

# VAN DER WALT\_VORSTER\_ERASMUS\_BOOYSEN\_DISSEL

2009/04/21 05:17 AM: PROLOGUE

The letter below led to the research notes which follow. I have made no attempt at interpreting the information though I believe that it speaks for itself.

Good morning Robin

I wonder if you could help a complete stranger?

I found your name on a South Africa Genealogy website, linked to the surname ERASMUS. My research has hit a wall on my paternal grandmother. Details I have of her are:

Born: **Judith Cornelia Etrisia ERASMUS**, sometime in the late eighteen hundreds. She married my grandfather Bernadus Ignatius Heroden DISSEL probably after the Boer War, estimate between 1902 - 1905. In 1905, she had her first child Johannes Christoffel DISSELL in Germiston. She went on to have 8 children, the first few born in Germiston, and the rest in Johannesburg. I have documentation indicating her address as Kensington Johannesburg in 1945. She must have died between then and 1951 when I was born.

Ralph Dissell

Sanctuary Cove, QLD Australia

## DISSEL <sup>i</sup>

A (partial) transcript of a letter to Jno Dissell of Johannesburg from The Chief Archivist for the Union of South Africa at the Houses of Parliament, (Lieut.-Col.) Dr. C Graham Botha <sup>ii</sup>.

What may be of interest is the following which he recounts:

A Will [was] registered in the Orphan Chamber 27 March 1830, the then earliest such attached to a "Dessel" known, where he is called Dessel of Zwartzenburg. The spelling is contested by Jno, he's always known it as Dessel of Zchwartzzenbergh!

C Graham Botha goes on to share that a Johan Frederick Deijssel van Paterborn gehuwd (married) 2de Januari 1752 met (with) Cornelia van Saxen. JFD died 31 October 1823.

Further, there is a Joint Will of Johan Christoffel Dessel van Zwartzenburg end (and) Evertina Christina born in Colony (this suggested an emancipated slave)

Family name spellings he has determined from Wills etc. are 1726-35 Dissel; 1830 Dessel; 1833 Deyssel; 1836 Dyssel; 1851 Dissel; 1853 Diesel; 1861 Deysel; 1866 Deyzel; 1870 Dysel.

Last fact he shares: Jan Maries Dissel of Oost Vriesland a soldier arrived in the colony in 1720 aboard the Barneveld and was directed to be an agriculturalist. Later, with permission of the governor, he left. Jan Philip Dissel of Bikkenbag arrived aboard the West Vriesland and went on to become a wagon maker.

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A certain Nicolaas VAN DER WALT and his wife Maria Magdalena Elizabeth née VORSTER make a joint will in 1860. This is filed 30<sup>th</sup> August 1860 following the death of NvdW.

KAB MOOC VOLUME\_NO 7/1/250.184 DESCRIPTION: VAN DER WALT, NICOLAAS. WILL & VORSTER, MARIA MAGDALENA ELIZABETH. WIFE OF NICOLAAS VAN DER WALT. WILL. FILED 1860.

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Maria Magdalena Pitronella Elesabetta Van Der Walt (her spelling in her own handwriting) of Sternburgs Spruit dist. Colesberg and Frans Fredrik Erasmus sign joint will 1 January 1838.

KAB MOOC VOLUME\_NO 7/1/257.4 DESCRIPTION: VAN DER WALT, MARIA MAGDALENA PETRONELLA ELISABETH. WIFE OF FRANS FREDRIK ERASMUS. WILL. 1838. FILED 1861

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Nicolaas van der Walt of the dist. Middelburg (so. Andries Stephanus Jacobus van der Walt and Annie Kruger) died aged 19 years on 2 August 1860 at Elandskloof dist. Middelburg. He was a sheep farmer. His wife was Maria Magdalena Elizabeth VORSTER. There were no offspring.

Filed 31 August 1860

KAB MOOC VOLUME\_NO 6/9/91. 8041 DESCRIPTION: VAN DER WALT, NICOLAAS. DEATH NOTICE. 1860

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Unable to read this document except that codicil dated May 1835. No visible indication of when filed.

