

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 13_Lynn Thompson

2000/04/15, 6:04 pm

Greetings,

I am a new-comer to the web and was doing some tentative exploring the other night. I followed my nose and found your entry in the Roots Web. Only yesterday I discovered how to go directly to a new email message from the web, so my letter went into cyber space and was returned to me as I had copied your address incorrectly. But I successfully navigated my way back to your site, so with high hopes this will reach you.

I have been researching the KOTZE family tree for a number of years and have completed the trace of all but one of the descendants to the present generation, of Ds JOHANNES JACOBUS KOTZE (1832 - 1902), dominee of Darling. He married JOHANNA BERNADINA IMMEMS BLOM in 1858.

The missing member I am trying to trace is the son of PETRUS JOHANNES KOTZE (1863 -1960) married in abt 1886 to EVANGELINE OTTO. According to the KOTZE family Bible there was a daughter, EVANGELINE, born 19 March 1895? and a son, whose name may be LORENZO born in 1900. The story handed down to me was that this family were in possession of two paintings of Admiral and Lady Blom which were donated by them to the Koopman's de Wet Museum before they(not sure if it was the whole family), emigrated to Australia. They passed the Family Bible on to Victor Ivan Kotze who subsequently donated the Bible to the same museum. These later entries in the Bible were not very clear.

So my hopes are high that perhaps my missing link is connected to your reference. This son is the last in the male line of all the descendants of the Dominee's 17 children.

I would be most grateful if you could confirm and let me have any further information you may have. I have also completed a considerable amount of research on the Dominee's ancestral line (to c1234) and related families and have gleaned some additional information apart from the standard published sources which may be of interest to you.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

2000/04/18, 11:39 pm

Greetings from Victoria Bay, George (RSA)!

Considering the fact that you are relatively, just down the road, I certainly went on some cyber revolutions to find you. But only reinforces the wonders of this form of communication. I picked up your address from my wanderings through the Australian Genealogy pages. I could not get into your Web site on that occasion and as I wanted to do some more exploring, noted your email address. The "r" at the beginning did not show up too clearly and my message was returned. Checked Telkom 1023 to find only one M Pelt in the whole of SA. The end result is that after sorting out the confusion, have found a B & B in Simonstown.

Congratulations! A great effort to put together your Webpage - am very impressed with both info and graphics. It took a while to load. I now see the connection and doubt if you will be able to assist me in my search for my missing Kotze member. I may, however, be able to help you in some small way.

You mentioned that you have just had a breakthrough - well done. If you could give me your earliest names, I may be able to see where your wife fits in. I don't know what sources you have found. The Kotze family is huge and goes back to 1691 when Jan Kotze arrived in SA. A lot of research has been done on the family both here on various descendant lines, as well as in Holland and in Germany. The European history of the family has been published recently. I am sure that you have found "South African Genealogies" by J A Heese and R T J Lombard, volume 4, "J - K", published by HRSC in Pretoria in 1992. Additional private research since then has probably been submitted to Mr L Endeman at the University of Stellenbosch. It is possible to go to the genealogy library - phone 887 5070.

The line I have researched, descendants of Ds J J Kotze (1832 - 1902) of Darling, had been researched in part by the late, Dr J Rennie. I only discovered it after years of tough original research and finally fitted in my missing odd bits and pieces. Dr Rennie's son has all his father's original research papers. You mentioned that your wife's family were English speaking. This is a point that has been of great interest to me. I have not been able to ascertain how fluent the dominee was in English, but was fluent in French. The family, however, seemed to split over language and become totally Anglicised except for two sons. The one, after Union in 1910, "refused to work for Britain". The descendants of the other son, are all Afrikaans. All the other children were English. The Dominee's younger brother, Johannes Gysbert, actually changed his name to an Anglicised version - he was Sir John Gilbert Kotze, Judge President to Kruger and later at the Cape.

Well-to-do families, and especially Lawyers, make life very difficult for their descendants. Because of their standing in the community, not all formalities were dealt with according to law. Very often, the death notice was handed to a magistrate and nothing else passed onto the Master of the Supreme Court resulting in no archival documents. But marriages had to go to the Marriage Court and most of those records are available. All the DRC parish records are held at their admin centre, the DRC Synod, at the top of Victoria St in Cape Town. Some other Churches have placed them in the Cape Archives.

But back to the Dominee. He was the leading protagonist in the DRC Heresy "scandal". He carried on quietly in Darling doing his own thing as Free Protestants. He had considerable support among the dominees. His son Sir Robert, married the daughter of the Rev D P Faure, who started the Unitarian Church in Cape Town. So if you are looking for baptism records, there is the possibility you may find them there, (Cape Archives). The two reverends were great friends.

Now the plot thickens. My Dominee had a cousin with the same name, Johannes Jacobus (1835 - 1899), who was also a Dominee in the DRC and was one of the chief opponents in the acrimonious dispute over the theology of the Church. Family recollections even confused the goings on of the two. I have traced some of the cousin Dominee's descendants as they married into another of my family's line. So if the cyberweb gets confused, it's nothing compared to the convolutions in the genealogy web!

