

JOHANNES ANDREAS ROUX M.B

Research notes

A visit was made to Murraysburg in the Eastern Cape in 2006, in an attempt to determine details of the infant born to the couple below. Co-incidentally, the grave of Dr Marais' general medical practitioner predecessor and his wife was discovered; and it this which is being documented.

BACKGROUND:

Dr C H Marais and J N M van Mameren were married in Holland. She was the daughter of a university professor and hailed from Amsterdam. On returning to South Africa in October 1919, Marais bought a practice in Murraysburg. Their first born was a son, six months old when he died suddenly whilst his father was "on district". The couple left Murraysburg and went to Koffiefontein/Koffyfontein. Confinements were extremely difficult for her. She gave birth to a further two children, is thought to have suffered puerperal depression; and committed suicide by drinking poison and jumping into the local river, the Rietrivier.



The passport photographs of
Cornelius Hermanus and Jenneke Neeltje Maria Marais née van Mameren

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| Cornelius Hermanus Marais b 5 April 1888 Graaff-Reinet d Johannesburg 7 August 1969 (first) m 15 August 1919 Jenneke Neeltje Maria van Mameren b 2 March 1894 Amsterdam d Koffyfontein 28 September 1928 |
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GRAVESTONE

The gravestone in question is prominent in the Dutch Reformed Church Graveyard, Murraysburg, and reads as follows:

Johannes Andreas Roux M.B.
10 March 1878 - 23 October 1918

Ellen Anne Devenish Roux
née Kretzschmar
31 May 1886 - 30 October 1918

Opgericht Door De Dankbare Patienten van Onze Onvergetelijke Dokter

Johannes Andreas Roux was born Stellenbosch on 10th March 1878, the son of Albertus Johannes Roux and Elizabeth Maria Theron. He registered as a medical practitioner in the United Kingdom on 24 September 1903 (MB., ChB. Univ. Edin. 1903), and in the Cape on 11 May 1905 (MR., Bac. Surg. Univ. Edin. 1903). His first registered address in the Cape was Stellenbosch (1905) and thereafter Murraysburg (1907).

His wife, Ellen Anne Devenish Kretzchmar, was born in Johannesburg 31st May 1886, the daughter of Frederick Edward Kretzchmar and Martha Sophia Theron.

They married in Murraysburg. Their home was on a lot in Sir George Grey Street, Murraysburg.

They had three children: twins David Carel and Katherina Sussana born 4th July 1908 and Elizabeth Maria born 17th March 1911.

They died intestate leaving an estate of about £5000. Their home was sold by private treaty to the Warden or Consistory for the Time Being of the Dutch Reformed Church, Murraysburg.

The cause of death is unknown. Though it is suspected that they succumbed victims to the 1918 Influenza Epidemic, there is mention of "two unmarked" specimens (Nos. 1869 & 4149) being sent to the Government Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for Widal testing, thereby implying a suspicion of typhoid fever. The specimens were dated the 18th July 1918 and 23rd September 1918 respectively. No outcome is posted. The reason for their being mentioned in the estate papers was that, at the insistence of the MOH, the cost of these tests - £1 - was accrued to the estate!

REFERENCES:

1. South African Archives Repository, Cape Town
2. The Medical Register (published on behalf of The General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom. Constable & Co., Ltd, London 1919)
3. Medical and Pharmacy Register for the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope 1 January 1912.