KAB MOOC VOLUME\_NO 7/1/256.31 DESCRIPTION: VAN DER WALT, NICOLAAS. CODICIL. FILED 1861

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In the Final Liquidation and Distribution Account of Maria Magdalena Elizabeth Petronella van der Walt signed in Burgersdorp 13 September 1866 by (going by his handwriting an elderly) F F Erasmus and filed 24 September 1866, the following were the offspring of this marriage:

- Tjaart Erasmus
- Daniel Johannes Erasmus
- Catharine Geertruida Erasmus
- Maria Magdalena Petronella Elizabeth Erasmus
- Anna Francina Magdalena Erasmus
- Hester Louretta Elizabeth Erasmus
- Francina Fredrica Erasmus
- Maria Elizabeth Geertruida Erasmus

KAB MOOC VOLUME\_NO 13/1/226: 76 DESCRIPTION: VAN DER WALT, MARIA MAGDALENA PETRONELLA ELIZABETH. LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT. 1866

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In their joint will written and signed at Burgersdorp 16 May 1872, de Heer Frans Fredrik Erasmus and Mejufrouw Judith Cornelia Etresia Booyesen leave their estates to:

1. in the first instance, the remaining marriage partner (Echtgenoot)
2. the children of his previous marriage, the then partner Maria Magdalena Elizabeth van der Walt. These children are listed as
  - 2.1 Tjaart
  - 2.2 Daniel Johannes
  - 2.3 Catharina Geertruida
  - 2.4 Maria Magdalena Petronella Elizabeth
  - 2.5 Anna Petronella Magdalena
  - 2.6 Francina Fredrica
  - 2.7 Hester Elizabeth

Will first appears 10 April 1874, thus Erasmus dies before this; and is filed 22 April 1874

KAB MOOC VOLUME_NO 7/1/335.41 DESCRIPTION: BOOYSEN, JUDITH CORNELIA ETRESIA. WIFE OF FRANS HENDRIK <sup>iii</sup> ERASMUS. WILL 1872.FILED 1874
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Filed 22 August 1897

Judith Cornelia Etreasa Van Der Walt née BOOYSEN born in Natal (do. Jonathan David Wilhelminus Booyesen and Catharina Wilhelmina NN) died at Lilliekloof dist. Albert in the home of her son-in-law T T Nel, aged 49 year & 6 days on 1 August 1891. An invalid, she was twice a widow.

1. Frans Fredrick Erasmus d. 1873
2. Douw Gertbrund (sic: Gertbrand) Van Der Walt d. 27 June 1890

Her children by FFE

1. Catrina Wilhelmina E
2. **Judith Cornelia Atreasa E**
3. Frans Fredrick E

FFE had had 7 children prior to this by his first wife (unnamed) and these 10 children were left Lilliekloof.

Her children by DG vdW

4. Anna Martha vdW
5. Douw Gertbrund (sic: Gertbrand) vdW
6. Jonathan David Wilhelmus vdW

Wills are dated jointly 16 May 1872 and her alone 31 October 1888

KAB MOOC VOLUME_NO 6/9/295 REFERENCE 1310 DESCRIPTION: VAN DER WALT, JUDITH CORNELIA ETREASA. NEE BOOYSEN. DEATH NOTICE. 1891
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Filed 19 June 1874, the Liquidation and Distribution Accounts of Frans Fredrick Erasmus and surviving widow Judith Cornelia Etresia Booysen were signed by t ersmus, D Erasmus, S W Vanderwalt

Aparts from household items and some cash, the farm Liliekloof dist. Wodehouse <sup>iv</sup> was left to 10 children with a "life interest" in the name of the widow.

Those children names were:

1. Tihart
2. Daniel Johannes
3. Casharina Geertruida (deceased spouse of Petrus Jacoba Vanderwalt)  
the portion to be divided between their 4 children listed as:
  - I. Maria Magdalena vdW
  - II. Maria Magdalena vdW
  - III. Barent Rudolf vdW
  - IV. Frantz Frederick vdW
4. Maria Magdalena Petronella Elizabetha
5. Anna Francina Magdalena
6. Hester Louvretha Elizabetha
7. Francina Frederika
  8. Casharina Wilhelmina
  9. Judith Cornelia Etresia
  10. Frantz Frederick