Sorry for the ramblings, but there may be some relevance to your line of research which may help. When you get actual names and dates, let me know - I may be able to fill in some missing pieces.

2000/04/25, 2:22 pm

The world is shrinking all the time and as I said I found your address browsing through the Australian Genealogy sites. But sometimes the term coincidence does not quite fit. Life seems to be full of arcs eventually completing the circle.

I have heard stories of Mr Cairncross but did not know the family. My father's companion knew them well - she was always fascinated with his huge tortoises which children loved to ride. He used to have regular visits from the school groups on holiday at Carmel. My neighbour was a member of one those groups and because of those happy memories, managed to be the lucky one to purchase one of the last two Council owned plots which came up for sale some years back.

Very interesting to see what you have already researched. Which computer programme are you using? I went through Denise's ancestors and see that we split in the descendant line with different sons from the marriage of Dirk Kotze (b 1692) to Maria Magdalena Carstens (b 1775). My line is from the descendants of Jan Jurgen Kotze (b 1734) married to Susanna F van Aarde.

I noticed two typing errors:-

- 1.2.9 Hendrick Nicholaas Kotze bapt 6 October 1773 - should be 1743
- m Susanna (not Sisanna) Jacoba Scholtz

Sir John Gilbert Kotze wrote his "Memoirs and Reminiscences" and included the family history, some of which de Villiers had researched for him. I have been trying to get these two volumes for years but did manage to photocopy some pages. The South African Library has a copy but of course one cannot get many photocopies anymore. The following may be of interest to you, copied from pages 1 to 3 from his 1st volume.

"The record of the Kotze family dates as far back as the year 1234, and in the following century Hermann Kotze attained the dignity of knighthood and became the owner of valuable estates, as well as of the fortified castle at Ammendorf. In the 14th Century his grandson, Hans Kotze, possessed much land, for he was lord of several manors and seignories, including the castle of Gross Germersleben [near Magdeburg] which he acquired in the year 1489, and which became the chief seat of the head of the house of Kotze.

The representatives of this family occupied various positions of trust and importance, including of course the military profession, as befitted the gentlemen of those days. We read of no less than four sons of another Hans Kotze, a descendant of the Hans above-mentioned, valiantly fighting under Conde against Alva in France and the Netherlands and eventually falling on the field of honour in 1567-8.

[Footnote: Until the early part of the 18th century the name was written without the preposition *von* (*Urkunden Regesten der Herren v Kotze*, Magdeburg, 1866, pp1-2). The family is first known in Saxony. The name of Kotze is not derived from any place or locality; and this may explain, as the "Urkunden Regesten" suggests, why the preposition "von" was not at first prefixed to the family name. The original signification of the word "Kotze" is a woollen covering such as a blanket or an overcoat or covering mantle. Hence the shield of the family coat of arms contains the full figure of a man, dressed in a long black woollen coat.]

"A member of this family, Jan Kotze of Konigstein, who settled at Buyksloot near Amsterdam, where he was a burgher and merchant, is the ancestor of the Kotze clan in South Africa. On the 1st January, 1690 he married Hildegonda, daughter of Dirk Boone, minister of the Church at Rotterdam, and of Beletje van Galen, sister to the famous Dutch admiral, Jan van Galen, who destroyed an English squadron in 1653 off Livorno. Some time after this marriage Jan Kotze left with his wife for the Cape in the ship "Pampas", and reached Table Bay on the 13th May, 1691. In the following year their son Dirk was born. Jan Kotze went back to Europe in 1698, where he settled his affairs and returned to the Cape in 1701. In August of the following year his wife died, and in January, 1714, he remarried, his second wife being Hendrika van Hoeting. Out of this marriage two sons, Hendrik and Jan, were born. This second marriage of Jan Kotze in January, 1704, is recorded as the first marriage that took place in the new first Dutch Church in Adderley Street, Cape Town, known afterwards as the Groote Kerk."

Sir John was very much the "patriarchal snob" and in the first paragraph of his book refers to "..... the families are of good stock, while the first [Kotze] is of well-born origin". Note that he makes no mention of the other two wives, legal or otherwise.

Eric Rosenthal has used some of this information in his book "South African Surnames" but also has a note about Hendrik Nicholaas Kotze and Susanna Scholtz. Refer page 75 if you haven't already found it.

It has been a most interesting correspondence. Sorry I can't help you further and wish you success in your research endeavours.

2001/05/03, 8:28 pm

Thanks for sending your Web site address. Have just paged though it but will give it another thorough look.

CONGRATULATIONS. An excellent achievement both in the presentation of the fruits of your research and the website.

I envy you the time you had to spend in the Archives. Have just come back from CT and managed 4 precious days in the Archives.

An extraordinary coincidence (though not considered so in the Chaos theory) - Today I received both your mail and the Death Notice for Evangeline Kotze, mother of Lorenzo Kotze (my missing link which I hoped you could provide.) So my Kotze research is now complete.

Very well done. You can be justly proud of your efforts.