

JOHAN COENRAAD GIE (JACK)

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He was educated at the South African College and matriculated in 1875. Later he studied law privately and in 1883 passed the Civil Service law Exam. At that time there was this special Law Certificate for young men who wished to enter the legal department of the Civil Service, but did not wish to spend time taking articles in an attorney's office.

Enclosed is an interesting old photograph taken in 1892 of a scratch rugby side who called themselves "The Veteran Rugby Football Club". Among the players is J.C. Gie and several other well known Cape Town personalities.

JOHAN COENRAAD GIE

Also enclosed is a photograph of J.C. Gie as a boy with his mother.

1855 - 1928

AND HIS DESCENDANTS

On the 7th July 1886 J.C. Gie married Eliza Jane Melville. She was born in George on the 21st October 1871.

Enclosed is a photograph of her as a young woman.

She was the daughter of Thomas John Melville, a surveyor and Eliza Jane Harding. She was orphaned at a very early age and brought up by the Thwaites family. She was educated at Springfield Convent, Cape Town, with her sister Alice who later married Bishop Fogarty.

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### THE CAREER OF J.C. GIE

#### MARRIAGE OF J.C. GIE

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She was a member of the Anglican Church and it is almost certain that the marriage was solemnised in an Anglican Church because throughout their married life it was the custom of the family for J.C. Gie and his sons to attend the Dutch Reformed Church and for his wife and daughters to go to the Anglican Church.

They had six children:

Helen Barbara	born	2.9.1887
Gladys Bertha	born	2.12.1888
John Melville	born	15.6.1890
Frances Cornelia	born	30.10.1891
Dorothy Elise	born	24.10.1894
Francis William Reitz	born	28.6.1908

On the 10th April 1893 he was sent to Grahamstown as Registrar of Deeds for that area. While there he was also called on to act as Dutch interpreter in the Eastern Districts Supreme Court.

In 1893 he returned to the legal department of the Civil Service and from then on THE CAREER OF J.C. GIE was the Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate in various towns in the Colony. His first

After passing the Matriculation examination in 1875, J.C. Gie left school and entered the Civil Service and on the 12th January 1876 was appointed clerk to the Resident Magistrate at Worcester. Two years later he was moved to Simonstown where he acted as first clerk in the Magistrate's Court. Here an event occurred which was the first indication that in his career he would show a keen devotion to duty and that he would be very popular among his friends. Although he only held a junior position and although he had only been in Simonstown for little more than a year, when, in July 1879 he left Simonstown, he was presented with a gold watch which is still in the possession of a member of the family.

On the 11th October 1879 the Anglo-Boer War broke out. His next appointment was in Malmesbury, but he remained there for only eight months, after which he was sent back to Worcester in February 1880 for one month, presumably to relieve some official.

Annexed is a copy of a letter written by J.C. Gie to his brother

In March 1880 he was transferred to Fraserburg as first clerk in the Magistrate's Court. He remained for a little over a year when in July 1881 he returned to Cape Town to take up the position of a clerk in the important Native Affairs Office. While in Cape Town he studied for the Civil Service Law Exam which he wrote and passed in 1883. After acting for a short period as senior clerk in the Magistrate's Court in Swellendam, he received, in 1884, his first full magisterial appointment and was posted to Oudtshoorn as the Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate of that town. However, he did not remain there very long, because on the 1st February 1886 he was brought back as senior clerk in the far larger Magistrate's Court in Cape Town.

In June 1888 he was promoted to second examining officer in the Cape Town Deeds Office. He remained in Cape Town for five years during which period his four eldest children were born.

FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE - July 24th 1911.

On the 10th April 1893 he was sent to Grahamstown as Registrar of Deeds for that area. While there he was also called on to act as Dutch interpreter in the Eastern Districts Supreme Court.

In 1893 he returned to the legal department of the Civil Service and from then onwards until his retirement he was the Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate in various towns in the Colony. His first appointment was to Barkly East where his fifth child, Dorothy (Dossie) was born. He must have been extremely delighted when shortly after his arrival his brother Frank was appointed Minister of the Dutch Reformed Church. Unfortunately he did not remain in Barkly East for long, because on the 1st April 1895 he was transferred to Hanover. There he not only acted as Magistrate, but also as Dutch interpreter when the Circuit Court visited the Northern Area.

Two years later he was moved to Burgersdorp in the District of Albert.

On the 11th October 1899 the Anglo-Boer War broke out. Burgersdorp is near the Orange Free State and it was not long before the Boers crossed the border and occupied the town.

Annexed is a copy of a letter written by J.C. Gie to his brother

Frank on the 17th November 1899 from Steynsburg, a village near Burghersdorp, in which he briefly describes the Boers entering the town and hoisting the Orange Free State flag. He mentions that his wife and children had fled to Cape Town and that he too was leaving that day.

After spending a short time in Cape Town, he returned to duty at Burghersdorp. It was a trying and difficult period. The war dragged on. From two addresses given to J.C. Gie when he finally left Burghersdorp, it is clear that he discharged his duties fearlessly and ably.

Because of the remarkable tributes paid to him in these addresses it is felt that they should be recorded in this account as an independent assessment of his ability and character.

FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE - July 8th 1901.

"We, the managers of Albert Education Academy, on the occasion of your leaving Burghersdorp, desire to express to you our grateful appreciation of the faithful and energetic way in which during a period of four years you discharged the duties of chairman of the Academy, our regret at the severance of our relations which have always been of a most amicable nature and good wishes for your happiness and prosperity in your new sphere of duty."

You have from the first shown much interest in the educational affairs of the town; you assisted us greatly in the erection of the Academy, and you have left everything in order for the New Poor School.

That every good may accompany you in your new home and that you and Mrs. Gie and your children may enjoy health and happiness is the earnest wish of all of us."

Signed by the Members of the School  
Committee



"We, the legal practitioners in the Court of the Resident Magistrate, District of Albert, cannot refrain from expressing our sincere regret at the loss we shall sustain by your removal from Burghersdorp. We desire to place on record that during the four years in which you have filled the responsible office of Resident Magistrate and Civil Commissioner of this district, we have had the privilege of coming into daily contact with you and have thus had special opportunities of forming an opinion of the manner in which you have discharged the duties of these offices. We feel that on the eve of your departure it will not be displeasing to you to know that by your exceptional ability as well as your kindness and courtesy you have won our esteem and respect.

As magistrate the great patience and conscientiousness manifested by you on the bench have been the conspicuous feature of your many virtues.

Your exceptional legal qualifications and your keen sense of justice and equity, have enabled you to administer justice in a manner that reflects the greatest credit on you, and the records of your decisions both in civil and criminal cases which you have left behind - almost entirely unaffected by appeal or review - are such as any magistrate may be proud of.

By your strict impartiality and your courtesy, not only was the dignity of the Court fully maintained, but the proceedings in Court were rendered so fair and satisfactory that it was to all of us a real pleasure to appear before you.

Signed by Burghersdorp Legal Practitioners.

While J.C. Gie was in Burghersdorp during the War years, his family remained at the Cape as refugees.

In July 1901 J.C. Gie was transferred to Piquetberg (now spelt Piketberg) Piketburg is near Cape Town and was far from the war zones, so it was felt that his family could safely join him, but this was not as safe as expected.

In November 1891 General Maritz in a spectacular and unexpected raid far into the Cape Colony occupied a number of towns including Piketburg. The Boers entered outlying houses and, taking cover behind walls, crept up close to and opened fire on the blockhouses. However, they were later repulsed and withdrew after two days' fighting.

J.C. Gie in later years, when his children were grown up, described what happened more or less in the following words:

"The town was fenced off by barbed wire. Whenever the alarm was given, the family took refuge either in the Church or Court House. There were many false alarms and we grew tired of these disturbances. Then there was another alarm and I suggested to my wife that we take a chance and remain at home. Imagine my amazement when suddenly a group of Boers walked into the house through the front door. Outside we heard shots being fired. The family were huddled together in the dining room with the exception of Gladys who had gone to play with a child of one of the officers. The Boers told us to go into the sitting room. Fighting outside became fierce. Bullets were flying about and later a number were extracted out of the walls. One of the Boers was wounded and he asked for a bandage which was given to him, The Boers remained in the house for one day and two nights. Some of them slept on the dining room table which was badly scratched by their heavy boots. (The old table showing the scratches is still in the possession of the family). The Boers threatened to take my grandfather clock, but in the end did not do so. During the fighting our old maid, much to our surprise,

"suddenly turned up from the location and calmly started baking scones. When the first batch was finished, the Boers allowed the family to have them - a kindly act in a gentlemanly war - but took the second batch. After the fighting was over and the Boers had left, one of the British officers informed me that we had made it extremely difficult for them because they knew we were still in the house and they were thus prevented from shelling it."

In addition to his magisterial duties, J.C. Gie, while in Piketburg acted as Deputy Administrator of Martial Law.

In August 1902 he was transferred from Piketburg to Robertson. There he remained until 1908. This was a happy time and there his children grew up in a pleasant town among many friendly families - the Barrys, the Englishes, the Matsons and others. The Gies and their children entered into the social and sporting activities of the town and took part in dramatic and musical productions. While in Robertson, their youngest son, Francis William Reitz (Frank) was born on the 28th June 1908.

J.C. Gie was a gentle and kindly man and much loved by the members of the community. His contribution to the progress and advancement of the town and district of Robertson was recognised when a bridge near the little village of McGregor was named "The Gie Bridge".

His wife Elise was also loved and when they left Robertson, the ladies of the town presented her with some silver vases.

In 1908 J.C. Gie moved to Worcester. There he found himself among a section of the Gie clan - known as the Worcester Gies.

In June 1912 he was transferred to Paarl. Although they had been in Worcester for only four years, they made many friends whose feelings of affection were shown on their departure when they were given a beautiful Hugo Naude painting - "African Gold" which bears the date 19th June 1912. This is now in the possession of his grandchild Betty Borchers.



His last magisterial appointment was at Paarl, a large and busy District. Here his duties were many and undoubtedly he had busy and trying times. He was getting old and the work was becoming more and more arduous, and he must have been relieved when in 1920 he reached the age of retirement. He had been in the Civil Service for nearly sixty years during which time he had served the Government faithfully and with distinction. He could look back with satisfaction on what he had done and recall memories which would be treasured.

After his retirement he settled in a small house in Weltevreden Avenue, Rondebosch, Cape Town. There he lived quietly, reading and visiting friends and relatives and occasionally playing golf on the Rondebosch Common which was then the course of the Rondebosch Golf Club. There he gathered round him old and new friends who would not allow him complete relaxation, but insisted on making him the President of the Rondebosch Golf Club.

His interest in education continued and he agreed to become a member of the school board of the little Oakhurst School in Rondebosch. In addition, he was instrumental in founding the Rondebosch Public Library.

On the 14th March 1928 he died peacefully in his home in Weltevreden Avenue.

He was survived by his wife Elise who continued to live in their hom in Rondebosch until her death on the 10th January 1955.

(a) John Ivan (Barker)

Born: 6th October 1943

Married: 10th May 1968 to Diana Alston.

They have three children:

Ashlan Christian born 16th March 1971

Lucinda Marjorie born 12th Jan. 1973

John Alexander born 6th Feb. 1975

THE CHILDREN AND DESCENDANTS OF J.C. GIE (1855 - 1928)

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J.C. Gie and his wife had six children.

A. HELEN BARBARA

Born: 2nd September 1887.  
Married: 3rd October 1914 to Ivan C. Silberbauer,  
attorney and partner in the firm of  
Silberbauer, Son and Wilmott.  
Died: June 1971.  
They had three children, namely

1. CONRAD

Born: 11th July 1917. At present a Roman  
Catholic Priest at Paarl.

2. IVAN

Born: 4th April 1919  
Married: 26th January to Jess Gaston Lowe  
Died: 30th March 1970.

They had two adopted children, James and Janet.

3. ELISE

Born: 5th October 1931  
Married: D. Deneys. Divorced in 1955.

They had three children, namely -

(a) John Ivan (Banker)

Born: 6th October 1943  
Married: 10th May 1968 to Diana Alston.

They have three children:

Adrian Christian born 18th March 1971  
Lucinda Marjorie born 12th Jan. 1973  
John Alexander born 6th Feb. 1975

(b) Anthony Conraad (Banker)  
Born: 17th November 1948  
Married: 3rd October 1973 to  
Katherine Ann Channon

They have two children -

Bryce Gordon born 4th April 1976  
Graham Conraad born 30th March 1978

(c) Peter Charles (Student at U.C.T.)  
Born: 17th March 1950  
Unmarried

Second Marriage of Elise.

Married to W. Boyes who died on the 10th August 1969.

Third Marriage of Elise

Married on the 4th June 1976 to R.C. Boyes.

B. GLADYS BERTHA

Born: 2nd December 1888  
Married: 4th April 1911 to Percy Martin Orton  
a master at Robertson High School.  
Died: 23rd April 1953

They had two children -

1. John

He was killed in action during the Second World War. He was married and had one son who is at present a Captain in the Rhodesian Army.

2. Molly

Unmarried and at present living in the South of England.

C. JOHN MELVILL (SONNY)

Born: 15th June 1890  
Bachelor

Farmed in South West Africa. Died 14th May 1946.

D. FRANCES CORNELIA (FANNY)

Born: 30th October 1891

Died: 29th August 1977

Married: 23rd October to John Robert Thornton, a  
bank manager who died on the 29th August 1922.

They had two children -

1. Johan Alfred Melvill (Tim)

A retired Sales Executive of Shell Oil

Born: 16th January 1918

Married: 22nd May 1948 to Christina Julia Geldenhuis.

They have three children -

(a) John Robert

A chartered accountant with Welby Stewart Bass  
and Company.

Born: 19th August 1949

Married: 4th January 1975 to Elizabeth Caplan.

(b) Neville Philip

A Master Town, Regional and Urban Planner with the  
Cape Town City Council.

Born: 14th November 1950

Married: 27th September 1976 to Alexis Mary Winter.

(c) Jennifer-Ann (Jenny)

Born: 2nd September 1962

Still at school.

2. Betty

Born: 12th December 1922

Married: 10th June 1943 to Gert Borchers.

They have two children.

(a) Geraldine Anne

Born: 14th March 1946

Married: 19th June 1970 to Neil Brock Tuchlein

Eastern Province

Born: 15th December 1949

Married: 5th February 1908 at Queenstown to Wendy Burrow  
Shirley Ann Ford. children -

They had two children - (i) William Gard born 2nd July 1974

(ii) Lora Jane born 9th October 1977

1. Shirley Ann

2. DOROTHY ELISE (DOSSIE)

Born: 27th April 1946

Married: 4th October 1969 in St. George's  
Cathedral, Cape Town to Neil Nel.

They have two children -  
attorneys firm of Robertson and Wiley,  
King Williamstown.

(a) Curtis Neil born 23rd March 1971

(b) Simeon Nel born 5th September 1972

2. Kenneth Francis John

Born: 22nd February 1926

Married: 25th April 1949

Married: to Lorraine Coetzee in Johannesburg

They have one son -

Francis William Reitz born 1th June 1973

3. FRANCIS WILLIAM REITZ (FRANK)

Born: 28th June 1908.

At school at Rensboech Boys' High School.

Matriculated and articled to Harold Gie and  
Broadpad.

Qualified as an attorney and joined the firm  
of Bell and Hutson, Grahamstown.

Had the distinction of being the Captain of  
every rugby side in which he played -

Rensboech S.S. School Under 13

" " " " 15

" " " " 17

" " " " First Team

University of Cape Town

Villagers



(b) Gerd William

Born: 15th December 1949

Married: 2nd February 1974 to Wendy Burrow

They have two children -

(i) William Gerd born 2nd July 1974

(ii) Lora Jane born 9th October 1977

E. DOROTHY ELISE (DOSSIE)

Born: 24th October 1894

Married: 3rd March 1924 to Leslie Byron Wiley, a partner  
in the attorneys firm of Robertson and Wiley,  
King Williamstown.

Dorothy Leslie

Born: 22nd February 1926

Unmarried

Died: February 1963

Later Dorothy Elise was divorced and married Graham Parker.  
Died in or about 1969.

F. FRANCIS WILLIAM REITZ (FRANK)

Born: 28th June 1908.

At school at Rondebosch Boys' High School.

Matriculated and articled to Herold Gie and  
Broadhead.

Qualified as an attorney and joined the firm  
of Bell and Hutton, Grahamstown.

Had the distinction of being the Captain of  
every rugby side in which he played -

Rondebosch B.H. School	Under 13
" " "	" 15
" " "	" 17
" " "	First Team

University of Cape Town  
Villagers



VETERANS FOOTBALL CLUB : CIRCA 1892 : ON GREEN POINT COMMON

ONLY PERSONS WHO CAN BE IDENTIFIED: 4. Fred Piers. 6. Anderson. 12. Dr. Anderson. 13. J.C. Gie

14. T. Hofmeyer. 18. Cloete. 20. Wm. Hiddingh. 21. Twycross. 22. Tom Lawton. 24. Jones.

25. W. Simpson. 26. W.A. Currey. 28. Harry Kay.



JOHAN COENRAAD GIE (JACK) AS A BOY WITH HIS MOTHER  
B.J. GIE (BAPPIE). THE PHOTOGRAPH MUST HAVE BEEN  
TAKEN IN OR ABOUT 1862 WHEN HE WOULD BE 7 YEARS OLD  
AND SHE 27.

17th 1899

Copy of a letter

WRITTEN BY J. G. GIE (GIE)

THE BROTHERS GIE AND SONS



*Eliza Jane Melville was born on the 21st October 1871.  
She married Joahn Coenraad Gie (1855 - 1928) on the  
7th July 1886.*

ELIZA JANE MELVILLE WAS BORN ON THE 21ST OCTOBER 1871.  
SHE MARRIED JOAHN COENRAAD GIE (1855 - 1928) ON THE  
7th JULY 1886.

17. 11. 1899      COPY OF A LETTER  
WRITTEN BY J. C. GIE (JACK)  
TO HIS BROTHER FRANK DURING  
THE ANGLO-BOER WAR.

Steynsburg  
17. Nov 1899.

My dear Harry,

Should you ever come  
you need not be much alarmed  
The Free States will treat the  
officials very courteously, only  
do not be domestic to them, as  
you will have heard for me  
all turned out of office. The  
last possession of Louis & the  
Orange Free State flag is flying  
at the Lubbe Fountain. I  
left Louisa with Shaw who  
promised to bring him to you.  
Elysi & the children left here  
for Cape Town yesterday afternoon.  
I am leaving for Cape Town to-day  
if I can get away. I would  
very much like to see you &  
see it once for detailed  
instructions should the Commandant



act in the same way as he did  
at Bayhead. - Do not keep  
any private papers or belongings  
in your office. Remove them to  
your room. They take possession  
of everything they find - All my  
law books are in their possession  
but they intimated that I could  
get anything back.

Yours affectionately,  
Wm. H. Miller

Perhaps we will spend our holidays  
together in Cape Town.