KAB MOOC VOLUME_NO 13/1/300 REFERENCE 53 DESCRIPTION: BOOYSEN, JUDITH CORNELIA ETRESIA. LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT. 1874
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The joint estate of the late Frans Frederick Erasmus and Judith Cornelia Etresia van der Walt (should have been Booysen <sup>v</sup> ). On her death, this document defines the heirs as:

Catrina W Erasmus (child of both)  
**Judock Cornela Etreasa (child of both)** <sup>vi</sup>  
Frans Frederick (child of both) <sup>vii</sup>

Tjaart Erasmus <sup>viii</sup> (child by previous marriage)  
Maria Magdalena (child by previous marriage)  
Hester L E <sup>ix</sup> (child by previous marriage)  
Francina Fredrica (child by previous marriage)  
Daniel J Erasmus (child by previous marriage)  
Children of Catharina G van der Walt <sup>x</sup> (grandchildren)  
Anna Francina <sup>xi</sup> (child by previous marriage)

KAB MOOC VOLUME_NO 13/1/643.15 DESCRIPTION: ERASMUS, JUDITH CORNELIA E. BORN VAN DER WALT. LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT. 1893
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Grandfather was Bernadus Ignatius Heroden DISSEL(L) b.1882 Dewetsdorp  
d.1925 Johannesburg <sup>xii</sup>

Grandmother was Judith Cornelia Etrisia ERASMUS

Married probably after the Boer War, estimate between 1902-1905.

They had 8 children were:-

1. Johannes Christoffel b. 1906 Germiston <sup>xiii</sup>
2. Frank Frederick b. 1908 <sup>xiv</sup>
3. Bernadus Rhodes Dissell b. 4 December 1911 Johannesburg d. 1994 <sup>xv</sup>
4. Gert Hendrik Dissell b. 1913 Johannesburg d. 2001 Germiston <sup>xvi</sup>
5. Jeanette Sophia Elizabetta b. 1915 <sup>xvii</sup>
6. Cornelius b. 1918 <sup>xviii</sup>
7. Anna Wilhelmina Dissell b. 27 May 1921 Johannesburg d. 5 March  
1994 Free State
8. Judith Cornelia Dissell b. 9 February 1922 d. 1995 Umhlanga  
Rocks, Kwazulu-Natal

In the South African National Archives, documents relating to this family are listed under the following spellings: Dessel, Dissel, Dissell.  
The following possible spellings have been explored: **Dessel, Dissel, Dissell Diesel, Dyssel, Dyssell**

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#### ENDNOTES

<sup>i</sup> KAB CAD VOLUME\_NO 1/2/9 REFERENCE 10/3/A46 DESCRIPTION: GENEALOGICAL. DEATHS AND ESTATES. DISSELL. 1926-1931

<sup>ii</sup> C Graham Botha. (1883-1973). For interest, I include the notes below

<sup>iii</sup> This is a transcription error by the archivist. It should read Frans Fredrick Erasmus. It will be noted that there are a number of such.

<sup>iv</sup> For the record, Wodehouse later became part of the Dordrecht Divisional Council

<sup>v</sup> To set the picture straight: I am assured by the archivist that problems relating to lineage where multiple marriages were involved, the spelling of names and identifying places accurately were not uncommon. It was often related to the uneducated nature of the people involved (citizenry and law officers); the use of English, High Dutch and the pidgin / patuá that later was to become formalised as Afrikaans; and the frequent lack of familiarity by those completing the records with rural geography, official and informal place names.

<sup>vi</sup> KAB MOOC VOLUME\_NO 6/9/436.3333 DESCRIPTION: VAN DER WALT, JUDOCK CORNELIA ETRASA. NEE ERASMUS. DEATH NOTICE. 1901

<sup>vii</sup> KAB MOOC VOLUME\_NO 13/1/643.14 DESCRIPTION: ERASMUS, FRANS FREDERICK. LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT. 1892

VAB MHG REFERENCE E1043 DESCRIPTION: ERASMUS, FRANS FREDERIK of/or FREDERICK. EGGENOTES MARIA MAGDALENA (GEBORE OLIVIER) en/and MARTHA JACOMINA (GEBORE VENTER). 1916

