

THE HOME OF FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE GIE FAMILY
DURING THE 16th and 19th CENTURIES

As a result THREE OLD HOMES OF can now be stated with certainty that four generations THE GIE FAMILY lived for over 100 years in a dwelling in Greenmarket Square (Markplein) at the corner of Longmarket and Burg Streets opposite the old Town House, on the site on which the Metropolitan Methodist Church now stands.

The first proof of this was obtained from an old plan of Cape Town at the 22 LONGMARKET STREET GREENMARKET SQUARE in the biography of Louis M. Thibault. (see copy annexed)

On this plan the houses of three Gie families are shown. There is the 144 HATFIELD STREET mentioned above, secondly a dwelling at the corner of Burg and Kerk Streets and a third dwelling at the corner of Wale and Bree Streets. From other records it appears that another Gie

DE LA HAYE, WANDEL STREET family lived there.

The next step was to trace which members of the Gie family lived in these four dwellings.

1. THE HOUSE IN GREENMARKET SQUARE

From the records in the archives it can be definitely established that this dwelling was the home of Johannes Conrad Gie (1722 - 1797) who arrived at the Cape in 1751 and who was the first member of the Gie family to settle at the Cape.

At that time the Cape was divided into wards. Each ward had a wardmaster. According to the records in the archives, this J.C. Gie was one of the wardmasters and his address is given as "De hoek van Burgstreet en Markplein."

Proof that his son Michael Conrad Gie (1767 - 1815) continued

to live in this dwelling is the following item which appeared in the Official Gazette of 1810 namely -

THE HOME OF FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE GIE FAMILY

DURING THE 18th and 19th CENTURIES

As a result of recent research it can now be stated with certainty that four generations of the Gie family lived for over 100 years in a dwelling in Greenmarket Square (Maarkplein) at the corner of Longmarket and Burg Streets opposite the old Town House, on the site on which the Metropolitan Methodist Church now stands.

The first proof of this was obtained from an old plan of Cape Town at the end of the 18th century which appears in Huzuelle de Fontaine's biography of Louis M. Thibault. (see copy annexed)

On this plan the houses of three Gie families are shown. There is the house in Greenmarket Square mentioned above, secondly a dwelling at the corner of Burg and Kerk Streets and a third dwelling at the corner of Wale and Bree Streets. From other records it appears that another Gie family lived in the Heerengracht at that time.

The next step was to trace which members of the Gie family lived in these four dwellings.

1. THE HOUSE IN GREENMARKET SQUARE

From the records in the archives it can be definitely established that this dwelling was the home of Johannes Coenraad Gie (1722 - 1797) who arrived at the Cape in 1751 and who was the first member of the Gie family to settle at the Cape.

At that time the Cape was divided into wards. Each ward had a wardmaster. According to the records in the archives, this J.C. Gie was one of the wardmasters and his address is given as "De hoek van Burgstraat en Markplein."

Proof that his son Michael Coenraad Gie (1767 - 1815) continued

to live in this dwelling is the following item which appeared in the Official Gazette of 1810 namely -

As J.C. Gie, born 12.12.1791 was the only Gie who lived in Markplein at that time
1810. GIE, Michael Coenraad, Deputy Receiver of Land Revenue, 22 Longmarket Street.

(22 Longmarket Street was in Groenmarkplein and is on the corner of Burg and Longmarket Street.)

Lastly, proof that Johan Coenraad Gie (1791 - 1862) son of Michael Coenraad - the third generation - also had his home in this old dwelling appears from the following item in the Official Gazette of 1820.

1820. GIE, Johan Coenraad, Bookkeeper District Bank, 22 Longmarket Street.

A MYSTERY LETTER COVER

Annexed is a photograph of a letter cover addressed to "Jan Gie, Caaps Stad. Groenteysleyn". It has no date, no hand-stamps and no postage stamp. Who was this Jan Gie? He could have been any of the following:

J.C. Gie, born 3.7.1782 son of Johannes Gie

J.C. Gie, born 12.12.1791 son of Michael C. Gie

J.C. Gie, born 10.6.1793 son of Coenraad J. Gie

It is interesting to trace certain clues which will enable us to identify the addressee.

