

FAMILY FRAGMENTS

PREAMBLE: My interest in genealogy began late 1999. Over the years, a good deal of my findings were published on www.pelteret.co.za/genealogy. In October 2012, I decided to move on and explore other interests.

However, the correspondence relating to prior publications did not stop. Between 2011 - 2020 over 230 persons have been in touch, either providing information complementing that published earlier or seeking specific information. A good deal of the correspondence represented considerable work and decided research acumen on the part of the correspondent.

I have been prevailed upon to publish particularly worthwhile material as an addendum to my original publications. These are they.

FAMILY NAME: Kotze 11_ Kenneth Mervyn Kotzé

2001/06/06, 6:39 pm

I read with interest your web page on Kotzé history and I wonder where my branch of the family fits in. My family originates from the Western Cape - Hopefield, Vredenburg, Saldanha. Both my father (Kenneth Nico Kotzé) and my aunt (Mercia de Jongh - nee Kotzé) have passed away and I only have very sketchy knowledge of the family history. I remember that my father told me that the family owned two farms : Boplaas and Onderplaas in the Vredenburg area (there is still a railway siding nearby called "Kotzé"). Also both his parents died in the 1918 flu epidemic, and he and my aunt were subsequently adopted by the Murison family in Cape Town - hence the fact that all members of our branch of the family have grown up English-speaking. I would be interested to know if during your research you have come into contact with our branch of the family. Kenneth Mervyn Kotzé

2008/01/14, 9:04 am

Hi Dr Kotzé

I have come across your history of the Kotzé family name on your website and would like to know if you could guide me as to which branch I come from.

Both my parents are deceased as well as my only aunt on the Kotzé side, so I really don't have much to go on. I'd like to find out more, especially for my son's sake - he is very curious about his family's history.

Details that I know are:

My branch of the family stems from the Hopefield, Vredenburg, Saldanha area. According to my aunt, they owned two farms , Boplaas and Onderplaas, though my father also used to refer to a farm called Uitkyk.

The info I have on my grandparents came from my aunt who told me as much as she could - but it was a long time ago, and when you're young you don't think it's important to remember or write these things down. She said that my grandfather's name was Barry (or Berry). He was not interested in farming and altho this upset his parents they set him up in a cottage in Saldanha where evidently he composed music and designed ladies clothing (!). He married but I don't have details of her origin.

They had two children: My aunt: Mercia born in 1914, and my father: Kenneth Nicolaas, born 3 September 1916. (I see lots of Nicolaas's in the history, but I don't know where Kenneth came into it. He was a smallish man and for most of his life he was called Toekie).

Their parents died within three weeks of each other during the flu epidemic

of 1918. As a result of family politics (which I understand rose out of a feud between the elders of the Kotzé family and my grandfather's wife's family) the children (aged two and four) were taken into the care of the Murison family and were raised and educated in Plumstead, Cape Town. On holidays they would go to the Kotzé family in Vredenburg/Hopefield. Aunt Mercia told the story of how she and my dad would travel by train to Saldanha where their grandfather would pick them up, but because of the feud, he would leave their suitcases on the platform where they stood and take the children directly to clothing shops in town and buy everything they needed. He didn't want anything from the Murison family in his home. And when the kids arrived back on Cape Town station, Ouma Murison, as they called her, would do exactly the same thing!

My father:

Kenneth Nicolaas b 3 Sep 1916 - (d.approx 1978) - first marriage was to Barbara (surname unknown). They had two children:

Barry - no idea where he is today. He should be about 63 years old

Anita - married Frank Seaton - lived in England a while and then Walvis Bay. I believe she's now living in Bellville. Last heard she had five children.

His second marriage was to Cecilia Martin - 1952 Cape town. They had one son: (She had a son by previous marriage - Anthony Robert Heckler.)

Kenneth Mervyn b25 Dec 1952 - Married Veronique (Nicky) Loupos - Bloemfontein. (now divorced). One son:

Kenneth James - b14 May 1991 - living with his mother and attending Grey College, Bloemfontein

My aunt:

Mercia - b 1914 - 2002 . Married Gabriel de Jongh. Two children

Candy - married. Became a doctor. Present location unknown.

Tinus - married and living in Cape Town.

Would appreciate any information that you may be able to add.

2008/01/23, 9:43 am

Whew! That's a relief. I was kinda worried about being a nuisance to you, rather than any cost that might have been incurred. But if you enjoy doing it then I'm indeed very grateful.

I've been looking for my dad's birth certificate. Was sure I had an old yellowed copy, but battling to find it. Found his drivers licence - issued about 1940 in the name Kenneth Nico Kotzé.

I believe that my cousin ,Tinus de Jongh, is now living in his dad's house (Gabriel) : "Little Kimble", 42 Aberdeen Rd, Newlands - (grand old home). Before her death my Aunt Mercia was busy compiling a history of our branch of the Kotzé Family, which she said would be left to me after her death, but I haven't seen it and don't know who has it. According to her it was quite comprehensive - she spent a lot of time in her last years working on it.

Just a thought - is it possible that the name "Kenneth" came from the Murison side of the family? I always wondered how the name enters into a predominantly Afrikaans family.

(Do you do your research online or do you actually go into the Archives building to get your info?)

Thanx again for your help.

R>M>P> 2009/04/09, 12:06 pm

Morning Mervyn

I'm steadily updating the KOTZE doc. and wondered whether you have made any progress with your research. Sadly, I never ever received any communication other than verbal from Chris Murison. I had hoped (understood) that he was going to speak to Tinus dJ. If you've not approach TdJ yourself, I'll take a flier and write to him, dropping off the letter in his postbox.

Kind regards

R>M>P>

R>M>P> to C Murison 2008/01/16, 11:53 am onwards

R>M>P> to T de Jongh 2015/04/10, 12:00 pm

R>M>P> to Shaynee van den Heever 2012/03/15 08:26 AM