justice and being judged unworthy of serving the Company, sent back to Europe never to be re-employed. Pity Brune who was only 20 years old, his life was ruined. In those days no early release was granted for good behaviour, though any misdemeaour could result in more years on Robben Island. Both Brune and Chatillon actually served 10 years. Kenard laboured on Robben Island until 1782 when he is recorded as having joined the English.

/ KAB, CJ 791: 28; KAB, MR 1766-1781; NL, ARA, MR 1766-1781.

**Sander, Lucas** born Chur GR 1736 **[Santi**?], arrived 15.8.1766 on *Vrouwe Kornelia Hillegonda* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1766-1771 soldier. / KAB, MR 1766-1771; NL, ARA, MR 1766-1771.

**Lustig, Casper** born Glarus 1731 [of Ebnat SG?], arrived 20.8.1766 on *Bleijenburg* for Kamer Rotterdam. 1767 soldier. / KAB, MR 1767; NL, ARA, MR 1767.

**Kiegel, Charel Etienne** born Neuchatel. 25.8.1766 guilty of plotting to desert with other French sailors on board *Bleijenburg* and killing a man during a fight, sentenced to be taken to place of execution, there placed against a post and a shot fired over his head, then to be banned for life. Was detained on Robben Island until his departure. / KAB, CJ 791: 29.

**Graanberger, Johann Christoffel** born Berne [Kramberger of Winterthrr ZH?], arrived 8.12.1766 on *Luxemburg* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1767-1770 reed-cutter in the veld, 1771-1776 wood-cutter in the forests at *Paradys* and *Witteboomen*. / KAB, MR 1767-1772, 1775-1776; NL, ARA, MR 1767-1776.

**Wegelien, Johan Coenraad** born Diessenhofen TG **[**Wegelin**?]**, arrived 8.12.1766 on *Luxemburg* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1770-1771 tanner at the stables.[1]

Arrived a second time, possibly 15.2.1775 on *Overhout*. 1776-1776 sick, 1777 convalescing.[1] Married Catharina Beck by whom he had a son, Johan Coenraad, who was a young boy when baptised at the Lutheran Church Cape Town on 6.9.1789. He was recorded 1800 living at the house of G. Rossouw of Stellenbosch[2] and 1807 in Swellendam.[3] / [1] KAB, MR 1770-1771, 1775-1777; NL, ARA, MR 1770, 1775; [2] KAB, J 226; [3] KAB, J 321, no. 844.

**Schuymer, Hendrik** born Berne, arrived 31.7.1767 on *Admiral de Ruyter* as able seaman for Kamer Zeeland. 1769 on hooker *Neptune* stationed in Simon's Bay. / KAB, MR 1769.

**Lascher / Looscher Hans Rudolf** born Moosleerau AG **[**Lässler?], arrived 4.10.1767 on *Leimuiden* as sailor and lance-corporal for Kamer Zeeland. 1768-1769 sailor, 1770 worker on fortifications. / KAB, MR 1768; NL, ARA, MR 1768-1769.

**Babtist, Jacob** born Geneva, 1768 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1769.

**Martinus, Daniel** born Berne, 1768 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1769.

**Jurgens, Johan Adolph / Juriaanse, Adolf** born Lausanne VD 1745, arrived 9.2.1768 on *Huis ter Meijen* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1768 soldier, 1769-1774 corporal, then house teacher.[2] 20.10.1785 sent to Graaff-Reinet together with the first magistrate, as substitute magistrate on a three year contract with pay fl 20.[3] He continued in this position until July 1789 when he was murdered by burgher Tobias Mynhard.[4]

Married 26.10.1788 Catharina Wilhelmina Malan born 1758, separated wife of the deported secretary at the Company's hospital in Cape Town, Johan Godfried Andries.[5] Jurgens accounts show him to have been active in business, but his estate turned out to be insolvent because many debts appeared to be doubtful and could not be recovered. His possessions were sold for the benefit of his creditors, though his widow was allowed to retain an oxwagon and twenty oxen with which to travel back to Cape Town.[4]

/ KAB, MR 1768-1771; NL, ARA, MR 1768-1771, 1773; [2] Schmidt-Pretoria: *Deutsche Wanderung*, p. 245; [3] KAB, C 747, p. 97; [4] KAB, CJ 71, pp. 272,321; [5] KAB, DRC, VC 673.

**Smith, Thomas** born "Speets / Speek" **[Schmid**? of Spiez BE?], arrived 23.2.1768 on *Kronenburg* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1775 quarryman. / KAB, MR 1775; NL, ARA, MR 1775.

**Waser / Waasen, Rudolf** born Zurich, arrived 23.9.1768 on *Westerveld* for Kamer Zeeland. 1768-1770 soldier. / KAB, MR 1769-1770; NL, ARA, MR 1768.

**Hersig Johannes** born Berne **[Herzig**?], arrived on *Westerveld* as junior sailor with pay fl 18, 1769-1770 worker on new hospital, 1771-1779 assistant sick comforter. Did he return to Switzerland and arrive back again 12.10.1788?/ KAB, MR 1769-1771, 1775-1778; NL, ARA, MR 1769-1770, 1773-1778.

**Morgenstern, Nicolaas** born Schaffhausen, arrived 2.1.1769 on *Oost Cappelle* for Kamer Zeeland. 1769-1771 soldier. / KAB, MR 1769-1771; NL, MR 1769-1771.

**Guillard, Johannes** born Moorte [**Guillard** of Monthey near Bex?], arrived 2.1.1769 on *Zon* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1769-1773 soldier. / KAB, MR 1769-1771; NL, ARA, MR 1771, 1773.

**Wegele / Wegeling, Christiaan** born Berne **[Wägli** or **Wegeli**?], arrived 31.8.1769 on *Vrouwe Petronella Maria* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1769-1778 soldier at the Castle, 1779-1781 stationed at Muizenberg, 1782-1783 quarryman and 1784 soldier in False Bay, 1785-1786 again solder stationed at Muizenberg.[1] 1780 and 1782 recorded as sending money home.[3] / [1] KAB, MR 1770-1771, 1776-1784, 1786; NL, ARA, MR 1770-1771, 1773-1777, 1780, 1782, 1784-1786; [2] Jeffries: *Kaapse Archiefstukke 1778-1782.*

**Favie, Jan** born Nyon VD [**Favey or Favez** VD?]. 1770 sick. / KAB, MR 1770; NL, ARA, MR 1770.

**Colberg, Johan Jacob** born Basel **[Kolberg**?], arrived 11.2.1770 on *Prinses van Oranje* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1770 soldier. / KAB, MR 1770; NL, ARA, MR 1770.

**Von Winterthur, Jan** (S) born Seuzach ZH, arrived 11.2.1770 on *Prinses van Oranje* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1770 oar-maker,[1] 12.10.1770-24.7.1772 loaned to Christiaan Frederik Herbst,[2] 1773-1775 cattle-herd in False Bay, 1776 building-worker at Simon's Town.[1]

Became burgher 11.12.1776[2] and settled at Stellenbosch where in 1779 he bought two erven from Ulrich Mascher (Deed of Transfer T 5173). He sold them in 1782 (T425 and 426) to the church and Jacobus Hugot respectively and bought another erf from the church (T 5651), which he sold shortly before his death, to Pieter Schalk Hugo (T 5938)

Married 1.7.1783 Maria Catharina, daughter of Arends Martin of Stralsund, previously married to Johannes La Roche and then to Johannes Hendrik of Batavia. Maria died 1874,[3] the day after they had drawn up a joint will,[4] and Jan two years later on 8.5.1786 in Paarl.[3]

/ [1] KAB, MR 1770, 1775-1776; NL, ARA, MR 1770, 1773-1776; [2] KAB, CJ 2903: 122 (S); [3] KAB, MOOC 6/2; [4] KAB, MOOC 7/1/29: 122.

**Haab, Coenraad** born Zurich, arrived 2.9.1770 on *Damzicht* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1771 soldier, 1773-1775 corporal, 1776-1779 sergeant with pay fl 20, and 1780-1785 First Sergeant with pay fl 24.[1] He regularly sent money home.[2] / [1] KAB, MR 1771, 1775-1785; NL, ARA, MR 1771-1785, [2] Jeffries: *Kaapse Archiefstukke 1778-1782.*

**Gorts, Johan Andries** born Berne **[Kurz**?], arrived 16.9.1770 on *Walcheren* for Kamer Zeeland. 1771 sailor. / KAB, MR 1771; NL, ARA, MR 1771.

**(Van) Burge, Nicolaas** born Bern **[Von Bergen**?], arrived 16.9.1770 on *Walcheren* as sailor for Kamer Zeeland. 1771-1780 assistant to the sick attendants. / KAB, MR 1771, 1775-1780; NL, ARA, MR 1771-1780.

**Lens / Lentz, Johannes Heinrich** born St. Gall **[Lenz**?], arrived 27.11.1770 on *Blijdorp* as sailor for Kamer Zeeland. 1771 with masons, pay fl 10, 1773 sick, 1787 able seaman. / KAB, MR 1771, 1787; NL, ARA, MR 1773.

**De Lier, Michiel** born "Neuville" [La Neuveville BE?], 1771 sailor, sick. / KAB, MR 1771.

**Leeman, Jacob** born Berne. 1771 assistant locksmit, sick. / KAB, MR 1771.

**Teygen, Johannes** born Apenzell [**Deicke** of St. Gall SG?]. 1771 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1771.

**Greuning, Elie** born Lausanne VD **[Grenier**?]. 1771 soldier, sick. / NL, ARA, MR 1771.

**Meyer, Jacob** born Zurich **[Meier**], arrived 19.2.1771 on *Compagnies Welvaaren* as sailor for Kamer Amsterdam. 1771-1780 stationed on Robben Island, 1781 at the Castle, 1782 wood-cutter in the forests at *Paradys* and *Witteboomen,* 1783 again at the Castle and 1784 sick in hospital. / KAB, MR 1771, 1775-1784; NL, ARA 1773-1783.

**Engel, Jan Francois David** born Berne [of Ligerz or Twann BE], arrived Stellenbosch 20.6.1771 with attestation from Canton Berne. His name was entered in the church member's register and later crossed out without any comment. / KAB, DRC,VC 639, Members 1732-1788, p.89.

**Sauvin, David** born Switzerland [Canton Neuchatel?], arrived at Stellenbosch 1.7.1771 with attestation from Switzerland. His name was entered in the register of church members, never crossed out nor marked as having died. / KAB, DRC, VC 639, Members 1732-1788, p.89.

**Prysman / Preiseman [Preissmann**?**], Felix** born Zurich, arrived 7.1.1772 on *Vredesteijn* as sailor for Kamer Zeeland, 1773-1776 despatch-rider at Stellenbosch with pay fl 14. / KAB, MR 1775-1776; NL, ARA, MR 1773, 1775.

**Rood, Johan Godfried** born Lensburg [Roth? of Lenzburg AG?], arrived 10.5.1772 on *Zon* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1772-1775 soldier. / KAB, MR 1775; NL, ARA, MR 1773.

A USELESS SUBJECT is shipped back to Europe

**Moole, Hans** born Chur GR [Möli?], arrived 1772 on English ship *Lord North*, remained with the Governor's permission. 1773 burger.[1] 1779 deprived of burgher rights due to misbehaviour, and being a "useless subject" he was sent back to Europe on the first returning ship with instructions that he be made to work on the ship to pay for his passage.[2] / [1] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1773:22; [2] De Wet: *Resolusies* 1779.1.5.

**Baluys, Jan Pierre** born Neuchatel **[Bayllier or Baillods**?], arrived 2.11.1772 on *Vlissingen* for Kamer Zeeland. 1773 soldier. / NL, ARA, MR 1773.

**Borre, Christiaan** born Berne [**Borrer** of Canton Solothurn?], arrived 2.11.1772 on *Vlissingen* for Kamer Zeeland. 1773 soldier. / KAB, MR 1775-1777; NL, ARA, MR 1774-1777.

**Baur / Bauwer, Johannes** born Berne **[**Bauer?], arrived 2.11.1772 on *Vlissingen* for Kamer Zeeland. 1773-1777 soldier. / KAB, MR 1775-1777; NL, ARA, MR 1773, 1774-1777.

**Linacker / Leenacker, Johannes** born Berne 1755 **[**Lengacher?], arrived 2.11.1772[1] on *Vlissingen* for Kamer Zeeland. 1772-1788 soldier at the Castle, 1789 foreman at hospital,[2] 1971-1793 foreman at laundry.[3] After capitulation 1795 he remained at the Cape making a living as shoemaker[4] and died 24.10.1800[1] According to the inventory taken after his death he lived at the house of Christiaan Hillebrand and worked with (shoemaker?) Johannes Gros.[5] / [1] KAB, MOOC 6/2; [2] KAB, MR 1175-1782, 1784-1785, 1787-1788; NL, ARA, MR 1773-1788; [3] KAB, MR 31.12.1791; [4] BO 193; [4] KAB, MOOC 8/23: 19.

AN EARLY WATCHMAKER

**Wolhuter / Wolhever, George Christoffel** born Canton Basel. The Staatsarchiv Basel-Stadt has no record under this name though a Friedrich Wolhüter from Lindau, Germany, appears in the church registers for 1779. The Stadtarchiv Lindau reported that the name Wol(l)hüter often occurred in their records of the 18th century but none corresponds to George Christoffel.

Wolhuter arrived 6.4.1773 on *Het Loo* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1773 sick, 1774-1775 soldier,[1] 5.3.1775 while still in Company service, apparently as watchmaker, married Rebekka Wilhelmina Hartog at Paarl and 1776 became a burgher.[2] He prospered. 1778 he could buy a house from builder Jan Christiaan Hendrik (by T5053 and sold 1786 by T6029 to Dirk Beukes) and another in 1785 by T5968 from estate late Jacob Kamp.

1779 the Military Council found him guilty of refusing to serve in the commando called up to take part in the funeral procession of Captain of the Cavalry, Petrus Michiel Eksteen[3] – was there a personal animosity? Five years later, in 1784, Wolhuter was appointed Sergeant of 1st Company Infantry. 1781 he co-signed a petition against increasing taxes, and 1792 drew up a will.[4] He died 10.10.1802.[5]

His children:

1. Johannes Christoffel born 1776.
2. George Hendrik born 1777, commission agent in Cape Town.
3. Carolina Petronella born ? married Jan Lodewyk Pieterse.
4. twins Carel Jacobus and
5. Johannes Jacobus born 1782 .
6. Christoffel Paulus born 1784, watchmaker in Long Street, Cape Town, married Johanna Jorendina Karsten, had 7 daughters, 2 sons.[6]
7. Simon Petrus born ? married butcher's daughter in Paarl.
8. Petrus 1786-1786.
9. Jurgen Wilhelm born 1789.
10. Andreas Jacobus born 1791, confectioner in Loop Street, Cape Town, had 3 daughters and 3 sons.

11.George Egbertus born 1792, gaoler in Beaufort-West.
12.Rebecca Wilhelmina born 1794.
13.Daniel Marthinus born 1796, carpenter.[7]
14.Johan Frederik born 1798.
/ [1] KAB, MR 1775; NL, ARA, MR 1773-75; [2] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1776-96; [3] KAB, BKR 2; [4] KAB, MOOC 7/1/102; [5] KAB, MOOC 6/2; [6] KAB, MOOC 6/9/464 Estate 2580/1849; [7] KAB, Estate 335/1834.

**Stoeder, Johan Hendrik** born Zurich **[Studer**], arrived 7.12.1773 on *Bredenhof* for Kamer Haarlem. 1774-1779 corporal, 1780 1st corporal, 1781-1891 sergeant,[1 & 2] 1795 ensign.[3]

1781-1782 Stoeder gave authority to a firm in Delft to send part of his pay to Switzerland.[4] 1791 married Anna Barbara Kapp, baptised 1769, daughter of Philipp Kapp of Seebach, Germany.

SWISS BLOOD IN THE KNYSNA FOREST

Dalene Matthee in her best-seller *Circles in the Forest* describes the life of wood-cutters in the Knysna Forest. Through their veins actually runs a little Swiss blood introduced by Johan Hendrik Studer.

Studer was a professional soldier who, in the service of the Company, had advanced to ensign, when the English occupied the Cape in 1795. After vainly trying to find alternative employment he joined his father-in-law, Philipp Kapp and his family, working in the Tzitzikama as cattle farmers and wood-cutters. When he died there 1804, he was survived by his wife, three sons and two daughters with 19 trek-oxen (for transporting wood by oxwagon? and 34 head of cattle.[5]

The elder son, baptised Johan Hendrik after his father, lived to the ripe old age of 78 and died on his farm surrounded by a son and three daughters.[6] This son, baptised Johannes Hendrik Jaobus, also a farmer, had 5 sons and 3 daughters, thus ensuring the continuance of this family name.[7]

The younger son, Johannes Jacobus, became a wood-cutter living in a simple cottage in the forest at Krommerivier. He employed 4 Khoi to help with the tree-felling, and had a wagon and two spans of trek-oxen to transport the wood. He was only 33 when he was tragically killed by a tree falling on him and his bloody corpse was carried back to his young widow and their two daughters.[8]

The children of Johan Hendrik Stoeder:

1. Anna Maria married Salomon Terblans baptised Cape Town 4.11.1793. Recorded 1826 as living in the Plettenberg district and having the widow Stoeder and Johannes Hendrik Stoeder staying with them.[9]
2. Johannes Hendrik baptised Cape Town 10.8.1794, married 1831, died 1871, had 3 daughters, 1 son.[6] The son, Johan Hendrik Jacobus 1831-1880 had 5 sons and 3 daughters and farmed on Goedekloof, District Humansdorp.[7]
3. Ernest Frederik baptised Cape Town 8.4.1798.
4. Sara Elisabeth born 1801? baptised Swellendam 6.1.1803.
5. Johannes Jacobus born 19.6.1802, baptised Swellendam 6.1.1803, married George 1830 Susanna Jerling, had 2 daughters, died 26.3.1836.[8]

/ [1] KAB, MR 1775-1782, 1783-1789; NL, ARA MR, 1774-1787; [2] KAB, ZA 2/9/6 MR 1791; [3] KAB, BO 193; [4] KAB, CJ 2833, 15.12.1781 (S); [5] KAB, J 318; [6] KAB, MOOC 6/9/137 Estate 7578/1871; [7] KAB, MOOC 6/9/521 Estate 1253/1880; [8] KAB, MOOC 6/9/80 Estate 1536/1836; [9] KAB, J 408 CR Tsitsikama 1826.

**Baptist, Lodewikus** born Berne, 1773 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1773.

**Obersberger, Martinus** born Zurich. 1773 junior sailor, sick. / KAB, MR 1773.

**Bejou, Frans** born Berne [of **Bailot** or **Baillod** NE?]. 1774 soldier, sick. / NL, ARA, MR 1774.

**Martini, Martinus** born Glarus [**Marti**?]. 1774 soldier, sick. / NL, ARA, MR 1774.

**Spengeler Frans** born Schaffhausen **[**Spengler?]. 1774 assistant cook, sick. / NL, ARA, MR 1774.

STOP-OVER AT THE CAPE TO GIVE BIRTH

**Ernst, Johann Georg** born Berne, son of Johann Georg Ernst and Hester Johanna born Tillier, previously married to Cornelia Phlippina Smit by whom he had two children, Johann Georg and Anthony Philip Hendrik.[1] 11.1.1774 as Lieutenant with the Dragoons in Batavia, requested permission for himself and his wife Catharina Magdalena Verbeek (formerly married to Louis Relian in Batavia) and her children from her previous marriage, Hendrik Liewe and Agatha Alexandrina, to remain temporarily at the Cape due to his wife's indisposition.[2 & 3]

During their stay at the Cape, on 2.3.1774 their daughter Martha Christina was born and baptised in the Grootekerk. On 27.1.1775 Ernst requested permission to proceed home with his family including the daughter born here.[4]

/ [1] KAB, CJ 1097: 63, will; [2] KAB, CJ 2628:62; KAB, C 152, p. 56; [4] KAB, C 153, p. 69,

**Esbag Johan Hendrik** born Bernebits / Boonewith / Bernebeck near Basel [**Esbach**]. He could not be traced by the Staatsarchiv Baselland nor could his birthplace be identified. May well have come from a nearby German village. He arrived at the Cape 24.4.1774 on *Botland* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1774-1776 wagon-maker, 177 second in charge of wagon-makers with pay fl 9, and 1778-1796 chief wagon-maker earning in 1795 fl 30.[1, 2 & 3]

Married 1782 Anna Catharina Kannemeyer of the Cape, daughter of Joachim Kannemeyer or Kalmeyer of Berlin, a sword-maker, and his wife Magdalena of the Cape. At the same time he bought an erf from the estate of his late father-in-law.[5] Esbag died 8.7.1796 and a year later his widow married Philip Wagenaar of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany.

His children:

1. Hendrik Jacobus born 1782, married Geertruida Smal, died 1818 on his farm Jongens Klip in the Roggeveld;[6]
2. Joachim Christoffel born 1782 married 1810 Rachel Meyer at Graaff-Reinet, was a farmer at the Fish River (Esbag's Drift is named after him). 1823 owned 10 breeding-horses, 1 draught horse, 12 trekoxen, 62 breeding-cattle, 1000 ewes and rams, 320 goats and 2 wagons.[7] Was a Voortrekker.
3. Johannes Carel born 1784.
4. Helena Maria born 1786 , married David le Double of Geneva.
5. Rachel Maria born 1787.
6. Abraham Jacobus born 1789, married Maria Magdalena van Dyk. He owned the farm Fish River in the Albany District where in 1823 he had 2 draught-horses, 1 breeding-horse, 8 trek-oxen, 3 breeding-cattle, 1630 ewes and rams, 190 goats and one wagon.[7]
7. Catharina Johanna born 1791, married Georg Daniel Koch who farmed between Coega and Zwartkops Rivers and in 1823 had 3 draught-horses, 7 breeding-horses, 20 trek-oxen, 20 breeding-cattle and one wagon.[7]

8. Petrus Johannes born 1792.
9. Anna Elisabeth born 1792.
10. twins Charlotta and
11. Elsabeth born 1796? [8]

/ [1] KAB, VC 46-47 MR 1775, 1777-86, 1788-89; NL, ARA, MR 1774-75, 1777-80, 1784-86; [2] KAB, MR 1791; [3] KAB, BO 193; [4] KAB, BRD 29; [5] KAB, DO, T5430; [6] KAB, MOOC 8/54 dd. 1818.01.30; [7] KAB, J 401; [8] KAB, MOOC 6/1.

**Moeder, Ludwik** born Zurich **[Mutter**?], arrived 28.4.1775 on *Bredenhof* as corporal for Kamer Leerdam. 1781 sergeant with pay fl 20. / NL, ARA, MR 1781.

NOT FOUND GUILTY BUT CONFINED ON ROBBEN ISLAND UNTIL ABLE TO PROVE HIS INNOCENCE

**Jeger Thomas** born Kienberg SO **[Jäger**?], arrived 10.12.1774 on *Herstelder*. 1774-1785 soldier.[1] For ten years Jeger served the Company faithfully but then came under suspicion of theft. His guilt could not be proved, but on 28.6.1785 the court in its wisdom ordered him to be confined on Robben Island until proof of his crime should be found.

Jeger remained on the island quietly for four years but then engaged a scribe to address a memorial to the court. He pointed out that in all these years the charge against him could not be substatntiated and he thereforee requested the court to liberate him from his confinement. The court granted the request but ordered him on a suitable occasion to be sent back to Europe in his former rank.

Back in Cape Town, Jeger called on the scribe and instructed him to set up a second memorial, this time addressed to the Governor himself, humbly stating that he believed the last decision of the court had not only freed him of any suspicion which had fallen upon him, but had also restored him fully to the rank in which for 15 years he had had the honour to serve the Honourable Company. He therefore prayed the Governor to be so good as to pay him the wages which had been retained during his confinement on Robben Island since 1785. This request was also granted and Thomas Jeger sailed home a happy man.[2, 3 & 4]

/ KAB, MR 1775-1789; [2] KAB, CJ 422; [3] KAB, CJ 3189; [4] KAB, CJ 2836: 87.

**Schoemaker, Thomas** born Sulz AG **[Schuhmacher**?], arrived 10.12.1774 on *Herstelder* for Kamer Delft. 1774-1775 soldier, 1776-1778 corporal, 1779-1780 sergeant, 1781-1786 ensign with pay fl 40, and 1787-16.9.1795 lieutenant with pay fl 50.[1, 2 & 3]

1780-1782, 1785 he sent money home.[4] 25.11.1785 carried the weapons of the deceased at the ceremonial funeral of Oloff Bergh. 13.3.1788 as commanding officer of the military post in Saldanha Bay, brought letters to the Castle[5] and March 1789 as commanding officer at the military post in St. Helena Bay reported the presence of 38 foreign whaling vessels.[5] 1790 on leave in Switzerland.[6]

In 1795, after the surrender with subsequent loss of employmet he asked to be granted the farm *Langefontein*. After this request was turned down he asked permission to go into the country to recover from his asthma.[7] 1799 Schoemaker was a lodger in the house of the wine merchant E.W. Tielmans at 38 Strand Street[8] and was recorded as old and weak.[9] Died 25.8.1802.[10]

/ KAB, MR 1775-1789; NL, ARA, MR 1786, 1788; KAB, MR 1791; KAB, BO 193; [4] KAB, BRD 29 and C 1785, p. 18; [5] KAB, VC 34, Journal; [6] Meyer-Otth Wilhelm: *Eine zürcherische Familiengeschichte* in *Neujahrsblatt der Feuerwerker-Gesellschaft in Zürich auf das Jahr 1879*, p. 8; [7] KAB, BO 24, 45; [8] KAB, BRD 27: Census 1799; [9] KAB, BRD 28; [10] KAB, MOOC 14/287 p. 60.

THE STATE FUNERAL OF OLOFF MARTINI BERGH
AS DESCRIBED IN THE GOVERNOR'S JOURNAL ON THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 1785

Oloff Martini was the grandson of Oloff Bergh of Sweden and son of Martinus Bergh and Catharina Ley, daughter of Michiel Ley of Basel, both born at the Cape. He was an

outstanding personality. Besides serving the Company as Secretary of the Court of Justice and member of the Council of Policy 1756-1785. he was appointed Independent Fiscal in 1771, Market Master in 1779, President of Council of Civil and Marriage Affairs in 1781, and Senior Merchant in 1785. He had a brilliant intellect, corresponded with scientists world-wide and had an extensive collection of books and paintings. He took an active part in social life and was a staunch member of the Lutheran community which had unsuccessfiully applied for permission to build a church. When he died he was given a state funeral.

At 5 o'clock in the afternoon Mr. Oloff Martini Bergh was solemnly laid to rest in the Grootekerk. At the head of the funeral procession marched 200 soldiers, behind them Captain de Lille followed by Captain van Huyden. The soldiers'guns veiled in black were carried under the right arm and the flags carried so low that they dragged along the ground. The officers'caps were covered with black material. A short distance behind this formation the weapons of the deceased were born by Ensign Thomas Schoemaker. Then came the two funeral orators leading the coffin which was draped with a black silk cloth and carried by twelve assistants, the four junior merchants holding up the corners of the cloth. The family walked behind the corpse, followed by the Governor, the Council of Policy, the Company's senior servants in the church, civilian and military service, various leading burghers and clerks in the Company's offices in that sequence, with other burghers and the Company's foremen bringing up the rear of the procession. While all the bells of the church and the Castle were ringing, the procession moved from the house of mourning directly to the Heerengracht where it turned at Colonel de Meuron's residence, thence past the widow de Wet's house to the Grootekerk. The soldiers presented arms and the military band, with drums and flutes draped in black, played a mournful salute while the coffin was borne into the church, and when it was lowered into the grave three salvos were fired, the bells ceasing to ring at the firing of the salvo.

After the ceremony the procession left the church with the soldiers again carrying their guns under their right arms and the drummers beating the retreat.

**Beyl, Johannes** born Zurich, arrived 15.12.1774 on *Vroue Maria Jakoba* for Kamer Haarlem, 1775-1777 soldier. / KAB, MR 1775-1777; NL, ARA, MR 1775-1777.

**Palingh, Hans Wedders** born Jony [**Palley** of Jongny near Vevey VD?]. 1775 sailor, sick. / KAB, MR 1775.

**Koeken / Knoetsen Tomas** born Thun **[Knuchel** ? of BE?]. 1775 able seaman and assistant to gunners. / KAB, MR 1775.

**La Conta, Michael** born Berne [**Lacombe** of Begnins or Orbe VD?], 1776 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR, 1776.

**Wilhelm, Jochem Hendrik** born Basel. 1776 recruit. / KAB, MR 1776.

**Weybel, Jacob** born Rapperswil BE [**Weibel**?], arrived 1776.1.16. on *Popkensburg* for Kamer Zeeland. 1776 soldier, 1777 sick. / KAB, MR 1776-1777.

**Wolfert, Johannes** born Zurich, arrived 16.1.1776 on *Botland* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1776-1781 soldier. / KAB, MR 1776-1781; NL, ARA, MR 1776-1777, 1780-1781.

**Bauaud, Benjamin** born Switzerland [**Baud** of GE or VD?]. Attested burgher, died Waveren (today Tulbagh) 1776.2.7. / KAB, MOOC 6/1.

**Rossel, Jacob** born Basel, arrived 13.3.1776 on *Noordbeek* for Kamer Zeeland. 1776-1777 soldier. / KAB, MR 1776-1777; NL, ARA, MR 1776-1777.

**Meynderts, Jan** born Basel, arrived on *Merenberg* as able seaman for Kamer Haarlem. 1776 sick, 1777-1778 on various boats stationed in Table Bay with pay fl 11. / KAB, MR 1776-1778; NL, ARA, MR 1777-1778.

**Geers, Benedictus** born Hinderlaken [**Gertsch** of Interlaken BE?], arrived 7.12.1776 as sailor on *Concordia* for Kamer Zeeland. 1777-1781 soldier. / KAB, MR 1777-1781.

**Cap, Frederic** born Berne [**Capt** of Le Chenit BE?], 7.10.1776-3.10.1777 loaned as domestic servant to burgher Marcus Aegidius,[1] 3.10.1777-23.3.1782 loaned to former Matrimonial Commissioner Jan Conraad Gie of Zurich,[2] 1782 assistant carpenter, sick.[3] / [1] KAB, CJ 2909 77; [2] KAB, CJ 2910: 54; [3] KAB, MR 1782.

**Alexis, Frances** born Pontepruy [Porrentruy JU?], 1777 sailor sick. / KAB, MR 1777.

**De Ginghes, Albert** born Berne, 1777 sergeant, sick. / KAB, MR 1777.

**Collberg, Johannes Pieters** born Zurich **[Kollberg**?]. 1777 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1777.

**Bek, Johan Fredrik** born Berne **[Beck**?]. 1777 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1777.

**Rousseau, Lodewyk** born Geneva, arrived 13.1.1777 on *Katwijk aan den Rijn* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1777-1780 soldier, 1781-1783 sergeant,[1] 11.11.1783 degraded to rank of corporal because of misconduct, but was immediately re-hired as sergeant in the same position, with a three year contract.[2] / KAB, MR 1777-1783, 1785; NL, ARA, MR 1777, 1779-1781, 1785; [2] KB, C 747.

**Haldringer, Uldrig** born Appenzell **[Holderegger**?], arrived 3.2.1777 on *Indiaan* as soldier fort Kamer Amsterdam. 1777 worker on new hospital. / KAB, MR 1777; NL, ARA, MR 1777.

**Bary, Frans** born Berne [**Barre** or **Barri** of Cantons Berne or Vaud], arrived 30.3.1777 on *Jonge Lieve* as soldier for Kamer Amsterdam. 1777 quarryman on Robben Island and worker on new hospital. / KAB, MR 1777; NL, ARA, MR 1777.

**Meyer, Johan Coenraad** born Zurich 19.11.1758 **[Meier?]**, son of Cavalry Captain Melchior Meyer and Anna Barbara born Finsler.[1] As young officer in the Swiss Regiment Escher in Dutch service he made himself guilty of misbehaviour, was cashiered and sent as corporal for seven years service with the VOC. He embarked on *Overduin* fully fitted out as befitted an officer and arrived 3.4.1777 at the Cape as corporal. In a letter to his parents dated 13.4.1777 he advised them of his safe arrival. No further letters arrived and enquiries were ot answered. Then in 1790 a family friend during a trip to Strassburg met Thomas Schoemaker, on leave in Switzerland, who told him that in November 1777 he had gone walking along the beach with Meyer. It being hot, Meyer, in spite of warnings, entered the water. Although a strong swimmer, the rough seas overpowered him, cast him against the rocks and he was killed. / Meyer-Otth Wilhelm: *Eine zürcherische Familiengeschichte,* in *Neujahrsblatt der Feuerwehr-gesellschsaft in Zürich, 1879,* pp. 185-189; KAB, MR 1777; NL, ARA, MR 1777.

**Chabout, Dominicus** born Berne [**Chabot** of Eclagnens VD?], arrived 1778 on *Renswoude* (?) for Kamer Edam. 1783 soldier with pay fl 13. [ Note: *Renswoude* made her last voyage arriving at the Cape 2.11.1772 and was then laid up in Batavia. Chabout's pay in 1783 indicates he was already serving his second term and in fact arrived with *Renswoude* on 2.11.1772] / KAB, MR 1783; NL, ARA, MR 1783.

**Krucke, Hendrik** born Olten SO [**Krucker** of Olten SO?]. 1778 wood-cutter in Niqua Forest on the Zwart River. / KAB, MR 1778.

**Ekeligh / Eckle, Jacob** born Zurich [**Eggerling** of Zurich ZH?]. 1778-1782 soldier, sick, 1783 recuperating. / KAB, MR 1778, 17881; NL, ARA, MR 1781, 1783.

**Donker, Arnoldus Johannes** born Chur GR. Arrived 15.2/1778 on *Leeuw* for Kamer Zeeland. 1778-1779 soldier. / KAB, MR 1778-1779.

**Carday, Louis** born Berne [**Cartier** of **Gilly** or Orbe VD?], arrived 4.7.1778 on *Hof ter Linden* for Kamer Zeeland. 1778-1779 soldier. / KAB, MR 1779; NL, ARA, MR 1779.

**Bosse, Johan** born Berne [**Bosse** of Lausanne VD?], arrived 29.11.1778 on *Europa* as able seaman for Kamer Zeeland. 1785-1791 served on various boats stationed in Table Bay. / KAB, MR 1778-1779, 1791; NL, ARA, MR 1788.

**Sch(l)aub, Nicolaas** born Basel [Schaub of BL?], arrived 29.11.1778 on *Europa* for Kasmer Zeeland. 1778-1781 soldier, 1782 wood-cutter in the forests at *Paradys* and *Witteboomen*, 1783 wagon-driver. Appears to have returned to Europe and came back again 1785 on *Slotterhoogte* for Kamer Zeeland. 1785-1789 again wood-cutter in the forests at *Paradys* and *Witteboomen*. / KAB, MR 1779, 1782, 1785; NL, ARA, MR 1779, 1782, 1785.

**De Herrenschwand, Rudolph Gabriel** born Murten FR, arrived 30.11.1778 on *Vreeburg* for Kamer Delft. 1779-1782 soldier. / KAB, MR 1779-1782; NL, ARA, MR 1780.

**Hagemann, Johann Christaan** born Lausanne VD [of Rümlang, ZH?], arrived 17.11.1779 on *Jonge Helligman* as able seaman for Kamer Amsterdam. 1780-1781 with pay fl 16, 1782 stationed at Fish Hoek, 1784 sick, 1785-1788 stationed at Saldanha Bay under Thomas Schoemaker of Sulz AG, 1789-1791 on boats *Cornelia Charlotta* and *Susanne* in Table Bay. / KAB, MR 1780-1782, 1784, 1786, 1788-1789, 1791; NL, ARA, MR 1780.

**Wift Johannes** born Zurich **[Wipf**?], arrived 21.12.1779 on *Kanaan* for Kamer Rotterdam. 1780-1782 soldier. / KAB, MR 1780-1782.

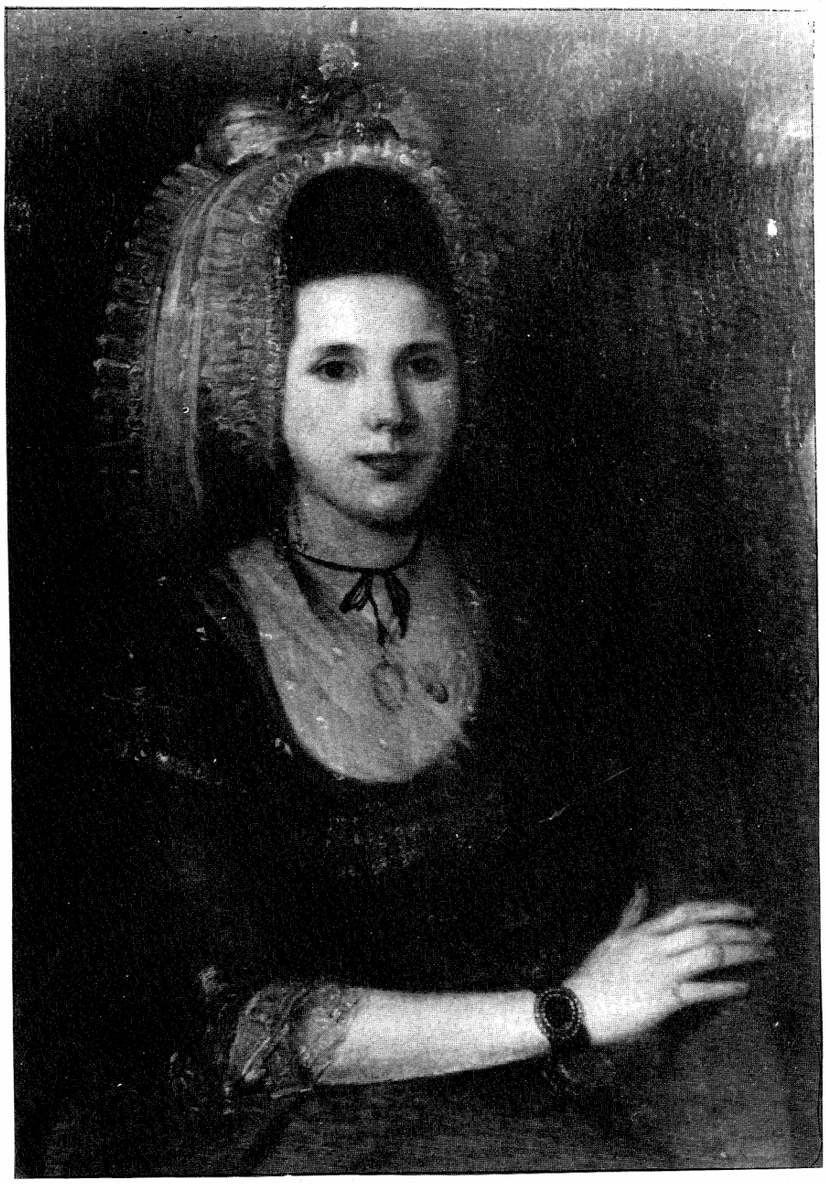
**Ruygels / Ruygeln, Wilhelmus** born Berne [**Reichelt** of Yverdon VD or **Reichen** of Bernese Oberland BE?], arrived 24.12.1779 on *Oud Haarlem* as sailor for Kamer Zeeland. 1780 wagon-driver. / KAB, MR 1780; NL, ARA, MR 1780.

**Diederick, Jan Christoffel** born Lausanne VD [**Dietrich** or **Diedrichs** of VD?]. 1780 sailor, sick. / KAB, MR 1780.

**Stroecker, Jan Christoffer** born Berne [**Struchen** of BE?], arrived 9.4.1780 on *Dolfijn* with pay fl 14, 1780 cooper. / KAB, MR 1780; NL, ARA, MR 1780.