VAB MHG REFERENCE E953 DESCRIPTION: ERASMUS, MARIA MAGDALENA. NOOIENSVAN OLIVIER. EGGENOOT FRANS FREDERIK ERASMUS. 1911

VAB MHG REFERENCE 19419 DESCRIPTION: KRUGER, FRANS. EGGENOTE MARTHA JACOMINA (GEBORE VENTER). 1927

<sup>viii</sup> KAB MOOC VOLUME\_NO 6/9/330.1537 DESCRIPTION: ERASMUS, TJAART ERASMUS. DEATH NOTICE. 1894

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<sup>ix</sup> KAB MOOC VOLUME\_NO 6/9/430.2163 DESCRIPTION: VENTER, HESTER LORETTA ELIZABETH. NEE ERASMUS. DEATH NOTICE. 1901

<sup>x</sup> KAB MOOC TYPE ANDER ARGIEWE VOLUME\_NO 6/9/6.1124 DESCRIPTION: VAN DER WALT, GEERTRUIDA CATHARINA. DEATH NOTICE. 1835

KAB MOOC VOLUME\_NO 13/1/66: 25 DESCRIPTION: VAN DER WALT, GEERTRUIDA CATHARINA. LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION 1836

KAB MOOC VOLUME\_ NO 13/1/90.24 DESCRIPTION: VAN DER WALT, GEERTRUIDA CATHARINA. LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT. 1840

<sup>xi</sup> KAB MOOC VOLUME\_NO 13/1/633:44 DESCRIPTION: FOURIE, ANNA FRANCINA MAGDALENA. BORN ERASMUS. LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT. FIRST AND FINAL ACCOUNT. 1892

<sup>xii</sup> TAB MHG REFERENCE 57714 PART 1. DESCRIPTION: DISSEL, BERNARDUS RHODES. ALSO KNOWN AS IGNATIUS HERODEN. 1925. SURVIVING SPOUSE JUDITH CORNELIA DISSEL.

<sup>xiii</sup> Catalogued under spelling DISSEL: a number of persons in several locales. Catalogued under spelling DISSELL: divorces in 1928 & 1938. Various other Supreme Court applications

<sup>xiv</sup> TAB MHG REFERENCE 1810/44 DESCRIPTION: DISSEL, FRANK FREDERICK. REMARKS: MENTAL PATIENT. DOCUMENTS FILED 1944

TAB MHG REFERENCE 5251/46 DESCRIPTION: DISSELL, FRANK FREDERICH. 1946 REMARKS: SURVIVING SPOUSE JOHANNA HENDRINA DISSELL (BORN BOTHA)

<sup>xv</sup> Catalogued under spelling DISSELL: for divorce 1940 and opposed application SUZARA JOHANNA WALKER (BORN JOUBERT, FORMERLY DISSELL) VERSUS BERNARDUS RHODE DISSELL. 1946

<sup>xvi</sup> SAB LDE VOLUME\_NO 2038 REFERENCE 41882/2/45 DESCRIPTION: AANKOOP STANDPLAAS 54 DORP NEW MONTELEO DISTRIK ROODEPOORT TEN BATE VAN GROEPSGEBIEDE RAAD. GERT HENDRIK DISSEL. 1957 - 1959

<sup>xvii</sup> Catalogued under spelling DISSELL: divorce JEANETTE SOPHIE ELIZABETH PRETORIUS (BORN DISSELL) VERSUS WILLEM JAN HENDRIK. 1953

<sup>xviii</sup> Various documents between 1946 - 1951 related to divorce: GERALDINE GLADYS MCMILLAN (FORMERLY DISSEL, BORN BRADY) VERSUS JOHN CORNELIUS

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## C GRAHAM BOTHA

KAB REFERENCE A1813, [www.national.archsrch.gov.za](http://www.national.archsrch.gov.za)

**SUMMARY (edited):** Colin Graham Botha (1883-1973), Chief Archivist of the Union of South Africa. Joined Cape Civil Service in 1901. In 1912 CGB became Keeper of the Archives and in 1919 the first Chief Archivist for the Union of S.A. He initiated the publication of several series of archival documents as well as the series Archives Year Books of S.A. Wrote, lectured and broadcast on history of S.A. Was member of various societies *inter alia* the Mountain Club of South Africa, St. John's Ambulance and the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles.