

Denÿssen Family Tree

This has been investigated in a perfunctory manner. There was rumoured to be a liaison between Petrus Johannes Denÿssen and a (undocumented "raven-haired beauty"), the sister of Lodewyk (Louis) Serrurier Snr. (1816 - 1899)

Daniel Denÿssen b Amsterdam 1778 (so. Petrus Denÿssen and Elina Hoffman) d 14 Strand Street, Cape Town 18 February 1855 m Cape town 1 March 1812 Magdalena Elizabeth Smuts (b 1794 d 14 Strand Street, Cape Town 11 November 1855 do. Johannes Smuts and Magdalena Elizabeth Wernich MOOC 6/9/72 no. 3454 * = mentioned in this document)

Offspring:

1. * Petrus Johannes Denÿssen b 18 August 1811 d Bonn 5 November 1883 m (first) 14 February 1842 Susanna Justina Brink (second) 4 December 1856 Susanna Johanna Fleck (third)
2. Petrus Abraham ~ 31 January 1813
3. * Magdalena Elizabeth Denÿssen ~ 14 September 1814 d 1 September 1888 m Johannes Carolus de Wet
4. * Johannes Denÿssen b 20 April 1817 ~ 4 May 1817
5. * Daniel Adriaan Denÿssen b 5 October 1820 ~ 22 October 1820
6. * Hendrick Justinus Denÿssen b 5 October 1818 ~ 1 November 1818 m
7. * Elizabeth Maria Denÿssen b 17 February 1822 ~ 3 March 1822 d 20 October 1885 m Rev Stephanus Petrus Heyns (S P Steyn)
8. * Abraham Denÿssen b 16 May 1829 ~ 7 June 1829

1. * Petrus Johannes Denÿssen b 18 August 1811 d Bonn 5 November 1883 m (first) 14 February 1842 Susanna Justina Brink, (second) 4 December 1856 Susanna Johanna Fleck, (third) Clara Esther Law

Petrus Johannes Denÿssen m Susanna Justina Brink (d. 18 October 1854) MOOC 6/9/72 no. 3454. Petrus Johannes Denÿssen 1811-1883 and Susanna Justina Brink joint estate on her death MOOC 13/1/163 no.42 valued at £1596/12/5. Offspring given as Margaretha Anna Denÿssen, Magdalena Elizabeth Denÿssen, Susanna Justina Denÿssen.

Petrus Johannes Denÿssen estate MOOC 13/1/452 no.71 valued at £508/13/2. His estate filed 19 February 1885 mentions the widow P J Denÿssen, Petrus Johannes Denÿssen, Laura Ann Denÿssen, Inez Denÿssen, Grace Elizabeth Denÿssen, Ella Dorethea Irene Denÿssen. His Obituary appeared in the Cape Argus 15 December 1883.

5. Daniel Adriaan Denÿssen b 1821 d 25 March 1866, a market master MOOC 6/9/115 no.2534 m the widow S P Wolhunter

Offspring : Daniel Denÿssen, Jan Abraham Denÿssen, Petrus Johannes Denÿssen

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6. Hendrick Justinus Denÿssen b 5 October 1818 ~ 1 November 1818 m
 - 6.1 Henry Denÿssen b 1841 m Knysna 23 June 1868 Sarah Sophia Hooper (b 1852)
 - 6.1.1 Henry Justinus Denÿssen b 1 July 1869 ~ Knysna 1 August 1869
 - 6.1.2 Catharina Charlotte Denÿssen b 25 November 1870 ~ Knysna 15 January 1871
 - 6.1.3 William Hooper Denÿssen b 11 September 1875 ~ Knysna 5 December 1875
 - 6.1.4 Sarah Helena Denÿssen b 23 August 1877 ~ Knysna 17 September 1877
 - 6.1.5 Daisy Maud Denÿssen 9 April 1895 ~ Calitzdorp 20 June 1895

South African Legal Bibliography : A A Roberts BA LLB. Pretoria 1942
Biographical Memoirs and Reminiscences. Cape Town. (nd) 2 volumes. Vi; 91 Sir Gilbert
Kotzé.

Petrus Johannes Denyssen (1811-1883) was born in Cape Town on 18 August 1811. His father, Daniel, originated from Holland and was Fiscal (or Attorney-General) in 1813; and later practising as an advocate.

Petrus graduated in Leiden *cum laude*, and afterwards read in the chambers of Sergeant Wylde (Wilde). He was called by the Inner Temple on 18 November 1836. On 12 July 1837. he was admitted to the Cape Bar; but in 1840 left the bar to become secretary to the Cape Town Municipality for 15 years. From 1856 to 1865, he was once more at the bar and had a good practice. He was then appointed to the Eastern District Court at Grahamstown. On the 1 September 1868, after three years, he moved to the Cape Supreme Court as a judge. In 1877, he retired on pension and went to live in Bonn, Germany where he died on 15 November 1883.

1903 SA Law Journal p.221 (with portrait)

"He was a man of determined character but of very affectionate disposition. He was courteous and dignified, and manifested great common sense and ability as a judge."

DSAB vol. 3 p. 207; vol.5 p.185-186 ~ J C Quinton states :

"He was the son of Daniel Denyssen and Magdalena Elizabeth Smuts. He went to Holland in 1830 where he took his LLD at the University of Leyden after which he moved to London. He particularly excelled in cases relating to estates. He married twice and his second wife was Clara Esther Law. He had 3 children from the first marriage and one from the second."

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Saturday, 26 July 2003

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