**Nicolet, Susanne Margaretha** born Lignerolle NE 1748 daughter of Colin Nicollet and Jeanne Francoise Leresche. Arrived 4.14.1780 on *De Parel* to marry Colonel Robert Jacob Gordon, commander of the Military at the Cape.[1, 2 & 3] After his death in 1795 she returned to Switzerland with her children:[4]

1. Robert baptised 16.9.1781. 1785-1787 cadet, 1787-1795 ensign with pay fl 40,[5 & 6] died France 1815 as Colonel in the French army.
2. Pieter baptised 23.11.1783, 1787-1795 cadet with pay fl 12, died Serbia c. 1827 as Lieutenant in the French army.
3. Otto baptised 23.1.1785, died 13.3.1787.[7]
4. Alexander baptised 9.4.1786, as French naval lieutenant took part in the battle of Trafalgar, 1820 First Lieutenant in the Dutch Fleet, 1823 leather tanner in Amsterdam, 1828 industrialist in Brussels, Belgium.
5. Johanna baptised 23.12.1787.
6. Johannes Isaac (James?) baptised 8.2.1789, 1808 student in Utrecht, died 1817.



*Susanna Margaretha Nicolet, 1780-1795 wife of Colonel Robert Jacob Gordon, Head of the Military Establishment at the Cape.*
(Photo: Cape Archives)

7. Possibly a son, William, not baptised in Cape Town, served as Captain of Swiss troops stationed in Paris.

THE TRAGIC STORY OF SUSANNA NICOLET

When the Swiss Regiment Meuron arrived at the Cape in 1783, Colonel Gordon was Captain of the Garrison and Head of the Military Establishment. Count Meuron and his officers must have been delighted to find that his wfe Susanna was a compatriot. Gordon was of Scottish descent, his grandfather having settled in Holland where both he and his son, the father of Robert Jacob Gordon, served in the Scottish Brigade. Robert preferred a military career in the Dutch army and in 1777 was sent out to the Cape as captain. He spent the first three years there exploring the Cape as far as the Orange and Great Fish Rivers. A keen observer with a university degree in the natural sciences, he made botanical and zoological collections and wrote copious notes on his experiences. These have been carefully preserved, but the letters he wrote to his betrothed, waiting in Europe to be called to his side, appear to have been lost; they might have told us how they met, whether during his visit to the Swiss Alps around 1774 to study glaciers, or in Amsterdam where two of her sisters were married to Dutch businessmen.

Three years after his arrival at the Cape, Gordon was appointed Commanding Officer. Now that he was to lead a more sedentary life and also do representative duties, he immediately made travel arrangements for Susanna and a personal maid and within nine days of her arrival here the marriage took place. In a period when all the principal people at the Cape entertained lavishly and most gave a ball every month, Susanna supported her husband most ably, besides bearing him six sons and a daughter. The French traveller Le Vaillant described her as being very kind hearted and beloved by all.

The Gordons lived at *Schoongezicht* in Oranjezicht[8] and later, with a view to early retirement, bought the farm *Bouwers Kloof* at the foot of the Paardeberg near Malmesbury.[9]

In 1789 France exploded in revolution and waves of unrest spread far and wide. In the Netherlands the governing Stadholder initially maintained his position with the aid of Prussian troops until the French revolutionary army overran his country and he fled to England. The British were eager to grant him asylum. Nine years earlier their attempt to capture the Cape had been foiled by the early arrival of a French fleet. Now they lost no time in obtaining a letter from the Stadholder directing the governor at the Cape to welcome the British as protectors. Although the British made sure no news reached the Cape of the accord reached by the French with the Dutch people and their rejection of the Stadholder, the Company officials at the Cape remained distrustful of the British and kept them at arm's length with never-ending negotiations.

Gordon, on the other hand, as soldier loyal to the Stadholder, appears to have decided at an early stage to accept the Stadholder's letter at face value. He deliberately neglected to strengthen the defences and during the British advance from Simon's Town towards Cape Town withheld reinforcements from the defenders. The only time he is reported to have faced his troops with drawn sword to issue a command, was when they were assembled at the Castle and he ordered them to surrender their weapons to the British. The burgher militia cried treason and the people branded Gordon as a traitor. He was manhandled and came close to being killed. The British officers present made no move to save him and throughout the ceremony only the British flag was raised, never the Stadholder's standard. Gordon came to realise that the British had misused the Stadholder's letter to trick the defenders so as to gain the Cape for themselves. He saw his honour lost, his family exposed to ridicule and shame. He took his own life in the garden of *Schoongezicht.*

Susanna must have shared her husband's agony as the seeds of doubt grew to certainty. Now suddenly her happy life at the Cape was shattered. With her children she returned to Switzerland. More sadness awaited her there. Her eldest son Robert serving under Napoleon at the defeat of Waterloo, suffered the fate which so nearly overtook his father at the surrender: his men accused him of treason, maltreated and killed him. The

youngest son, James, a student in Holland, died soon after. The second son, Peter, was killed while serving as French officer in a war between Serbs and Turks.

/ [1] MacLean, J.: *Robert Jacob Gordon*; [2] Barnard, C.J.: *Robert Jacob Gordon se Loopbaan*; [3] Cullinan, Patrick: *Robert Jakob (James) Gordon*; [4] MacLean, J.: *Robert Jacob (James) Gordon*; [5] KAB, MR 1787-1789; [6] KAB, BO 237; [7] KAB, MOOC 6/1; [8] KAB, DO, T6250, 16.33.1788; [9] KAB, DO, T6915, 10.2.1795.

**Bienvignon [Benvegnin], Anne Albertine** of Vufflens-la-Ville near Lausanne, VD born Morges VD 23.12.1748, daughter of Jean Baptiste Benvignen and Louise Dumont.[1] From letters preserved in the Cape Archives,[2] we know that she had a brother-in-law, Daniel Rougemont, and a sister, Mrs. Licette Schoultz, in Amsterdam. The letters also show that she was well educated and came from a middle-class background. It appears that she arrived 14.4.1780 on *De Paarl* as personal maid or companion to Susanne Nicolet, the bride of Robert Jacob Gordon, Commanding Officer at the Castle. Two years after arrival on 13.4.1782 she married the widowed tailor Jan Christiaan Yselle of Hasle BE and they had four children.

Yselle owned a house in which, as was usual then, he lived, plied his trade in one of the rooms and took boarders. Mrs. Yselle would give preference to compatriots, officers of the Swiss Regiment Meuron for whom she kept an open house, a doubly attractive proposition because of her pretty stepdaughters.

After the regiment was transferred to Ceylon, officers travelling around the Cape lodged at Mrs. Yselle's during their stay here. Several letters of appreciation are preserved, amongst them one from Colonel de Meuron advising that in appreciation of her hospitality he had arranged with the firm of Rougemont & Fesquet of London to supply her with a "very good and excellent pianoforte".[3]

After her husband's death in 1807 Mrs. Yselle had a shop in Longmarket Street. She died 1817.[4] For children see Yselle.

/ [1] Hoge: *Personalia*; [2] KAB, MOOC 14/199, letters; [3] KAB, MOOC 14/9, letter signed by J.J. Bolle, 14.3.1798; [4] KAB, MOOC 6/2.

**Ter Saan, Joseph** born Geneva, arrived 16.4.1780 on *Patriot* as naval gunner for Kamer Amsterdam. 1781 sailor on the boat *Cornelia Charlotta* stationed in Table Bay, with pay fl 16. / KAB, MR 1781; NL, ARA, MR 1781.

**Van Barsten, Hendrik** born Berne, arrived 31.8.1780 on *Morgenster* as sailor for Kamer Amsterdam with pay fl 9, "stationed at the settlement for the duration of the war". / KAB, MR 1782; NL, ARA, MR 1782

**Biller, Johannes** born Berne [**Bühler** of BE or **Billard** of VD?], arrived 18.11.1780 on *Vrouwe Kornelia Hillgonda* as able seaman for Kamer Leersum. 1781 mason with pay fl 14, 1782-1784 carpenter at new hospital, 1783 soldier. / KAB, MR 1781-1782; NL, ARA, MR 1781-1784.

**Halfheer, Rudolf** born Zurich [**Halbheer**?], 1781 mason, sick. / KAB, MR 1781.

**Scheffer** born "Zweets" [**Schäfer**? Schwyz?], 1781 sailor, sick. / KAB, MR 1781.

**Steyger, Caspar** born Meyringen / Willenberg [Steiger? born Willigen near Meiringen BE?] Possibly arrived 1781, in 1786 renewed his contract as soldier with pay fl 13,[1] 1800 in the public gardens.[2] / [1] KAB, C 747; [2] *Cape Directory 1800*.

**Locher, Frans** born Bothen ZH [Boden near Winterthur ZH?], arrived 2.4.1781 on *Diamant* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1781 assistant with the gunners, 1782 able seaman with pay fl 13. / KAB, MR 1781-1782; NL, ARA, MR 1781.

**Snell, Jacob** born Zurich [**Schnell** of Zurich?], arrived 2.12.1782[1] on *Zeepaard* for Kamer Amsterdam with pay fl 13. 1783 soldier. / NL, ARA, MR 1783.

**Meyer, Hendrik** born Basel 1732 [Meier?], arrived 2.12.1782 on *Java*. 1785-1786 soldier, sick,[2] 1.3.1787 loaned for three years as blacksmith to burgher Johannes Frederic Bierman,[3] 1790 probably loaned for three years to Jacob van Deventer,[4] 1794-1800 lived as discharged soldier at Hout Bay where he was employed as blacksmith and farmhand by burgher Johannes Helsdingen.[1, 5 & 6] / [1] KAB, C 1064: 50; [2] KAB, MR 1785-1786; [3] KAB, CJ 2913: 55; [4] KAB, C 1005, 28.2.1792; [5] KAB, J 443, Company's Servants 1799; [6] *Cape Directory 1800*.

**Amman, Johan Anton**, born Chur GR, arrived 2.12.1782 on *Bot* as commander with pay fl 20 for Kamer Zeeland. 1784-1791 sergeant. / KAB, MR 1787-1789, 1791; NL, ARA, MR 1784-1786, 1788.

**Vallentyn, Jacob** born Sent GR 1751,[1] arrived 2.12.1782 on *Voorberg* as sailor,[2] 1783 mason,[3] 1791 placed on pension and worked as mason in the Drakenstein and Stellenbosch Districts,[2] during 1800-1801 he lived at C.H. van Aarde's place.[2 & 4] Died Cape Town 1812.[1] / [1] KAB, MOOC 6/2; [2] KAB, 1/STB 16/137; [3] KAB, MR 1783; [4] KAB, J 226, Citizens Roll 1801.

**Sterbar, Johan Mathias** born GR [**Steinhaur** of Sages GR?]. 1782-1783 soldier. / KAB, MR 1782-1783.

**Leme, Casper** born "Kinsberg" [Lehmann?**,** Kienberg SO?]. 1783 soldier stationed at an outpost. / KAB, MR 1783.

ALPHABETICAL REGISTER OF SWISS MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT MEURON AT THE CAPE

**Bailly, Jean-Baptiste** born Neuchatel or Vevey VD. Joined regiment as Lieutenant 1.6.1871, left regiment at the Cape. / Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 300.

**Bosset, Louis Francois Charles / Louis Philippe** (?) born Neuchatel or Berne. Entered as Ensign, 5.8.1795. Stationed at the depot at the Cape. Rejoined the regiment in India, Lieutenant, 25.9.1798. Took part in campaigns in India, 1801 and 1802. Returned to Europe and resigned 1807. / Meuron, Guy de: *Le régiment Meuron*, *1781-1816,* p. 302.

**De Bonstetten, Baron Charles-Phillipe-Rodolphe** born Berne. Entered as Captain, 1.6.1871. Resigned 10.11.1787 at the request of the Company and entered Company service as Captain of the Recruits at the Cape with pay fl 100.[1]

A TALE OF DISAPPOINTED EXPECTATIONS

Bonstetten persistently demanded that the Company should give him a higher rank with improved pay. To appease him, Governor de Graaff promoted him to Major Extra-ordinaire with his salary increased to 2 323 rixdalers on condition that he refund this

amount should the Directors refuse to ratify the appointment. They refused and Bonstetten decided to relinquish his position and return to Europe, at the same time requesting a pension and a more distinguished titular rank without increase in pay. This too was refused,[2] but he was given permission to leave after the Governor had coerced his own son and Louis Thibault to stand surety for the repayments due by Bonstetten. Back in Switzerland Bonstetten joined the Swiss army as major and had the means to repay but defaulted, which caused some finanial anxiety for Thibault.[3]

/ Meuron, Guy de: *Le régiment Meuron*, *1781-1816,* p. 301 and KAB, MR 1788-1789; [2] Leibbrandt: *Requesten* 1790: 70; [3] De Puyfontaine: *Louis Michel Thibault.*

A BRAVE SOLDIER AND MAN OF PROPERTY

**De la Harpe, Jean-Charles** born Rolle VD, born 22.4.1751, died George 8.8.1839.

De La Harpe was the Swiss with the most distinguished family background to settle at the Cape before 1800. From him all the De La Harpes in South Africa are descended. By coincidence Aubonne lies only about three kilometres from the birthplace of Jean Sublet who found happiness in a humble cottage in the mountains above Simon's Town. Was Jean-Charles more successful?

The De La Harpes have traced their family tree back to 1387 when one Pierre de Alpa & de Apa, *Chambellan de Boppe* and *Régente de Savoie*, became burgess of the town Thonon on the French shore of Lake Geneva.[1] Throughout the ages they have maintained their upper class status. Members of the family entered various professions and many distinguished themselves. Thus a Frenchman passing through Cape Town in 1795 referred to Jean-Charles as "the nephew of the academician de La Harpe" and a distant cousin, Frederic-Ceasar de La Harpe, was tutor of the young Alexander who later as Tsar of Russia defeated Napoleon's army. Many embarked on military careers and indeed the officers' roll of the Regiment Meuron lists three De La Harpes.

La Harpe was 32 when he arrived here with the regiment in 1783. He soon married a local girl, Christina Mostert, by whom he had seven children. When the regiment was sent to Ceylon he was seriously ill and remained here, serving as Lieutenant-Captain at the regimental depot until his resignation in 1790, when he became a burgher of the Cape.

As burgher he was required to join the burgher militia in which he served as second in command of the cavalry. When the British invaded the Cape in 1795 he saw active service during which his outstanding bravery was noted. The cavalry had strongly supported Colonel Henry's plan to attack the British while they were consolidating their position in Muizenberg. When this was thwarted by orders from the Castle, they took independent offensive action wherever possible. During the British advance from Muizenberg towards Wynberg, the Burgher Cavalry although comprising only about 200 horsemen, turned back to challenge them and opened a tremendous fire. But the British kept on advancing steadily in the open country and spread out, forcing the Burgher Cavalry to fall back. Jean-Charles seeing his banner retreating at full speed, snatched it from the standard bearer as he was galloping past and planted it on a dune in the face of the British Colonel, urging his comrades to rally and halt the enemy's advance. La Harpe was so close to the British that a shower of bullets came down around him. A British soldier leapt from amongst the bushes in order to fell him but de La Harpe's horse, startled by the sudden appearance of the soldier, swerved and the shot went astray.[3]

During the second British invasion in 1806 La Harpe now 56 years old, was Captain-Lieutenant of the Burgher Cavalry. The account book for the war chest records that he

was compensated for the loss of a horse which perished during an urgent errand to Swellendam.[4]

In civilian life de La Harpe seems to have prospered in business (in one instance exporting 600 bags of wheat to Mauritius).[5 & 6] By 1795 he could afford to buy a house in Berg Street from the wife of De Sandol Roy of Neuchatel;[7] this he sold after his wife's death in 1799 – possibly after being assured of the government appoinments as Field Cornet of Steenberg and Overseer of Government Domains, Buildings and Outposts.[8] In its stead he bought the farms *Vreedenhoff* and *Pietersklip* with adjoining land at Wynberg, altogether 77 hectares[9] situated between the present Victoria Hospital and the Main Road where a street still bears the name *Vreedehoff.* His household now consisted of himself, four sons and a daughter. The properties contained 10 hectares planted with 5 000 vines, he had 9 male and 2 female slaves to do the manual work, 9 horses for working the land and riding and pulling the carriage, and a pig to fatten on kitchen refuse.[10] In September 1800 he married his second wife, Anna Catharina Elizabeth ten Bergen of Bergen-op-Zoom NL.

The soldiers of the nearby military camp were however a troublesome and de La Harpe complained to the Governor that this was causing him losses. He unsuccessfully suggested that they take his farm and give him instead the farm *Kirstenbosch.*[11] Instead he acquired the farm *Arieskraal*[12] to which he soon added the adjoining farm *Somerfontein*[13] – both situated in the present Kogelberg Forest Reserve. However, he soon found *Arieskraal* too isolated. He left his eldest son to farm there and in 1814 obtained the farm *Drie Valeyen* (present day *Langkraal*) near Mossel Bay where he built a farmhouse which was later declared a National Monument but burned down before it could be renovated. To this farm he also added more land, the farm *Adjoining Drievalleyen* (present day *Geelbeksvlei*) totalling about 2 000 hectares.[14] Here he farmed and filled the position of Field Cornet for Outiniqualand until old age came upon him, when he sold out and bought a plot on the Piesangs River where now stands Plettenberg Bay.[15] Two years later, now 70 years old, he sold this plot to Michiel Hendrik Kapp[16] and went to live at his son Karl Wilhelm's place in Port Elizabeth,[17] a small port which was booming since the arrival of the 1820 settlers.

Jean-Charles de La Harpe passed away at the age of 88 in the house of his eldest son Jean in George.[2] His children who reached adulthood:

1. Esther Jacoba Eliese born 1787, married 1804, Petrus Johannes Taute. They moved to the Free State.
2. Jean Charles Johannes born 1788, lieutenant in the artillery, married 1811 Anna Katharina, daughter of Christian Kemper born Gotha, Germany, by whom he had two daughters. Initially farmed on *Arieskraal*,[18] later moved to George where he farmed on a small scale and 1821-1828 was Field Cornet and 1829-1831 Deputy Sheriff.[19]
3. Carolus Hendrik Wilhelmus (Von Bonstetten was his godfather) born 1790, married 1810 Anna Cornelia Hilligers by whom he had two sons. Resident in Port Elizabeth 1822-1825.[20]
4. Bernardus / Barend born 1793, married 1820 Maria Martha Meeding, daughter of the Assistant Magistrate at Swellendam and Supervisor of Outiniqua Forest. 1818 Overseer of Forests at Plettenberg Bay,[20] later postmaster at George and Plettenberg Bay,[21] and lastly butcher in George.[22]

/ [1] KAB, A1368; [2] KAB, MOOC 6/9/17, Estate 3680/1839; [3] De Puyfontaine: *Louis Michel Thibault*, pp. 11-12; [4] KAB, ZA 5/1/14; [5] KAB, C 93, pp. 569, 629; [6] KAB, BO 86; [7] KAB, DO, T6909, 1.1.1795; [8] *Cape Almanac 1800*; [9] KAB, DO, T7718/1799; [10] KAB, J 37; [11] KAB, CO 4312: 638, 2.12.1806; [12] KAB, QQR 302, p. 601, 6.8.1807; [13]

KAB, CO 4313: 309, 3.11.1809; [14] KAB, QQR 70 (Grants George 1814-1914), 4.11.1814 & 7.7.1815; [15] KAB, DO, T 5.1.1819; [16] KAB, DO, T 19.10.1821; [17] KAB, J 405, Port Elizabeth 1822; [18] KAB, J 235; [19] *Cape Almanacs 1829-1831*; [20] KAB, CO 4317: 1036; [21] KAB, CO 6139, Civil List: Post Office; [22] KAB, CO 4322: 502.

**De la Raître, François-Moulé, Chevalier** born Lausanne VD. Entered as Cadet – Sergeant, Ensign and Titular Sub-Lieutenant, 1.6.1781. Ensign 15.8.1785, Lieutenant 1.6.1787. Resigned in Ceylon, 10.1.1791.[1] Killed a French sailor in self-defence, 28.8.1783.[2] / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 325; [2] KAB, CJ 120: *Originale Rollen en Minuten*, 28.8.1783, p. 115; CJ 418: Documents in Criminal Cases, 28.8.1783, p. 755.

**Delloy, Benoît / Laurent-Benoît** born Porrentruy JU. Entered as Captain Lieutenant, 1.6.1781. Died at the Cape, 6.1.1788. / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 305

**De Meuron, Charles-Daniel** born Saint Sulpice NE 1738. Served September 1755-August 1763 in the Swiss Regiment Hallwyl based at Rochefort, initially as Ensign, then as Sub-Lieutenant. On campaign at Martinique, December 1757-January 1759. Entered the Swiss Guards as Sub-Lieutenant January 1765, appointed *Chevalier de l'Ordre Royal du Mérite militaire*, 30.5 or 2.6.1773. Received a commission for the rank of colonel, 21.6.1778. Signed a contract with the Dutch East India Company, to raise a Swiss-Neuchatelese regiment under his name, of which he wass to become Proprietary Colonel. Arrived at the Cape with the regiment on 7.2.1783.[1] While in Cape Town he resided in a house which he bought on 2.6.1784 from Abraham Chiron and sold on 23.3.1786 to Petrus Johannes Truter.[2] In March 1786 he entrusted the command of the regiment to his brother Pierre-Frederic and embarked for Europe. Travelled to the Netherlands and to Berlin, where in October 1789 he received the title of Chamberalin of the King of Prussia. During 1791 he made another trip to the Netherlands, England and Berlin, returning to St. Sulpice in autumn 1792. In March/April 1795 he negotiated the transfer of the Regiment Meuron into British service with Hugh Cleghorn, envoy of the Government in London. Appointed Major-General in the British army, 30.3.1795.

While at the Cape collected plants which are now part of the natural history specimens which he donated 6.6.1795 to and are now preserved by the town of Neuchatel. He is commemorated in *Erica meuronii* Benth.[3] Travelled to India for effecting the transfer of his regiment into British service. Took residence in Madras and signed the Contract of Madras, 2.8.1796. During 1797 returned to London to conclude the Contract of London on 25.9.1798. In June 1800 he received the Order of the Red Eagle in Berlin, then retired to Neuchatel. Was appointed Lieutenant-General in the British Army, 9.4.1802, and died 4.4.1806.[4]

/ [1] A. Linder: *The Swiss Regiment Meuron at the Cape and afterwards, 1781-1816*, p. 29; [2] KAB, DO, ZK 8/4/1 : T5730, 2.6.1784 and T6009, 23.3.1786; [3] Gunn & Codd, p. 129; [4] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 317.

**De Meuron, Pierre-Frederic** born Saint Sulpice NE. Entered as Captain, with rank of Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, 1.6.1781. Commanding Colonel, 1.4.1787. Commanded the regiment at the Cape immediately before its departure, and later in Ceylon wher he led two campaigns against the subjects of the King of Kandy. Brigadier-General, 30.3.1795. President of the *De Meuron Committee* and commander of the British troops on Ceylon, June 1797-February 1799. Major-General, 1.1.1798. Returned to Europe,

18.3.1801, and remained in London until 1807. Lieutenant-General, 1.1.1805. Proprietory Colonel of the regiment after the death of his brother, 7.4.1806. Retired from sevice, 23.10.1812. Died at Neuchatel, 30.3.1813. / Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, pp. 319-320.

**De Meuron, Pierre-Henry** born Neuchatel, recorded at the Cape as Johann Heinrich de Meuron of Neustadt. Entered as recruit, later Cadet. Died at the Cape, 1798, aged 38 years. / Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*.

**De Meuron-Bullot, Jean-Pierre** born Neuchatel NE. Entered as Captain 1.6.1781. Major, 1.7.1783. Lieutenant-Colonel, 9.11.1785. Colonel 29.4.1802 (?) At various times acting commander of regiment. Did not participate in the campaign in Mysore due to illness, having to remain in Vellore. Colonel, 29.4.1802. Married Cape Town 9.4.1786 Elisabeth Alleman baptised 1763. They had two daughters, both baptised in Cape Town. / Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*.

**De Meuron-Môtiers, Henry-David** born Môtiers NE. Entered as Captain-Lieutenant, 1.6.1781. Served at the Cape and in Ceylon, 1783-1795. Captain, 8.9.1790. Major, 8.9.1790 (?). Lieutenant-Colonel, 25.9.1798. Participated in the campaign in Mysore during which he commanded the regiment, and in the campaigns in India in 1801. Commander of the regiment after the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Pierre de Meuron-Bullot, 21.10.1803.[1] Married Jeanne Marie Roger of Sedan, France, sister of Abraham Chiron's wife, at the Cape 30.11.1783. They had three daughters and a son, all baptised in Cape Town.[2] Bought house, 1787.[3] Accidentally drowned at Seringaptam, 23.9.1804.[4] / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 319; [2] A. Linder: *The Swiss at the Cape of Good Hope 1652-1971*, pp. 190-191; [3] KAB, DO, ZK 8/4/1: T6170, 28.5.1787, erf between Blocks V and W from Reyne A Pierre L.; [4] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 319.

**De Poligny, Dominique /Jean-Baptiste-Dominique** born VS. Entered as Cadet-Sergeant and Titular Sub-Lieutenant, 1.6.1781. Ensign, 1.6.1783. Lieutenant, 1.9.1786. Resigned, 14.1.1790.[1] In the same year, on arrival at the Cape en route to Europe, requested permission to transfer from the Company ship *Huis Duinen* to a French or American ship, in order to proceed to France or Mauritius, as circumstances did not permit him to go to Holland. / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 324; [2] Leibbrandt: *Requesten 113*, 8.5.1789..

**De Querrenet, Francois-Hippolyte / Quernet de Blassin, Francois-Hippolyte** born Le Landeron NE. Entered as Cadet-Sergeant and Titular Sub-Lieutenant, 1.6.1781. Resigned, 18.9.1788. / Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 325.

**De Sandol-Roy, Francois / Isaac-Francois** born Neuchatel NE. Entered as Major, 1.6.1781. Lieutenant-Colonel, 1.7.1783. Resigned, 9.11.1785. / Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 327.

**De Sandol-Roy, Simon** born Neuchatel NE. Entered as Captain, 1.6.1871. Resigned 10.11.1787 to serve as Captain of the Recruits under De Bonstetten.[1] 1789 after De Bonstetten's departure Major and Commander of the Military Depot. Complaints of unfair and poor treatment received from Major Sandol were lodged by recruits after arrival in Ceylon.[2] Clashed with Colonel Gordon on administrative matters. His pay was discontinued 15.4.1791.[3] Arrested 1793 and sent to Batavia where the Council of Justice

was unable to hear his case. In the same year the Government of Batavia cleared his name, restored him to his rank and appointed him to high positions. By 1806 he was commander of the land forces in Java and neighbouring areas. Two years later he was dismissed by Governor-General H.W. Daendels on charges of maladministration and corruption and sent back to Europe.[4] Married Geertruyda Cornelia van Schoor of the Cape, 13.6.1784. He bought a house in 1785,[5] which his wife sold on 1.1.1795.[6] They had one son and two daughters, baptised in Cape Town.[7] / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 327; [2] KAB, VC 35, p. 459; [3] KAB, C 1005: *Bylaes tot Inkomende Brieven,* 3-21.08.1792, p. 119; [4] *Dictionary of South African Biography,* vol. III, p, 209; [5] KAB, DO ZK 8/4/1 : T5977, 27.12.1785, erf in Burg Street Block GG, from Jean Martin; [6] C.C. de Villiers and C.Pama: *Genealogies of old South Africa Families*, p. 822; [7] DRC, G1/13/2.

**Desbarbiers / Des Barbier, Francois / Francois-Louis** born Neuchatel. Entered as Ensign, 1.6.1871. Lieutenant, 1.5.1782. Captain-Lieutenant, date unknown. Died in Europe, 3.5.1787. / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 305

**De Sergeans, Benoît** born Peseux NE. Entered as Second Colonel, 1.6.1781. Never really commanded the regiment. Resigned at the Cape, 1.7.1783. / KAB, DO ZK 8/4/1 : T6909, 11.1.1795.

**Dietrich, Jean Jacques** born Basel, soldier, arrived 1783, 14.3.1787 resigned and entered Company service. / KAB, C 47.

**Donzel, Jean** born Les Breleux NE. Entered 14.9.1781. Ensign, 14.9.1782. Lieutenant, 15.8.1785. Captain-Lieutenant, 18.1.1788. Died Trincomalee, 10.4.1790. / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 305.

**Dubois, Pierre** born Saint-Suplice NE. Entered as Lieutenant, 1.6.1781. Captain-Lieutenant, 1.5.1782. Resigned at the Cape, January 1788. / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 305.

**Dubois-Dunilac, Charles** born Neuchatel NE. Entered as Lieutenant, 1.6.1781. Captain-Lieutenant, 1.6.1783. Resigned at the Cape, 20.11.1788. / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 306.

**Esch(er), Pieter** born Aarburg AG, soldier. Pieter Esch(er) and Jean Dumas were found guilty of theft and burglary, September 1786. The first named was originally sentenced to be hanged. This was commuted to having the hangman's noose around his neck, then lashed, branded and sent for 15 years to Robben Island. / CH, Neuchatel, AEN, Arch. Fam. Meuron: Dossier no. 57, Letter No. 38, 4.11.1786.

**J. J. Escher** (also recorded as **P. Escher**) born Zurich ZH 1766, was a nephew of Colonel Escher von Schwandegg of Zurich. He served as Lieutenant in a Swiss regiment in French service, before joining the Regiment Meuron. Arrived at the Cape May 1793.[1] Cadet Sergeant at Regimental Depot, 13.10.1795.[2] He was repatriated on a British cartel ship which departed on 10.11.1795. During the sea voyage he became homesick for the Cape. On landing in England, he returned on the next ship. Not heard of since.[3] Four months later a Peter Escher "of Dolles" married Cathatrina Petronella Oudtshoorn at the Grootekerk. / [1] Meyer-Otth, W.: *Eine zürcherische Familien-*

*geschichte,* pp. 185-189; [2] KAB, BO 237, Military and Naval Lists, Sept.-Oct. 1795, p. 62; [3] Meyer-Otth, W.: *Eine zürcherische Familiengeschichte,* pp. 185-189; [4] KAB, CJ 3189; [5] KAB, BO 237.

**Ferrarie, Pierre-David** born Neuchatel, sergeant. At surrender 13.10.1795 Quartermaster (Fourier) at regimental depot, applied to remain at the Cape.[1] 1800 lived at 46 Strand Street together with Edward Stewart and Joseph Bray,[2] died unmarried, 26.10.1800.[3] / KAB, BO 237; [2] *Cape Diretory 1800*; [3] KAB, MOOC 6/2.

**Filsjean, Pierre-Francois** born Porrentruy JU. Entered as Cadet-Adjudant and Lieutenant, 30.4.1786. Ensign, 1.6.1787. Resigned in India as Captain-Lieutenant.[1] While stationed at the Cape, he started a pottery together with fellow officer Second Surgeon Charles-Philippe Caudemont.[2] / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 307; CH, AEN, Arch. Fam. Meuron: Dossier no. 57, Letter no. 29, 23.12.1785.

**Fivaz, Albert** born Yverdon VD. Cadet, after August 1786 Cadet-Sergeant, from May 1785 assistant to staff officer Francois-Joseph Raymond.[1] Retired from regiment 1.1.1800 as Captain *Grand-Juge*[2] and settled in England where he married and had three children. The youngest, Lewis George emigrated to the Cape where he became chief constable of George Town and has many descendants.[3] / CH, AEN, Arch. Fam. Meuron: Dossier no. 27, Letter no. 38, 30.11.1785; Dossier no. 19-II, p. 26; [2] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 308, [3] A. Linder: *The Swiss at the Cape of Good Hope 1652-1971*, p. 308.

**Garnier, André** born Neuchatel NE. Entered as Lieutenant, 1.6.1781 with duties as quartermaster attached to the staff. Died Colombo, 1792. / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 309.

**Gigaud, Samuel** born Neuchatel NE. Entered as Lieutenant, 1.6.1781. Captain-Lieutenant, 1.7.1784. Captain, 22.9.1788. Was attached to the 2nd Company which accompanied Governor Van Angelbeek when he was transferred from Colombo to Batavia. Died at Vellore, 19.9.1796. [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 309.

**Henry dit le Nieps, Andre-Urbain,** born Nyon VD. Entered as Captain, 1.6.1781. When the regiment left for Ceylon he remained behind as officer commanding the regimental depot. His funeral hatchment in the Grootekerk reads: *Andre Urbain Henery Delenips, Captain in the Swiss Regiment de Meuron, Officer Commanding the Depot at the Cape of Good Hope. Born 15 Oct. 1753. Died 25 August 1787.*

Married Elsabe Antonetta Jacoba la Febre of Cape Town, 10.7.1785. They had no children. After his death she married Michiel Coenraad, son of Johan Coenraad Gie of Zurich, and the title of Le Nieps passed to Captain Louis-Henry Prevost afterwards known as Colonel Henry. / Grootekerk: Funeral hatchment to the right of the pulpit.

**Kiburg, Jean-Ulrich** born Mönchenstein BL, of Basel BS 25.12.1761, son of Hyeronymus Kyburt, parson at Mönchenstein near Muttenz BL, and grandson of Hans Jakob Kyburt, Provincial Governor of Farnsburg.[1]

Entered as Cadet-Sergeant, Ensign and Sub-Lieutenant attached to the corps, 1.6.1781. Ensign, 2.9.1782. Lieutenant, 1.7.1784. Captain-Lieutenant at Cape depot, 18.1.1788.[2] Kiburg was Officer Commanding on Robben Island while the Regiment

Luxemburg en route to France was quarantined there December 1788 to March 1789.[3] When difficulties arose with the King of Kandy, and the Governor of Ceylon requested reinforcements from the Cape, Kiburg volunteered to lead them.[4] Departed for Colombo 3.10.1791 on *Meeutje*. Returned on *Jonkvroue Sibilla Anthionetta*, departing Galle 12.1.1793 and arriving in Cape Town 7.4.1793. Prominent in the defence of the Cape in 1795, and resigned from the regiment in the same year, made a living as businessman and farmer.[5] In 1791 he had bought a house with packing-shed and garden[6] and in 1796 he bought yet another house.[7] After unsuccessfully requesting the farm *Karnemelk Fonteijn* in the Groene Kloof on 1.10.1795[8] he sold both houses and 1797 bought the farm *Paarde Valley* in Hottentots Holland from Johanna Smuts[9] where he farmed for four years. According to the 1800 census he had one farmhand, 18 male slaves and two female slaves, 72 horses, 43 beasts and 780 sheep, 18 leaguers of wine (produced from his own vines) and had harvested 135 bags of grain.[10]

At the end of 1801 he sold the farm to Ryno Johannes van der Riet and moved back to town where he bought a house, again with a packing shed, at No. 1 Buitenkant from Oloff Martinus Bergh.[11] He went into the transport business, moving anything from bricks to corpses (his book of transactions is preserved in the Archives) and at the same time wrote to his brother Bernard in Basel for help in obtaining commission agencies. When he could spare money he sent it home and on occasion wrote to his parents asking them to send cheese and kirsch for which he had a great longing.[12]

Kiburg was co-founder and first president of the *Societeit Concordia*[13] the first social club in Cape Town. It was started during First British Occupation by 36 members. A house with garden bought to serve as their meeting place were registered in Kiburg's name[14]. The original name of the house, Rosenburg, was changed to Concordia. The house stood behind St. Mary's cathedral in what is now Concordia Street, and had a wine cellar, billiard table, skittles and library. Each new member paid an entrance fee of 46 rix-dollars (£8) and placed 25 bottles of wine in the cellar. The monthly subscription of 12 shillings paid for the slave stewards. Every year members placated their wives by giving a ball and supper. All kinds of political discussion and gambling were prohibited.[15] Nevertheless General Dundas had his doubts about the club, and thought it might be a meeting place for men inspired by French revolutionary ideas. In response to an official enquiry, senior members J.U. Kiburg, J.J.F. Wagener and S. Eckard 6.1.1799 called on General Dundas and were told that he was satisfied with the explanation given to the Fiscal and conveyed to him.[16]

During the Batavian period Kiburg was Captain and Commander of the *Kaapse Jagers*.[17] He also owned the place *Lutgensburg* on the Black River.[18] In 1806 the British again occupied the Cape and Kiburg again had to turn to business for a living, but 1807 he is recorded as living alone, owning 6 slaves and 2 horses.[19] 1815 Dr. Liesching was called to his deathbed.[21] The account for the funeral expenses includes one interesting item, the hire of a messenger to carry the news of Kiburg's death to family living outside town.[21]

Married 15.4.1787 Petronella Jacoba Steyn of Darmstadt, and 1803 Elisabeth Wilhelmina de Villiers. Both marriages remained childless.

/ [1] CH, Liestal, Staatsarchiv Basel-Landschaft; [2] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 312; [3] KAB, C181: *Resolutiën van de Raad van Politie, 13 January 1789*; [4] Leibbrandt: *Requesten 1791:72*; [5] KAB, MOIB 2/2/3, folder marked J.U. Kibourg: Kiburg's diary; Bruijn JR, *Dutch-Asiatic Shipping*, vol. II, p. 748, and vol. III, p. 564; [6] KAB, DO ZK 8/4/1: T6576, 8.8.1791, erf, house, packing shed and garden from Estate late Johannes Steyn, sold T7444, 1798; [7] KAB, DO ZK 8/4/1: 7085, 30.9.1796 sold T7220, 1797; [8] KAB, BO 20; [9] KAB, DO ZK 8/4/1: T7132, 27.1.1797 sold T110/1802; [10] KAB, J 226: *Opgaaf Roll der Ingezetenen*, 1800, Stellenbosch; [11] KAB, DO ZK 8/4/1 T461/1801 sold T104/1809; [12] KAB, MOIB 2/2/3: Estate J.U. Kiburg, Diary; [13] KAB, MOIB 2/2/3, folder marked JU Kibourg, undated letter from B. Schulz, G.F. Henning and M.G. Ekkert to J.U. Kiburg, inserted in Kiburg's diary; [14]

KAB, DO ZK 8/4/1 T dated in favour of JU Kiburg; [15] Green, L..G.: *Growing lovely growing old*, p. 54; [16] BO 153, no. 15; [17] *Cape Almanac, 1806*, unpaginated; [18] KAB, CO 4313: Memorials Received, p. 355, 17.7.1809; [19] KAB, MOIB 2/2/3: Estate J.U. Kiburg, Diary; [20] KAP, BR 69, p. 81; KAB, MOIC 2/54: 457: Inventory; Cape Town Gazette vol. 2, no. 57, 7.2.1807: Kiburg's wife having died, he offers for sale in Stellenbosch all his furniture etc

**Lardy, Pierre (Senior)** born Auvernier NE. Entered as Captain-Lieutenant 1.6.1781. Captain, 11.11.1787. Led four companies of the regiment at Negapatam, where they were serving as auxiliary troops to the British government, 1794. In the same year escorted Governor Van Angelbeek from Cochin to Colombo. Was promoted First Major on 25.9.1798. Participated in the campaign in Mysore commanding the infantry company, 1799. Commanded the company of grenadiers and was wounded in the arm, 4.5.1799. Participated in the campaigns of 1801 and 1802. Lieutenant-Colonel, 21.10.1803. Commanded the regiment from 24.9.1804 until 14.3.1812, in succession to Lieutenant-Colonel De Meuron-Môtiers, who was accidentally drowned at Seringapatam. Served in the Mediterranean, sold his commission to Lieutenant Wynd'ham, and remained on Sicily as attaché to the British Staff.[1] Married Elsje Sophia van Asten of the Cape, 20.2.1791, possibly while on leave from Ceylon. No children were baptised at the Cape.[2] / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 313; [2] *Ibid.*, p. 189.

**Le Double, David** born Geneva BE 1759.[1] Sergeant at the depot, September 1795. After capitulation remained at the Cape working as watchmaker while sharing lodgings with David Ferrarie.[2] Married Helena Maria, daughter of Jan Hendrik Esbag of Basel, 25.5.1800. A son David Philipe born 8.3.1801. On 29.1.1807 he reported that he was separated from his wife, was sickly and unable to make a living as watchmaker.[3] Died 1809.[4] / [1] KAB, MOOC 6/2; [2] KAB, J 443; [3] KAB, CJ 2550, p. 508; [4] KAB, MOOC 6/2.

**Mayer, Jean-Francois** born St. Gall SG. Entered as Sub-Lieutenant, 1.5.1782. Lieutenant, 4.5.1787. Captain-Lieutenant. 30.12.1788. Died a Captain at Seringapatam, 1.11.1802. Gravestone in garrison's cemetery at Seringapatam. / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 316.

**Meuron-Du Rochat, Isaac-Henri (de)** born Saint-Sulpice NE. Entered as Cadet-Sergeant and Sub-Lieutenant, 1.6.1781. Ensign, 1.5.1782. Lieutenant, 10.7.1782 Captain-Lieutnant, 1.11.1787.[1] Owned a house in Cape Town.[2] Died a Captain in Madras, 23.5.1800. Tombstone in St. Mary's cemetery, Madras.[1] / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 316. [2] KAB, DO ZK 8/4/1 : T5730, 2.6.1784 and T6009, 23.3.1786.

**Meuron-La Tour, Charles-Frederic (de)** born Saint-Sulpice NE. Entered as Cadet-Sergeant and Sub-Lieutenant attached to corps, 1.6.1781. Ensign, 1.5.1782. Lieutenant, 1.6.1783. Captain-Lieutnant, 1.11.1787. Died a Captain at Ponomallee, 24.5.1797. / Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, pp. 317-318

**Montandon, Francois** born La Brévine NE. Entered as Ensign, 1.6.1781. Lieutenant, 1.5.1782. Captain-Lieutnant, 1.11.1787. Captain, 13.9.1790. Died at Colombo, 26.2.1792.[1] In Cape Town 11.4.1790, possibly while on leave from Ceylon, married Maria Catharina, daughter of wigmaker Johann Heinrich Eckhard of Siegburg, Germany. Departed a month later for Ceylon. No children baptised at the Cape.[2]

/ [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 321; Linder, A.: *The Swiss at the Cape of Good Hope, 1652-1971*, p.191.

**Mosina, George** born Golino TI 1730, died Cape Town 20.7.1798. Sergeant. Married Rosina of Batavia, widow of burgher Harm Arts, 10.9.1786. They had two children, David and Eva. / G1/13/2, p. 100; Heese & Lombard, 1992-1999: p. 689.

**Pezon de Gerbolles, Guillaume** born VS. Entered as Cadet-Sergeant and Titular Sub-Lieutenant, 1.6.1781. Ensign, 1.7.1783. Resigned, 1.6.1787. / Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 323.

**Piachaud, Francois** born Nyon VD. Entered as Lieutenant 1.6.1781, Captain-Lieutenant, 1.9.1786. Captain, 30.9.1788. Died a Major at Seringapatam, 29.12.1802. Tombstone in the garrison cemetery, Seringapatam. / Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 324.

**Prévost, Henry / Louis Henry / Pierre Louis** born Nyon VD. Entered as Captain-Lieutenant, 1.6.1781. Captain, 1.9.1876. Resigned soon after, assuming the name Le Nieps after the death of André-Urbain Henry Le Nieps, 25.8.1787.[1] Unsuccessfully applied for a position with the Dutch troops.[2] Made his living as merchant in Cape Town[3] but departed for the Netherlands shortly before the British occupation. Returned with General Janssens in 1803 as Colonel, Commander at the Castle and Chief of the Batavian troops.[4] 1804 successfully requested a grant of land near Witteboomen, as compensation for long service rendered to the Republic.[5] During the battle of Blaauwberg (1806) where the Batavian troops opposed the overwhelmingly superior British force, Colonel Henry, as he was known, stood alongside General Janssens, fearless of the bullets flying all around them. Together they led their troops inland into the mountains where they might better defend themselves against the invader and negotiate an honourable capitulation. Colonel Henry was repatriated to the Netherlands on bord the *Harriet*, departing 6.5.1806. Married Johanna Jacoba la Fèbre of Cape Town, 18.11.1787. They had two daughters: the first born died in infancy, Christina Jacoba Chermonde, born 1793, married William Anton Joseph, son of Dr. Liesching. In 1803, as widower, married Catharina Rosalie Tostille of Toulon, France. They had no children. / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 324; [2] KAB, C 83: *Resolutiën van de Raad van Politie*, 26.1.1788, p. 199; [3] KAB, C 94: *Resolutiën van de Raad van Politie*, 29.11.1791, pp. 225, 388; C 97: *Resolutiën van de Raad van Politie*, 11.4.1792, p. 96; [4] *Cape Almanac, 1804*, p. 88; [5] KAB, BR48: *Resolutiën*, p. 2870; [6] Linder, A.: *The Swiss at the Cape of Good Hope, 1652-1971*, pp.191-192.

**Raymond / Retmond, Francois / Francois-Joseph** born Saint-Sulpice NE. Entered as Lieutenant and Staff Officer, 1.6.1781. Captain, 26.1.1787. Captain and *Grand Juge* on the regimental staff, 21.6.1789. Died Colombo, 19.7.1790. / Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 325.

**Renaud, Pierre** born Neuchatel NE. Entered as Captain, 1.6.1781. Commanded detachment of regiment at Seringapatam. Pensioned at Madras, 1.1.1800. / Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 325.

**Sergeans, Louis / Charles-Louis** born Peseux NE. Entered as Captain, 1.6.1781. Was obliged to quit regiment at the Cape, 2.3.1786. / Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 328.

**Stein, Jean-Gottlieb (de)** born TG. Entered as Captain-Lieutenant, 1.6.1781. Captain, 1..7.1783. Died at Tricomalee, 22.11.1793. / [1] Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 328.

**Stoffel(d), Jean-Antoine** born St. Gall SG. Entered as Cadet. Sub–Lieutenant, 1.7.1784. Resigned, 13.1.1791 to join the Dutch artillery in Ceylon. / Meuron, Guy de: *Le Régiment Meuron, 1781-1816*, p. 329.

End of Regiment Meuron

FATHER AND SON SERVE 60 YEARS AS ORGANISTS OF GROOTEKERK

**Grond(e)ler, Henry Francois** baptised 8.8.1762 at St. Theodor Church, Basel, son of tailor Hieronimus **Gründeler** and Maria Magdalena Imhoff.[1] Arrived from Lausanne VD (at the invitation of Susanna Nicolet?) on *Rotterdam Welvaren* with pay fl 13. Listed as soldier, 1784-1789,[2] but may well have been employed in some other capacity. It is possible that he had musical training in Switzerland and was now giving music lessons. He certainly had the opportunity to play the organ of the Grootekerk and when in 1790 the official organist Modeman became sick, he was appointed his assistant and his successor in 1797. After Grondler's death 1818[3] his son Frans was appointed to the position which he held until his death in 1856. Father and son together thus served 60 years, from 1797 to 1856, as organists of the Grootekerk.[4]

Soon after his appointment as assistant organist Grondler married Wilhelmina Appelonia, daughter of Johan Christian Broodryk of Schwarzburg, Germany. They had two children:

1. Susanna Robertina baptised 1793 (Colonel Robert Gordon and his wife Susanna Nicolet were her godparents), married 1810 Willem Coert Boonzaaier, a dancing teacher active in the amateur theatre societies until the 1830íes.
2. Frans Christian David baptised 1795 (David Le Double of Geneva was his godfather). Trained as musician by his father. Married 1818 Catharina Petronella Dell and they had two daughters:
   2.1 Julia Jacoba baptised 1819, married A.E. van Wyk Keet.
   2.2 Apolonia Wilhelmina baptised 1821.

/ [1] CH, Staatsarchiv of Canton Basel-Town; [2] KAB, MR 1784-1785; NL, ARA, MR 1784-1785; [3] KAB, MOOC 6/2; [4] Hopkins: *Die Moeder van Almal.*

**Simmerman, Johan Jurgen** born Toggenburg SG **[**Zimmermann?], arrived 8.8.1783 on *Rotterdam Welvaren* for Kamer Rotterdam. 1784 Soldier with pay fl 13, 1786-1787 piper. / KAB, MR 1784-1787; NL, ARA, MR 1784, 1787.

**Schiess, Hendrik Ludwig**, no origin given. Swiss? 1783 recorded as burgher who was sent away.[1] 1798 burgher of Graaff-Reinet serving in the 1st Company Burgher Dragoons.[2] / KAB, BRD 9 General Roll of Citizens of the Cape; and BKR 25: [2] KAB, J 113 Monster Rolle.

**Buehler, Pieter** born Berne. 1784 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1784.

**Lehr, Jan Fredrik** born Zurich [Därgelen ZH?]. 1784 convalescing. / KAB, MR 1784.

**Gulik, Marcel** born Zurich [**Gulich** of Wittenbach SG?], arrived 1.1.1784 on *Zeeduin* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1783-1791 soldier. / KAB, MR 1784, 1786-1789, 1791; NL, ARA, 1784-1788.

**Eugster, Johan** born Appenzell, arrived 22.1.1784 on *Gouverneur Generaal de Clerck* for Kamer Zereland. 1784-1786 quarry-man at fortification works. / KAB, MR 1784-1786; NL, ARA, MR 1785-1786.

HE LEFT HIS BRIDE WAITING TOO LONG AND SHE MARRIED ANOTHER

**Fuchs, Nicolaas** born Basel left Holland in 1781 for Ceylon as chief surgeon on the ship *Holland*. During the stay-over at the Cape he made the acquaintance of the widow of Sieur Johan Michel Zeyd. He promised to apply for his discharge as soon as he arrived in Ceylon and return to marry her. Alas, even in those days there was much red tape. It took Fuchs a long time to obtain the desired discharge. By the time he arrived back at the Cape the good widow was married to another. Fuchs nevertheless remained here with permission of the government and obtained citizenship with the intention of making his living as surgeon.[1]

In 1785 he bought a house from Mathias Pieter Taute[2] and married Maria Helena, daughter of Ferinand Christian Geyer. A year later they were blessed with a daughter, Elisabeth Jacobea, who later married Jacobus Fick, son of Paul Fick. In 1787 Fuchs died, apparently quite suddenly as he left no will.[3]

/ [1] Leibbrandt: *Requesten 1785: 94;* [2] KAB, DO ZA 5/1/14, T5965, sold by Widow Fuchs 1790.3.26; [3] KAB, BRD 25 General Roll van Burgher, 1787

**Pentzinger / Portsinger, Johan** born Zurich [**Benzinger** of Heldswil ZH?], arrived 20.8.1784 on *Stravenisse* for Kamer Zeeland. 1784-1791 soldier. 1795 prison warden. / KAB, MR 1785-1789, 1791; NL, ARA, MR 1785-1788; KAB, BO 193.

**Rainier**, **Arnold** born Basel [**Reiniger** of Frenkendorf BL?], arrived 18.12.1784 on *Eiken Linde* for Kamer Amsterdam. 1788 carpeter working on new hospital with pay fl 14. / KAB, MR 1788.

**Lauterberger, Sebastiaan** born Basel [of Lautenberg BS?], arrived 18.12.1784 on *Eiken Linde* for Kamer Amsterdam. Convalescing, 1785. / KAB, MR 1785; NL, ARA, MR 1785.

**Lapp, Johannes** born Lausanne VD, arrived 21.12.1784 on *Spaarne*. Soldier, 1786-1787./ KAB, MR 1786-1787; NL, ARA, MR 1786-1787

**Bossart, Johan / Joseph Anthony** born LU, arrived 23.12.1784 on *Constantia* for Kamer Delft. Sick, 1785. Able seaman stationed at Klapmuts, 1786-1789. Postholder at Fish Hoek, 1791. / KAB, MR 1785, 1787-1789, 1791; NL, ARA, MR 1785-1788.

**Rengier, Nicolaas** born Zofingen AG [**Ringier**?). Soldier, sick, 1785./ KAB, MR 1785.

**Von Landen, Anthony Godlieb** born Berne [**Vonlanthen** of BE or FR?]. Steward, sick, 1785. / KAB, MR 1786; NL, ARA, MR 1786.

**Koller, Jacob**, origin not given. Swiss? Soldier, convelescing, 1785. / KAB, MR 1785.

**Bertram, Andries** born GR, arrived 18.10.1785 on *Slot ter Hoge* for Kamer Zeeland. Company's hunter with pay fl 13, 1788.[1] "Monsieur Bertram" died 17.3.1792.[2] / [1] KAB, MR 1788; NL, ARA, MR 1788; KAB, MOOC 6/1.

**Lehmann, Joseph** born Berne, arrived 18.10.1785 on *Alblasserdam* for Kamer Zeeland. Gunner with pay fl 13, 1786. / KAB, MR 1786.

**De Noyer / Van Wooier, Francis** born Lausanne VD [**De Noyer** of Vully-le-Bas FR?]. Soldier, sick, 1785[1]; married, resident at the Cape, 1799.[2] / [1] KAB, MR 1785; NL, ARA, MR 1785; [2] KAB, BRD 28.

**Mulder, Rudolf** born Zurich **[Müller?],** soldier, sick, 1786. / KAB, MR 1786.

**Metzelaar, Francis** born BE **[Mätzener**?], former soldier (officer?) of Regiment Pondicherry, released from service (1786?), had served 3 years for Burgher Captain Jan de Waal, 1793 resides with Burgher Captain Pieter de Waal. / KAB, C 1015 (1793): *Lys van persoone met afgeschreeve gagie*, p. 86.

**Nieuvergeld, Jacob** born Rotterdam, NL **[Nievergelt**?]. Mason at new hospital, 1786-1787. / KAB, MR 1786.

**Dregeler, Jacob** born Zurich **[Treichler?]**, arrived 9.2.1786 on *Beverwijk* as able seaman for Kamer Amsterdam. Gunner, 1786-1791. / KAB, MR 1789, 1791; NL, ARA, MR 1786-1788.

**Jaeger, Thomas** born Solothurn, arrived 4.4.1786 on *Standvastigheid* as junior sailor. Unemployed, 1789. Convalescing, 1791. / KAB, MR 1789, 1791.

**Blok / Blatt, Hendrik** born Berne **[Bloch** or **Blatt**?], arrived 4.14.1786 on *Gouverneur Generaal de Clerck* for Kamer Zeeland. Soldier, 1786-1789, 1791. / KAB, MR 1786-1789, 1791; NL, ARA, MR 1786, 1788.

**Walter, Lodewyk** born Schaffhausen, arrived 10.9.1786 on *Jagtrust* as sailor for Kamer Amsterdam. Mason at new hospital, 1787-1791. / KAB, MR 1787-1789, 1791; NL, ARA, MR 1787-1788.

**Smeedele, Jacob** born Basel [**Schmidlin** of Basel?], arrived 18.9.1786 on *Rozenburg* for Kamer Rotterdam. Soldier, 1789-1791. / KAB, MR 1789, 1791.

**Furter, Frederik** born Rheintal/Basel, arrived 18.9.1786 on *Rozenburg* as soldier in Company service. 1791 house-carpenter at construction of new hospital.[1] 1799 loaned to Mattys Basson junior.[2] 1801 single, with no possessions in Stellenbosch district.[3] 1804 house-carpenter, married, at Twenty-Four Rivers near Gouda. When his wife died in 1810 shortly after the birth of their third child, their possessions consisted of 2 beds, 2 kists, a table and 2 old chairs, 2 iron pots, 1 pan, 2 kettles, 2 water buckets and 1 meat barrel, 1 working bench, carpenter's tools and 65 metres yellow wood planks, 1 riding horse and 1 mare. Their daughter was five years and the son one month old. Their second born, Frederika Johanna baptised Tulbagh 27.03.1808, appears to have died. The inventory shows that Furter made his living as house-carpenter.[4] 1822 Furter is recorded as living alone with two children from his first marriage, and had a Khoi servant, 2 horses, 10 oxen and a wagon.[6] He died 1829 on the farm Twenty-Four Rivers of Andries Johannes Burger.[7]

Married (1) 1804, Elizabeth Josepha van Doesbergh of the Cape, died 1810. Married (2) 1814, Anna Elisabeth Balie of the Cape (born 1791, baptised Anna Catharina Jacoba 1802 at Sak River near Calvinia). Furter's children:

1. Anna Catherina born 28.10.1805, baptised Tulbagh 2.11.1805.
2. Frederika Johanna born Tulbagh 27.3.1808, died before 1810.
3. Frederik baptised Tulbagh 5.6.1810; farmer on *Groenberg* near Wellington, married Paarl 1838, Maria Elizabeth van Reenen. They had 6 sons and 5 daughters who mostly became farmers and married into the farming community around Wellington and Paarl.
4. Anna Elizabeth Jacoba born 11.7.1818, baptised Beaufort West 10.9.1820, married Beaufort West 9.3.1834, Johannes Harmse Korf, a farmer, died 27.1.1874 on the farm *Krantz Kraal* survived by two sons and three daughters.[8]

/ [1] KAB, MR 1791; [2] KAB, BRD 28; [3] KAB, J 226; [4] KAB, MOOC 8/58, 10.7.1810; [6] KAB, J 425; [7] KAB, MOOC 8/46, p. 10, 26.6.1829; [8] KAB, MOOC 6/9/148 Estate 741/1874.

**Rudolph, Johan Matthias** born Basel, arrived 24.10.1786 on *Doggerbank* as soldier for Kamer Amsterdam. 1788-1791 gunner. / KAB, MR 1788-1789; NL, ARA, MR 1788.

**Depeyer, Johan Goenraad** born Schaffhausen. 1787 corporal, sick. / KAB, MR 1787.

**D'Rossien, Ferdinant Anthonie** born Fribourg. 1787 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1787.

**Hofmeester, Hans Caspar** born Zurich. 1787 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1787.

**Walser, Hans Ulrich** born Wald AR. 1787 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1787.

**Pieteloeke, Jean Baptiste** born Geneva [**Pitteloux** of Rueyres-les-Pres FR?]. 1787 sailor, sick. / KAB, MR 1787.

**Coenraad, Jacob** born Bremgarten AG **[Konrad**?], arrived 1.1.1787 on *Maria* as soldier for Kamer Amsterdam. 1787 wagonmaker. / KAB, MR 1787; NL, ARA, MR 1787.

**Keuffer, Peter** born Berne [**Keuffer** of VD or **Küffer** of Seeland BE?], arrived 2.6.1787 on *Houtlust* as able seaman for Kamer Delft. / KAB, MR 1787; NL, ARA, MR 1787.

**Zobeli, Johan Jacob** born Zurich **[Zöbeli**?], arrived 27.4.1787 on *Voorschooten* for Kamer Amsterdam with pay fl 10. 1787 convalescing. / KAB, MR 1787; NL, ARA, MR 1787.

**Liedy / Ludy, Matthias** born Basel [Lüthi?], probably arrived 1787 as soldier of the Regiment Wurttemberg, is recorded in 1795 as a soldier receiving no pay, being employed as a schoolteacher at Klapmuts.[1] John Barrows wrote:[2] "Some (farmers) have a person in the house whom they call schoolmaster. This is generally a man who has served out his time in the ranks…. not only to instruct children to read and write, to sing psalms and learn by heart a few occasional prayers but he must also make himself serviceable in other aspects." In 1767 he was trading in Cape Town.[3] / KAB, BO 193; [2] Barrows: *An account of travels*, vol. 1, p. 82; [3] KAB, J 443: Company's servants, 1797; C 1064, p. 80.

**Baarth, Johan Adam** born "Herbroek" [**Barth**? Heerbrugg SG??). 1788-1789 soldier. / KAB, MR CA 1787-1788.

**Emdorff, Jacob** born Berne [**Imdorf** of Guttannen BE?] 1788 gunner, sick. / KAB, MR 1788.

**Mongin, Charles Anthoine** born Pourytry [Porrentruy JU?] 1788 sailor, sick. / KAB, MR 1788.

**Chevallier, Anthony** of "Zwitserland" [GE, NE or VD?], 1788 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1788.

**Hanneman, Jacob** born SG [**Hannimann** of Mörschwil SG?], arrived 4.1.1788 on *Dorwijk*. 1789 soldier, sick.1791 junior sailor sick. About mid March loaned to Willem Kirsten until 28.8.1793.[1] September 1795 listed as not receiving pay and did not report at Company's offices. / [1] KAB, C 1004, p. 98; [2] KAB, MR 1789, 1791; [3] KAB, C 1064, p. 1907.

**Tredoux, Jacques-Gideon** born Aigle VD. Baptised 9.4.1767 in the Waalse Kerk, at The Hague, eldest son of Claude Francois Tredoux of Aigle VD and Helena Catharina Le Beou (or Le Beon) of Middelburgh, Zeeland. The name Tredoux has died out in Switzerland.

Arrived 6.4.1788 on *Bletterwijk* as Sub-Lieutenant.[1] Here he was appointed full Lieutenant and for the next years served on various locally based ships. His duties are illustrated by an incident which happened in 1795 when he was responsible for bringing from Saldanha Bay a quantity of sugar, rice and coffee beans which had been discharged there by the fleet returning from the East. The Company debited him with the sum of fl 1 190 (equivalent to his year's pay) for discharging a lesser quantity in Cape Town. Tredoux successfully requested not to be held liable for the loss, blaming it on bad bags.[2]

With the British occupation Tredoux lost his appointment and established himself as a law- and general agent in Keerom Street, possibly also doing transport work: the 1807 census shows him as having eleven male and seven female slaves, two four-wheeled and two two-wheeled wagons or carts and nine horses.[3]

At about this time several French speaking immigrants arrived, amongst them Jeremie Auguste Rouviere of Neuchatel and Louis Balthasar Meurant of Basel. They rekindled local theatrical activities, which had been introduced by the French regiments garrisoned here earlier. Tredoux and his children took a very active part in productions. Initially the plays presented were in French. Tredoux pioneered the use of Dutch. During the years 1806-1825 Tredoux was director of the theatre company *Tot Nut en Vermaak* and his son Jacques Gideon 1825-1826 of the children's company *Tot Oefening en Smaak*. In 1825, at the age of 58 Tredoux still danced in the *corps de ballet* in a Dutch translation of Moliere's *Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. Obviously he was still full of energy and had a slim figure: the play is not a comic opera in which you can have a rotund elderly gentleman bouncing about the stage![4]

FAVOURS IN HIGH PLACES

The successive French and English speaking garrisons had staged many plays in their native tongues but Tredoux, very proud of his new homeland, catered for the Dutch speaking inhabitants of the Cape. He may also have felt some hostility towards the British who had twice invaded the Cape. On a certain occasion, at a Dutch play, General Grey, Commanding Officer of the British forces at the Cape entered the theatre and the band of an English regiment which had been permitted to attend the evening for the

entertainment of the audience, immediately struck up the tune of "Good Save the King". Tredoux stopped the band instantly, informing the leader "that the tune was offensive to the Dutch". For this insult he rceived orders from the Governor "to quit the Colony".

No longer permitted to practise as an attorney, Tredoux took up residence at Wynberg and managed to defer compliance with the order to depart by pleading that his affairs first had to be settled, etc., etc. until about two years later he received a letter from the Deputy Secretary saying that "His Excellency the Governor was pleased to rescind the order of his banishment which, indeed, it had never been His Excellency's intention to enforce." Possibly a high official, the Fiscal Mr. Truter who was a kinsman of Tredoux, had managed to pull a few strings to produce this extraordinary letter of condescension and leniency. Soon after, Mr. Truter sent for Tredoux and asked him if he were inclined to dispose of his very pretty and pleasantly situated residence at Wynberg? Tredoux replied that if he was again allowed to practise as a notary, he would of course move back to Cape Town and in that case he could sell his place in the country. Mr. Truter then said that a gentleman in a high official position (whom it would be in Tredoux's interest to oblige) was desirous to purchase that residence if it were parted with on moderate terms, and, in that case, Tredoux would again be permitted to practise as notary. The sale was effected and Tredoux could again open his office in the town.

In 1824 Tredoux had financial difficulties[5 & 6] and nothing much is recorded of him until his death in 1832. During his long life he was married three times:

1. Maria Dorothea de Nicker, 5.4.1789.
2. Elisabeth Jacoba Baartman, 15.5.1813.
3. Helena Christina Wilhemina Mocke, 24.1.1816.

His children:

1. Maria Dorothea baptised 7.11.1790, married Hendrik Andries Truter.
2. Helena Catharina baptised 18.12.1791, married Marthinus Jacobus van Dyk.
3. Francois Pieter baptised 20.1.1793, married (1) Hilletje Ehlers, (2) Hilletje Aletta Ackerman.
4. Adriaan Johannes baptised 7.12.1794.
5. Lebon Covereur baptised 8.1.1797.

/ [1] Leibbrandt: *Requesten 1790*: 189; [2] KAB, C 1065; [3] KAB, J 41: Citizens Roll Cape Town 1807; [4] Bosman: *Drama en Toneel*; [5] KAB, MOOC 2/277; [6] Tredoux: *Die familie Tredoux.*

**Tredoux, Francois Louis** of unknown origin, probably Aigle VD. Arrived about the same time as Jacques-Gideon who may have been a brother. He married Clara Frederike, alo of unknown origin. Their only child Daniel baptised at the Cape 1819, died in Transvaal 21.7.1881. / Van Vuuren: *Tredoux.*

**Steenhouder, Roeloff** born Berne **[Steinhauer** of Riggisberg BE?], arrived 2.4.1788 on *Drechterland* as soldier for Kamer Zeeland. 1789 recruit. / KAB, MR 1789.

**Keyser, Johannes** born Schaffhausen **[**Kaiser?], arrived 18.8.1788 on *Gouverneur Generaal de Clerck* as junior sailor. 1789-1791 worker on fortifications.[1] 1795 wood-cutter at Kirstenboch.[2] In 1799 two men of the same name are recorded at the Cape,[3] and one of them 1798 at Graaff-Reinet.[4] / [1] KAB, MR 1789, 1791; [2] KAB, BO 193; [3] KAB, BRD 28 and 29; [4] KAB, J 113.

**Hersig, Johannes** born "Riddersil" **[Herzig**?**,** Rüderswil BE?), arrived 12.10.1788 on *Horssen* for Kamer Delft. 1789-1791 soldier. / KAB, MR 1789, 1791. See also Johannes Hersig 1768-1778.

**Hibelen, Francois** born Bern [**Hiebler** of Leuggern AG?]. 1789 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1789.

**Steyner, Fredrik** born Berne **[Steiner**?], arrived 1789. Released from service, a batchelor normally residing at the house of Wilhelmina Magdalena Andriessen, was 27.12.1794 reported to be at the Warmbaths seeking relief from sickness. / KAB, C 1064, p. 71.

**Vogel, Johan Caspar** born Schaffhausen SH, arrived 24.3.1789 on *Nederlands Welvaren* for Kamer Amsterdam.[1] Three days after leaving Cape Town for the East, this ship was taken by two English frigates and forced to sail for Plymouth.[2] 1789-1795 soldier.[3] / [1] KAB, MR 1789; [2] Bruyn: *Dutch Asiatic Shipping*; [3] KAB, BO 93.

**Eygenberg, Joseph** born Zurich **[Eichenberger?]**. 1791 soldier, sick. / KAB, MR 1791.

**Macé, Jean,** Swiss**?**, Surgeon of Regiment Meuron stationed in Ceylon. 1791/92 spent some months at the Cape while on his way to Tricomnalee. Travelled along the Cape east coast and sent botanical specimens to botanist Sir Joseph Banks. / Gunn & Codd, p. 237.

**Mertz, Fredrik** born Berne **[Merz?]**. 1792-1793 soldier, in that time he spent 5 ½ months in hospital. / KAB, C 1065, p. 3.

**Hoekener, Emanuel** born Berne [**Hugener** of AG or ZG?]. 1792 guilty together with two others, of stealing stinkwood planks, punished with flagellation. / KAB, CJ 796: 19.

**Bronner [Bronner or Brunner?], Christiaan** born Bern. 1792 Second Class gunner[1] at surrender September 1795 absent.[2] / [1] KAB, BKR 9, Monthly Roll, November 1792; [2] KAB, BO 193.

A GOOD TEACHER

**Ziegler, Johan Jacob** born Schaffhausen 5.2.1766, son of Tobias Ziegler. Cornelius de Jong in *Reizen*[1] describes schools at the Cap in 1792 as very poor, imparting no more than extremely rudimentary knowledge of reading and writing. Anyone wishing his children to have a better education had to hire his own teacher – and good teachers were not easily found. De Jongh then mentions that "A Swiss imported by De Wet" was doing praiseworthy work. This was Johan Jacob Ziegler of Schaffhausen who arrived here in 1792 for Olof de Wet, a Senior Merchant and judge in the service of the Company. Ziegler was entrusted with the education of De Wet's grand-children and also the children of some other senior Company officials.

Two years later Ziegler decided to organise his teaching activities properly.[2] He requested and was granted permission to open a private teaching establishment to cater for 12 pupils between the ages of eight and twelve. They would be taught from 8 to 11 in the morning and from 2 to 4 in the afternoon. The curriculum offered geography, history, natural sciences, mathematics, Dutch and French. Latin was to be offered after normal hours to those who wished it. He would strive to gain the respect and love of his pupils, would not administer corporal punishment and expected the parents to see to it that the pupils did their homework diligently.

APOTHECARY WITH ITS OWN MEDICINAL GARDEN

Amongst his pupils Ziegler had the sons of Dr. Liesching, formerly surgeon in the Wurttemberg Regiment stationed at the Cape 1787-1795. They became close friends –

in fact he became part of the Liesching family. In 1802 Liesching engaged a German as tutor for his children to replace Ziegler with whom he formed a partnership in an apothecary shop at 15 Longmarket Street. In conjunction with this shop the two friends established a medicinal garden on land with a fountain, granted to them for this purpose. Ms. Patricia McMagd[3] identified the site of the garden as *The Knoll*, situated in Kloof Street nearly opposite the Bantry Steps. Some of the retaining walls built during Ziegler's time are supposed to be there still. Latrobe, Secretary of the Moravian Church in England sent to organize the mission stations at Mamre and Genadendal reports a vist to Liesching and Ziegler on his *Journal of a visit to South Africa in 1815 and 1816* [4] as follows: "…. by a continuation of the road, dug deep into the declivity of the mountain, we reached the villa of Dr. Liesching and Mr. Ziegler for dinner. This is a romantic spot, with a great variety of garden ground, laid out in terraces down a very rugged kloof and containing a large collection of scarce plants and flowering shrubs. At the bottom of the grounds the rocks form a grotto in which is a cold bath….. After dinner we returned to Cape Town in the doctor's barouche and four."

Incidentaly, the little bay below their property initially took its name from their botanical garden being called Botany Bay, which in time became modified into Bantry Bay.

SOMETIMES IT IS BETTER TO TRAVEL HOPEFULLY THAN TO ARRIVE

In 1816 Ziegler turned fifty. In the same year he married for the first time. At a double ceremony in the Strand Street Lutheran Church[5] he took to wife the daughter, and another of the Liesching girls took as husband the son of a former Lieutenant-Governor of Java and school friend of the poet Friedrich Schiller. Four years later he sold his share of the partnership in the apothecary shop and gardens to Dr. Liesching and 1823 together with his German born wife, embarked for home.

Ziegler appears to have done well in South Africa – but on his travels he was most unlucky. After De Wet had engaged Ziegler to come to South Africa, he instructed his agents in Holland to arrange a passage on one of the Company ships. They found that this could only be done by enlisting Ziegler as a soldier in the service of the Dutch East India Company and then after his arrival at the Cape to request his release for teaching purposes. Poor Ziegler brought up in a refined home thus had to undertake the sea voyage under the roughest of conditions. On top of this, the ship in which he left Holland ran aground on the French coast and all aboard had to be crowded into other already fully laden ships. Well, his trip home[6] went without mishap – but if he said a prayer of thanksgiving for his safe arrival in the Thames, that was premature: when about to go ashore at Gravesend, he died.

An interesting sequel to Ziegler's life story: when Andries Pretorius, later to become a great Voortrekker leader, sold his farm for wagon and oxen so that he could join the Great Trek, the buyer was one of Dr. Liesching's sons who, in fond memory of Ziegler, renamed it after Ziegler's hometown, *Schaffhausen*.

/ [1] De Jong: *Reizen*: [2] Du Toit: *Onderwys*; [3] McMagh: *A Dinner of Herbs*; [4] Latrobe: *Journal of a visit*; [5] Cape Town, Lutheran Church registers; [6] KAB, CO 6067, date of departure 7.3.1823 with *Kerswell* to London.

**Stagle Johannn Joachim [Stahel** or **Stachel?],** born St. Gall 1759, arrived 1793 as soldier. Initially spent forty days in hospital without pay.[1] 1795 released from service by Lieutenant of the Burgher Militia, Johannes Paulus Eksteen but now living at Lieutenant of the Burgher Militia, Schickerling, on loan as schoolmaster.[2] / KAB, C 1065, p. 7; [2] KAB, C 1064, pp. 66, 79.

**Haupt, Daniel Jacob**, "obviously also of Zurich". / Meyer-Otth, W.: *Eine zürcherische Familiengeschichte,* pp. 185-189.

**Basler, Jacob** born Zurich, 1795 soldier. / KAB, BO 193.

**Brehm, Georg** born Schaffhausen, 1795 soldier. / KAB, BO 193.

**Casper, Michael** born Zurich [**Kaspar**?], 1795 soldier. / KAB, BO 193.

**Grisman, Christiaan** born Berne, 1795 soldier . / KAB, BO 193.

**Krusch, Joseph** born Basel [**Gross** of Arlesheim BL?], 1795 soldier. / KAB, BO 193.

**Myzan, Samuel** born Berne, 1795 soldier. / KAB, BO 193.

**Niederberger, Aloisius** born Stans NW, 1795 soldier. / KAB, BO 193.

**Roosenburg, Johan Anton** born Basel **[Rosenburg?],** 1795 soldier. / KAB, BO 193.

**Schefelyn, Johannes** born Zurich **[Schäfli?],** 1795 soldier. / KAB, BO 193.

**Sucht, Johannes** [**Schucht** of Zurich ZH?] born Zurich, 1795 soldier. / KAB, BO 193.

**Tjennozie, Augustus** born GR [**Cenzi** of Cama GR?], 1795 soldier. / KAB, BO 193.

**Gytzman, Johan Fredrik Lodewyk [Geissmann?],** born Basel. 1795 gunner with the artillery, pay fl 20. / KAB, BO 193.

**Kiburg, Christian W.**, origin not recorded, of Basel? Born 1781.[1] 1795 soldier in Company service.[2] Died of consumption in Stellenbosch District, 1807.[1] / [1] KAB, 1STB 16/138; [2] KAB, BO 237.

**Schoch, Johan Friedrich**, origin not recorded, of Appenzell?. 1795 piper. / KAB, BO 237.

**Moesbag Christiaan** born Geneva **[Moosbach?]**. 1795 postholder at Simon's Town with pay fl 11. / KAB, BO 193.

**Revel,** Swiss, place and date of birth not known. According to Swiss Family Name Book possibly **Reviol** of Gimel or Longirod VD. After the British occupation of the Cape in 1795, Mr Andrew Barnard was sent out from England to assume duties as Colonial Secretary. He arrived here with his young bride, the very charming Lady Anne Barnard. As the wife of the top official she was destined to do a lot of entertaining at the Castle. Not only did she distinguish herself as a hostess, she also left us a very delightful record of all her experiences and observations at the Cape through letters and innumerable sketchs. When preparing for the journey from England to the Cape, and knowing of the role of hostess which awaited her there, she engaged the services of a cook who was highly recommended to her.

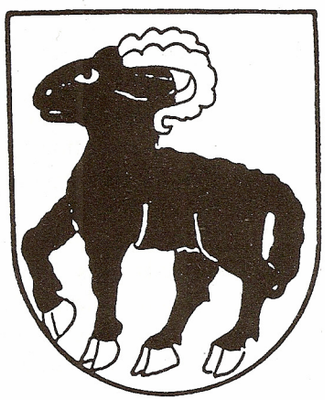
At the Cape, the first guest invited by the Barnards was most appropriately their superior, the Governor-General Dundas. Alas, this important occasion coincided with the excellent cook's first close encounter with the equally excellent Cape wines, which left him intoxicated and incapable. The distinguished guest arrived but no dinner made its appearance. After an hour's delay a charred, inedible meal was served, prepared by

Revel's assistant, a local woman who had done her goodhearted best, assisted by her husband the hangman. Revel was very ill as a result of his bout of intemperance and from that time onward foreswore temptation and the acquaintance of his temptor, whom he described as *le vilain cuisinier du General Dundas* (a very second rate cook who had brought the wine – possibly with evil intent born of envy?). From then on he is reported as cooking to perfection; calamity never again occurred at the hands of the penitent Revel.
/ Fairbridge: *Lady Anne Barnard at the Cape,*

**Gritz, Francois** origin, place and date of birth not known. According to Swiss Family Name Book might originate from Canton Fribourg. Recorded 7.11.1797 as passenger on a home-bound ship temporarily in Cape Town. / KAB, BO 195-6.

**Staufer, Albert**, Swiss?, place and date of birth not known. 1800 resident at 18 Boom Street. / *Cape Almanac 1800.*

**Orffer, Christiaan** born Bönigen near Interlaken BE 28.1.1773, son of Ulrich Urfer and Maria born Seiler, died 23.9.1831 at Paardeberg near Malmesbury.



Family Crest: Urfer, Bönigen BE
Coat of Arms of Ulli Urfer, Standard-bearer at Interlaken. Copied from, document in drawer 1529 XI 5 at the Staatsarchiv Bern.

Christiaan arrived from England on the English ship *Ladoiska* on 2.6.1800, during the first British occupation, and found work as a carpenter.[1] 1811-1813 Town carpenter[2] and 1812-1816 first firewarden then inspector of fire engines.[3]
Eventually he lived in Leeuwe Street where he had a workshop and like a true Swiss kept a cow.[4] This single cow did not however satisfy his farming instincts. In 1814 he applied to the government for a grant of land.[5] This was unsuccessful but around 1817 he nevertheless moved out into the country in search of a place where he might live his life to the full. At Paardeberg north of Paarl he met a lovely girl , Susanna Hendrina van Dyk, baptised at Paarl 31.1.1790. When, soon after, he obtained grazing rights on a farm in the Cold Bokkeveld near the top of Gydo's Pass, he married her[6] and started a family. They had two sons and a daughter who were baptised at the Tulbagh church.

Orffer had been farming for about ten years, not very successfully, when he found himself in financial difficulties. His creditor obtained a Supreme Court judgement against him and on 28.10.1828 the Deputy Sheriff of Worcester was sent out to auction all his possessions. At a court case[7] held after certain turbulent happenings at the auction, the Deputy Sheriff testified that on his arrival at Orffer's house, Orffer had confirmed that he could not pay the amount owing in cash, whereupon he being under necessity to proceed with the auction, requested Orffer to hand over the Certificates of Registration of all his slaves – which he did except that of the female slave *Spasie*, whom he would not allow to be sold, claiming she was free-born.

The Deputy first sold the oxen and horses, then the few articles of household and farming implements and finally the slaves. When he called for Spasie to present herself to the bidders, Orffer ordered her away into the bushes on pain of death, supported

therein by his friend Bernardus La Fontaine (a Frenchman by trade a tailor) both of them threatening the Deputy in a most violent and brutal manner. With clenched fists held in his face, they told him he would proceed with the sale at the expense of his arms and legs which they would break. La Fontaine also threatenend to use a sjambok (whip made of hide) on him, while Orffer ran about in an outrageous and distracted manner, repeating his threats to Spasie that he would kill her of she appeared. Their language throughout was outrageous, calling the Deputy a vagabond and thief and many names which could not be repeated.