In the first place, until the British occupation in 1795, the settlement was always referred to as "De Kaap de Goede Hoop" - The Cape of Good Hope, never as "Kaapstad" - Cape Town. It was only after the British occupation that the term "Cape Town" was used. The letter must therefore have been written after 1795.

Secondly, the address on the letter is "Groentesleyn". This must mean "Markplein", later known as Green Market Square, and probably even

at that time was some times called "Groentemarkplein".

As J.C. Gie, born 12.12.1791 was the only Gie who lived in Markplein at that time, it was almost certainly written to him.

ARCHIVES AND DEEDS REGISTRY

On the other hand the letter has none of the hand stamp marks or endorsements such as those introduced by the Post Master General for various postal districts from 1803 onwards.

Could the letter have been written to J.C. Gie, as in 1803 he was only 12 years old. Apart from the fact that many letters sent after 1803 did not have these hand stamps, it might have been delivered by hand. Then too it may have been sent to a young boy. From the spelling it could have been written by a child to his friend "Jan".

22.3.1727, (the first Gie settler at the Cape who arrived

COVER OF LETTER TO J.C. GIE property,
more fully described as

Annexed is the cover of another letter written to J.C. Gie born 12.12.1791. It is an official letter; endorsed

"On H.M. Service" sent from the Civil Commissioner of Stellenbosch and addressed to "J.C. Gie M/son
Market Square, Cape Town" - Mr. Jan Michael Coenraad
Again the address 'Market Square'.

There is no date on the cover, but the approximate date can be determined from the endorsement "Post Paid". This hand stamp was introduced by the Post Master General on the 28th January 1828 so the letter must have been written after that date.

From these records, it is clear that the house in Green Market Square or 22 Longmarket Street was the home of at least three generations of the Gie family.

Gie who was born on 5th April 1819. It is not known why he transferred the property to his son at this time because he lived for another 14 years and died only in 1862. This Michael Coenraad Gie was not a direct

ancestor of the branch of the family which is being described in this volume. He is the brother of Johan Coenraad Gie, the direct ancestor. Whether these two brothers and their families lived together in this dwelling is not known. It is possible because it was, like many houses at that time, a large house. However, in 1867 before the dwelling was finally sold to the Wesleyan Society, Johan Coenraad Gie bought his own property in Hatfield Street.

14.8.1874

The property was finally sold by Michael Coenraad Gie to the Metropolitan Society, which to-day is known as the Metropolitan Methodist Church.

Why the dwelling was sold to the church is not known, but probably the demands of commerce had changed this area from a residential to a business area.

Here then are the members of the four generations of Gies who lived in this old dwelling in Green Market Square for 102 years.

1772 - 1799 Johan Coenraad Gie, born 22.3.1727

1799 - 1818 Michael Coenraad Gie, born 7.5.1767.

1818 - 1848 Johan Coenraad Gie, born 12.12.1791.

1848 - 1874 Michael Coenraad Gie, born 3.4.1819.

MAP OF CAPE TOWN

As stated above, the old map of Cape Town shows the homes of three Gie families. Further searches show that another branch of the Gie family lived in St George's. The family that lived in the house in Markplain has been dealt with 11. but who were the Gies who lived in these other three houses?

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DWELLING

IN GREEN MARKET SQUARE

The last step was to obtain a photograph of an old painting or sketch of the old home. This proved to be a difficult task. Illustrations in numerous biographies of old travellers and artists such as Bowler and Baines were examined. Authorities on Africana were consulted among whom were Dr. Frank Bradlow, Dr. Pama, Mr Eric Vertue and the Curator of the Africana Museum, Johannesburg. There were many sketches and paintings of Green Market Square showing the old Town House but none of the dwelling across the road. Finally Dr Pama discovered a beautiful colour production of a painting by Christopher Webb-Smith in the biography by A. Gordon-Brown. A photograph is annexed which shows nearly the whole front of the old Gie home. It is dated "circa 1838".

Also annexed is a photograph of another old sketch which was obtained from the Africana Museum, Johannesburg. There is no date, but it is very much earlier than 1838. There are still trees in Burg Street and the buildings on the left are still dwellings, whereas by 1838 they had been converted into shops.

The photograph does however give an indication of the nature and general lay out of the dwellings in Markplein in those early days. Only the side of the Gie dwelling is shown.

THE GIE OWNERS OF OCCUPIERS OF THE

OTHER HOUSES WHICH ARE SHOWN IN THE OLD

MAP OF CAPE TOWN

As stated above, the old map of Cape Town shows the homes of three Gie families. Further searches show that another branch of the Gie family lived in 31 Heerengracht. The family that lived in the house in Markplein has been dealt with, but who were the Gies who lived in these other three houses?

31 Burg Street (Corner of Burg and Kerk Streets)

The following are extracts from the official gazettes and the Cape Directory

Official Gazettes

1809 GIE, Coenraad Johannes,
31, Burg Street.

1810 GIE, Coenraad Johannes,
Lodging, 31 Burg Street.

1820 GIE, Coenraad Johannes,
Wine Merchant, 31 Burg Street.

Cape Directory

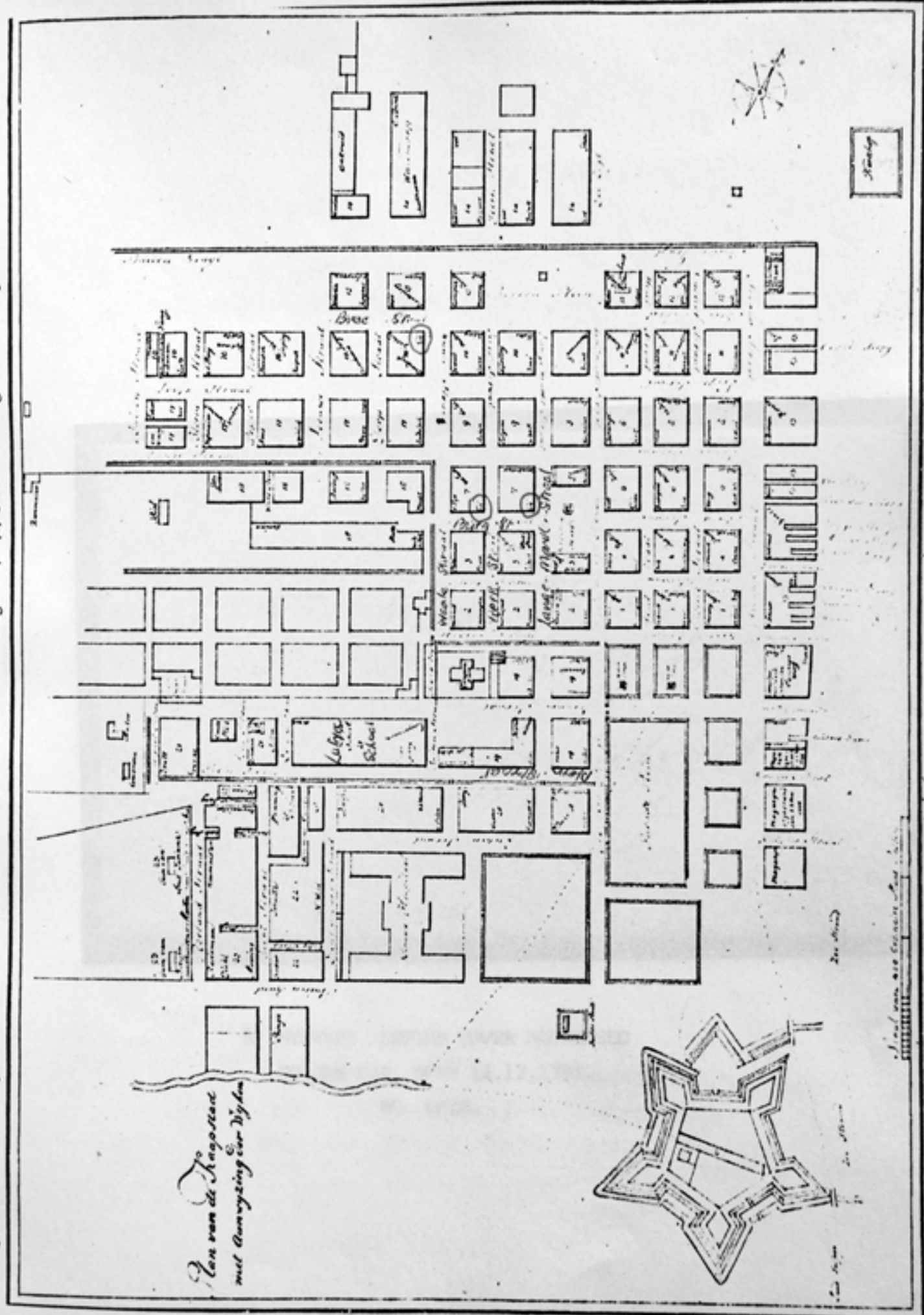
1800 Coenraad Johannes Gie and his wife Anna
Blanckenberg lived at Burgstraat 31.

It is thus established that 31 Burg Street was the home of Coenraad Johannes Gie who was the youngest son of Johan Coenraad Gie the first Gie settler at the Cape. He was born on the 22nd April 1769. On the 14th September 1788 he married Anna M. Blanckenberg. They had one daughter who died in infancy and one son who took over the dwelling in 31 Burg Street after the death of his father in 1818.

C.J. Gie and his wife apparently took in lodgers. At that time there were no hotels or inns at the Cape and many of the inhabitants took in, as lodgers, visitors from Europe and from India and the East Indies.

Annexed is the cover of a letter addressed to "C. Adams at Mrs Conrad Gie Cape Town" It is not known who this Adams was but he is probably a lodger or servant. The approximate date of the letter can be determined by the handstamp which was known as "The First

13. Plan of Cape Town at the end of the 18th Century, showing the names of the occupants. Thibault lived at the corner of Hout Street and "Heeren Graecht". E/T 46, © Rust-en-Vreugd Museum, Cape Town.



This old map shows 3 dwellings which were occupied by members of the Gie family, namely at the corner of Wale and Bree Sts, at the corner of Burg and Ker-K's and at the corner of Kougmarkt and Bree Sts. These are marked in red.

Van der Meer Jan Gie
Caars Had
Groen to ysteyn

A MYSTERY LETTER COVER ADDRESSED

TO JAN GIE, BORN 12.12.1791.

NO DATE.

POST PAID

Postell Bureau

J. C. Gie M.P. Cey.

Market Square

*Civil Commissioner
of Stellenbosch*

Cape Town

COVER OF LETTER TO J.C. GIE (BORN 12.12.1791)
FROM THE CIVIL COMMISSIONER, STELLENBOSCH,
WITH THE ENDORSEMENT "POST PAID".



THE OLD HOME IN GREENMARKET SQUARE, CAPE TOWN
OF THE GIE FAMILY FOR 102 YEARS - 1772 TO 1874.
THREE GENERATIONS OF GIES LIVED IN THIS OLD
DWELLING WHICH IS SHOWN ON THE RIGHT OPPOSITE
THE OLD TOWN HOUSE.

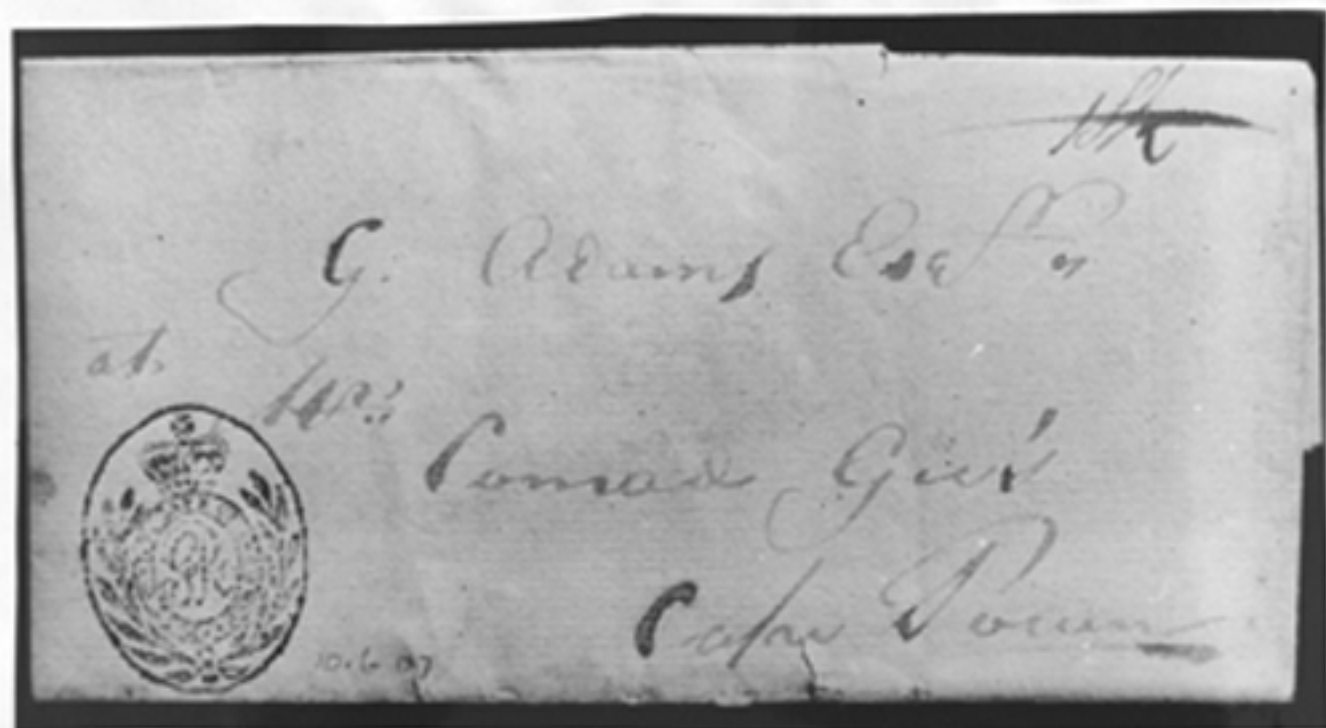
THIS IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF A PAINTING BY
CHRISTOPHER WARD SMITH CIRCA 1838.

HET GERIJS VAN HET STAATDORP VAN CAROLAGIE HOOP
MET DE SELFS GREENMART EN GEBRUYEN.



PHOTOGRAPH OF AN OLD PAINTING OF GREENMARKET SQUARE. NO DATE, BUT ESTIMATED TO HAVE BEEN PAINTED CIRCA 1800. THE SIDE OF THE GIE HOME IS SHOWN. IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH THERE ARE NO SHOPS. THE BUILDINGS ARE STILL DWELLINGS.

This is another interesting property which was the home of members of the Gie family for nearly seventy years.



Mrs Gie, F.C. Graham, who had married to marry a man who previously, died in Cape Town in 1850. His will provided for the annual provision that the children of his son F.C. Graham were educated in Germany. He must have had a large estate, because F.C. Graham immediately decided to leave the country, taking with him his wife and children so as to comply with the provision of the will. So far as Mrs Gie there was this property in Graham Street.

COVER OF A LETTER ADDRESSED TO "C. ADAMS AT MRS CONRAD GIE, CAPE TOWN". C ADAMS MAY BE A SERVANT OR LOOGER. ENDORSED WITH THE FIRST BRITISH HANDSTAMP INTRODUCED BY GOVERNOR SIR DAVID BAIRD IN 1806. NO DATE. THERE IS HOWEVER a pencil mark on the cover with the date 10.6.07.

144 HATFIELD STREET

This is another interesting property which was the home of members of the Gie family for nearly seventy years.

On the 15th November 1854 Johan Coenraad Gie, born in 1827, the son of Johan Coenraad Gie who was born in 1791, married Barbara Johanna Reitz, daughter of Francis William Reitz, farmer of "Kliprivier", Swellendam. Johan Coenraad held a good position in the S.A. Mutual and obviously looked round for a home for himself and his young birds.

In "Bowler's Cape Town" by Dr. C. Pama, there is a photograph on page 52 of a painting of Adderley Street, Cape Town, dated 1851 of a shop with a sign "F.H. KUNHARDT, DRUGGIST".

This F.H. Kunhardt was the brother-in-law of J.C. Gie. He was married to Catharina Johanna Gie, the sister of J.C. Gie and had recently purchased a property in the Gardens known as 144 Hatfield Street which was transferred to him on the 19th September 1851. However his father, F.C. Kunhardt, who had returned to Germany some years previously, died in Carlsburg in 1850. His Will contained the somewhat unusual provision that the children of his son F.H. Kunhardt must be educated in Germany. He must have had a large estate, because F.H. Kunhardt immediately decided to leave for Germany, taking with him his wife and children so as to comply with the provision of the Will. So fortunately for J.C. Gie there was this property in Hatfield Street which had become vacant.

Although the property was purchased by J.C. Gie only some years later, it is clear that he occupied or hired it shortly after his marriage in 1854, because, according to available information, his eldest son, Johan Coenraad Gie (Jack) was born in this dwelling on the 14th June 1855.

Friedrich Heinrich Kunhardt died in Germany and his widow Catharina Johanna Kunhardt (born Gie) returned to South Africa and on her return sold the property to J.C. Gie for £800, transfer being passed on the 19th March 1867.

A photograph of the house is annexed taken just before it was demolished.

From the photograph it will be seen that the house followed the usual style of dwellings at that time. The front, with a stoep, was right on the road. The interior consisted of a large drawing room, a large dining room, two bed-rooms and a very large kitchen and pantry on the ground floor and about eight bed-rooms on the first floor. At the back there was a separate building with a store room and servants' quarters and there was a large vegetable and fruit garden. The property extended on the west side across to Wandel Street and on the south to Annandale Street.

J.C. Gie died on the 10th November 1892 but the property was transferred to his widow, Barbara Johanna only on the 12th June 1899.

As a salaried man with a large family living in a large property, J.C. Gie could not have had a large estate and his widow and the two daughters Hannah and Bertha who lived with her were compelled to take in as paying guests young civil servants. In addition, members of the family who came to Cape Town always stayed in the old house. These would include her sons Jack, Harry and George and their families and the Rev. Frank Gie when he attended the annual Dutch Reformed Church Synods which were always held in Cape Town. The brother of the widow B.J. Gie, Francis William Reitz (Frank) who later became the President of the Orange Free State stayed with her while taking his law degree in Cape Town.

Immediately after the termination of the Anglo Boer War there was a property boom in Cape Town, and 144 Hatfield Street, less an erf which had been purchased by George G. Gie, was sold for £11,150

to two speculators, M. Saacks and Hertz Hoffman on the 11th April, 1903. (Transfers Nos. 18068 and 18069 dated 8th December 1903). Simultaneously a bond was passed in favour of the seller Barbara Johanna Gie. She however continued to live in the old house as a tenant.

However, the boom in 1903 was followed by a severe slump in 1905. Saacks and Hoffman were unable to pay the interest on the bond and finally went involvent. To protect her interest, the widow Barbara Johanna Gie was compelled to repurchase the property for £5,500.

She was then advised to use the money received as an initial deposit in the sale to Saacks and Hoffman and the purchase price of the sale of an erf to G.G. Gie for the erection of two semi-detached cottages on the vacant land bordering on Annandale Street. The rental from these two cottages provided her with a small income until her death.

After the completion of the house which George G. Gie had built on the erf at the corner of Wandel and Annandale Streets and which he called "de la Haye" his old mother Barbara Johanna (Bappie) and his two sisters Hannah and Bertha went to live with him.

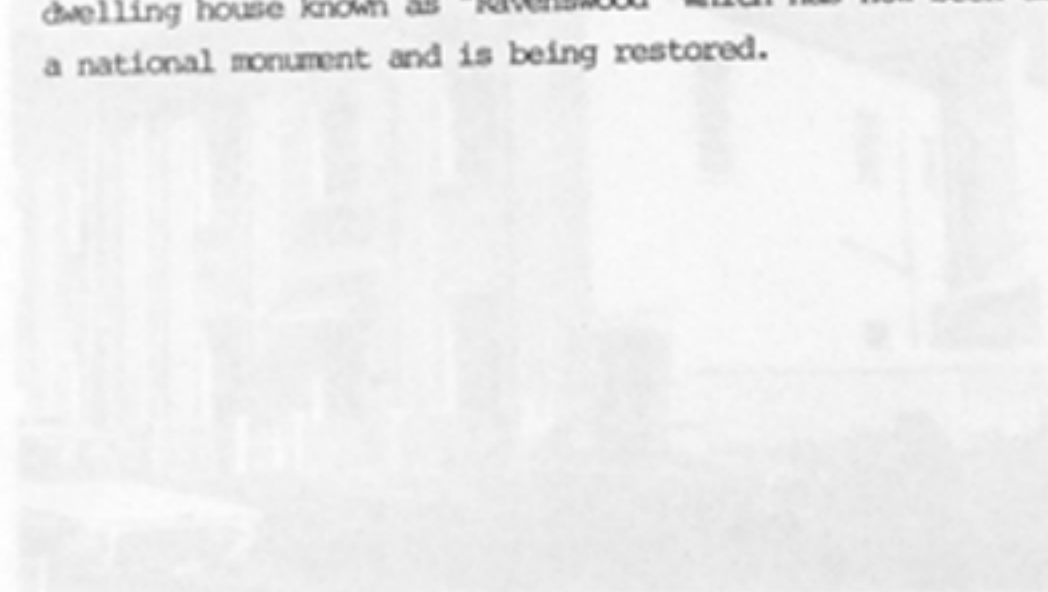
The old mother, Bappie, then arranged for her two old spinster sisters Keetje and Hannie Reitz to go and live in the old house in Hatfield Street. This gave them a home. It is not known whether they paid any rent but if so, it would have been very nominal.

In 1923 the two cottages were donated by the old mother Barbara Johanna, then aged 88 years, to her two elderly spinster daughters, Hannah and Bertha. (Transfer 1625 dated 6.3.1923).

In 1929 after the death of the old mother and her two old sisters Keetje and Hannie Reitz, who had been living in the old house in Hatfield Street, the old home and the remainder of the property were sold to the Oliphant River Farms Ltd for £4 050 (Transfers Nos 594 and 595 dated 25.1.1929).

Finally in 1968 this property and a large number of adjoining properties were expropriated by the Cape Town Municipality for the erection of new School Buildings for the Cape Town High School.

It was sad to see the old historic home being pulled down, but fortunately lower down Hatfield Street there was a similar old dwelling house known as "Ravenswood" which has now been declared a national monument and is being restored.



PHOTOGRAPH OF 144 HATFIELD STREET, CAPE TOWN. THE
HOME OF THE OLD SCHOOL FOR 20 YEARS FROM 1855
TO 1904.



PHOTOGRAPH OF 144 HATFIELD STREET, CAPE TOWN. THE
HOME OF THE GIE FAMILY FOR 39 YEARS FROM 1855
TO 1904.

DE LA HAYE, WANDEL STREET

George Gerald Gie fled with his family from Griquatown to Cape Town during the Anglo Boer War. On the 8th December 1903, not long after his arrival in Cape Town, he purchased from his mother Barbara Johanna Gie for £1 700 a vacant erf at the corner of Wandel and Annandale Streets, being part of her large property known as 144 Hatfield Street. On this erf he built a dwelling which he called "De la Haye" and in which he lived until shortly before his death in 1950.

After the house had been built, he arranged for his old mother Barbara Johanna Gie and his two spinster sisters to leave 144 Hatfield Street and come and live with him. They too continued to live in "De La Haye" until they died.

In 1914 George Gie purchased from his mother for £400 another plot which adjoined his home. On this he laid out a garden.

"De La Haye" now became the central home of the Gie family in Cape Town.

Here on Christmas Day and on the birthdays of the old mother and the two old aunts, there were huge gatherings of relatives and friends who sat around and enjoyed the large spread of cakes and delicacies which completely covered the large dining room table.

Many members of the family who lived in distant parts would find a bed for them when they visited Cape Town.

It was the happy home of the three sons of George Gie.

Annexed is a photograph of "De La Haye".

In a modern world the old family home seems to be disappearing.

Economic conditions force married couples to live in flats or small houses just sufficient for their needs.

It is rather remarkable that the branch of the family with which the compiler is connected only lived in three homes during a period of 178 years.

22 Longmarket Street	1772 - 1854	82 years
144 Hatfield Street	1854 - 1903	49 years
De La Haye, Wandel Street	1903 - 1905	47 years
		<hr/>
		178 years
		<hr/>

THE LA HOUSE IN THE TOWN OF WINDLE AND BARNHURST
STREET, CASE 1854. THE PROPERTY OF WINDLE & CO.
AND THE HOUSE IN THE TOWN OF WINDLE FOR 17 YEARS FROM
1854 TO 1905.



"DE LA HAYE" AT THE CORNER OF WANDEL AND ANNANDALE
STREETS, CAPE TOWN, THE PROPERTY OF GEORGE G. GIE
AND THE HOME OF THE GIE FAMILY FOR 47 YEARS FROM
1903 TO 1950.