

AN ACCOUNT OF SOME MEMBERS OF THE GIE FAMILY

WHO ARE NOT DIRECT DESCENDANTS

FROM

J.C. GIE (1791 - 1862)

and his son: EN President F.W. REITZ

and his wife: MARY SISTERS.

This volume deals with Johan Coenraad Gie (1791 - 1862) and his descendants. There are however in the Gie family a number of persons who are not direct descendants of J.C.Gie, but who lived interesting lives.

It was felt that a short account of some of these persons would be of interest to members of the branch dealt with in this volume.

They are:

1. COENRAAD JOHANNES CAROLUS GIE born 16.11.1805.

He is the ancestor from which the Worcester Gies are descended.

2. MICHAEL COENRAAD GIE born 5.4.1819 and his son

JOHAN COENRAAD GIE born 7.11.1847.

These are the ancestors from which the Rietvlei or Blaauwberg branch of the Gie family are descended.

3. ELSABE ANTHOINETTA JACOBA VAN REENEN (Born Gie)

The Grand old lady.

4. FRANCIS WILLIAM REITZ (1810 - 1881)

of "Kliprivier", Swellendam, and his son Ex President F.W. REITZ and his daughters the eight REITZ SISTERS.

Returning now to Coenraad Johannes Carolus Gie, Senior, born in 1805. He had an interesting life. As a youth aged 15 he was sent to Nîmes, France. It is rather interesting that he should have gone to Nîmes the town from which the original Riquet Gie ancestor, Andre Gie, fled to

COENRAAD JOHANNES CAROLUS GIE (1805 - 1878)

C.J.C. Gie was born on the 16th November 1805. Although he lived and died in Cape Town, he is the ancestor from whom the well known Worcester branch of the Gie family is descended.

The connection between the Gies and Worcester commenced in 1820 when J.C. Gie (1791 - 1862), the eldest brother of C.J.C. Gie, was appointed the conveyancer of the newly laid out township of Worcester. Then in 1855 his daughter, Elsabe Anthonotte, married the Rev. William Murray, the well known minister of the Dutch Reformed Church at Worcester.

Two other daughters of C.J.C. Gie also migrated to Worcester - Catharina Johanna (born in 1844) and Marie Magdalena Susanna (born in 1845). Catharina, or as she was affectionately called, Kitty Gie, devoted her life to charitable work, particularly among the coloured people and poor whites.

Maria, after the death of her husband, assisted her sister in her charitable work.

Then the younger son, named Coenraad Johannes Carolus (born in 1848), but generally known as Coenie, was persuaded by his brother-in-law, the Rev. William Murray, to start a farm school at the present railway shop at Botha's Hill, District Worcester. The school celebrated its centenary in 1968 and still exists.

One of the children of Coenie Gie, Stephanus Francois Naude Gie, became a professor of History at Stellenburg University. He next became the Secretary for Education and later was appointed as Ambassador for South Africa in Berlin. At the commencement of the Second World War, he was transferred to Stockholm, Sweden and later to Washington, U.S.A., where he died.

Returning now to Coenraad Johannes Carolus Gie, Senior, born in 1805. He had an interesting life. As a youth aged 15 he was sent to Nimes, France. It is rather interesting that he should have gone to Nimes, the town from which the original Huguenot Gie ancestor, Andre Guy, fled to

Zurich in 1703. He remained in Nimes for 5 years, living with a family called Ducamun. He seems to have been extremely popular and made many friends. After his return to the Cape in 1825, he received a number of letters written in French from friends in Nimes, which are now in the possession of Mrs. Adèle Jooste of Stellenbosch. Three of these (translated) are set out below, showing the flowery French language prevalent at that time.

From Marie Ducamun dated 10th June 1825.

"She expresses sincere regrets at his departure and hopes that these few lines will make him remember them. She wishes him a speedy voyage, good health, peace and security and all the good fortune he may wish for himself."

From Monsieur H.C. Payers dated 17th June 1825.

"Oh you, dear friend who has been the most tender and sweet friend of my youth, you are going now. Alas, you are leaving, but I hope you will always remain my friend and councillor. My friendship will endure as long as I live. These are the sentiments that I will keep for life. Your friend H.C. Payers."

From Madame P. Payers, nee Pnades.

"I am grieved, my dear Gie, to see the end of your stay, lasting some years, among us and I would have wished to have continued to see you in our house as the best companion of my sons and a house friend. To keep your memory alive let us often hear the details of the new period of your life which should be as happy as you should wish."

In 1831, six years after his return to the Cape, this C.J.C. Gie married Catharina Johanna Stegmann.

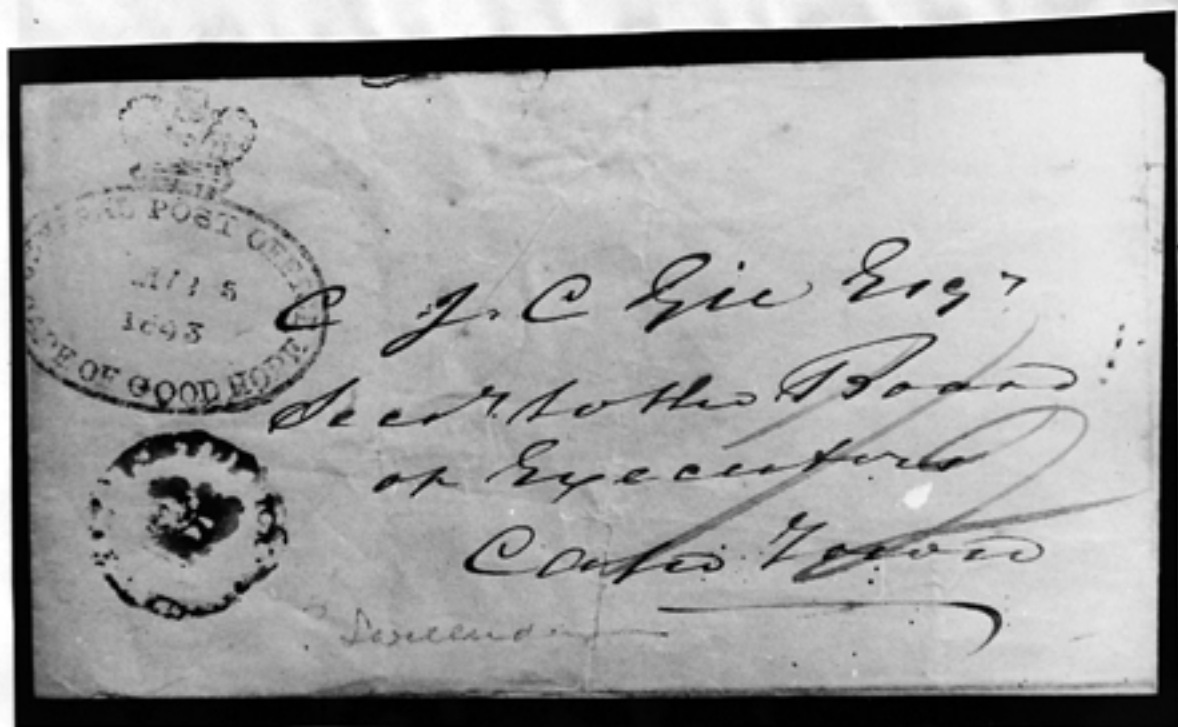
In or about 1840 he was appointed Secretary to the Board of Executors. He remained with the Board until his retirement in 1868.

He died on the 13th March 1878.

A large number of letter covers addressed to C.J.C. Gie, Secretary of the Board of Executors, are still in existence. The reason for this is that some years ago the late Mr. A.A. Jurgens, a well known philatelist and author of "The Handstruck Letter Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope from 1792 to 1853", was permitted by the Board of Executors to remove from the old files in the vaults of the Board these old covers. These, over the years, have passed into the hands of dealers and collectors.

A.H. Gie has in his stamp and pre-stamp collection of the Cape of Good Hope many of them before the issue of the famous triangular stamps in 1853. Photographs of a few of these old covers are annexed.

1. A cover of a letter dated 5th March 1843 from Swellendam with the 'Swellendam Circular Handstamp' and also the 'Cape Third Dated Letter Stamp'.
2. An interesting cover of a letter brought to the Cape in 1856 on the warship "Dreadnought". There is nothing to show from where it was sent.
3. A cover of a letter from London to the Cape dated 4th July 1857, with the "overseas Letter Stamp". "L.S." stands for "Lombard Street".
4. A cover of a letter with Cape of Good Hope Traingular Stamp dated the 15th April 1857. Endorsements on the back show it was first sent from Uitenhage via Port Elizabeth. It is interesting to note that the spelling of the name, namely GHIE, which confirms that at that time in most parts of South Africa, the name being of German Swiss origin, was pronounced in the German way with a hard "g", not with a soft "g" as in "gee", which is the pronunciation which has been adopted by some sections of the family.



AN INTERESTING COVER OF A LETTER BROUGHT TO THE CAPE IN 1856 ON THE WARSHIP "DEKORRE". IT WAS OPENED PRIVATELY, AS THERE IS COVER OF A LETTER DATED 5th MARCH 1843 ADDRESSED TO "C.J.C. GIE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EXECUTORS" WITH THE SWELLENDAM CIRCULAR HANDSTAMP AND ALSO THE CAPE THIRD DATED LETTER STAMP.

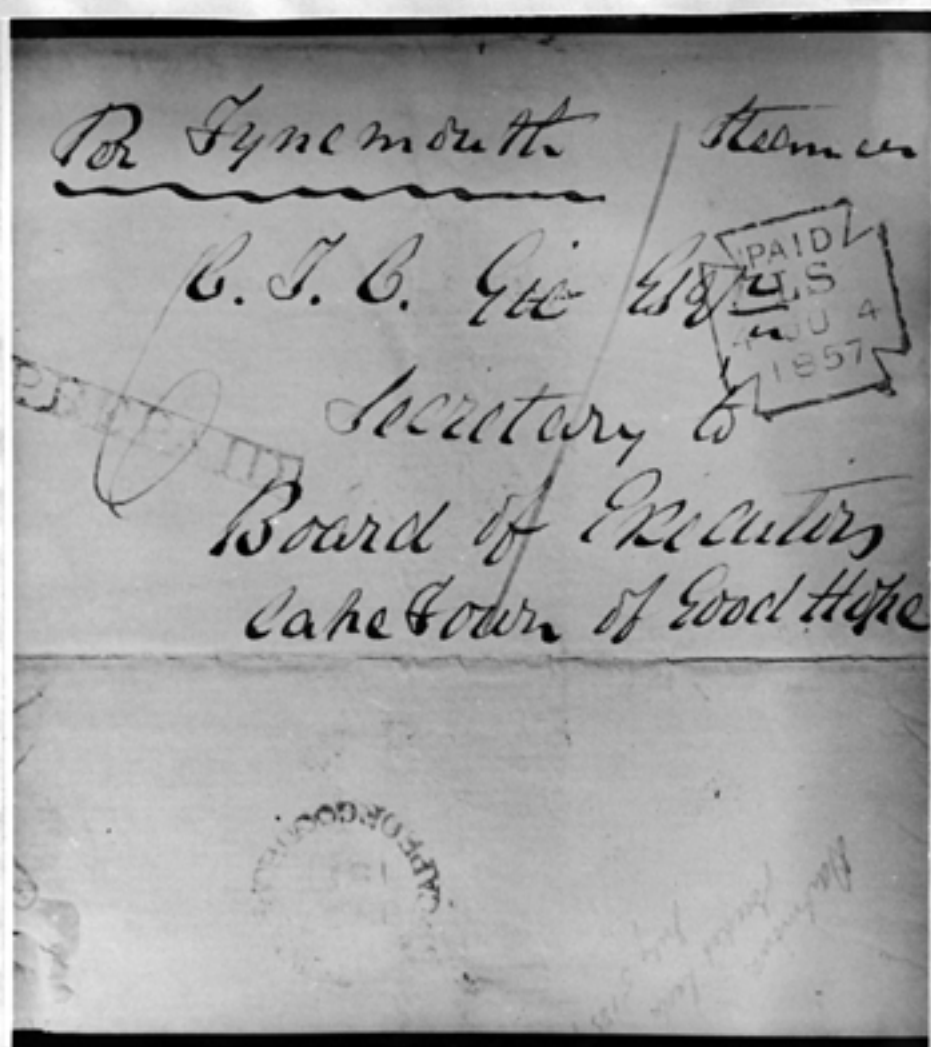
ON ARRIVAL IT WOULD BE  
SENT TO THE POST OFFICE FOR DELIVERY TO THE  
RECIPIENT.

Y Dreadnought

C. J. C. Lee Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Secretary "Board of Executors"  
Cape Town  
Cape of Good Hope.

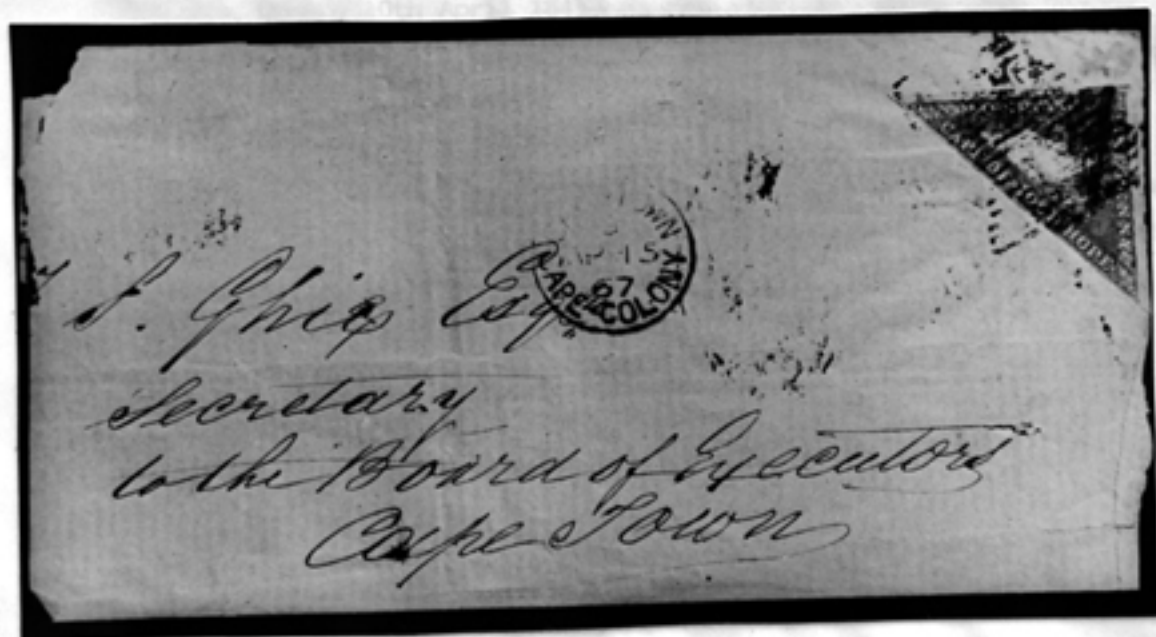
COVER OF A LETTER TO C.J.C. LEE FROM LONDON DATED  
THE 4TH JULY 1856 WITH THE OVERSEAS HAND STAMP "L.S."  
WHICH STANDS FOR "LONDON SENT"

AN INTERESTING COVER OF A LETTER BROUGHT TO THE  
CAPE IN 1856 ON THE WARSHIP "DREADNOUGHT". IT  
MUST HAVE BEEN CONVEYED PRIVATELY , AS THERE IS  
NO POST OFFICE DESPATCH STAMP. ON THE BACK  
THERE IS THE FIRST CIRCULAR HANDSTAMP OF CAPE TOWN  
WITH THE DATE "JAN. 16 1856", INDICATING WHEN IT  
ARRIVED IN CAPE TOWN. ON ARRIVAL IT WOULD BE  
HANDED IN TO THE POST OFFICE FOR DELIVERY TO THE  
ADDRESSEE.



COVER OF A LETTER TO C.J.C. GIE FROM LONDON DATED THE 4TH JULY 1857 WITH THE OVERSEAS HAND STAMP "L.S." WHICH STANDS FOR "LOMBARD STREET". THE HANDSTAMP MARKS ON THE ORIGINAL ARE ALL IN RED.





John Joseph Gie, the son of the late John Gie of Cape Town, was born on the 21st November 1847 in a house which was at the site on which the West Street now stands. In 1861 he emigrated to England with his father. After finishing his education in England he worked for some time as a clerk in a merchant firm which necessitated his travelling all over Europe.

COVER OF A LETTER ADDRESSED TO "C.J.C. GHIE" DATED  
THE 15th APRIL 1857 WITH THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE  
TRIANGULAR STAMP.  
THE ENDORSEMENTS ON THE BACK OF THIS COVER SHOW  
THAT IT WAS SENT FROM UITENHAGE TO PORT ELIZABETH  
AND FROM THERE ON TO CAPE TOWN.

MICHEL COENRAAD GIE

Michiel Coenraad Gie was born in the old family home in Greenmarket Square, Cape Town on 5th April 1819 and baptised in the Dutch Reformed Church, Adderley Street (then Heerengracht) on 25th April 1819.

On the 10th April 1845 he married Elsabe Antoinette Jacoba Sandenberg. In 1855 he purchased the farm Rietvlei, near Blaauwbergstrand, in the Cape.

In 1864 his wife died and he emigrated to Britain with his whole family. He never returned to South Africa. He died at Faling, London in 1894, aged 75 years. His son Michael Coenraad returned at South Africa in 1880.

He is the ancestor of the well known branch of the Gie family who lived on the farm Rietvlei, Blaauwbergstrand for many years.

JOHAN COENRAAD GIE (M'SON)

Johan Coenraad Gie, the eldest son of Michiel Coenraad Gie, was born on the 7th November 1847 in a house which was on the site on which the Mount Nelson now stands. In 1864 he emigrated to Britain with his father. After finishing his education in England he worked for some time as a clerk in a merchant firm which necessitated his travelling all over Europe.

In 1880 he decided to return to South Africa and on his return took over the farm "Rietvlei" which he had inherited from his father. He remained a bachelor until he was 50 years old, then on the 2nd February 1898, he married Anna Aletta Susan van Niekerk. They had twelve children. It is said that when he first took over Rietvlei he built a small house

of two rooms for himself. After his marriage, as each child was born, he added on one room.

He was a great personality, highly regarded by those in the area in which he lived and was known as "THE GRAND OLD MAN OF BLAAUWBERGSTRAND".

He had in his possession two priceless pieces of Africana which have now passed on to his descendants - the old family bible which was purchased by Johan Coenraad Gie, the first settler at the Cape, shortly after his arrival in 1651, and secondly, a beautifully inscribed tray which was given to his great-grandfather, Michiel Coenraad Gie, in 1804 by Governor Jansen. The inscription on the tray reads as follows - "Over de naauwkeurige uitveoring ener Commiszie omtrent de Leening-blaatsen".

The following is an amusing extract from the archives. It is the report of a certain Constable James Brachy.

"Monday 25.4.87. On street duty from 2 to 6 p.m. reported that a cow the belonging to Mr. John Gie farmer residing at Koeberg and to be found at the City Club broke out of the pens at the Railway Station and broke the wire fence and damaged some young trees in the plantation at the back of the Commercial Exchange at 4 p.m."

The cow, the pen, the plantation of trees, the wire fence, the Commercial Exchange all just off Adderley Street - less than a hundred years ago.

Johan (John) Gie died on the 20th June 1938 at the ripe old age of 91.

One of his daughters, Beatrice, married Tom Naude, a Member of Parliament for many years and later a Senator.

ELSABE ANTHOINETTA JACOBA VAN REENEN

(THE GRAND OLD LADY)

She was the sixth child of Michiel Coenraad Gie. She was born on the 2nd February 1831 in Cape Town and baptised on the 19th February 1831. On the 1st October 1849 she was married to Jan van Reenen in the Lutheran Church, Cape Town.

She was a great personality and loved by all the members of her family and her many friends. To all she was known as "Aunt Ellen". After the death of her husband, she lived for many years in a semi-detached house at the top of Hope Street in the Gardens, Cape Town. There she held court being visited by members of the family and many of her old friends.

She died on the 7th September 1916, aged 85 years.

Annexed is a photograph of her in her old age.



ELSABE ANTHOINETTE JACOBA VAN REENEN  
(BORN GIE). THE GRAND OLD LADY KNOWN  
AS AUNT ELLEN.

A historic photograph of one of such gatherings is annexed.

Whenever F.W. Reitz came to Cape Town to attend to his Parliamentary duties, he stayed with his daughter Barbara and son-in-law in their home in St. Street.

FRANCIS WILLIAM REITZ (1810 - 1881)

In 1825 Francis William Reitz, as a young man, left for Scotland to study agriculture. There he met the leading anatomists and, inter alia, learned about horse sickness. He also developed a great liking for literature.

In 1835, after his return to the Cape, he was given the farm Rhenosterfontein in the Swellendam District, which he farmed for the next thirty-four years. He soon became the leading farmer in that area, because of his industry and his scientific farming methods.

He created a model farm which attracted the attention of every visitor to Swellendam.

He founded the Swellendam Agricultural Society and edited "The South African Agricultural News".

In 1850 he was appointed by the Governor to represent the Western Districts in the Legislative Council in Cape Town.

In 1869 he was elected as the Member of Parliament for the Swellendam District. The burden of a large farm and his many public duties had, however, become too much for him, so he sold Rhenosterfontein and purchased the far smaller, but historic, old farm Kliprivier.

A photograph of Kliprivier is annexed. Kliprivier has the distinction of being the only home in South Africa from which two presidents came - President Steyn and President Reitz.

On his retirement from Parliament in 1873 he was appointed Usher of the Black Rod, a position which kept him in touch with current affairs and left him free to pursue his patriarchal life at Kliprivier where the many members of his family would meet to celebrate his birthday.

A historic photograph of one of such gatherings is annexed.

Whenever F.W. Reitz came to Cape Town to attend to his Parliamentary duties, he stayed with his daughter Barbara and son-in-law in their home in St. John's Street", later known as Hatfield Street.

During one of his visits he became ill and died on the 26th May 1881, and was buried in the Gie family vault. When the Somerset Road cemetery was demolished, he was reburied in the graveyard at Mowbray.

In 1833 F.W. Reitz married Cornelia Magdalena Deneys. They had four sons, one of whom, F.W. Reitz, became President of the Orange Free State, and eight daughters.

Annexed is a photograph of these eight sisters taken at St. James, Cape Town in 1909.

They are:

HERMINA HUBERTA (Nonnie) - married a cousin Jan D.K. Reitz.

BARBARA JOHANNA (Bappie) - married to Johan Coenraad Gie

MARIA JOHANNA ELIZABETH (Miemie)- married to Jan F. Joubert.

CAROLINA MAGDALENA (Keetje) - spinster, lived to the age of 99.

ALETTA CATHERINA (Lettie) - married John Devenish.

JOHANNA SOPHIA (Hannie) - spinster.

FRANCES HESTER (Fanny) - married the Hon W.P. Schreiner - Prime Minister of the Cape Colony and later during the First WorldWar (1914 - 1918) Minister Plenipotentiary for South Africa in London.

CATHARINA BENEDICTA (Katie) - married the Rev. J. Sutton, Principal of Dale College, Kingwilliamstown and mother of the late Mr. Justice G.G. Sutton.

The three eldest daughters, Nonnie, Bappie and Miemie were all

married on the same day - the 15th November 1854 - to three Jans. The ceremony was performed in the small church at Port Beaufort, near the mouth of the Breede River. The three brides all wore similar dresses. It had a sad sequel. Joshua Joubert, after an extremely promising career, was tragically drowned and Jan Reitz also died at a comparatively early age. Because of this, Bappie Gie never celebrated her marriage day in later years.

After their marriage J.C. Gie and his wife Bappie lived with their parents in their home in Hatfield Street and when his father died in 1862 J.C. Gie took over the old home.

The following is an interesting account of the marriage of Mr. W.P. Schreiner (later Prime Minister) to Miss Fanny Reitz which appeared in the "Oudtshoorn Courant" on January 3rd 1884.

"On Thursday last, the 3rd instant, the one street of our poor little village presented an unusually bustling and excited appearance, the cause being the marriage of Mr. Advocate Schreiner to Miss Fanny Reitz. At eleven o'clock the Dutch Reformed Church was crowded with the friends of the bride and bridegroom, and at half-past eleven the bride was led by her brother the Chief Justice of the Free State, who had come on a visit to the old colony, chiefly for the purpose of being present at the ceremony. The bride, was supported by her three nieces and couseins, Miss Reitz, Miss Gie, Miss Joubert and Miss Herold, whilst Mr. Schreiner had as his best man his fellow-advocate and early college friend, Mr. Joshua Joubert. About a hundred friends and relatives of the Reitz family came to partake of the 'breakfast' and to wish Mrs. Schreiner "God-speed" where they were entertained in the hospitable manner for which Klip River is so well known. In the afternoon the bride and bridegroom started for Stormvley, on their way to Somerset West Strand where they contemplate spending their honeymoon. All of us who have the pleasure of knowing them or their family unite in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Schreiner a long and happy union. Our only regret is that the learned counsel should have carried off from our midst a young lady who by her sweet voice, her happy disposition and her pleasant manners did so much to make the social life of our beautiful though some what dull village enjoyable. However, we shall try to console ourselves with the thought that our loss will prove a gain to others."





THE OLD HOMESTEAD ON THE FARM "KLIPRIVIER",  
SWELLENDAM, THE HOME OF FRANCIS WILLIAM REITZ.

১. জি. জি. ২. জি. গি.  
 ৩. কেট্জি বেল্ট ৪. জি. কার্নেজেক বেল্ট  
 ৫. হান্সি বেল্ট ৬. হার্বার্ট বেল্ট  
 ৭. জ্যাক জোবের্ট ৮. জি. ডেভেনিশ  
 ৯. হিপলার্ট বেল্ট ১০. ফ্রাঙ্ক বেল্ট  
 ১১. বিলানো বেল্ট ১২. জিম জোবের্ট  
 ১৩. কেট্জি বেল্ট (সিলা) ১৪. বারবারা গি (বাপ্পি)  
 ১৫. কিট্টি বেল্ট (স্টাসন) ১৬. হান্স গি  
 ১৭. লেট্টি ডেভেনিশ ১৮. জন (হান্স) বেল্ট  
 ১৯. ফান্সি বেল্ট (স্চ্রিনের) ২০. ফ্রাঙ্ক বেল্ট (গ্রান্ডফাথার)  
 ২১. মিসেস ফ. ও. বেল্ট (গ্রান্ডমদার)  
 ২২. জ্যাক গি ২৩. হারি গি  
 ২৪. বিব্লি বেল্ট ২৫. গিসেল জোবের্ট  
 ২৬. জোসাস (টালি) জোবের্ট ২৭. বের্থা গি  
 ২৮. গোল্ডি ডেভেনিশ ২৯. নেলি ডেভেনিশ (হান্সের)  
 ৩০. ফ্রাঙ্ক বেল্ট (জি. জি. এর) ৩১. জেসি বেল্ট (বান্ডন)  
 ৩২. জেম্মি বেল্ট (জি. জি. এর) ৩৩. জর্জ ডেভেনিশ

Photo taken at Kily River Farm, Swedenham, December 1887, on the occasion of the birthday of Grandfather, F. W. Reitz

1. George Gie.
2. John Gie.
3. Keetje Reitz.
4. John Karmojek Reitz.
5. Gysbert Reitz.
6. Hansie Reitz.
7. Gerhard Reitz.
8. Jack Jobert.
9. John Devenish.
10. Hipmar Reitz.
11. Frank Reitz.
12. Bianca Reitz.
13. Jim Jobert.
14. Keetje Reitz (Silke).
15. Barbara Gie (Buppe).
16. Kitty Reitz (Stasom).
17. Hansah Gie.
18. Lettie Devenish.
19. John (Hans) Reitz.
20. Fannie Reitz (Schriener).
21. Frank Jobert.
22. Frank Gie.
23. Missie Jobert.
24. Nannie Reitz.
25. Frankie Reitz.
26. F. W. Reitz (Grandfather).
27. Mrs. F. W. Reitz (Grandmother).
28. Jack Gie.
29. Harry Gie.
30. Biedie Reitz.
31. Gisle Jobert.
32. Joshua (Tully) Jobert.
33. Bertha Gie.
34. Goldie Devenish.
35. Nellie Devenish (Hanses).
36. Frank Reitz (J.K.'s son).
37. Jessie Reitz (Bundson).
38. Jennie Reitz (J.K.'s son).
39. George Devenish.



HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF REITZ FAMILY, 1877  
 INCLUDING MANY GIES AND OTHER RELATIVES.



FANNY SCHREINER

KATIE SUTTON

HANNIE REITZ

MINNIE JOUBERT

NONNIE REITZ

RAPPIE GIE

LETTIE DEVENISH

KEETIE REITZ