Both were arrested for resisting the law and pleaded guilty in court. La Fontaine declared he was drunk and did not know what he was doing – he realized only the next day, when told, what had happened. Orffer pleaded that he too had had too much wine – this and the sorrow that his creditors must lose so much money had made him completely intoxicated. They were found guilty to short terms in prison at Worcester.

Orffer immediately petitioned to serve his term in the Cape Town goal, which was granted.[8] There. a month later, he submitted a second petition requesting remission of his remaining period of confinement. This was turned down on the grounds that one petition had already been granted and that in any case, his sentence was very lenient.[9]

In the meantime his wife Susanna, having lost all her possessions accumulated over ten years of hard work, and with her husband in prison, returned to her widowed mother living on the farm of Jnr. Scholz at Paardeberg. There Orffer joined her and the children after his release, a broken old man at the age of 56, and there he died a year later[10] survived by the three children:

1. Christiaan Johannes born 20.1.1822 married at Daljosafat, Wellington 22.8.1854, Maria Susanna Retief . In 1883 both he and his son Christiaan Johannes as well as Frederik, son of Frederik Furter of Basel and his son farmed on *Vondeling* at Twenty-Four River near Gouda.[11]
2. Dirk Roeloff born 22.2.1826.
3. Maria Catharina born 28.9.1827.

/ [1] KAB, BO 195-6; [2] *Cape Almanac* 1811, p. 14; 1813, p. 14; [3] *Cape Almanac*, 1812-1816, always p. 19; [4] KAB, J 41; [5] KAB, CO 4316, 18.2.1814; [6] KAB, 1/STB/22/34: *Huweliksnotulen*, 4.12.1819; [7] KAB, 1/WOC 2/15 Preparatory Examination 12.1.1829; [8] KAB, CO 4323: 516, 2.3.1829; [9] KAB, CO 4323:638, 28.3.1829; [10] KAB, J 296 and 1/STB/16/148; [11] South African Directory, 1883/4.

**Concord, L.** of Neuchatel, about 1802 visited the *Lodge Goede Trouw* at 18 Plein Street, Cape Town. / Griesbach, F.T.R.: *A History of the Lodge de Goede Trouw, No. 26*, p. 11.



Johannes Jakob Habluetzel
Photograph of oil painting in the possession of the family, courtesy Mr LH Posthumus

**Habluetzel, Johannes Jakob** born Trüllikon ZH 24.10.1779, son of Johann Heinrich Hablützel and Elisabeth born Runger.[1] Arrived 1802 with the Batavian troops reoccupying the Cape. On 29.6.1802 he was appointed Second Surgeon's Mate (2nd Surgeon) and served at the Great Military Hospital.[2] At the second British occupation of the Cape he took service with the British without first obtaining his discharge from the Batavian troops for which the departing Governor, Geneal Janssens, branded him a deserter with aggravating circumstances.[3]

Habluetzel obtained permission from the British to remain at the Cape[4] and initially made his living as a surgeon. In his hometown Trüllikon Habluetzel had been described as an engineer.[5] When, in 1807 the British regulated the medical profession at the Cape, Habluetzel could neither show a medical diploma nor was he ready to be examined by the newly constituted medical

board, with the result that he was no longer allowed to practise as a doctor.[6] He had just married the daughter of a successful shopkeeper who may thereupon have taken Habluetzel as a partner in business. By 1812 he had his own shop in Hilliger Lane and later in Long Street (1814-27).[7] He died 18.11.1839 aged 60 at his residence in New Street (present day Queen Victoria Street).

Shortly after taking up private practice in 1806 Habluetzel married Geertruyda Hermina, daughter of Frans Hilligers of Amsterdam and Anna Catharina Geere. They had 11 children:

1. Anna Francina Geertruyda born 25.1.1808, married 1825 Pierre Francois Hugo.
2. Elisabeth Hendrika born 8.2.1810, married 13.8.1828 Samuel Low Heyman, surgeon in His Majesty's service.[8]
3. Edwin Jacob born 5.8.1812, died young?
4. Johan Christiaan born 12.9.1814, died young?
5. Coenraad born 1.6.1816, died Worcester 2.8.1895, watchmaker. Married (1) Maria Henriette Geertruyda du Toit, divorced. Married (2)14.11.1848 Sarah Maryna Wolhuter, died Worcester 28.7.1901[9].
6. Hester Carolina born 5.7.1817, died young?
7. Jacob born 15.12.1818, died Paarl 23.2.1889. Watchmaker. Married 13.1.1862 Maria Magdalena Bernhardi who died Simon's Town 31.7.1889.[10]
8. Maria Frederica born 20.7.1820, died young?
9. Heinrich Peter born 20.12.1821, died Simon's Town 2.1.1902. Butcher and whaler at Simons Town.Married Sarah NN[11]
10. Hans Ulrich born 29.3.1824, died in same year.
11. Dorothea Francina born 21.10.1825, died 1827.
12. Frederik Hermanus born 21.4.1827, died 1829.

/ KAB, MOOC 6/9/18: Estate 3921/1839; [2] *Cape Almanac 1805*, *Service List of Batavian Troups, 1806*; [3] KAB, ZA 5/1/14, 26.3.1806; [4] KAB, CO 6055, 28.3.1806; [5] *Trüllikon Gemeindeverwaltung*: Information supplied by Mr. L.H. Posthumus; [6] Burrows: *A history of medecine in S.A.*: [7] *Cape Almanac 1814-27* and KAB, RDG 113, p. 115; [8] KAB, CO 4572/5, no. 281; [9] KAB, CO 4572/5, no. 955; [10] KAB, MOOC 6/9/278: Estate 532/1889; [11] Green: *Harbours of Memory.*

**Schmidheini, C.,** nationality not known. Recorded as Smidheny. Resigned 2.1.1808 as second Surgeon of the 5th Battalion Artillery at the Cape[1] and departed for London on the brig *Rosina*.[2] / [1] KAB, ZA 5/1/14 *Demissie en Paspoorten*; [2] KAB, CO 6067.

**Wirgo, Johan** born Basel, Switzerland. Arrived 1803 as sergeant in 22nd Batallion. Butcher in Cape Town, 1805 joined *Begrafnis Genootsschap.*[1] Not to be confused with William Virgo mentioned in SAG Vol. 14, p. 538. / [1] KAB, MOOC 14/237: *Stamboek van het Begrafnis Genootschap der Europeanen 't welk is begonnen met prima January 1796.*

**Werdmuller, George Andreas** of Zurich, born Maastricht NL 1787, great-grandson of Hans Conrad Werdmüller who had served in the Swiss Regiment Werdmuller in Holland, married a Dutch girl and settled there. His grandfather did likewise, serving in the Swiss Regiment Hirzel. His father married a girl from the Grisons but remained settled in Holland, serving in the Swiss Regiment Von Escher. George Andreas continued in the military tradition. He enlisted as cadet in the Dutch Line Infantry and in 1803 landed with these troops at the Cape. Here he discovered his inclinations for business, resigned and settled.[1, 2] In 1816 he gained the appointment as Inspector of Market and Storage Places, which gave him financial security and the next year he married Catharina Jacobea Richert of The Hague NL by whom he had two sons:

1. Johannes Andreas, born 1822, later to become Government Printer in Cape Town, married Elisabeth Greybe and had two daughters.
2. Conrad Johannes Otto born 1824 who settled in Burghersdorp, then a prospering town on the road to the north, where he became a respected farmer

and merchant, and served as Mayor. He married the daughter of German missionary Kolbe by whom he had six children.

The Werdmullers were always proud of their Swiss origin and through all the generations preserved their Swiss citizenship. The family owns valuable property in Switzerland, held in a family trust, from which each member receives an annual dividend. / [1] Weisz & Werdmüller, 1949; [2] KAB, J 41; [3] *Men of the Time*s p. 419.

**De Salis, Baron Rudolph Anthony** born Arnhem NL 28.12.1761, died The Hague NL 24.12.1851. Possibly a descendent of an officer in a Swiss mercenary regiment in Dutch service. Compare with Paravicini and Werdmuller. Arrived with General Janssens in 1802 and was installed as First Member of the Council, a post he held until the British returned to the Cape in 1806. During General Janssens' absence on a lengthy journey to the interior in June 1803, De Salis was Acting Governor. He departed 10.11.1806 for Holland on board the cartel *William.* While at the Cape, on 4.6.1804, he married Sophie Adrienne van Rheede Oustshoorn of Cape Town. / *SA Dictionary of Biography.*

**Paravacini di Capelli, Willem Bartolomeus Eduard** born Zutphen NL 22.2.1778, died Rotterdam 21.4.1848. His great-grandfather Johan Caspar Paravacini born Chur GR 1660 and died The Hague 1761, had been Captain of the Grisons, a Swiss mercenary regiment in Dutch service, his grandfather Bartholomeus Eduard Paravicini di Capelli 1724-1810 was General and Weapon-developer of the Netherlands, and his father Caspar Paravicini di Capelli 1752-1825 Major-General and member of the *Central Comite voor Artillerie en Genie* in the Dutch army.

Paravicini was Aide-de-Camp to General Janssens at the Cape 1802-1805. His journal was published in Vol. 46 of the Van Riebeek Society.
/ *S.A. Dictionary of Biography.*

**Tevener, Jan**, born Neuchatel, age 35, by profession chocolate maker, arrived at the beginning of 1803 as member of the 5th Battalion Artillery, Company No.3. Deserted 16.3.1804. / *Kaapsche Courant, Vol. II, No. 18 (5 May 1804)*

**Grand, Georges-Francois** born Eclubens / Lausanne VD 1749, was educated by private tutors and in 1765 sent as an apprentice to a paternal friend in London. Finding the treatment too harsh, he fled to a maternal aunt. His mother's family was resident in England, having fled there at the Edict of Nantes. Her husband who was a director of the British East India Company, helped him to qualify for service in India and in 1766 he sailed for Bengal, where he was employed as a clerk.[1, 2 & 3]

In July 1777 he married Catharine Nol Wehrle, the 14 year old daughter of a French official in Chandenagore. She must have been a very lively person. Grand could not adjust to her and in December 1778 he accused her of adultery and they parted. Divorce was not possible as they had married in the Roman Catholic church.

Grand continued to serve the British East India Copany, holding, as he later wrote, important positions in Hindustan, until for some unexplained reason he was dismissed in 1799 and embarked for England. The Cape was a regular port of call for the British Indiamen and during various brief sojourns Grand had come to love it. In a letter dated April 1776 he described the Cape as a "paradise of climate, in the height of the fruit season". This time he stayed seven months before proceeding and after his arrival in Europe he lost no time in obtaining, with the help of his discarded wife, the appointment of a prestigious position in the Cape Government.

Catharine had returned to Europe in 1781. Such evidence as could be collected definitely suggests that she was inncocent of adultery against Grand and in fact loved him deeply, but he refused to accept her pleadings and sent her away with a small allowance. Her reputation ruined and unable to remarry, she decided to enjoy life to the full. While stopping over at the Cape en route to France, she caused a stir with her beauty and loose morals. Here she met Count Nicola de Barras, a soldier in the French regiment Pondichery stationed at the Cape who afterwards became a leading figure in the French Revolution.

This gave her a stepping-stone into higher circles in Paris and after a long series of love-affairs she became the mistress of Talleyrand, Foreign Minister of Napoleon I,[4] who had originally been a bishop but had worked his way up to eventually becoming Grand Chamberlain of the Empire. He was created Prince of Benevento and accumulated vast riches. Catharine performed the official duties of the wife of the Foreign Minister. Napoleon, in order to regularize a situation which gave offence to the diplomatic corps and also to humiliate Talleyrand, forced him to marry the notorious Madame Grand. Talleyrand obtained the Pope's dispensation to dissolve Grand's marriage and for him to marry her.

Grand's presence in Paris at that time was causing Talleyrand embarrassment. Possibly prompted by intercession from Catharine[5] he not only arranged with the Dutch government to appoint him Privy Councillor in the far-away Cape Government, but also granted him a generous annuity.

Grand arrived at the Cape in April 1803 and claimed his position and second place in the government. However, Commissioner de Mist who jealously guarded against French influence gave him curt treatment and wrote to Holland asking for Grand's position to be clarified. When he was informed that Grand had merely been appointed Consulting Minister of State, all de Mist granted him was that he would make use of his knowledge of India by consulting him on matters relating to Indian trade, and to this vague position Grand had to submit.

Grand bought a house at the foot of Lion's Head, next to the Company's brickfields, but when in the following year he married Egberta Sophia Petronella, daughter of Egbertus Bergh, they moved to a house in Heerengracht given them by Bergh.[6]

After the second British occupation Grand was appointed Inspector of Government Lands, and later he made a living as a merchant.[8] In 1816 when already 67 years old, he wrote and published a book, *Narrative of a Gentleman long resident in India*,[1] in an effort to procure better recognition for services rendered and a commensurate pension. This may be described as the first production of a book in South Africa in the strict sense of the word.[7] Only two copies exist to-day, one in the British Museum in London, the other in the SA Library in Cape Town. It is not known whether he achieved his aim.

Grand died in 1820 and his wife Egberta in 1839. They were both laid to rest in the Bergh family vault.[9]

/ Grand: *Narrative of a Gentleman long resident in India*; [2] Joelsen: *Courtesan Princess*; [3] Rosenthal: *SA Dictionary of National Biography*; [4] Colliers Encyclopaedia: *Talleyrand*, Vol. 22, pp. 43-45; [5] Fairbanks: *Lady Barnard at the Cape*; [6] KAB, DO: T50, 1.6.1803; and T67, 8.6.1804; [7] Rosenthal: *160 Years of Cape Town printing*; [8] KAB, CO 4316, 5.11.1811; [9] KAB, MOOC 6/2; [10] KAB, VC 80 pp. 341-356: Letters written by Grand.

**Rouviere, Jeremie Auguste** born Neuchatel 1783, son of Jean Rouvière and Carlotta,[1] arrived July 1803.[2] He earned his living as watchmaker,[2] and in 1817 obtained citizenship and a licence to sell fruit, butter, soap and other local products.[3] Besides being a devoted freemason he was very active in the theatre with strong Dutch sympathies. Rouviere and all his children took part in the theatre and the ballet-dancing which went with it, and of course tickets to the shows could always be bought at his shop.[4]

In 1808 Rouviere married Anna Elizabeth Rossouw. During the next 18 years she had 10 children of whom 6 died in infancy, possibly because they were born weak due to Anna's poor health, so in 1826 Rouviere moved with his family to the healthier climate of Graaff-Reinet. No record was found of his activities there other than that together with Michael Joseph Adendorf he founded the freemason lodge *de Vereeniging*. By 1833 he was living in Colesburg working as a watchmaker.[4] After his wife's death in 1842 [6] he moved to Cradock where he is recorded as working as silversmith. He died 1852.[1]

Rouviere's children:

1. Elsje Mariane born 1809, married Cape Town 1826, Peter Hammes.
2. Charlotta Anna Aletta born 1811, married Graaf Reinet 1829, Michael Joseph Adendorf.

3. Johannes Pierre Francois born 1813, died young.
4. Louis August born 1815, farmer, married Graaff-Reinet 1835 Alida Elizabeth Smit.
5. Olimpe Sophia Elisabeth born 1817, died young.
6. Olimpe Elisabeth born 1820, married 1836 Johannes Nicolaas Morgendahl.
7. Frans Johannes Gregorius born 1821, died young.
8. Charl Joseph born 1823 .
9. a baby son born 1824, died at birth.
10. Augustien Elsje Charlotta born 1830 .

/ [1] KAB, MOOC 6/9/59: Estate 1571/1852; [2] KAB, J 41, *Opgawes* no. 100; [3] KAB, RDG 113; [4] Bosman 1980, vol. 1, p. 129; [5] Casalis 1888, p. 113; [6] KAB, MOOC 6/9/28: Estate 5856/1842.

**Touchon, Jacobus Petrus Fredericus** born Neuchatel NE 1777, son of Pierre-Frederic Touchon and Jeanne de Bari.[1] The following petition, addressed to Major-General Craig, Officer Commanding the British Occupation forces is preserved in the archives:[2]

"Petition of Jacques Pierre Frederic Touchon a native of Neuchatel in Switzerland and a subject of His Majesty the King of Prussia [Editor's note: Neuchatel joined the Swiss Confederation in 1815 but also remained a Prussian principality. Full freedom from was Prussia only gained by negotiation in 1848, after the dispute had brought Switzerland and Prussia to the brink of war]. That Your petitioner arrived here a passenger on the Mecklenburg ship Diana bound for India. Petitioner was a lieutenant of the Horse Chasseurs in the Prussian service; had long felt a strong inclination to see foreign countries and most particularly India. Having in the Regiment Meuron now in His British Majesty's service in Bengal some relations of reputation, he resigned his commission in the hope of meeting with some favourable opportunity for joining them and to have likewise the honour to enter into the British service, a service in which every true and experienced soldier may meet encouragement and glory! Arriving at the Cape and hearing that the Regiment Meuron had surrendered to His British Majesty [Editor's Note: The regiment had recently forsaken the Dutch and taken service with the British], he thereforee humbly prays Your Excellency will graciously condescend to employ him in His Majesty's service with that regiment in Bengal or in the cavalry. Dated Cape Town 29 March 1806 and signed Frederick von Touchon." [Editor's note: the prefix "von" was probably adopted while serving as officer in the Prussian army.]

The general replied that he had no say in matters pertaining to the Regiment Meuron and regretted that he had no vacancies in the local garrison. Touchon nevertheless stayed on, possibly lodging at the house of his compatriot Rouviere and socialising with the many French speakers living at the Cape. In November 1807 he applied for permission to remain here permanently[3] but England was still at war with Napoleon and French speakers were not welcome to settle in their colonies. Touchon's application was refused with the order that he must make immediate arrangements to quit the colony.

Touchon's reaction was to simply vanish into the outlying districts where he probably earned a living as a teacher. For the next ten years no official record of his whereabouts exist, until in 1817 his name appears on the roll of inhabitants in the Albany District.[4] In the following year he married Hendrina Jones[1] of Cape Town, daughter of Joseph Jonie of Canton Berne and Rennes in France, a widow six years older than Touchon. She was probably a stabilising factor in his life. He obtained the position of secretary to the newly established Dutch Reformed Church at Uitenhage and on the recommendation of the church elders was also appointed district schoolmaster.[5] He held these positions until 1823 and probably died a few years later.[4&6]

/ [1] KAB, 1 UIT/16/1; [2] KAB, CO 3857, no. 257; [3] KAB, CO 4312, dd. 2.11.1807; [4] KAB, J 405-407, CR Albany 1822, 1823 and 1825; [5] DRC, G10/1/1; [6] *Cape Alamanacs 1817-1823.*

**Meurant, Louis Balthasar** usually recorded as from Basel or Switzerland though at his second marriage he gave as his place of origin "Bourdioux" which could not be identified in Switzerland, nor could the *Staatsarchiv Kanton Basel-Stadt* trace him. The name Meurant is not listed in the Swiss Family Name Book.

Born 20.2.1773, he probably arrived at the Cape around the end of 1809 as the bandmaster of a British Regiment from Chester, with his first wife Louisa Eliza (1808-1888).[1] Meurant took his discharge in Cape Town and earned his living as a dancing-master and music teacher, and from 1813 onward augmented his income as a shopkeeper selling local produce.[2] His application for the same privileges as commissioned officers enjoyed "at home" after retiring were refused.[3]

Louis Balthasar Meurant is one of the first South African composers: he wrote the music for the ballet *Het liefde-nes* which J. Riaux produced with his pupils in the Afrikaans theatre, Cape Town, on 10.10.1810.[4 & 5]

Initially Meurant appears to have done reasonably well and in 1812 his first son, Louis Henry was born. (see below) Then he met with reverses. His second son born in 1813 died soon after birth, he had financial difficulties and had to sell his furniture and musical instruments, and in 1818 his wife died. Almost immediately he married Elisabeth Koen of Bengal, widow of Richard Basty. From then on his circumstances improved again. He was able to buy a printing-press for 300 pounds sterling for George Greig (thus financing the first free printing-press in South Africa) on condition that his son Louis Henry should serve his apprenticeship with him and become a partner.[6] Only five months later Governore Lord Charles Somerset suppressed the *Commercial Advertiser* edited by Thomas Pringle and John Fairbairn and printed by Greig, thus precipitating the famous struggle for a free press.

When Louis Balthasar died in 1826 he owned three houses in town while he himself lived on premises hired from the Heer J.N. Neethling in Longmarket Street with a warehouse and shop selling produce, clothing, materials, jewellery, tobacco, etc.

/ [1] *S.A. Standard Encyclopaedia*; [2] RGD 113; [3] CO 4315:87, 23.8.1881; [4] Bond: *They were South Africans*; [5] Bosman: *Drama en Toneel*; [6] Rosenthal: *160 Years of Cape Town printing.* Cape Town, 1960.

**Meurant, Louis Henry,** son of Louisd Balthasar Meurent, showed enterprise and self assurance from a very early age. At the age of 13, with all the confidence of a man of business, this minor applied for permission to purchase property in town. Suffice to say this was not granted.

In 1820 Robert Godlonton and Thomas Strongfellow brought an old wooden printing-press to the Cape but on arrival it was confiscated by the authorities who feared that a press would organise frontier opinion. It was sent to Graaff-Reinet and used for printing government notices. In 1831 it was auctioned and Louis Meurant bought it and established the first newspaper in the Eastern Cape, the *Graham's Town Journal.* He also established other newspapers, the most important being *Het Kaapsche Grensblad* (1844-50) in which he published under various no*nom-de-plumes* two series of letters and dialogues commenting on current affairs. Godlontonm soon joined him, became a partner in 1843 and bought him out in 1849.

Thereafter Louis Meurant worked as a merchant and interpreter, took part in frontier wars, often as officer commanding the burgher forces. In 1863 he was appointed magistrate and 1884 elected member of the Legislative Assembly in Cape Town.

In 1860-61 he published his famous *Zaamspraak tussen Klaas Waarzegger en Jan Twyfelaar* in the *Cradock News.* This attracted so many readers that it was reprinted in bookform – the first Afrikaans book. His *non-de-plume Klaas Waarzegger* practically came to be a symbol of Afrikaans conciousness and played an important role in the first Afrikaans language movement. Louis Henri Meurant died 29.3.1893 at Riversdale.

After his mother's early death he was raised by an Afrikaans speaking family, but it was said that he never lost the French accent acquired from his father.

/ Nienaber: *Louis Henri Meurant*

**Schindler, Friedrich** born Glarus GL 1776, bricklayer, 1815 while resident in St. John's Street, Cape Town, received permission to remain in the colony[1] and in the

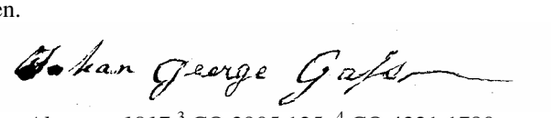
following year married Johanna Geertruyda Booysen, widow of P. de Villiers Jacob's son. 1818 he became a burgher[2] and died 16.1.1842 on the farm *Boskloof* near Clanwilliam, described as a mason and poor, leaving a stepdaughter and little or no possessions.[3] / [1] KAB, CO 6055; [2] KAB, CO 333 no. 230; [3] KAB, MOOC 7/1/167 no. 15 and MOOC 6/9/25: Estate 5384.

**Clason, John Andrew** born Switzerland 1786, Major in the British 20th Infantry Regiment at Madras, died 11.11.1815 while on leave at the Cape. / KAB: MOOC 6/2.

**Van Gass, Johan George** claimed to have been born St. Gall SG 6.12.1772, repeated efforts to verify this were unsuccessful. It has been suggested that he was of utch origin as he left Europe with a Dutch passport on the Dutch vessel *Onderneming*, carrying a cargo of ordinance stores from Texel to Batavia. On arrival at the Cape, 2.3.1816[2] he applied for permission to remain here, signing his name Johan George Gass.[3] He is next recorded seven years later when on 4.10.1823 he married Johanna Barendina, 19 year old daughter of Johann Heinrich Zimmermann of Haldersleben, Germany. Van Gass himself was then 51 and resident at Cango, Districht of Oudtshoorn.

He earned his living as teacher. Perhaps he also tried his hand at farming? In 1825 he was found guilty, at the Magistrate's Court, of transgressing the land lease regulations.[4] Van Gass lived to be 101 years old and died on his son Johan Georg's farm. He and Johanna had four children:

1. Frederik Paul Georg born 3.10.1824, known as Ferdinand Paulus, a Voortrekker who had six daughters and five sons. He died 1883 in Adelaide.
2. Johan Hendirik born 19.11.1825, farmed in the Queenstown District and died when only 38. He was survived by two sons and two daughters.
3. Dina Cornelia Maria Magdalena born 27.1.1827, died in infancy.
4. Johan Georg born28.9.1828, became a successful farmer and died 1873 survived by his wife and eight children.



/ Heese: *Genealogies;* [2] *Cape Almanac 1817*; [3] CO 3905:125; [4] CO 4321:1780, 27.9.1825.

**Brunner, Leonhard** born Schaffhausen, reputedly 1796. In 1820 recorded as shopkeeper in a house owned by himself at Vinkesteeg 2, and having a female and a male slave.[1] 1825 he had a retail shop in Loop Street and in that year became a burgher.[2] He repeatedly travelled into the country districts.[3] He was last recorded 1828.[4]

Married Cape Town 19.12.1819 Jeanetta Margaretha of Mauritius. No records of their children were found, but 1869.6.19 a possible daughter or granddaughter, Jeanne Jacqueline Brunner married Adrianus Benjamin Colenbrander.[5]

/ [1] KAB, RDG 121: Slave Reg. 1820; [2] KAB, CO 6133; [3] KAB, RDG 113: pp. 12, 24 and 71; [4] *Cape Almanac, 1828*; [5] Heese, JA & RTJ Lombard: *South African Genealogies*, 1992-1999, vol. 1, p. 476

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BK 43 = BGL Land Claims.

BKR = Military Council
BKR 1, 2, Minutes.
BKR 9, Musterrolls and various lists of names.

BO = British Occupation
BO 20, 24, 45, Memorials.
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CSC.2/1/1/245 (1887) Supreme Court, Cape Town, Criminal Cases.
CSC 2/1/1/1492 No.389

DO = Deeds Office Cape Town
Title Deeds (Transfers (T), Freeholds (OSF) and others, 1652-
ZK 8/4/1- contains the above on microfilm

DRC = Dutch Refortmed Chruch Archives
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G1/13/1- Cape Town, Marriages 1757-1839, and Church Members 1757-1844.
G2/4/1- Stellenbosch, Baptisms.
G2/7/1- Stellenbosch, marriages.
G3/1/1- Paarl, minutes.
G10/1/1- Uitenhage, minutes.
VC 603, 604 Cape Town Baptisms, Membership and Marriages, 1695-1844 Minutes of Church Council.
VC 619 Cape Town, Membership.
VC 621 Cape Town, Marriage and Membership 1713-1756.
VC 639 Stellenbosch, Marriages 1700-1788, Members 1732-1788.
VC 644 Paarl (Drakenstein), Baptism 1694-1745, and French Baptism Register, Paarl.
VC 663 Tulbagh, Membership 1743-1850.
VC 673 Graaff-Reinet, Baptisms 1792-1805.

J = Citizens' Roll (Opgaafrolle)
J2, Returns of Albany only, 1821, and Albany, Grahamstown and vicinity, Upper Bushmans River, Fish River and Bruintijes Hoogte, 1822.
J 19, Stellenbosch, 1807.
J 37, List of Permanent Residents and Company's Servants, Cape Town 1800.
J 41, Cape Town and Cape District, 1807.
J 110; 113; 122; 133; 144, Citizens' Roll. Graaff-Reinet, for resp. 1792, 1798, 1802-04, 1810 and 1814.
J 143, Graaf-Reinet, c. 1814
J 144, Company's servants, 1799.
J 183-185, District of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein 1692-1719.
J 203, General Rolls of Roads, Ways and Drifts, District of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, 1768.
J 203; 207, Stellenbosch and Drakenstein 1768 and 1773-1774 resp.
J 226, Stellenbosch 1800 and 1801, Rolls of retired Company Servants, 1801 and 1802.
J 235 ls Stellenbosch 1807 Final roll.

J 296, Stellenbosch 1831 Field Cornet's Rolls.
J 318, 321, Swellendam c.1806 and 1807 resp.
J 372, 379, 381, Tulbagh 1807, 1812, 1813 and 1814 resp.
J 401 Grahamstown, 1817
J 443 Cape District c 1752 (not dated, date by approximation)

LM = Leibbrandt Manuscript Series
LM 2 Resolutions of the Council of Policy, 1651-1658.
LM 13 Journal of Cape Governors 1696-1698.
LM 15 Requests (Memorials) received by Council of Policy.
LM 48 Letters of Freedom, 1657-1662; Lists of Freemen, 1660-1662; Muster Rolls 1656-1662, Death Register 1655-1662 and Title Deeds 1659-1662.

MK = Inventary of the archives of the Master of the Supreme Court Kimberley.
Insolvent estates.

MOIB/MOIC = Minutes of proceedings of the Insolvency Chamber
MOIB 2A/3, Insolvent liquidation and distribution account.
MOIB 22/2/3, folder marked J.U. Kibourg: Kiburg's diary
MOIC 2/54 as above.
MOK 2/1/1238, Insolvent Estates.

MOOC = Master's Office, Orphan Chamber
MOOC 2/277 Annexures to Minutes.
MOOC 6/1-3, Death Registers.
MOOC 6/9/1-843, Cape Death Notices, 1834-1916.
MOOC 7/1/1- Wills, General Series, 1834-
MOOC 8/2-35, Inventories, 1673-1834.
MOOC 10/7-10, Vendue Rolls 1768-1772.
MOOC 14/9
MOOC 14/199, Annexures to Liquidation and Distribution Accounts, 1700-
MOOC 14/237: *Stamboek van het Begrafnis Genootschap der Europeanen 't welk is begonnen met prima January 1796.*

MR = Muster Rolls found in LM 48, VC 40-47, 103 and 166, and ZA 2/7/1-6. (See Table 3)

PC = Port Captain
PC 3/1 Arrival of ships 1806 Jan – 1824 Jan. Pages not numbered.

(1/6) QQR = Quit Rent Registers 1792-1919
QQR 70, Quitrent Register and Grants, George, 1814-1914.
QQR 302, Quitrent Register: Loan Places Stellenbosch 1792-1839.

(1/83) RDG = Burgher Senate 1793-1839
RDG 13, Secretary of the Burgher Senate. Minutes.
RDG 113, Register of Shop Licencees.
RDG 121, Slave Register 1820, Opgaafrolle van Inwoners en Vry swartes in Kaapstad

Nov 1820
RDG 121, Rolls of Citizens and Free Blacks in Cape Town, 1820.

(1/4/1) RLR = Receiver of Land Revenue 1682-1830
RLR 1 and 3 Grazing Licences: Hunting and Grazing, 1682-1830.

RLR 14, Licences: Loan Farms.

T = Deeds Office / Transporte en Skeepskennisse see
ZK 88/1-4/1, Microfilms, Cape Title Deeds 1652-1825.

VC = Verbatim Copies of documents, including material from the Algemeen Rijksarchief, The Hague.
VC 1-34, Journals of Cape Governors, 1651-1789.
VC 39, Muster Rolls (MR) of Free Burghers, officers, soldiers, etc at the Cape 1657-1699 (3 volumes containing List of deaths at the Fort, 1655-1670; Letters of Freedom issued 1656-1662; 1668; Memorandums of land ownership 1657 and Land Grants – Table Valley, etc., 1657-1667).
VC 40-47, General Muster Rolls (GMR) 1657-1789. Annual lists of officers, sailors and soldiers at the Cape.
VC 48, General Muster Rolls (GMR): Officials, 1761-1762.VC 49-55, GMR.: Free Burghers and Wives, 1702-1725.
VC 49-55, General Muster Rolls (GMR): Free Burghers and wives, 1702-1774.
VC 80 pp. 341-56, Letters written by G F Grand.
VC 103, GMR of Officials, military and naval, 1705.
VC 122, Dispute between Cape Government and De Meuron, 1787-1790.
VC 166, Muster Roll of soldiers in the garrison at the Cape, 1756.
VC 603-604, Cape Town, Baptisms, Membership and Marriages, 1695-1844; Minutes of Church Council.
VC 619, Cape Town, Membership 1757-1844.
VC 621, Cape Town, Marriage and Membership 1713-1756
VC 622, Cape Town, Marriages 1757-1803.
VC 639, Stellenbosch Marriages 1700-1788, Members 1732-1788.
VC 644, Paarl (Drakenstein) Baptism 1694-1745; French Baptism Register Paarl.
VC 652-653 Paarl, Membership, 1715-1786 & 1785-1843.
VC 663, Tulbagh: Membership 1743-1850.
VC 673, Graaff-Reinet, Baptismes 1792-1805.
VC 743, Wynberg, Marriage Register 1833-1839.

(6/8) = ZK 88/1-4/1, Microfilms, Cape Title Deeds 1652-1825.

1/KIM = Archives of the Magistrate, Kimberley
1/KIM /8/1/1; 10; 11, Kimberley, Marriage Licences.

1/STB = Archives of the Magistrate, Stellenbosch, 1683-
1/STB/13/21-27, General Muster-rolls 1700-1794.
1/STB/15/2-15, Citizens Attestations, 1827-1834.
1/STB/16/137-138, List of Discharged Company Officials, 1796-1800.
1/STB/16/143-146, List of Deaths 1794-1835.
1/STB/16/147-149, Death Register 1824-1833.
1/STB/18/1-29, Notarial Deeds, Wills 1687-1827.
1/STB/18/40, Contracts, 1689-1701.
1/STB/22/34, Matrimonial Court, Minutes dd 1819.12.04

1/SWM = Archives of the Magistrate, Swellendam
1/SWM, 16/43, Matrimonial Court, Minutes.

1/UIT = Archives of the Magistrate, Uitenhage, 1805-

1/UIT/16/1, Matrimonial Court, Minute Books 1818-1822.

1/WOR, Archives of the Magistrate, Worcester
1/WOR.2/15, Minutes of Criminal Cases.

**Dutch Reformed Church Archives, Stellenbosch (DRC)**
DRC Aliwal North, church registers
[VC605-618] G1 1/1-8/17, Cape Town, baptisms 1713-1843.
G1 12/1, DRC Cape Town, church members.
[VC622-623] G1 13/1-7 DRC Cape Town, marriages 1757-1839, and church members 1757- 1844.
[VC632-636] G2 4/1-8, Stellenbosch, baptisms.
[VC632, 637-639] G2 6/1-3, Stellenbosch, members.

G3 3/1, DRC Paarl, Death Register (1694-1795)
G3 1/1, DRC Paarl, minutes.

G2 7/1, DRC Stellenbosch, marriages.
G 10 1/1, DRC Uitenhage, minutes.
DRC Wynberg, members register, as above.
DRC Wellington, Marriage Reg

Grootekerk: Funeral hatchment to the right of the pulpit.

4. GERMANY

**a. Lindau** (Bodensee), Kulturamt - Stadtarchiv.
Lindau (Bodensee), Stadtarchiv.

3. NETHERLANDS

**a. The Hague**, Algemeen Rijksarchier (ARA)
ARA VOC 4030-4059, Muster Rolls.
ARA MR = Muster Rolls in VOC.11534-11702.

**b. Leersum** near Utrecht, Parish Register No Utrecht: 1661.01.29. (Information supplied by Mrs Jean M Schönberg)

4. SWITZERLAND [CH]

**a. Aarau**, Staatsarchiv des Kantons Aargau.
**b. Anwiler BL**, Anwiler Familienbuch
**c. Aubonne VD, Office d'Etat-Civil**
**d. Baselland Staatsarchiv**
**e. Basel-Stadt**, Staatsarchiv des Kantons, Mitteilung.
**f. Berne**
Federal Archives (Bundesarchiv {BA)

**Schweizerische Landesbibliothek**.
**Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Familienforschung**, Bibliothekar.

**g. Bleiken BE**, Zivilstandsamt.
**Bubikon ZH**, Zivilastandsamt, *Familienblatt.*

**h. Bühler AR**, Gemeindekanzlei.

**i. Degersheim SG**, Politische Gemeinde.
**Ebnat-Kappel SG**, Politische Gemeinde, *Familienblätter.*

**j. Emdingen ZH**, Einwohnergemeinde

**k. Fahrwangen AG**, Bürgerregister.
*Bürgerregister* Band ll
Bürgerregister Band II, Blatt 600
Bürgerregister Band II, Blatt 4a & 4B & Bd.I S.358
**Fräschels FR,** Reformed Church Registers.
**Frauenfeld TG** Staatsarchiv des Kantons Thurgau, Mitteilung.

**l. Gelterkinden BL**, Zivilstandsamt

**m. Glarus, Landesarchiv des Kantons,** Band Glarus Nos.106 & 133, Geschichte vom Netstal fol.37.

**n. Hausen am Albis ZH**, Gemeindeverwaltung.
**Hedingen ZH,** Einwohnergemeinde Hedingen ZH, E.III. 48.12

**o. Laufen BE**, Zivilstandsamt.

**p. Lausanne VD**: Archives cantonales.
**Leukerbad VS**: Zivilstandsamt.
**Liesthal BL**
Basel-Landschaft, Canton, State Archives:
NA, Brandversicherung C 3 (Brandlagerbücher), Rothenfluh 3.0, Nr.99;
NA, Kirchen E 9, Oltingen 3 and 7 and Rothenfluh 6;
BS (Sissach, Bd. 909 (Obligationen Rothenfluh), S. 184, 334 and 378 (1860- 1862) and Bd. 475 (Fertigungen 1866), Nr. 145;
BG Gelterkinden, Minuten Plenarfälle 1877 (Bd. 60, Nr. 16)

**q. Meiringen BE**, Zivilstandsamt.

**r. Mühleberg BE**, Zivilstandsamt.

**s. Neuchatel**
Institut d'ethnologie.
Archives de l'Etat Neuchâtel, Neuchatel [AEN]
Arch. Fam. Meuron:
Dossier no. 27, Letters no. 38, 30.11.1785; Dossier no. 19-II,
Dossier no. 57, Letters no. 29, 23.12.1785.
Dossier no. 57, Letters No. 38, 4.11.1786.

**t. Rorschach TG**, Einwohneramt.

**u. Schwarzenegg BE**, Zivilstandsamt.

**v. Schwellbrunn AR**, Zivilstandsamt.

**w. Seuzach,** Bevölkerungsverzeichnis

**x. St Gallen**, Staatsarchiv.

**y. Stetten AG**, Zivilstandsamt.

**z . Thierachern BE**, Bugergemeinde.

**aa. Thurgau**, Staatsarchiv des Kantons.

**ab. Tramelan BE**
Ofice de l'état civil.
Archives Communales.

ac. **Trüllikon ZH**, Gemeindeverwaltung (Information supplied by Mr LH Posthumus)

ad. **Unterlangenegg BE**, Gemeinde: *Familienblatt*

**Vaud**
Archives Cantonales Vaudois [ACV]
Dossier généalogique Constançon d'Orbe et Envy. [ACV Const]

ae. **Wahlern BE**, Gemeinde

af**. Zürich ZH**
**Staatsarchiv des Kantons**
Zürcher Kirchenbücher
*Todeseintrag im Totenbuch von Wülflingen zwischen 20. und 23. Januar 1771.*
Historisch-Biographischer Lexikon der Schweiz Band V S.322-323: "*Visitationen und Untersuchungen,wie selbige Anno 1702 ist vorgenommen worden von derjenigen Mannschaft aus meiner gnädigen Herren Botmässigkeit, welche sich theils in fremden Kriegsdiensten theils sonst ausser Landes findet, wie solches von den Herren Dekanen einkommen*."

*UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*

**Salt Lake City**
**Genealogical Society Salt Lake City**
Archives Etat Neuchatel, Travers, District du Val de Travers, church registers.

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